

July 7, 1958

TO: Chief Advisor  
FROM: David Cole  
SUBJECT: Proposed graduate training participants

The list of participants approved by the Commission on Foreign Study of the Vietnamese Government has been received and I am reluctantly moved to comment on one of the selections. I have reference to Mrs. Bac-Lan. I do not believe that it is wise, as a general practice, for persons at this end of the line to interfere with the recruiting and selecting process in Saigon. However, I do feel that such is justified in this case, since we may be more aware of the problems connected with caring for and handling the participants once they arrive in this country. I realize that you personally have some understanding of this problem also.

I have two specific reservations about Mrs. Bac-Lan. First, I feel that she would present numerous problems for, and make numerous demands on the staff of the Project and the persons with whom she would be in contact here in the United States. I feel that she would be much more demanding than any of the women participants so far, even if she did not have a baby. Secondly, I have serious reservations concerning her usefulness and acceptability when she returned to Vietnam. Dr. Fishel joins me in this opinion, suggesting that she is likely to antagonize those with whom she works, and would not be a contribution to the Institute faculty.

Since we are investing some \$15,000 in the training of these graduate participants, I suggest that we should be particularly careful in choosing only those persons who we are reasonably confident will make a significant contribution upon returning to Vietnam.

You may have already given consideration to these questions in relation to Mrs. Bac-Lan, in which case this memo is superfluous. I did feel, however, that I should bring our feelings to your attention.

DC/abr