

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor DATE: August 20, 1960  
FROM: Guy H. Fox  
SUBJECT: Ruben's letter about participants

The letters which Ruben sent us from the participants stating their present status and future plans were quite informative and interesting. If the letters can be taken at face value, much of our concern (that participants might not return to Vietnam, or, if they do return, not to the NIA) appears groundless. None of the participants gave any indication that he or she would not come to Vietnam after receiving the doctorate; and only Ky indicated he might not join the NIA. Following your suggestion, I shall at the next meeting with Mr. Dang, take up Ky's case to see if we cannot get some assurance that he will be assigned to the Institute faculty upon completion of his degree. A conference with the Department of Foreign Affairs will probably be necessary. I agree with you that there is no particular reason to be disturbed over Than's expression of preference for the "private sector;" he is committed by contract to work for the government and can be claimed by the NIA.

In spite of Mrs. Bach Lan's expression of intentions to return to Vietnam and work for the NIA, I have some misgivings over her real intentions. Mrs. Bach Lan's friends in New York repeatedly have written their friends here to the effect that she never intends to return to Vietnam. Moreover, according to one report her husband is an American citizen; even if he is not a citizen, the information we receive about him indicates he plans to remain in the United States. Admittedly, it is difficult to question or contradict a person's stated future intentions, and I am not sure whether a check on the reports from her New York friends who say she won't return here would be of any value. But if it is feasible for Ruben or someone from his office to make some discreet inquiries, I agree entirely with you that they might possibly be worthwhile. Two persons whom it might be well to see in New York are Nguyen Ngoc Bich and Miss Vu thi Yen, both students at Columbia University. Nguyen Ngoc Linh (brother of Mr. Dich mentioned in the last sentence) was in New York this month; he says that all the Vietnamese students at Columbia University know Mrs. Bach Lan but that she is universally disliked and has no real friends among the other Vietnamese students.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
in the City of New York  
New York 27, N. Y.  
Department of Public Law and Government

June 14, 1960

Mr. G.W. Lawson,  
Director Program of Public Administration  
International Cooperation Administration  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lawson:

**C** I am writing this letter at the suggestion of my colleague Wallace Sayre concerning a student from Vietnam whom you are sponsoring, Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan.

**O** Mrs. Bach Lan has been with us for three semesters. She has been attempting to work toward a Ph.D. At your insistence she has chosen as her major field American Political Institutions, presumably since this includes some public administration and is the nearest thing to a public administration program that we offer for the Ph.D. This election was, I understand, made at the insistence of your office in place of a major in Comparative Government. The latter field is now her minor.

**P** The reason for my writing to you is that we have fairly strong indications that Mrs. Bach Lan is not getting along well, particularly in her major field. She is well motivated and very intelligent but we feel fairly certain that she does not have the background necessary for her to be able to handle a major as broad and demanding as the one she is in. We have told her that we would postpone making a final decision until we have been able to examine her at the end of the summer on a reading program which we are going to prescribe. However, I am fairly confident that the answer will be in the negative. She has passed all the courses she has been examined in but not at a level that we consider essential for the Ph.D. and I suspect that we will be obliged to tell her that she may take the M.A. with us but no more. Since she feels that an M.A. would be worthless to her in the Vietnam Institute and also feels strongly that to return to her country without the Ph.D. would represent a failure, I wonder if there is any possibility that you might arrange for her to transfer her credits to an institution which would permit her to offer a somewhat narrower public administration emphasis for the Ph.D.

**V** I have not mentioned this possibility to Mrs. Bach Lan, but I am raising it with you out of interest in being as helpful as possible to your program, and frankly out of interest and sympathy for her. Perhaps I should have directed this to the people at Michigan State University. I am not attempting to short cut them, but merely to direct an exploratory inquiry to you.

Sincerely yours,

David B. Truman

July 22, 1960

Dr. Lloyd Musolf  
Chief Advisor  
MSUG - Box 34  
APO 143  
San Francisco,  
California

Dear Lloyd:

Your SL-19 and 20 were received Wednesday afternoon, July 20. I have spent the last four days interviewing the Vietnamese participants in New York and Boston, including some of the ones who have made applications for graduate study. Briefly, I should like to give you my comments on the following:

Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan: Some time ago Gus Hertz talked to me concerning a letter written by David B. Truman to G. W. Lawson. We are enclosing a copy. Rather than discussing the matter in correspondence, we felt it was necessary to have a conference with him. Also we feel that this office should maintain close academic contacts with the institutions concerned.

Mr. Truman confirmed his views expressed in his letter to Lawson. He does not feel, however, that we should notify Mrs. Bach-Lan as yet, nor do anything definitive until the end of this summer when she will be taking some of her comprehensive examinations on her assigned reading which the department feels is a very elementary basic background which she should possess. Truman suggested that we consider accepting her at Michigan State since they feel that their standards do not warrant carrying her on as a Ph.D. candidate. As diplomatically as I could, I told them that our Political Science Department could not, under the circumstances, accept her.

Y In my conversation with Mrs. Bach-Lan, I did not reveal all of the qualms which we have concerning her work, but urged her to do all that was possible in her assigned reading this summer. I gathered that she takes rather a cavalier attitude. She is a charming woman, but her concerns seem to be more with the reasons for not having a \$12 per diem and my refusal to honor her request to attend the Republican National Convention.

Mr. Cao Toan: The records in the Economics Department at Columbia verify the fact that Mr. Cao Toan has completed all his residence and course requirements, passed his language examinations and mathematics requirements, and has been certified in Statistics and American Economic History. He is now preparing for his oral examinations for the Ph.D. which are scheduled to be held in January of 1961.

Cao Toan's department feels that he still has to learn to work at a faster pace. His written English is good and also he has some incompletes in a course of last semester. Six out of the nine in this course received incompletes, but every assurance was given that he would complete it. He has enrolled this summer in a course in Advanced Mathematical Economic Analysis, and feels that it is not a particularly difficult assignment. Toan is interested in working on a dissertation which will be based on American data, particularly through his interest in the current study of Economic Growth — Employment and Price Levels. His advisors are Albert Hart, Arthur Burns, and a third one will be selected this next fall.

Toan is interested in attending a conference which the Harvard Economic Research Project in association with the United Nations and supported by the National Science Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation will have in Geneva on Mathematical Analysis of the Economy in September of 1961. We do not think that this is feasible from our contractual arrangement with participants. Perhaps the Government of Vietnam might be interested at the appropriate time, everything else being equal.

Perhaps in a personal note I should reveal to you what Toan told me in confidence, that he is considering getting married. The girl is Filipino.

**C** **O** **P** **Y** **Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat:** As you know, we have kept in rather close touch with Phat. He has had many emotional ups and downs. I found him this time to be in the best of spirits, has gained a great degree of composure and assurance regarding his academic work, is convinced that it would be foolish to return without a Ph.D., and is doing everything possible to work at a rapid pace. He has secured new living quarters at Harvard that are comfortable, although the weather has been unbearably hot and humid.

**Professor Rupert Emerson** is on leave this year but Professor McCloskey is directing Phat's work.

**Mr. Do Quang Nang:** (Potential) I do not have much to add concerning Nang's possibilities, except to ascertain that I do not consider language difficulty to be a problem at this time. He asked me not to make any formal added requests until he submits a supplementary report by mail. I shall convey the information to you as soon as it is received.

**Mr. Le Canh Xuyen:** (Potential) Xuyen impressed me highly with his command of the subject matter particularly in his major field — Economic Development. Public Administration is his minor. He is doing a project this summer on business cycles in Vietnam.

Xuyen has finished all course requirements for the Ph.D. He is thinking of writing on the general topic of "Development in Vietnam." Professor Hart is his advisor. We discussed the pros and cons of a dissertation based on data which might not be available to his chairman nor to him in this country. He will confer further on this topic with his advisor before making a definitive commitment on his topic. All around, I feel that Xuyen would be a successful trainee.

All in all I feel that everyone is doing well, with the exception of Mrs. Bach-Lan. They are extremely concerned with political events in Vietnam and the role that they will play in the future should they go back to Vietnam in official capacities. My discussions with them concerning the reports that filter in from Vietnam and those that originate in the United States were couched in general terms. I impressed them with the fact that all countries are faced with the problem of strong leaders, with conflicting goals, and sometimes with objectives which are not as well defined economically or politically as they could be.

I should appreciate your comments concerning any of these people and the progress being made on the applications of prospective participants.

Cordially,

Ruben V. Austin  
Assistant Dean

RVA:nm

C

O

P

Y

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor DATE: August 4, 1960  
FROM: Guy H. Fox  
SUBJECT: Mrs. Bach-Lan

Several members of the Division, including myself, have considered Ruben's letter (ELL-51) dated July 22, 1960 regarding participants.

We are especially concerned regarding Mrs. Bach-Lan. We believe her case points up the need for selecting more carefully the universities to which Ph.D. participants are sent. It seems to us that it is inadvisable for her to be majoring in American Political Institutions at Columbia just as a means for obtaining work in public administration. We wonder if the University of Pittsburgh with its strong interest in undeveloped public administration programs might not provide a feasible spot for her--at least such an offer might be given her as an alternate to returning now to Vietnam.

If Mrs. Bach-Lan is to remain at Columbia, it is my opinion that she should change her major field within political science.



Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator

August 26, 1960

Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor

Ph.D. Participants

Mr. Luong Nhi Ky

The statement in Elsie's termination report that the Foreign Affairs Office had already made several offers to Ky naturally concerned us. Last Monday Guy Fox discussed this question with Mr. Dang of the NIA. Dang stated that there was very little the NIA could do if Ky expressed a preference for the Foreign Affairs Office. He also doubted the advisability of trying to force the Department to give up Ky. He claimed that action by NIA would cause unfavorable repercussions with the agency, whose good will was needed. Finally, Dang argued Ky would not make a good NIA staff member if he came to NIA unwillingly. Dang did agree that some correspondence with Ky was in order and that an effort should be made to persuade him to come to the NIA. He did not agree to a stronger approach even though Guy pressed him-- especially on the point that Foreign Affairs be approached.

In the case of Mr. Ky, as I mentioned before, the situation has developed because of an inadequate understanding by all parties concerned of the obligations of returned participants. Apparently Foreign Affairs never understood that Ky was not returning to the Department and Foreign Affairs even now says, according to Elsie, that the Department does not care whether he gets his Ph.D. or not. Aside from the question of a clear understanding, another difficulty ensues from the NIA's insistence that it does not want to commit itself before the departure of Ph.D. participants on their working at the NIA upon return. Possibly some arrangement whereby a department would agree to take a participant, provided that the NIA did not want him, would satisfy us but might not satisfy the government department. In the case of Mr. Ky, then, I suspect that a lot of "moral suasion," as the saying goes, will be necessary if he is to be saved for NIA.

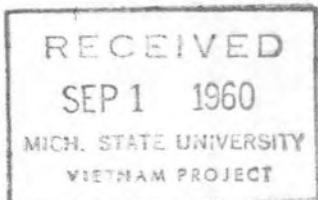
Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan

A copy of Mrs. Bach-Lan's letter to you indicated that she felt she could not start her dissertation until January, 1962. Recognizing her difficulty at Columbia, I have still been wondering whether this



is not a late date to start a dissertation, considering her arrival date in the States. Should this be just one more factor leading to concern about Bach-Lan? If Columbia does not allow her to continue and she is reluctant to leave the New York area, would NYU be a possibility? NYU does have more in the way of public administration training, incidentally. Her emphasis on traveling to various conferences may again be an indication of her lack of serious purpose. This you would be able to judge better than we.

IDM/dw



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP  
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

RAB

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator      DATE: July 29, 1960  
FROM : Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *LDM*  
SUBJECT: Attached Excerpts from Waltman letter

Several days ago I received a letter written by Howie Waltman, our former participant director, on July 18. I thought that the enclosed excerpts might be of interest to you. They are of value only as a general caution, because of course it is impossible to divine what is in the mind of a participant.

LDM/dw



"A couple of weeks ago we had dinner with some Vietnamese friends we have made in N.Y. At the dinner, was a former MSUG employee who had been sent to the U.S. to complete a Ph.D. degree in education (she had been here before and completed a Masters). You probably don't know her, but her name is Dao and she worked for Jim Hendry or Len Maynard. She is only a dissertation away from her degree, but Vietnam will never benefit, because she has just married an American and has no thought of returning to Vietnam.

"This bothered me very much, for several reasons. There is her presence, painfully symbolic of many thousands of wasted aid money. There is the loss to Vietnam of someone else who might have put the training to use that money bought. And finally there is Miss Dao's presence in the U.S., which doesn't put the aid program in a good light.

"I recall very well the conditions which led to her receiving the grant. Almost everyone who touched the thing (and MSUG was only indirectly involved) had certain reservations regarding her motivations in seeking the grant and her intentions to fulfill her obligations to Vietnam. However, no one was certain enough or no one was inclined to be the cynic and doubt the purity of her intentions enough to stop the grant. It was one of those cases (and I was equally a part to cases similar with our own participants) where the lack of a decisive firm voice permitted an almost certain mistake to be made. I think Mrs. Bach-Ian is another case in point. In Dao's case, I told the Embassy Consular office when they asked me if I thought she was a bona fide non-immigrant, that in my opinion she was not. My opinion, of course, was highly subjective, but I felt justified in stating it because there were and are no objective criteria available with which to exercise a better judgment. Several of our colleagues were all over me for interfering with Dao's trip on such subjective grounds. The decision was eventually made allowing her to go.

"I think the significant points to be made are that you have to be highly skeptical of the culturally estranged Vietnamese as a candidate for a grant. The chances are, I feel, that they tend to be the most attractive to us because of their French education and their more cosmopolitan mannerisms. They are, however, (again in my estimation) the riskiest investments because of their lack of identification with Vietnam and the government. I am certain that it isn't necessary to urge you to be extremely judicious in awarding MSUG grants. I can see now that, if errors must be made, it is better to make them on the side of conservatism by not sending marginal candidates. Don't permit (to the degree possible) circumstances to put you into a position where momentum alone carries you to an error.

"Perhaps I am over-sensitive to this question, Lloyd. But in seeing foreign nationals in the U.S. now, I cringe at those I know to be here just for the ride on our tax-payers' dollar. I believe in the value of the program and know more than most what its impact can be. However, people I talk to about the program inevitably seem to mention the less desirable foreign nationals they've met and not those who are sincere and hard-working. Enough on this: I'm certain you are aware of all of this.



"During the past few weeks, I have been doing a job at the N.Y.C. Department of Licenses for IBM. You wouldn't believe it, Lloyd, but at times I've felt as if the N.Y.C. government is receiving technical assistance from Laos. Seeing, first hand, the very sad condition of administration in a great, vital city like N.Y. has caused me to reevaluate somewhat much of what I saw and experienced in Vietnam. Prior to coming to Vietnam, I led a sheltered life, administratively. The Port of N.Y. Authority was, of course, a superb operation, but as I can see now, very atypical of the realities of public administration as it is practiced in most places. N.Y.C. is much closer to reality, and while there are agencies within the city that are excellent, most agencies are poor and the one that I am presently working with would probably come at second best to the Bureau of the Budget or the National Bank in Vietnam, if their operations could be effectively measured and compared. The problems in affecting change in Vietnam differ only in degree and setting from those of making N.Y.C. more effective. Viewed in this perspective, the successes that have been achieved in Vietnam with the agencies that have responded seem all the better and the continuing frustrations which I am sure you are facing with the N.I.A. and the Fonction Publique are less catastrophic and monumental than if viewed in the perspective of IBM or the Port Authority.

"This reaction might be unusual, but I know one of the serious problems I had in working in Vietnam was the constant battle not to lose perspective. (It's the same now with N.Y.C.). If I could have known then what I know now as a result of my recent experiences, it would have been a little easier."



AUGUST 4, 1960

**C**  
TO: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf  
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT: EXCERPTS FROM WALTMAN'S LETTER

**O**  
THE EXCERPTS CERTAINLY ARE OF INTEREST TO US. AS I MENTIONED RECENTLY, WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE VIETNAMESE PARTICIPANTS, PARTICULARLY IN SOME CASES WHERE WE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF THEIR TRUE MOTIVES. LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE FIVE OFF-CAMPUS PH.D. PARTICIPANTS ASKING THAT THEY STATE IN A LETTER TO US THEIR GOALS AND TARGET DATES FOR COMPLETION OF THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THEIR ACADEMIC WORK.

**P**  
OUR OFFICE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH EACH ONE OF OUR OFF-CAMPUS PARTICIPANTS AND FOLLOW THEIR PROGRAM AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THEIR ACADEMIC WORK AND THEIR FUTURE COMMITMENTS. ELSIE HAS TERMINATED. HER FINAL DATE OF SEPARATION FROM THE PROJECT IS AUGUST 17; SHE IS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING SOME OFF-CAMPUS ARRANGEMENTS, WINDING UP FACETS OF HER WORK, AND MAKING A TERMINAL REPORT.

**Y**  
RVA:JR

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP  
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

*bach lac*

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator      DATE: August 22, 1960  
FROM: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *YDn*  
SUBJECT: Attached Memorandum from Guy Fox

The attached memorandum will give you some idea of the results of our continued attempt to get at the true intentions of our Ph.D. participants, and also some notion of our reactions to reports already received. I think all of us recognize that this is a question that will continue to plague us. I suppose that one caution is that we will have to be careful not to overdo the harrassment of our participants.

IDM/dw



133

cc Fishel

SEPTEMBER 2, 1960

TO: DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT: PH. D. PARTICIPANTS (#2)

I HAVE READ THE MEMO FROM GUY FOX AND YOUR AUGUST 22 NOTE ON PARTICIPANTS. CERTAINLY, I AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO DESTROY OUR RAPPORT WITH THE PARTICIPANTS AS A RESULT OF OUR CONCERN WITH INDIVIDUAL CASES. GUY'S MEMO IS GRATIFYING CONCERNING THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT MAY BE MADE FOR KY.

OF COURSE, I AM CONCERNED OVER MRS. BACH-LAN'S ALLEGED INTENTIONS. I AM NOT RELUCTANT TO SEE MR. BICH AND/OR MISS YEN AT COLUMBIA TO FIND OUT DISCREETLY WHAT THEY KNOW OTHER THAN HEARSAY CONCERNING MRS. BACH-LAN. IF YOU FEEL IT IS PRUDENT, I SHALL GO A STEP FURTHER AND ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT FROM THE VIETNAM EMBASSY AND/OR THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION WHETHER HER HUSBAND IS OR INTENDS TO BECOME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

PERHAPS THIS IS OF NO SERIOUS CONCERN, BUT OUR RECORDS DO NOT FURNISH US WITH ANY CORRESPONDENCE THAT INDICATES MRS. BACH-LAN'S MARRIED NAME.

A FEW DAYS AGO WES FISHEL ATTEMPTED TO INTERVIEW VARIOUS PEOPLE CONCERNING MRS. BACH-LAN'S INTENTIONS, BUT, FOR SEVERAL REASONS, RAN AGAINST A "BLANK WALL." THUS, AT THIS TIME, WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN OF WHAT ACADEMIC PROGRESS SHE MADE THIS SUMMER TO FULFILL SOME OF THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH PROFESSOR TRUMAN HAD SPECIFIED.

OF COURSE, WE WILL HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT HAVING HER TERMINATE AS A PARTICIPANT. HOWEVER, I AM SURE YOU AND I WOULD BE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION TO EXPLAIN TO ICA WHY WE HAVE KEPT HER THIS LONG, AND, WITH THE LIMITED HEARSAY INFORMATION WE HAVE, THEY MAY ASK WHY WE WOULD TERMINATE HER NOW. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE ORDER FOR TERMINATION MUST, NATURALLY, COME FROM THE NIA OR SOME AGENCY OF THE PRESIDENCY. THIS WOULD RELIEVE THEN THE CHIEF ADVISOR AND OUR OFFICE FROM MANY INSTITUTIONAL REPERCUSSIONS. WE SOLICIT YOUR ADVICE ON THIS TICKLISH PROBLEM.

OUR LATEST LETTER FROM MRS. BACH-LAN IN NO WAY INFORMS US AS TO THE PROGRESS SHE MIGHT HAVE MADE. THE TRIP WHICH SHE TOOK TO TVA WAS APPROVED BY OUR OFFICE, SINCE SHE HAD PERHAPS CAJOLED HER MAJOR PROFESSORS TO WRITE US REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE TRIP.

RVA:JR

SEPTEMBER 6, 1960

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT: PH.D. PARTICIPANTS - YOUR AUGUST 26 MEMO

CERTAINLY THE DIFFERENT MEMOS ON PARTICIPANTS ARE INDICATIVE OF THE EXTREME CARE WHICH WE SHOULD EXERCISE IN SUPERVISING THEIR PROGRESS. AGAIN, WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE CASE OF MR. KY, AND PERHAPS PRIOR NOTES TO YOU CONCERNING MR. KY MAY BE DISREGARDED. IT IS WELL, HOWEVER, IF SOME CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NIA COULD BE SENT TO MR. KY IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THIS MATTER. PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW THIS CASE DEVELOPS AND WHETHER THERE IS SOMETHING WE MIGHT DO.

I SHALL CONFER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH MRS. BACH-LAN'S DEPARTMENT AND OBTAIN IN WRITING, IF POSSIBLE, A DECISION ON THEIR PART AS TO WHETHER SHE WILL FINISH A DISSERTATION WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD AFTER JANUARY, 1962. ALSO, WE SHALL INQUIRE INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, ALTHOUGH THE RECOLLECTION I HAVE ON THIS CASE IS THAT NYU WOULD NOT ACCEPT HER DURING A PERIOD OF TIME PRIOR TO HER ENROLLMENT AT COLUMBIA.

RVA:JR

SEPTEMBER 9, 1960

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF PH.D. PARTICIPANTS

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM PROFESSOR TRUMAN CONCERNING MRS. BACH-LAN. IN A TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION TODAY WITH PROFESSOR TRUMAN, HE INFORMED US THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER MRS. BACH-LAN HAD COMPLETED THE PLAN OF WORK HE EXPECTED OF HER, SINCE HE HAS BEEN GONE FROM HIS OFFICE.

HOWEVER, IF THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, WE SHALL CONTACT HIM IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS PERSONALLY, INDICATING THE URGENCY OF HAVING HIS DEPARTMENT GIVE US A CONCRETE REPORT WITH A CANDID REACTION AND THEIR RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHETHER SHE SHOULD CONTINUE HER DOCTORAL WORK.

IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH PROFESSOR HACH, WE ATTEMPTED TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM AT HARVARD, BUT HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN HAVING ANY OF THE OFFICES AT HARVARD TELL US ANYTHING CONCERNING HIS WHEREABOUTS. COULD YOU GIVE US HIS ADDRESS AT HARVARD OR THE DEPARTMENT UNDER WHICH HE IS WORKING? ASIDE FROM GENERAL INFORMATION AT BOTH THE BUSINESS SCHOOL AND THE UNIVERSITY, WE CHECKED SPECIFICALLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS ON TAXATION AND LAW.

RVA:JR

SEPTEMBER 12, 1960

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT: Ph.D. PARTICIPANTS - COMMITMENTS

BY NOW, OF COURSE, YOU HAVE RECEIVED COPIES OF THE VARIOUS LETTERS WHICH I REQUESTED THE PH.D. PARTICIPANTS TO WRITE OUR OFFICE CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE PLANS AND THEIR EXPRESSED INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THEIR COUNTRY TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS. I SHOULD LIKE TO SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS AS TO WHETHER YOU WISH SOME OTHER SPECIFIC FORM FILLED OUT, WHICH YOU MIGHT DRAW UP, AS A RE-NEWAL OR REAFFIRMATION OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS.

I DISCUSSED WITH MR. KHANH, SECRETARY TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM VIET-NAM, THIS PAST WEEK THE VARIOUS QUESTIONS CONCERNING MRS. BACH-LAN. HE PROMISED ME HE WOULD MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES, BUT AT THE TIME DID NOT FEEL HE HAD ALL OF THE INFORMATION AND PERHAPS AUTHORITY TO DISCLOSE ALL FACETS ON THIS CASE. HE ASKED ME, HOWEVER, TO SEE HIM IN WASHINGTON SOON, BY WHICH TIME HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE ME A FULLER REPORT. HE IS AWARE OF ALL THE RUMORS AND ALLEGATIONS AND, OF COURSE, THE AURA OF SUSPICION SURROUNDING HER CASE, BUT AGREES THAT, UNTIL WE HAVE MORE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE, IT WOULD NOT BE PRUDENT TO CUT HER OFF.

PROFESSOR TRUMAN AT COLUMBIA INFORMS ME THAT HE WILL WRITE US A REPORT IN A WEEK OR SO CONCERNING MRS. BACH-LAN'S ACADEMIC STANDING.

IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MR. DO QUANG NANG, WHICH AT THAT TIME I CONSIDERED TO BE PRELIMINARY TO A FURTHER EXAMINATION WITH PROFESSOR HACH, I FOUND THAT HIS GRADES HAVE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY AT COLUMBIA; BUT I GAVE HIM NO INDICATION OF THE CURRENT STATUS OTHER THAN TO TELL HIM THAT THE NIA IS STILL ACTIVELY CONSIDERING HIS CASE. IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE--AS SOON AS I ASCERTAIN ADEQUATE TRAVELLING DATES AND THE AVAILABLE TIME OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTAL PEOPLE AT PENNSYLVANIA AND COLUMBIA--I SHALL BEGIN THE EXAMINATION FOR POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF MESSRS. CHUNG AND NANG.

YOU ARE AWARE OF THE VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE EXPERIENCED WITH LE QUANG HUYNH. IN MY RECENT CONFERENCE WITH THE PARTICIPANT OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, THEY INFORMED ME OF THE OFFICIAL LETTER FROM THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE IN CHICAGO, SENT TO ICA/W, MANIFESTING CHAGRIN TOWARDS THIS PARTICIPANT FOR NOT APPEARING FOR THE RATHER ELABORATE PROGRAM WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THAT OFFICE. WE SHALL SEND YOU A COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION WHEN IT ARRIVES IN OUR OFFICE.

Columbia University  
in the City of New York

NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW AND GOVERNMENT

22 September 1960

Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan  
Apt. 4  
530 West 112th St.  
New York 25, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Bach-Lan:

Professor Chamberlain and I were impressed in the course of our discussion with you by the effort you had made during the past summer. In considering your chances of successfully completing the Ph.D., however, we regretfully reached the conclusion that these were not good enough to warrant permitting you to continue toward that degree.

I know this decision will be one unwelcome to you, and I hope you will understand that it was one we should have preferred not to take. However, it is part of our duty to you as a student, as to the University, to make a candid judgment at this time rather than to permit you to go on to a later disappointment that would be a waste of your time and talents.

For your future plans I am sure you will want to consult with your sponsors at Michigan State University. In particular, you may want to explore with them the possibility of transferring to another American university, or you may feel that your greatest opportunity for service to your country may be in an early return to Vietnam.

If you desire to do so and your sponsors agree, we are willing to permit you to write a Master's Essay, which, if it is acceptable, would entitle you to a Columbia M.A. Whether this would be your wisest choice must be your decision and your sponsors'. Should you decide to do the essay, we shall be glad to discuss topics with you.

Sincerely yours,

David B. Truman  
Chairman

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York 27, N. Y.

PUBLIC LAW AND GOVERNMENT

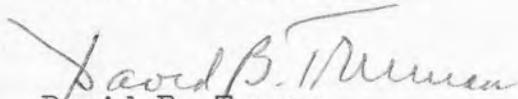
22 September 1960

Mr. Ruben V. Austin, Assistant Dean  
College of Business and Public Service  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Dean Austin:

The enclosed copy of our letter to  
Mrs. Bach-Lan will be self-explanatory. I am sending it to you  
so that you may be informed of what we have done. We shall  
do everything further we can to have her leave us in as pleasant  
a frame of mind as possible.

Sincerely yours,

  
David B. Truman  
Chairman

Enclosed to LDM 9/26