

October 4, 1960

Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan
530 West 112th Street
Apartment #4
New York 25, New York

My Dear Mrs. Bach-Lan:

It has been impossible for me to answer your letter which arrived while I was out of town. However, I have had the opportunity of conferring with Professor Truman concerning your program and the decision at which the department has arrived, as you know, precludes your continuing on a doctoral program. We regret the background which has brought about the differences of opinion which you expressed concerning the programming of your academic work.

We of Michigan State University, of course, are very much interested in your work, for it leads toward the training of academically minded people to carry on the work in Vietnam.

Our Vietnam Advisory Committee here at Michigan State has reviewed your case and your request. We do not feel that the needs of the NIA nor the specific reasons under which students have been sponsored for work leading to the field of public service positions in Vietnam and in the NIA enable the Committee to consider your request to transfer to an English study program.

Should you be interested in considering the offer made by Professor Truman to obtain a Master's degree and, if you feel that the Essay and all work toward an M.A. can be completed by or during January, 1961, the Committee will be happy to consider approval of such a request for recommendation to the Advisory Group in Saigon and through them, to the NIA. I should appreciate your comments on this alternative and, if you are interested in doing this, we feel that you should submit your request through our office so that we can forward it to Vietnam.

You should be commended for your book, Vietnamese Legends. I know that you have talents that can be fruitfully employed.

It is my feeling that, if you desire ICA sponsorship in the field of English, your primary contact and point of reference would be through your embassy.

Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan
October 4, 1960

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I trust that this will not delay your registration. I have informed Professor Truman that, while we await an answer from Vietnam, this should not preclude making the necessary arrangements for your work within the area of public administration in Professor Truman's department, particularly that leading to a Master's degree, if you and your department feel that this can be accomplished by January of 1961.

Cordially,

Ruben W. Austin
Assistant Dean

RVA:sf

cc Prof ~~Truman~~
Khank - Vietnamese Embassy
2 - myself
bcc Fishel

October 13, 1960.

Dear Dr. Austin,

Thank you for your letter last week. I am sorry that the Viet Nam Project cannot sponsor me for English studies. In any case, since you are willing to sponsor me until the end of this Semester, I accept this with gratitude. A subject and an outline have been chosen and accepted for the Master's Essay, and I am now beginning to write the first 2 chapters. Professor Wallace S. Sayre supervises my work.

The subject is "Western Press attitudes on American Aid to South Viet Nam with some comparisons of Communist and Neutralist sentiments". I will divide the Essay into 5 chapters.

1. Ch. 1. Introduction. Definition of the word Press, and History of American Aid to South Viet Nam.
- ch. 2. Press evaluation of the various concepts and motives of foreign aid. (US, as compared to Viet Nam's, concepts and motives)
- ch. 3. Press evaluation of Administrative procedures.
- ch. 4. Press evaluation of the relationships between the USA and South Viet Nam.
- ch. 5. Press evaluation of the results obtained.

Professors Sayre and Chamberlain both liked my subject and outline. They said it was a workable subject and did not alter anything.

Of course the MSU bibliography on Viet Nam, 1959, and the Library of Congress Southern Asia Accessions List are of a great help. I have access to paper clippings on American Aid and Attitudes and the Mutual Security Program and other files at the Council on Foreign Relations where all the clippings, articles, editorials, comments on Foreign Aid to Viet Nam are conveniently classified for use.

I am trying to go to the US library as soon as the general Assembly meetings are over.

~~You~~ I am enjoying my work, and I am very much

encouraged by the fact that the 2 above professors thought I was able to get so much work done since the beginning of the Semester. They told me the materials I submitted to them for comment were good and well collected and classified.

After all, Viet Nam is a subject that fascinates me. I feel very much at home, since quite a few of the writers on Viet Nam are personal friends of mine or acquaintances. I'd feel much happier if I ~~had~~ were allowed to go on with the former definition of my major and minor subjects.

Since you said the Project cannot sponsor me for English studies, I thought again and tried to find out what ~~next~~ other subject I would like best besides English. I came to the conclusion that anything that relates to Viet Nam is bound to interest me, and in fact, I discussed the matter with Professor W.S. Sayre, who said he was sorry the original plan of studies he had suggested in 1959 when I first came was not followed, for he felt that with my background in England and my deep interest ^{in Viet Nam}, I could well choose Foreign Political Institutions as a major subject, and work in such a way as to orient my studies toward a dissertation on Viet Nam.

He said he would recommend me to the chairman of the Department for the ~~re~~shifting of the emphasis to "Foreign Political Institutions" as a major subject, and since I have been spending ~~quite~~ a period of time on "American Political Institutions" I can take it as minor subject. If the Chairman agrees to it, I can start the new Program in Spring 1961, after the Master's degree.

According to his advice, which I think is very reasonable and has a great appeal to me, I shall file an application Monday and see what will happen. (Professor Sayre will look through it and write a few words of recommendation before submitting it to the Chairman.)

I shall wait for the decision and write an application to the National Institute of Administration later, if you don't mind. For if the Chairman allows me to shift the major and minor ~~subjects~~

and register in Spring 1961, I will put the matter up to you, the MSU group in Saigon and the NIA to decide whether you would still like to sponsor my studies any further.

Therefore, as soon as I get an answer from the chairman - whether it is favorable or not - I will write to you, and the NIA, through your office at MSU.

With my best regards.

Yours sincerely,
L.T. Bachlan.

October 18, 1960

Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan
530 West 112 - Apartment 4
New York 25, New York

Dear Mrs. Bach-Lan:

It was a pleasure to hear from you and to know that you have chosen a subject under the supervision of Professor Wallace S. Sayre.

I should like to inform you that we have received cabled information indicating that the National Institute of Administration agrees that you should continue with your master's degree study provided you terminate by January, 1961, at the latest.

Naturally, with the changed program, there is, as you will agree, no definitive assurance of employment at the NIA for you. This is something which, I am sure, should be renegotiated.

It would not be well for me to make any concrete comments concerning your suggested program which would begin in the Spring of 1961 as outlined in your letter. But I feel that it is very appropriate for you to communicate your plans to the NIA. Certainly, as you indicate, you should write concerning this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ruben V. Austin ✓
Assistant Dean

RVA:sf

cc: Professor Sayre
Dr. Masoff

530 W. 112th St
Apt 4
NY 10025 NY

Oct. 22nd 1960.

Dear Miss J. Rathbun,

In one of your letters, you suggested that I should send you a receipt from the APSA, and I have the pleasure of sending you here with the check that I made out for the Association on August 10th, 1960 duly endorsed by the Association itself.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
L.T. Bachman-

DPV
sent
10/26/60

OCTOBER 28, 1960

MRS. LE THI BACH-LAN
530 WEST 112TH STREET
APARTMENT 4
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

DEAR MRS. BACH-LAN:

AS OF NOVEMBER, 1960, PER DIEM WILL BE PAID ONE FULL MONTH IN ADVANCE.
ENCLOSED IS YOUR CHECK FOR \$240 COVERING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1-30, 1960.

THE ADDITIONAL \$4 PER DAY, PAID WHILE A PARTICIPANT IS IN "TRAVEL STATUS," WILL BE PAID TO YOU SEPARATELY IN THE FUTURE AND NOT COMBINED WITH THE REGULAR \$8 PER DAY SUBSISTENCE CHECKS. ALSO, PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE EXTRA PER DIEM, LIMOUSINE AND TAXI FARES IN CONNECTION WITH OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL CANNOT BE PAID UNTIL THE CANCELED RECEIPTS AND/OR TICKET STUBS ARE RECEIVED IN THIS OFFICE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ADDITIONAL PER DIEM AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES CANNOT BE REIMBURSED TO YOU UNTIL AFTER SUCH A TRIP IS MADE. IF, HOWEVER, TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE THROUGH THIS OFFICE, WE SHALL PURCHASE AIR OR TRAIN TICKETS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR TRIP AND FORWARD SAME TO YOU.

THIS BRINGS TO MIND YOUR TRIP TO KNOXVILLE, FOR WHICH WE HAVE NOT COMPLETELY REIMBURSED YOU, AS WE ARE STILL AWAITING RECEIPT OF YOUR TICKET STUBS AND A RECEIPT FOR THE REGISTRATION FEE OF \$6 WHICH YOU PAID. AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE THESE TWO ITEMS, WE SHALL REIMBURSE YOU IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR AUGUST 26 LETTER.

ENCLOSED ALSO IS A SAMPLE REPORT, WHICH WE SHOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO FOLLOW AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE. WE REALIZE THAT SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR COURSE WORK, IN WHICH CASES A GENERAL REPORT OF YOUR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES IS IN ORDER. WE SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THESE REPORTS EVERY THREE MONTHS, THE FIRST ONE BEING DUE DECEMBER 31, 1960. ANY FIELD TRIPS SHOULD BE WRITTEN UP SEPARATELY IN PARAGRAPH FORM.

DO NOT HESITATE TO WRITE THIS OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE FOREGOING PROCEDURES.

CORDIALLY YOURS,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR
ENCLOSURES 2

NOVEMBER 16, 1960

MRS. LE THI BACH-LAN
630 WEST 112TH STREET
NEW YORK 25, NEW YORK

DEAR MRS. BACH-LAN:

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SAIGON INDICATES THAT YOUR ARRETE EXPIRES
DECEMBER 31, 1960. PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EMBASSY OF
VIETNAM TO EXTEND THIS TO FEBRUARY 1, 1961, WHICH IS THE DATE OF
YOUR EXPECTED COMPLETION OF THE M.A. PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA.

WE ARE SENDING YOU AN "ORIGINAL" COPY FROM RECTOR THONG CONCERNING
YOUR STUDIES AND INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ARRETE.

CORDIALLY YOURS,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR
ENCLOSURE

BCC LDMUSOLF

530 W 112 Apt 4

N.Y. 25, N.Y.

November 26, 1960.

Dear Dr. Austin,

I should be grateful if you would like to forward the enclosed letter in Vietnamese and enclosure to the Director of the N.I.A. in Saigon.

As you can see in the translation of this letter enclosed herewith, I requested the N.I.A. and the MSU to consider extending my scholarship to Feb. 22nd, 1961, and secondly to consider sponsoring my study of English for teaching at the NIA later on.

I very much hope this would be approved, and would avoid a switch to another sponsor, and delay that might be caused by the transfer. I do realize the M.S.U. only sponsors only students in Public Administration, Political Science and Economics etc., but as I already pointed out in the letter to the NIA Director, foreign languages are taught at the NIA too, to enable

students to have access to the English books at the very-well equipped NIA library, and I do believe that with my passion (and perhaps a little ability to learn and teach English), I might efficiently serve the NIA later.

Professors Shoemaker and Dystia at the English Department at Teachers' College have both interviewed me and consented to admit me to this College. The point is whether to admit me straight as a Doctor's degree candidate, or to do so on a provisional basis, pending further decision by examining my future record at Teacher's College.

Miss Jache, the Assistant on Admissions was willing to give me immediate admission on a provisional basis, but I thought this would not make a strong case for me to apply for further extension of the scholarship. So I asked her to gather all documents and letters of recommendation, and present my case to the Committee on Candidates for Doctor's

degrees 'admissions to make a final decision on my status, which I hope would be definite. This would take some time, and in the meantime, I would like to file an application with the NIA and MSU, to let you know of my future plans.

As far as the visa question is concerned, I am writing to the Embassy of Viet Nam to apply for further extension.

There is not much to say now, since I have to wait for a decision from Teachers' College, and I would welcome a comment on your part about the possibility of continuing to sponsor me if and when Teachers' College admits me as a candidate for an Ed. D. degree.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

L.T. Bachlan.

DECEMBER 2, 1960

MRS. LE THI BACH-LAN
530 WEST 112TH STREET
NEW YORK 25, NEW YORK

DEAR MRS. BACH-LAN:

WE APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION WHICH YOU HAVE CONVEYED TO US CONCERNING YOUR INTEREST IN TEACHING ENGLISH AT THE NIA. WE ARE FORWARDING THE INFORMATION, AS YOU HAVE REQUESTED IN YOUR LETTERS, TO SAIGON.

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE MAKING PLANS TO HAVE YOUR VISA EXTENDED.

NATURALLY, WE SHALL BE READY TO DO WHAT WE CAN IF THE NIA MAKES PROVISION FOR YOU TO CONTINUE AS A PARTICIPANT UNDER YOUR PROPOSED PROGRAM.

CAN YOU INFORM US OF YOUR STATUS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MASTER'S PAPER OR THESIS? WE WILL BE SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU RECEIVE YOUR DEGREE, FOR SURELY IT IS A STEPPING STONE TO YOUR FURTHER WORK.

CORDIALLY YOURS,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR

CC DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF, MSUG/SAIGON

530 W. 112th St.,
Apt. 4,
N.Y. 25, N.Y.

December 5th, 1960.

Dear Dr. R. Austin,

Thank you for your letter of December 2nd which I received to-day.

As far as my Master's thesis at Columbia is concerned, I have finished three chapters, the first two of which had been accepted by my supervisor, and the third is being examined by him this week. I am writing the 4th and 5th chapters, which, when finally approved, will enable me to type the entire draft for final approval by my supervisor, and re-type - according to acceptable standards to submit to the Registrar's office on Feb. 1st, 1961 - the last day for filing essays for M.A. degrees to be awarded on Feb. 22nd, 1961.

I wonder whether your project, the MSUG and the NIA would like to sponsor my present studies until Feb. 22nd, 1961, instead of December 31st, 1960 as specified in a previous letter by the NIA Rector.

As far as further studies are concerned, when, -and if, Teachers' College officially admits me as a candidate for an Ed.D. degree, I will send an application to you and the MSUG & the NIA in Saigon for an extension of my scholarship, which I very much hope you and the two above organizations would favorably consider.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

L.T. Bachlan.

DECEMBER 8, 1960

MRS. LE THI BACH-LAN
530 WEST 112TH STREET
NEW YORK 25, NEW YORK

DEAR MRS. BACH-LAN:

WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE PROGRESS YOU ARE MAKING TOWARD YOUR MASTER'S DEGREE.

AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF PROFESSOR TRUMAN, WE SUGGESTED THAT YOUR ARRETE BE EXTENDED UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY. HOWEVER, AS YOU ARE AWARE, RECTOR THONG INDICATES THAT THE EXPIRATION DATE IS DECEMBER 31, 1960. WE WILL RESUBMIT THE INFORMATION WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN US TO MSUG IN SAIGON; I HAVE ALREADY FORWARDED YOUR ORIGINAL SUGGESTION CONCERNING YOUR CONTINUING AT TEACHERS COLLEGE FOR A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN EDUCATION. I AM SURE THAT WE SHALL RECEIVE SOME PRELIMINARY WORD WITH REGARD TO YOUR REQUEST IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

IN THE MEAN-TIME, PLEASE BE ASSURED OF OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN YOUR CURRENT ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS.

SINCERELY YOURS,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR