

Dec. 30th, 1960.

Dear Dr. Quetm,

I received a copy of a letter of Dec. 26, 1960, no 5637 HVTN, from Rector Vũ-Quốc-Thông, to day, holding that he "could not consider renewing the scholarship to enable Mrs. Lan to study English, since this would not be relevant to a Ph. D. program.", and that for the moment "the scholarship should be extended for another 2 months."

While being grateful for the extension of my scholarship for a short period according to my previous application, I cannot help presuming that the wording of Rector Thông implies that if I had followed a Ph. D. degree program he would have considered my application for a scholarship extension, in other words, to him, a Doctor of Education's degree is inferior to a Ph. D. degree, and that is why, he specified that he could not consider it "since this would be irrelevant." etc.

Since you know the American system of education and realize that the two degrees have the same levels would you please write to Rector Thông to explain this. I understand from Teachers' College that to get a Ed. D. degree one has to take 90 points, whereas one only takes 75 points for a Ph. D. degree. The reason why I chose the Ed. D. degree is that it is

being administered separately from Columbia, whereas if one takes a Ph. D. degree, one has to apply to both schools, which creates a lot of complication. A friend of mine, Mr. Huỳnh - đĩnh - Tê, from Huế, followed this Ph. D. program and had so much trouble from all quarters that he advised me not to do it. He said that in order to get a program of studies approved, he had to run from one Professor to another; that the people at Teachers' College are more fussy than those at Columbia, so that once your program is accepted by one Professor at Columbia, it will be rejected by those at Teachers' College and vice-versa.

I am sending you herewith a booklet on the requirements for the Ed. D. and Ph. D. degrees at Teachers' College for perusal. If you think there is ground to believe the 2 degrees have the same value, would you please forward it to Rector Thông and explain to him further. In case Rector Thông persists in his decision, then I would apply for a transfer to another ICA program.

The Spring term will begin on Feb. 3rd 1961, and I have not yet heard from Teachers' College about my status. The Admissions' officer said she was waiting for the result of my M.A.'s course, to make a final decision, and chances are that she won't hear until Feb. 1st, 1961, the date of filing of my Essay. Until then, I will know definitely whether I will be admitted

directly to an Ed. D. program or on a provisional basis.

Mr. Huynh - Trinh - Té whom I referred to above had earned 2 "Diplômes d'Etudes Supérieures" at the Sorbonne which qualified him to write a French Doctor's thesis in 1956 (or 1957). But he went back to VN and taught at the University there instead. (Hue University). When he came to the USA he thought he would be qualified to write a Doctor's Dissertation right away, but Teachers' College compelled him to take 45 points and pass other qualifying examinations before writing his thesis. He was admitted on a provisional basis too.

I believe there is no point in my writing to the NIA Rector now, since my admission status has not been decided. Perhaps by the beginning of February, when, and if, I am definitely admitted, I will write him a letter with supporting documents, through your care.

Therefore, to pay for admission fees and others, I will use my own ^{later} funds, which I hope I could recuperate/ if the NIA consents to support me.

Relying on your help, and thanking you very much.

Yours ever,

H.T. Bachlam.

JANUARY 4, 1961

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

DEAR MRS. BACH LAN:

WE APPRECIATED RECEIVING YOUR INFORMATIVE LETTER AND SHALL COMMUNICATE TO SAIGON THE VARIOUS ITEMS WHICH YOU MENTION.

TO BE SURE, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE AND TO ACTUALLY EVALUATE THE VARIOUS TERMINAL DEGREES. I AM SURE THE QUESTION WILL NOT BE ONE CONCERNING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PH.D. AND A ED.D., BUT RATHER ON THE TYPE OF TRAINING WHICH THE NIA MAY SPECIFICALLY DESIRE.

WE SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

CORDIALLY,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR

BCC LDMUSOLF

JANUARY 13, 1961

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

DEAR MRS. BACH-LAN:

WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY SAIGON OF YOUR EXTENSION TO FEBRUARY 22,
1961.

SINCERELY,

JUDITH RATHBUN
SECRETARY TO DEAN AUSTIN

530 West 112th Street, Apt. 4
New York 25, New York
January 14, 1961

Dear Dr. R. Austin:

May I enclose herewith a letter from Teachers' College admitting me as a candidate for a Professional Diploma leading toward certification for an Ed.D. degree at a later date -- the Professional Diploma being one that candidates should take after a 30-point course beyond the M.A. degree.

Since it is required that, prior to registration, I should secure permission from both my government to stay here and from you to attend the program, I should be grateful if you would consider extending your sponsorship and writing to the Rector of the N.I.A. in my favor.

I do realize that this is a short notice, but it took Teachers' College a lot of time to process my application, and I am glad that I got a definite answer yesterday. I am told that straight admission to a Professional Diploma is a great concession indeed, considering that my undergraduate and graduate studies are not relevant to the teaching of English. However, upon examination of the three certificates and diploma in English studies I obtained at Cambridge in 1952, 1953, and 1955, while I was doing undergraduate studies at Oxford, and as a result of interviews with Professors Dykstra and Shoemaker from the Department of English at Teachers' College who wrote favorable letters of recommendation to the Admission Office, I was finally admitted with the above status. This is rather encouraging, since I understand that many students from abroad who had applied for Doctoral status were admitted only as unclassified students waiting for further evaluation of credits.

You told me in your previous letter that you thought the reason for Rector Vu Quoc Thong's refusal to support my new field of study was due to the nature of my program rather than an under-rating of the Ed.D. degree. If this is so, perhaps the Vietnam Project and the N.I.A. would like to transfer me to a relevant ICA program with favorable recommendations.

Since the new term starts on February 4, 1961, I am waiting anxiously for an answer. Thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

L.T. Bachlan

P.S. Dr. Nguyen Dinh Hoa, whom I believe you know, wrote me a letter on January 5, 1961, saying that he teaches English both at the Faculty of Letters and the N.I.A. As English is taught there, I very much hope my application would be considered, since after finishing my program I could go back and teach there for 10 years according to my former contract.

TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

January 13, 1961

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

Dear Mrs. Bach-Lan:

I am happy to confirm the fact that you meet scholastic requirements for admission to a program of studies leading towards a Professional Diploma, with a major in Teaching of English and Foreign Languages--Teaching of English as a Foreign Language. We will be glad to admit you to the above program, (1) if you are able to secure permission from your government to stay here, (2) if your sponsor gives you permission for you to attend Teachers College in the above program, and (3) if you have sufficient funds to finance studies here.

Although we are not able to admit you directly to a program of studies leading towards certification for the degree of Doctor of Education, the above program is a logic step on the way to this degree and, in the department of Teaching of English and Foreign Language, is required of a student who is interested in that degree; therefore, should you be admitted to a program of studies leading towards certification for the degree of Doctor of Education at a later date, you would have lost no time by completing the Professional Diploma program first.

As in the case of all students whose native language is not English, you will be required to take and pass our English examination; however, we know that you will have no problem since your knowledge of the English language is good.

We realize that the time is quite short for you to take care of the necessary formalities before the registration period begins; therefore, you will want to know that although our orientation program for foreign students begins on January 28 and the regular registration period begins on February 4, there are provisions for registering through February 14. This date is the very last possible date for clearing your status through this office.

We sincerely hope that you will be given permission to remain here for further studies since we are convinced that this program would be of benefit to you and to your country upon your return there.

Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan

2

January 13, 1961

We will look forward to receiving indication that the three matters mentioned above are satisfactorily taken care of.

Very truly yours,

Ruth V. Jache
Assistant on Admissions

RVJ:rgw

530 W. 112th St

Apr 4

N.Y. 25, N.Y.

Jan. 16, 1961.

Dear Dr. R. Austin,

I saw the Admissions' office of Teachers' College to-day for registration for next term, and they said before getting permission to register, I must have:

1. Permission from my government to stay in this country.
2. Permission from you.
3. Adequate means to pay for my fees.

Regarding item (1), I have telephoned to Mr. Truong-Buu. Khanh from Washington, and he said he would send me a letter stating that my application for extension of the visa is being sent to Saigon for consideration. He said in previous cases, students could register with a similar letter.

As far as item (2) is concerned, would you please send me a letter stating your opinion about my change of programs? It is true that the NIA will support me until Feb. 22 only, but as I am applying for further extension of the scholarship, the case is under consideration too. In case the NIA and the Viet Nam Project feel they cannot support me, then I will apply for a transfer to another program.

Concerning item (3), my husband will sign a paper promising to pay for my tuition fees and maintenance while waiting for an answer from Saigon and Michigan - or in case of refusal, for an answer from an appropriate

2) ICA program.

would you please send me this letter, with a copy to the Admissions' office at Teachers' college, at your earliest convenience? Thank you very much.

I am glad to say that ~~20~~ all my 5 chapters are being approved by my supervisor, and that proper typing is being done to get the whole

FIRST FOLD

AIR LETTER • AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

Dr. R. Austin
Vietnam Project
Michigan State University
East Lansing
(Mich.)

530 W 112 St
NY 25 NY



SECOND FOLD

3) Essay finished before Feb. 1, 1961.
Looking forward to hearing from you. With best regards.

Yours sincerely,
L.T. Bachman.

JANUARY 20, 1961

MRS. LE THI BACHLAN
530 WEST 112TH STREET
APARTMENT #4
NEW YORK 25, NEW YORK

DEAR MRS. BACHLAN:

CERTAINLY I AM HAPPY THAT YOUR ARRETE, A COPY OF WHICH IS ENCLOSED, ENABLES YOU TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY.

I APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION WHICH YOU HAVE CONVEYED TO ME IN YOUR TWO LETTERS OF JANUARY 14 AND 16, AND ALSO THE COPY OF THE LETTER SENT TO YOU FROM TEACHERS COLLEGE.

FOR THE RECORD, I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT, AS A PERSON COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM THE VIETNAM PROJECT, I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO RECOMMENDING YOUR ATTENDANCE OF TEACHERS COLLEGE FOR SUCH A PROGRAM. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT TEACHERS COLLEGE IS NOT AWARE THAT (1) "...PERMISSION FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT TO STAY HERE," AND (2) "IF YOUR SPONSOR GIVES YOU PERMISSION FOR YOU TO ATTEND TEACHERS COLLEGE IN THE ABOVE PROGRAM," ARE REALLY THE SAME, FOR THE FACT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT ALLOWS YOU TO STAY HERE IS DEPENDENT UPON THE INSTITUTION, NAMELY, THE NIA WHO IS YOUR SPONSOR, GRANTING THIS PERMISSION. SINCE THE NIA IS AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE PRESIDENCY, THEY WOULD GRANT THIS PERMISSION. IN EFFECT, OUR OFFICE THEN BECOMES A COORDINATING AGENCY AND, IN THIS PARTICULAR MATTER, NEITHER CAN IT WITHHOLD A RECOMMENDATION NOR ISSUE ONE, BUT MUST SIMPLY TRANSMIT, WITHOUT PREJUDICE, THE LEGAL DOCUMENTS ISSUED IN YOUR FAVOR AND THEN ATTEMPT IN EVERY WAY TO COUNSEL AND AID ONCE YOUR PROGRAM HAS BEEN APPROVED BY (1) YOUR GOVERNMENT, AND (2) THE SPONSORING INSTITUTION, WHICH IS NOT REALLY MSU, BUT THE NIA.

PLEASE FEEL SURE THAT, AS A COLLEAGUE AND IN A PERSONAL MANNER, I WOULD TAKE A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW, BUT, IN THIS CASE, IT IS ONLY HONEST AND PROPER THAT I GIVE YOU THE REASONS FOR MSU NOT BEING ABLE TO ACT AS AN INDEPENDENT SPONSOR. WE SHALL, AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, COMMUNICATE THE INFORMATION. I BELIEVE THAT YOUR POST SCRIPT ON YOUR JANUARY 14TH LETTER WITH REFERENCE TO DR. HOA MAY HAVE SOME BEARING ON YOUR CASE.

MRS. LE THI BACHLAN
JANUARY 20, 1961
PAGE TWO

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BE ASSURED OF OUR SINCERE INTEREST IN YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND IN OUR EFFORTS TO ACT IN A POSITIVE WAY IN THIS, OUR COORDINATING, FUNCTION.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO HAVE THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE OF TEACHERS COLLEGE COMMUNICATE WITH ME IF, IN ANY OTHER WAY, I CAN BE OF HELP PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION FROM VIETNAM.

SINCERELY,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:SF
ENCLOSURE: LETTER FROM ADMISSIONS OFFICE
TEACHERS COLLEGE TO LTBACHLAN
AND ARREYE

CC: JEHENDRY
LDHUSOLF

Apr 4

N.Y. 25, N.Y.

Jan. 22, 1961.

Dear Miss J. Rathbun,

I should be grateful if you would like to let me have the money allotted to me for this term to buy books. Please find enclosed herewith 6 documents for justification. I understand that for Spring Term 1960, about \$8.00 were left unaccounted for, in my \$50.00 allowance — for which I had already received. Therefore the total amount here below largely covers the \$8.00 which I had already received and the \$50.00 for this term, which I hope you will be kind enough to let me have, after due procedure.

Here is what I have paid for Spring and Autumn terms 1960:

(1) Balance of an old invoice, Ap. 20, '60 ..	\$10.79
(2) American Constitution, by Pittchelet.	7.79
(3) Southern Asia Accessions List 1958-60	9.00
(4) Pacific Affairs, Far East Digest ...	20.60
(5) Viet Nam: The First five years, Lindholm, ed.	7.24
(6) Governments and politics; Major governments, by Kahin	13.75
Total	\$69.08

Please note that the justifying documents for item (1) were submitted in Spring Term 1960, and the Project asked me to pay the balance (\$10.70) and present the receipt for payment later. Therefore I cannot remember the names of the books I bought with this amount of money. Perhaps you might be able to find this in your files.

Item (2) was bought in connection with a course I took on Constitutional History in Spring 1960.

Items (3), (4), (5), (6) were bought in connection with my M. A. thesis which I wrote this term.

Looking forward to hearing from you, and thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,
L. T. Bachman.