

TO: Frank C. Child
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
DATE: April 14, 1960
SUBJECT: Mr. Nguyen Nhu Cuong -- Ref: Your Memo of 4/7/60 #482

The problems of having Mr. Nguyen Nhu Cuong fulfill all of the requirements for foreign student application are not as great as they seem. The letter of recommendation need only be written by you or some other member of the M.S.U.G. staff, and only one letter is required. If we can have a thermofax or a copy of the medical he will need in order to obtain the visa, I am sure that this will serve in place of the M.S.U. medical report.

Obviously there are going to be problems if he does not have some degree of English competence, and I wonder how he would expect to get the visa if it were not possible for us to send the necessary DSP 66 form. Under the usual procedure, most grantees would be expected to have a degree of competence in English unless specific arrangements had been made for interpreters. I fear that we may have the same problem as cropped up with Mr. Le Dinh Chan -- that his major objective of being in the United States was to "learn English."

From past experience I would guess that we will have to allow for a certain amount of junketing (at least New York and Washington). Unfortunately, Mr. Chan made such a nuisance of himself that it was finally arranged for him to go to Washington. However, he subsequently pleaded illness as an excuse for not meeting the schedule set up which included visits at the University of Pennsylvania (Arthur Bloomfield), Harvard University and M.I.T. Unless we have the program pretty well "cut and dried" before his arrival, I can foresee the same kinds of problems.

Would it be possible to have him come at the beginning of June so there is not such a great time lapse before the beginning of summer session? Have you considered the possibility of sending Cuong at the same time as Thuyet?

cc: James B. Hendry

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

MAILING ADDRESS: MSU-USOM
AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON — VIETNAM
CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBUR

GENERAL OFFICE:
137, DUONG PASTEUR
TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528
SAIGON: 3 8 3 - 3 8 4

April 29, 1960

TO: Elsie Cunningham
FROM: Frank C. Child *FC*
SUBJECT: Nguyen Nhu Cuong

Mr. Cuong's departure has been postponed until at least the end of October because of certain domestic problems. I am now recommending to the NIA that he wait until the end of December, planning his arrival to coincide with the beginning of winter quarter.

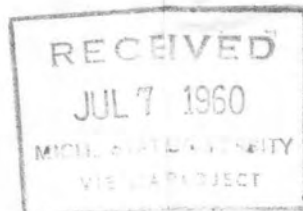
This change is probably just as well because it will give him a longer period to improve his English--a problem which has been of concern to us here. We have now arranged for Mr. Cuong to receive training in English conversation.

I think I can manage the application papers under the circumstances you outlined in your memo of April 14. Regardless of past experience, I hope we can keep the amount of junketing in this case to an absolute minimum. Prior to his departure to the States I will send you a copy of his program, as we have agreed upon it, which will indicate his working on campus for two full quarters. This means he must confine his junkets to between terms, holidays, or beginning and end of his stay in the States. I suspect he may try to alter this arrangement once he arrives in East Lansing; I strongly recommend vigorous resistance.

Happy days!

FCC:je

392



July 1, 1960

TO: Elsie Cunningham
FROM: Frank Child
SUBJECT: Participants Thuyet and Cuong

1. We have now received official word from GVN that Mr. Pham Van Thuyet's participant grant is cancelled. The Presidential order is attached.

2. We are having some difficulty with Mr. Nguyen Nhu Cuong over his English language training. He is still tentatively scheduled for a December departure but this is subject to his acceptance of a program for improving language competence.

FC/dcm

Enclosure