

June 29, 1960

RECEIVED
- JUL 7 1960
MICH. STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM PROJECT

Rector Vu Quoc Thong
National Institute of
Administration
4 rue Alexandre de Rhodes
Saigon, Vietnam

Dear Mr. Thong:

Some time ago I promised to find out for you more details on English language training for participants. After many inquiries, I now finally have some information.

It appears that there is no regulation by the Government of Vietnam concerning English language training. I am informed by USOM, however, that the Committee on Overseas Studies has given strong backing to existing ICA regulations on such training.

Under the latest ICA regulations we are not permitted to send participants unless it can be certified that they can participate effectively in a training program. In the case of Professor Cuong, I understand that graduate courses are planned for him. To take such courses a good command of English is, of course, required. Under these circumstances, MSUG cannot certify to ICA that Professor Cuong is equipped to participate effectively in his training program unless he prepares himself through classes and passes the language examination.

The above represents our interpretation of our obligation under ICA regulations. If the National Institute of Administration wishes to take issue with this interpretation, I suggest that you contact the Director General of Planning or the Committee on Overseas Studies in order that the issue may be discussed and resolved in meetings with USOM. Let me say, however, that I am relatively certain that USOM would insist that Professor Cuong take the language courses and pass the language examination.

If there are questions about the ICA regulations or their interpretations, I shall be glad to try to answer them. In any event, because of the relatively long span of time required to make someone fluent in English, I suggest that the issue of Professor Cuong's English language lessons be settled as soon as possible. Before

Professor Cuong raised the issue with you, we had already scheduled a meeting with Mr. Cannady of the Vietnamese-American Association in order to determine which class in English Professor Cuong would attend. We stand ready to attempt to reschedule such a meeting whenever we receive word that Professor Cuong is ready to go ahead.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd D. Musolf
Chief Advisor

IDM/dcm

cc: Coordinator ✓
Dr. Guy Fox
Dr. Frank Child
Dr. John Donoghue

TRANSLATION

Saigon, October 19, 1960

TO: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor, MSUG
FROM: The Rector of the NIA
SUBJECT: Mr. Nguyễn Như Cường's Training Abroad.

Dear Mr. Chief Advisor:

Assistant Professor Nguyễn Như Cường has just informed us that since he is too busy to attend a complementary English course planned by your Group, he has given up his intention to go to the U.S.

We have written to the Directorate of Planning to request the withdrawal of Arrete No 296-TTP/KH dated April 4, 1960 authorizing Mr. Cường to go to the U.S. for training.

We regret that Mr. Cường cannot enjoy the overseas training which your Group has kindly arranged and extend our genuine thanks to you all the same.

Sincerely yours,
/S/ VU QUOC THONG

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator DATE : October 21, 1960
FROM : Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *DDM*
SUBJECT : Assistant Professor Nguyen Nhu Cuong

As you will recall, it has been planned for some time that Professor Cuong would go to the United States for six months. You will probably also remember that we have had absolutely no cooperation from Cuong in persuading him to take English language training. We sympathized with his argument that previous faculty members had not been required to take the English language training, but we pointed out to him that ICA, and not merely USOM, has tightened down a great deal on the requirements. Cuong did finally state that he would join the classes several weeks before his departure and then take the examination. We warned him that he was jeopardizing his trip, but he insisted. The latest decision of Cuong is reported by the attached translation of a letter sent by Rector Thong.

It must be said that our Group has found Cuong very difficult to work with, as well as being a person who seems to contribute exceedingly little to the NIA. Although attendance at classes in the States may have improved him, his own attitude indicates that quite a struggle would have been involved, in any case.

IDM/dw

att



October 27, 1960

TO: Lloyd D. Musolf
FROM: Ruben V. Austin
SUBJECT: Assistant Professor Nguyen Nhu Cuong

We are thankful for the way in which Mr. Cuong's proposed period of training in the United States has been solved. It seems inappropriate to have a person spend six months where a knowledge of English would be the primordial prerequisite and not have the participant avail himself the opportunity of prior training in the language.

RVA:af