

November 26, 1958

TO: Howard Waltman - Participant Program Director
FROM: Elsie Cunningham - Administrative Assistant
SUBJECT: Mr. Dich and Mr. Phat. (#56)

We agreed on the time schedule and suggest that if Mr. Dich and Mr. Phat end up at MSU they plan to come, perhaps, three or four days earlier around December 30th.

I have asked the registrar's office to let me know at the earliest possible moment regarding their admissions period. In addition I have called the University of Michigan and requested that they phone me as soon as a decision is reached. Will you please verify with a complete listing of the names of people due in January.

EC:ms

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

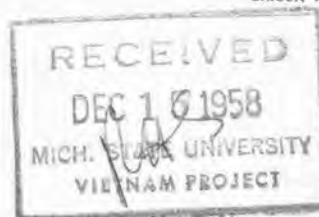
MAILING ADDRESS: MSU-USOM
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CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBUR

GENERAL OFFICE:
137, DUONG PASTEUR

TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022-21.528
SAIGON: 383-384

December 10, 1958



TO: Miss Elsie Cunningham
FROM: Howard L. Waltman *fw*
SUBJECT: No. 74 - Mr. Buu-Dich.

Last week John Dorsey, Jack Montgomery and I met with the Vice-Rector of the National Institute to discuss the training plans for Mr. Buu-Dich.

We were in fairly close accord in deciding the following course of action:

- (1) Send Mr. Dich to the United States with the regular participants.
- (2) Permit him to take course work in the Political Science Department that would be applicable for a Master's Degree.
- (3) Evaluate his performance after two quarters.

If at the end of this period he has demonstrated a capacity to continue for a Doctorate, then he should be permitted to do so. However, if his work was not of a sufficiently high level to warrant his continuing, then he would cease academic work and spend the second six months in observational and field training directed at preparing him to work at the NIA in a capacity other than teaching, perhaps research, or administration. The Vice-Rector has assured us that the NIA can utilize Mr. Dich in either of these areas.

This appears to be a satisfactory solution to resolve the questions we have concerning Mr. Dich.

c.c: Dorsey
Montgomery

January 2, 1959

TO: Howard Waltman - Participant Program Director
FROM: Elsie Cunningham - Administrative Assistant
SUBJECT: Mr. Buu Dich - Memo # 77
REF: Our Memorandum # 72

In my memorandum #72 I added a few lines after talking with the Admission people vis-a-vis the status of Mr. Buu Dich. It would seem that the only way we can possibly meet these suggested alternatives is by enrolling him as a special student. If we are to enroll him for a degree it would have to be an undergraduate degree and this would probably necessitate his taking basic college courses as decided upon by the Registrar and the department. In addition, they would only give him credit for those courses where the equivalent grades warranted it. This would mean, I suspect, at least one complete year's work before they would be willing to grant a Bachelor's degree.

In looking over his grades as I suggested in the other memorandum there is very great doubt that he would be capable of undertaking graduate work. His grade level is below that of the average American graduate student particularly when you consider he has not even received a passing grade in such subjects as Administrative and Political Organization of Vietnam and International Public Law.

If there are any other reasonable alternatives, I fail to see what they are at the moment.

EC:ms

January 14, 1959

TO: Howard Waltman - Participant Program Director
FROM: Elsie Cunningham - Administrative Assistant
SUBJECT: Regarding Buu Dich (# 82)

Yesterday afternoon I picked up a very interesting piece of information—that Mr. Buu Dich could not be admitted to the University of Saigon. This may or may not be true - if it is, somebody had better alert the Vietnamese of the difficulty of securing a graduate degree or for that matter an undergraduate degree in the United States.

EC:ms

January 15, 1959

TO: Lloyd Musolf
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
SUBJECT: Bau Dich #406

Mr. Dich's formal admission to the master's program in the Department of Political Science has been completed. The Dean's official acceptance and the necessary papers have all been returned to the Admissions Office. Also they are sending through the necessary changes to have this quarter's enrollment changed to regular graduate status.

The final evaluation gave Mr. Dich the equivalent of 201 credits for the work he had completed in Vietnam for the bachelor's equivalent. With the courses he has already completed at M.S.U. Dr. Dorsey estimates that it will take him another nine months to complete his master's degree. He will be writing his thesis under Dr. Dorsey.

May 12, 1959

TO: Howard Waltman
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
SUBJECT: Vu Dich's Academic Record #169

During a discussion this morning between Stan Gabis and Mr. Dich and I we indicated to him that he would have to receive at least a "B" average this quarter and during summer session before any consideration could be given to the possibility of his remaining at MSU for further studies - possibly for a master's.

This would mean asking the Admissions Office for a re-evaluation of his credits (he is now on the "special" status of our regular participants). In order to back up this request we would very much appreciate getting the breakdown of his studies at the University of Saigon Faculty of Letters for his certificate in General Literature Studies and his Baccalaureat (Session of July 17th 1957) at Saigon.

We are still not too impressed with his general motivation and his ability to do the work but we stand willing to give him the opportunity to show us.

2694

TO: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
DATE: June 24, 1959
SUBJECT: Mr. Bun Dich

Mr. Bun Dich saw Stan Gabis just before he left relative to the courses he was going to take during the summer session. According to what he told Frank Cliffe and then me, Stan agreed that he would only take "300 level courses" during each of the five week sessions. He is currently enrolled in Political Science 331.

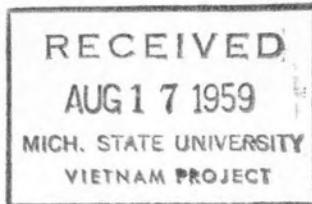
It is my strong conviction that he should take at least two courses including one definitely on the graduate level, i.e. 500, so that we will be in the position at the end of the first or second summer session to decide what to do with him. He received an A in Political Science 325 and a C in Political Science 510.

I am fairly sure that Frank Cliffe does not feel that Dich can make the grade and in Dich's recent conversation with Stan Gabis, he originally wanted to take Foreign Political Institutions. After all, this would be old stuff to him, at least as far as the French system is concerned.

When I discussed with him this morning the possibility of carrying a full load of courses (or 8 credits), he said that it would take him a year to become adjusted to the American system. I told him I did not think it was fair to expect our other degree participants to carry almost equivalent to that of American students and allow him to carry this very light course load.

If anything can be done about this, it should be done either during this session (before Stan Gabis returns), or at the very beginning of the second session.

Gabis did not mention to me or to Frank Cliffe the results of his conversation with Dich.



Miss Elsie Cunningham

August 12, 1959

Mr. Howard L. Waltman

N. 168 Reference your Memorandum No. 169
Buu Dich Records

Attached are the records you requested in your memorandum. It took us quite some time to track down the grades for his baccalaureate of 1957. I am sorry for the delay and hope that these records assist in resolving Mr. Dich's position.

Enc. 2

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT - OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

September 16, 1959

To: Howard Waltman
From: Stanley T. Gabis
Subject: Buu Dich

The case of Mr. Buu Dich is proving rather perplexing. I have bent over backwards to try to salvage this man. One of the very good men in the Department of Political Science, John Fenton, had Dich in two courses unrelated to public administration. He reported to me that Dich did very well. These courses are in the parties field. To date, however, his work in public administration has been below the standard expected of a graduate student. Furthermore, there is the ever present question as to whether or not the Department will admit him without the equivalent of a bachelors degree. Some relaxation on this point might have been possible if Dich demonstrated that he was a superior student all the way along the line, but this has not been the case. I have asked the Department to make a very careful review of this case, and I trust we can resolve it one way or another by the end of October.

STG/ap

cc: Cunningham ✓

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137, DUONG PASTEUR
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SAIGON: 383 - 384

September 30, 1959

To: Stanley T. Gabis
From: Lloyd D. Musolf
Subject: Buu Dich

In the absence of Howie Waltman, I shall endeavor to answer your memorandum of September 16 concerning Buu Dich. There have been discussions from time to time about this student and we have probably been as perplexed as you. I have talked generally to the Vice Rector of the NIA about the matter of the quality of graduate students. Mr. Dang agrees with me that the Institute should not have faculty members who were weak sisters in graduate school. There is no disposition in the Institute, as far as I can tell, to coddle Buu Dich or any other students who cannot make their own way. Actually, Mr. Dang has told me that he fully expects that Buu Dich will be sent back after a year (I will not attempt to discuss the question of who foisted Dich on whom in selecting him for graduate training).

As to the question of the relationship of the American university to students from Viet Nam, Ralph Smuckler and I are in agreement that it does the Project no good on campus if special pleas must be made for Vietnamese students.

I note that you remark that Dich did well in Fenton's course, but that he is not doing at all well in public administration. As the Institute badly needs faculty in the public administration area, success in these courses would seem important. What I am saying is that I suspect that Dich's failure in public administration should outweigh his success in other areas. In short, it seems to us out here that Dich probably should not continue his graduate training.

LDM:je

C. Lee

October 1, 1959

TO: Coordinator
FROM: Chief Advisor
SUBJECT: Buu Dich

Attached is Lloyd Musolf's comment on Buu Dich. I would add merely one comment of my own; that is, Dich should be given the chance outlined by Howie Waltman in his review of the Ph.D. participants. In other words, we have not given him up completely, but we do expect that he will not make the grade and will have to be returned before very long. Just as soon as that point has been reached in your judgment, do not hesitate to send him back.

I agree with Lloyd that we should not try to smooth the way for the Ph.D. participants any more than we would normally do for any other student. They must make the grade academically, and to have a few of them fail would actually add to the prestige of those who do return with the Ph.D.

RHS/dcm

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Musolf

TO: Lloyd Musolf
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
DATE: November 20, 1959
SUBJECT: Mr. Buu Dich --- Ref. Gables EL-31 and S-40 --- (#360)

As a result of John Dorsey's re-evaluation of Mr. Buu Dich's Vietnamese credits, it is fairly certain that he has more than enough credits for the equivalent of a B.A. This has been discussed with the department and Buu Dich's application for the Master's program will be processed through the admissions office. The chances are very good that he will be admitted to the Master's program. It is quite likely that he will be allowed to apply all those credits he has already taken to a Master's degree.

TO: Lloyd Musolf
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
DATE: December 8, 1959
SUBJECT: Mr. Buu Dich #373

Since there was no reply to our cable No. EL-31, Mr. Buu Dich's passport has been sent to the Embassy for renewal and we will follow up with a visa extension as soon as the extended passport is returned. His papers are now being processed and hopefully this should be completed before winter quarter registration.

TO: Lloyd Musolf
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
DATE: December 16, 1959
SUBJECT: Mr. Buu Dich # 381 --- Ref: S-53

After discussing the possibilities of Mr. Buu Dich's completing his Master's degree with John Dorsey, I have recommended to Mr. Dich and the Embassy that he be granted a nine month's extension to complete this degree.

December 24, 1959

TO: Dr. Stanley Gabis, Acting Coordinator
FROM: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor
SUBJECT: Buu Dich

We have been following the information from East Lansing on Buu Dich with interest and have been keeping the NIA informed. So far the NIA has not given us its final word on utilizing Buu Dich when he has been equipped with the MA degree. We are hopeful of obtaining a favorable verdict on this point at any moment. The tone of written communications has been something like this: we are sorry to hear that Buu Dich is having academic trouble. Will you please inform us whether he is capable of obtaining the Ph.D. degree? If not, his training should be terminated.

Informally, the NIA has not been this severe.

I mention this discrepancy between written and oral communications with the NIA to indicate to you that there is some difficulty in settling the matter of Buu Dich once and for all. In my written communications to the NIA I have passed on the information that you have furnished, namely that Dich is not capable of getting a Ph.D. but that you are planning to have him try for the MA. As the NIA is desirous of getting assurances of his capabilities as a Masters student, I have taken the liberty of stating that he is capable. I have done this though/ there has been no flat statement in your communications that he is capable. The strongest statement we have is that "Dorsey thinks nine months will be sufficient for MA if all goes well." By the time you receive this memorandum, you will have a cable from us about the NIA's verdict on accepting Buu Dich equipped with a Masters degree. I thought, however, that you should have the background information contained in this memorandum.

IDM/dcm



TO: Lloyd Musolf
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
DATE: January 5, 1960
SUBJECT: Mr. Buu Dich #392

Mr. Buu Dich is currently enrolling for the winter quarter. His papers have not completely cleared the department and the Dean's office, so he is still on special status. However, it is expected that all of these formalities will be cleared up within the next week or so and he will officially be a Master's degree candidate in the Department of Political Science.

The question of whether or not Mr. Dich will actually complete his Master's degree depends on whether he is able to successfully complete his course work and write a thesis.

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GENERAL OFFICE:
137, DUONG PASTEUR
TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528
21.891 - 21.991

January 25, 1960

TO: Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator
FROM: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *DR*
SUBJECT: Buu Dich

As I indicated earlier, the NIA has agreed to an extension of nine months for Buu Dich to permit his completion of the Masters degree. As I also indicated, Mr. Thong and Mr. Dang were somewhat skeptical as to Dich's ability to obtain the degree, but they are willing to go along with the attempt.

It seems most likely that if Dich is successful in obtaining a Masters degree he will be employed in the in-service training area. It would be most appropriate for him to take as many public administration courses as feasible. The Institute itself has made this suggestions, but we believe it is appropriate. Perhaps his thesis too could be tailored along public administration lines. I recognize that these suggestions come a bit late in the scheduling of Buu Dich's remaining academic career, but perhaps some restructuring can still be done.

IDM/dcm

cc: Dr. Dorsey



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator DATE : September 19, 1960
FROM : Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *JDm*
SUBJECT : Buu Dich

Buu Dich showed up here all unannounced last week. Apparently through some mishap neither the NIA nor MSUG were notified of his return.

I was a little puzzled as to whether Buu Dich knew that his work was sufficiently inadequate to prevent his continuing for the Ph.D. He told me that East Lansing had told him that his government needed him. His remarks were rather amusing, because he said that when he came here he found that his government had no idea he was arriving. How much does he know about the reason for his return?

The NIA plans to use him on work in connection with the coming EROPA conference. Whether he will continue with EROPA after the December conference remains to be seen. As you will recall, the NIA has not been keen to see him return, as he is the only one of the participants who was signed up by the NIA before his departure and then failed to make the grade.

Dich raised the question of whether MSUG would publish his master's thesis. I spoke in terms of the desirability of NIA publication, in order to enhance the research reputation of the NIA, and I mentioned that this procedure was followed in the Philippines. He said that NIA officials had told him that there probably was no money for this purpose. At any rate, Marv Murphy and the Budget Agency will review his thesis with an eye to considering its merit for publication.



IDM/dw

541

September 27, 1960

TO: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor
FROM: Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator
SUBJECT: Buu Dich

Again our apologies. In going over his folder we noticed that Elsie had outlined the dates of his return trip to Vietnam. Subsequently we picked up the arrangements for his return and it is my clear recollection that it was extremely difficult to discuss matters with him due to some of the unreasonable demands that he was attempting to make.

His departmental advisor was John Dorsey and I know that many lengthy conferences were held between Dorsey and Buu Dich concerning his inability to pursue the doctoral program. The department, as a whole, was made aware of this situation and he was informed of the reasons and told that he should finish his master's degree here and consider that a terminal one. We certainly did not give him the impression that the reason he should return without his Ph.D. was that his government needed him.

We shall be interested in the outcome of the publication of his master's thesis.

RVA:sf

6a, b

Jdm

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SAIGON: 383 - 384

October 17, 1960

TO: Ruben V. Austin
FROM: Guy H. Fox *[Signature]*
SUBJECT: Evaluation of NIA Participants

In your memorandum of October 7 to me, you raised two questions:

1. You asked if there is a deadline for your submission of an evaluation report on former participants now connected with the NIA. The NIA has not set a deadline for this information. They would, however, like to have the information concerning Xuyen, Dich and Khanh as quickly as possible.
2. You also inquired if the NIA wanted the grade reports as they are furnished periodically of the participants now in the States. Dang has specifically requested only a final transcript upon completion of the participant's work in the U.S. However, we at MSUG would certainly like to receive copies of any periodic grade reports which you may receive; we will, of course, transmit this information to the NIA.

GHF:je



October 26, 1960

TO: Guy H. Fox
FROM: Ruben V. Austin
SUBJECT: Evaluation of NIA Participants

We are submitting reports for Bui Dich and Bui Quang Khanh. We are awaiting further information from Vanderbilt on Xuan. We assume that your October 17th memo refers to Xuan rather than Xuyen, who, as yet, has not been designated as a Ph.D. participant.

We hope that the reports, as we have worked them out, will give you the information desired.

As we stated before, we feel that Michigan State should not become involved in subjective evaluations which might, in the long run, create prejudice toward this institution.

RVA:sf
Enclosures