

December 14, 1959

Mr. Ted Cobun
ICA Audio Visual Program
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Mr. Cobun:

Please find enclosed the two letters I have received from Mr. Le Ba Do that I spoke of today in our telephone conversation. After you have reached a decision as to Mr. Do's living quarters, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Participant Director

EMC:nm



INDIANA

November 27, 1959.

Miss Elsie Cunningham
Participant Director
VietNam Project
M.S.U. Campus
East Lansing.

Dear Miss,

Thank you for the nice letter and the check included the per-diem which I received last week. I have also received all my books and photographs sent from home. The week, first week of November while Mr. Griswold visited I.U. and during his stay here, we all ICA students organized a presentation night in order to show him some kinds of our Country through Audio Visual technique. I have done quite a lot of audio visual works such as graphic, display, photography and dry mounting technique which I learn from the class and it seemed to be good. Mr. Griswold and many of Instructors and visitors were satisfied of my works. I am sending separately some pictures taken by myself to you just as informations, but they are not so good and all scratched, but really they are not bad shots just by one single flash.

After having seen them, I would desire you send them to Mr. Maynard at Saigon, then ask him to give them to Mr. VAN of N.I.A. and requested him the way I sent just for saving stamps. I shall be much thankful to you if the address of Mr. Maynard by A.P.O. will be sent to me and it will permit to write quite often to others officers of Michigan too. Last week, Dr. Molstad, requested me to give a statement on my schooling, and I have done it and I hope to have my B.A. degree after one year school, because I have studied my Baccalaureate degree, but I didn't submit to a final examination, for why I didn't possess a Bachelor diploma as it runs in my country. In plus of that I have 2 more years with French college during my

stay in Paris from 1948-1950 and many other classes I have taken during that period. But all my records accidentally lost by the war. I have given some addresses of Dr. Fishel, Dr. Smuckler, Dr. Dorsey Mr. Maynard, Mr. Van and the Rector Thong of N.I.A. for more informations if I.U. committee would desire to know.

I have been invited to Mr. Black family but all of us went to Dr. Knowlton family for enjoying our Thanksgiving day. I enjoyed very much and I was very ^{much} appreciated their receiving. I enjoyed very much with children and it pushed me to think of my child. Mr. Black has a youngest girl, she has the same age of my girl and all of them were lovely children, the Knowlton's were the same.

After lunch, Mr. Black took us by driving to Lake Lemon and I have had opportunity to see much more the country. It was a little hazy day, but sincerely I was sleepy while he drove, because I have had a big lunch, a big turkey of 22 pounds? I have been served an Egg-nog, some punch and beer it sounds good and I was very please. They took me back to dormitory at 6,30 P.M.

Everything goes well to me, excepted the foods caused a little harm to me is, my skin has a minor disorder and I have seen Doctor and he gave me some pills and some antihistamine cream, and I hope it will clean my skin, it was very rough and I have'nt it before, but doctor said it doesn't worry and it takes a little time to be disappeared.

It is a little incovenience of having no food during the vacation here, and I have to cross a long enough distance for having meals under the snow. It's snowing here and it comes thicker and thicker.

If you really planned to drive to Bloomington I should be very pleased to receive you here, I.U. is a nice Campus and we don't have the same scenic landscape as Michigan State, but very charming.

I have met the Vietnamese guide who came from France but his name is GI or DI and he is living far from my dorm. We have dinner together with another Vietnamese girl whose name is NGUYEN THI LAN and she is going home on next February after two years school and she will have her M.A. degree. She is very sweet girl and older than I, I guess. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours respectfully,

Bao Do



INDIANA

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December 9, 1959.

Miss ELSIE CUNNINGHAM
Participant Director
VietNam Project
M.S.U. Campus
East Lansing
Michigan.

Dear Miss Elsie,

I was very busy those weeks for plenty of assignments to do and we have to finish a lot of photography works before going to Chicago as our regular program, we shall leave Bloomington on December 19 and will be back to Campus on January 3, 1960. That's why I couldn't answer sooner than today your letter which I received last week, and I have also received yesterday your letter and a check of 128\$00, thank you very much. I really very touched by your kindness stated in your last letter in which you offered me your help for my academic background. It's too kind of you, I am thankful for it. About the statement which I have done for the University, I have also joined a lot of work certificates and it seems to be allright. I have asked again Dr. Molstad about it, and he said that's enough. So you will reserve your goodness for another favor which I am going to ask you as under; As you know the food here doesn't satisfy my taste much, and I have some trouble with it. My allergy is still lying on my body and I try to be in lack of certain kinds of food by experience, it diminishes little by little, here there is a lot of food I cannot eat, we have too many sweet things, beans, potateos and sauce etc... we may have once a month white rice, even I have given suggestions to some women working in the dining hall, we have almost 5 days sweet rolls and potateos a week and I naturally couldn't have an empty estomach then going to class working up to noon time,; at home, breakfast is my favorite meal and I like to have a light lunch, so I had to pay my sandwich and every day eating the same menu it's entirely disgusted. My bad temper is, while I am not well served, I am so nervous and don't feel much like working.

I have tried to change my behavior, but it's really out of my will . Secondly, as you see in the Schedule of this week, how can I have a good lunch and there is no fun to have a bad digestion if I continue to work, to eat all the time in a hurry. For example , on wednesday, I am belonging to the group B , and we have the class in the morning up to 12 noon, I had to go back from the class to my room , a speed washing, then going to the dining hall there I have to wait for a couple of minutes to be kept in line and have to swallow is right word , because I don't have time to chew correctly my food, then go back to my room for preparing another class begun at 1,15 p.m. That is not the last reason , but during the week ~~days~~ ^{nights} , If I want to work on my late assignments about graphic etc.. I cannot workat my room , because I have a fixed desk and it is too small , there is not enough room for working . Laboratories are not open during the week ~~days~~ ^{nights} and during the opening ~~days~~ ^{nights} , there are too many people, ICA students and regular students working together , it becomes too noisy , and I am very easy and sensible to be nervous and I cannot do anything , we get too much trouble by the others.

Through the reasons upon mentioned , I am respectfully to ask your kindness of allowing me from next Semester to be living outside of the I.U. Campus, it will facilitate me to have more time working at my convenience and I can enjoy myself with my food, and I shall have my lunch immediately after the class, not need to go back to my appartment and in that case I gain more time to work, ~~or~~ rest, or relax. Who ~~like~~ eating enjoy cooking that is me.I will have rice every day in the evening , with the 5 minutes rice, I don't spend much time for my food , because I am a good cook. Another point before I conclude this letter is, on next semester, we shall have many campaigns to do, and if I stay in the Campus, even I don't have meals I have to pay too, for that reason, I can't save some money to buy text books and plenty of thing I like to have for improving my work. I promise you not to be late in class and I shall go to the Audio-Visual Office twice a day to check my mail box and if the A.V. Office has something to communicate to me.it will be faster than the Campus routine. I shall be prompt as I do now and I trully recognize that I shall feel happy ^{to} ~~have~~ my own cooking. I shall do my best to testify your confidence with the A.V. Center Staff here.

I shall be much obliged to you if you will not refuse my request as you have done for many of my other country-men in M.S.U., then I please you to inform to Mr. Cobun to your convenience time, so that I shall bring this matter to Mr. Cobun after the New Year day.

In waiting your reply, I beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,

Bondo

Le-ba-Do

Elsie

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Division of University Extension

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

PUBLIC SERVICES

Audio-Visual Center
Community Services
Bureau of Public Discussion
Industrial and Labor Services

December 19, 1959

TEACHING SERVICES

University Centers
Correspondence Study
Bureau of Lectures
Special Classes

Mrs. Elsie Cunningham
Vietnam Project
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Cunningham:

Relating to the request of Le Ba Do for off-campus housing privileges, we are entirely sympathetic and understanding of the problems which confront him. We feel that he is enthusiastically and courageously attempting to acclimate himself to a situation which is to him foreign and difficult.

In many ways, Do has so successfully overcome transitional difficulties that he is on the verge of victory within the situation. It would be our request that you do not authorize Do to live away from our campus. In addition to increasing the ultimate difficulties to himself, such a move might increase problems of a similar nature with our total group.

Some of the specifics which are contingent upon this situation are as follows:

In living off campus, the communications problems are greatly increased. A twice per day check of mailboxes is, in some circumstances, not enough. Individuals are often difficult to locate, personally. Telephone communications may be impossible if the receiver has no phone, or if he is not within hearing distance of it.

Rentals in Bloomington are quite high. It would be unlikely that Do could closely approximate his present housing at similar rates. It would be unlikely that he could find housing at a suitable distance from the Center, and if he could not, his walking time or his travel time would be increased and complicated.

Do should, in fact, have few problems in laboratory use. Exclusive of the more than adequate classroom space and time which is available to him during the day, the labs are available with supervision for four hours on Wednesday, and Thursday evening and on Saturday mornings. Special permissions can be obtained for further lab use without supervision on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

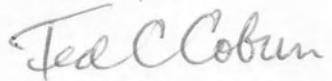
It is probably true that he would have some difficulty in drawing laboratory equipment for his personal use over prolonged periods. We have ample equipment, but its use is intended for class use and not for personal use beyond the assignment needs. It is expensive equipment and some of it is delicate and sensitive and requires close maintenance supervision. If it is used for personal and prolonged periods, it places others in the position of being without.

Again, I would like to point out that we are sincerely concerned with the welfare of Mr. Do and hope that he will find contentment in the near future. Our greatest effort will be to strive to improve his present circumstance and we know him well enough to know that he will give his cooperation in return.

We hope this information is satisfactory and will fulfill your requirements.

We all wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Ted C. Cobun, Acting Director ICA Program
Audio-Visual Center

TCC/mc