

July 13, 1960

Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat
338 Beacon Street
Somerville, Mass.

Dear Phat:

Please find enclosed a letter which just arrived from East Lansing State Bank. I hope that it means you have some forgotten funds deposited therein!

Also hope that we shall have the per diem check for the end of the month shortly - Nancy is so rushed these days that I feel as if I'm really imposing on her when I ask her to do even such a vital thing as the per diem requests.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

June 13, 1960

Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat
338 Beacon Street
Somerville,
Massachusetts

Dear Phat:

Among the little gems to come out of Saigon recently was a bit of information about a possible trip to Harvard for Mr. Nguyen Cao Hach to study economic statistics. I suppose that you may have had Mr. Hach for a teacher while you were attending the N.I.A. During the four or five days he was at M.S.U. several years ago, he and I visited the Coles, who were then in Ann Arbor, and he also spent considerable time with Dr. Lindholm. Even at that time and on that short a visit he was extremely interested in coming to the United States for a year's additional study or an exchange teaching assignment. Since he was the only one of five Vietnamese from the University of Saigon who could speak English sufficiently well to manage without an interpreter, I feel sure that he would profit from a year's study. Of course, this is not definite, and there are many things that can happen between the original idea and the final authorization.

Everybody is now successfully graduated with the exception of Bau Dich. We stayed home and watched the ceremony on television yesterday, but were able to see both Quy and Ban quite clearly. Chau was still up on "cloud 9" at the reception the Smucklers gave afterwards in her honor. I am sure she is very much relieved to know that the funds are available for her return trip to Saigon. She is planning to leave at the end of August.

Van will leave on Wednesday and I have already conveyed your farewell wishes to him.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Participant Director
Vietnam Project

ENC: nm

June 16, 1960.

Miss Elsie Cunningham
Participant Director
Vietnam Project,
Office of the Dean
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Elsie:

I am sending at the same time of the present letter to you, a request to Dr. Austin pertaining to the substance of a report to N.I.A. dated June 14th inst.. Please give whatever support you think necessary to that request and that report therein referred to.

My present academic situation may be summarized as following. I have now passed all the exams for the Spring term, which, I hope, will be satisfactorily graded. In any event, I still have the Summer School and the coming Fall term to fulfill all the course work and papers requirements. So far I have submitted two papers; two are yet to be written. I have also handed in a request to Harvard for credit of the courses at M.S.U. and some studied in Saigon. I am planning to take two reading courses in the Summer School (registration scheduled for July 5th), one in Political Thought with Prof. Hartz and one in Constitutional Law with Professor Sutherland. Besides, I have visited a number of Professors here, including Profs. Gaus and Emerson, and got from them suggestions as to useful reading references for various fields. It is my plan to discuss with Harvard, at the beginning of the Fall term, about the possibilities of my taking the General Exams in January, 1961, and writing the thesis in Vietnam. That is why I have submitted the request and the report, mentioned in the above paragraph. I have been,--this is to notify you in passing--, invited to eventually participate in a Training and Education Conference organized by Harvard Summer School from the 1st to the 3rd of August.

I am sorry, according to your recent letter, that, because of a time conflict, I shall not be able to attend the Seminar in Development Administration. I should, however, appreciate your giving me (and Ky) the opportunity to attend the American Political Science Association Conference in New York, next August.

Besides the readings, I am enjoying my Summer place very much. And I hope that you all overthere will find Summer, a ready excuse for many an excitement.

Sincerely yours,

Phat

Tran Ngoc Phat.

June 16, 1960.

TO: Dr. Ruben V. Austin
Coordinator, Vietnam Project
Office of the Dean
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan.
From: Tran Ngoc Phat
338 Beacon Street,
Somerville 43, Mass.



Dear Dr. Austin:

I would like to report to you that I have sent an academic report dated June 14, 1960, to Mr. Rector Thong of N.I.A., in which I have, among other things, requested him to let me know if there is a possibility for me to get transferred from the Budget Bureau to the N.I.A. Staff; and if so, when would it be the appropriate time, and what would be the adequate procedure, for such a transfer request.

Such an information, I believe, will be necessary for the planning of my remaining academic work here as well as for my future association with the Institute. As you probably know, there still are two major academic steps for me to envisage for the near future: The General Exams and the Thesis writing. I hope to be able to undergo the General Exams by the end of the next Fall term (i.e. January, 1961). But I am, at the same time, thinking of the possibility to get Harvard to agree on my writing the thesis in Vietnam. Thus far, I have not yet discussed neither of these points with this University; I shall, however, do so at the beginning of the next Fall term. In order to have all the necessary instructions related to that occasion, I would greatly appreciate your giving support to the above request for information to N.I.A..

I would certainly welcome any other suggestions you may have regarding these steps for furthering my academic plans at Harvard, as well as my future work with the Institute.

Respectfully yours,

Tran Ngoc Phat.

7.7. 1960

Dear Elsie,

I am in the midst of the Summer School right from its beginning. I am taking 2 reading courses (2 Gov. 300 courses, one in Const. Law with Prof. Sutherland; and one in Thought with Prof. Louis Hartz) and 3 "audit" courses (Gov. 185, Gov. 2) 6 & Soc. Sc. 118). Although you said you were going to leave the Project, I just thought that while you are still with us...

You know how we all feel about you and how we regret your sudden separation from us. But as I said, it sounds great that you are going to be with a big boss in a combined program!

In any case, I am sure you will always be one of ours even though you'll not be "there" no longer. I join my wish to yours that our project will know a wonderful success in the future. And it will be partly because of what you have done for it & will be likely to do for it ... even from a distance.

Please let me know about your plans. And thank you again for everything. I do hope we will have an opportunity to see each other soon. - Now I begin all my problems in the books. And hope that everything will work out all right. - Summer School ends later than I thought, 24 of Aug. instead of 15th, so please adjust Ky's and mine trips accordingly. Thanks for this too. Min,
Phat



July 15, 1960

Dear Elsie,

Thank you for having forwarded me the St. St. B. balance sheet. Unfortunately there wasn't anything left to withdraw.

Due to my temporarily "red" budget (as a result of the moving into a new and more expensive apartment and some other necessary expenditures), I would appreciate a per diem to be advanced for the 2-week travel period following the 26th of August, for academic & professional purposes as agreed upon by Dr. Austin. Please let me know if he would likewise give me some extra days (on the same basis), so that I shall be able to attend the Summer Camp of VN Students in Chicago, as one of the participants' representatives among VN regular students -- an approaching enterprise which would be very useful for the prestige and increased success of our Project.

Thanks also for the invitation to
visit your family in N.J. I
shall certainly enjoy doing that.
But please let me know once
again their address and tel.#
(and also the itinerary if possible),
the ones you gave me some time
ago, I lost them somewhere.
Hope you'll be able to be there
on Labor Day and that I'll
be able to meet you either there
or elsewhere soon.

I'm "enjoying" my cooking
at the new "aristo" apartment,
that is, besides the heat and
the "brain washing" of the
Summer school work load.
Please do not leave me so
wague about your plans: Do
you want to leave es without
a party? (Sorry I wasn't at
your farewell picnic, but how
about ... elsewhere) Tell me how
we can keep you? Sincerely,
Phyllis

July 19, 1960

Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat
364 Harvard Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Phat:

Luckily your new address arrived just before I sent out the somewhat delayed. It seems they got caught in the end of the fiscal year and it wasn't until I started investigating that they came to light again. I have had a cold for about the past five days and consequently have only been in the office a few hours.

I do not know what to say about the advance and trust that you will discuss this matter with Dr. Austin while you have the chance. I understand that he left New York this morning for Boston. Also I see that the N.I.A. is recommending that you stay in the States until you have finished the dissertation.

I honestly do not believe that there is sufficient money in your travel allowance to go to Chicago besides which the meeting dates are very close to the APSA Convention in New York.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

July 24, 1960

Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat
338 Beacon Street
Sommerville, Massachusetts

Dear Phat:

Please find enclosed your per diem check for the period from July 1-15.

Dr. Austin hopes to come to Boston on his next trip East around July 19th and would very much like to see you at this time.

I am leaving the Vietnam Project at the end of next month for a new position at Indiana University.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

P.S. When Dr. Austin visits you in Boston, he hopes to discuss with you your request to return to Vietnam to write your dissertation after discussing this possibility with your faculty adviser.

July 26, 1960

Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat
364 Harvard Street
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Phat:

Please find enclosed your per diem for the period from August 1 to August 15. We shall try to get your next per diem to you before your departure on August 26th for Washington.

Chau has been in East Lansing over the weekend but I have only seen her very briefly. She has received an air ticket from USOM (ICA/W) for her return travel to Saigon and is planning to leave Michigan about August 23rd.

We shall probably send the remaining two participants from the Budget Office (Tri and Tinh) to New York and Pittsburgh for the major part of their remaining 6 months. I'm afraid that there is not going to be much planning done here.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

August 4, 1960

Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat
364 Harvard Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Phat:

I just arrived back from Bloomington last evening (still no apartment but the local sponsors of all the Thais own a real estate agency and are finding one for me - I've been adopted too it seems) to find that Nancy had left. In order to be sure that we have taken care of this I am writing to remind you of the need to apply to the Embassy for an extension - in talking to Khanh at the Embassy today he mentioned that he was not sure whether or not your request had been received and processed.

I'm off now to make my farewell public appearance at a tea for the visiting delegation of Veitnamese assemblymen and women. By the way Hach is already at Harvard although I can not remember exactly which Institute he is attending.

You can reach me through the Depat. of Government, Indiana University, Bloomington (since I have no address as yet).

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

364 Harvard Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

August 8, 1960

Miss Elsie Cunningham
Office of the Dean
College of Business and
Public Service,
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Elsie:

Thank you so much for having reminded me of the request
for extension to be submitted to the Government of Vietnam.

Please find enclosed two copies of it, one in Vietnamese,
and the other, its translation into English. I would be
grateful if you could forward the former to Khanh with what-
ever you may imagine -- as a personal favor to me -- by way
of an explanation of its delay, if explanation is necessary.
The latter, of course, should go to your files.

May I also, by the present, request from Vietnam Project the
same privilege, i.e. an additional sponsored year of training
under the auspices of Michigan State University Participant
Program.

Again, thank you. And please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Tran Ngoc Phat.