

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

---

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

JANUARY 4, 1961

TO: DR. RUBEN V. AUSTIN

FROM: JAMES B. HENDRY *JBH*

SUBJECT: TERM REPORT OF TRAN NGOC PHAT

DURING YOUR ABSENCE AT THE MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT PAID A VISIT TO THE CAMPUS, AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A VERBAL REPORT OF HIS ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS. THE GIST OF THIS REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE PRIMARY FIELDS WHICH HE WILL OFFER IN THE GENERAL EXAMINATIONS WILL INCLUDE POLITICAL THOUGHT, UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, UNITED STATES PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AND NATIONALISM (THIS IS REALLY A SUB-FIELD UNDER THE MORE GENERAL HEADING OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS).
2. THE SECONDARY FIELDS HE WILL OFFER INCLUDE ECONOMICS AND DIPLOMATIC HISTORY. IF A STUDENT RECEIVES A GRADE OF "B" OR BETTER IN TWO SEMESTER COURSES IN EACH OF THE SECONDARY FIELDS, HE CAN QUALIFY IN THAT SECONDARY FIELD WITHOUT FURTHER EXAMINATION. PHAT HAS MET THIS REQUIREMENT IN ECONOMICS ALREADY AND EXPECTS TO DO SO IN DIPLOMATIC HISTORY BY THE END OF THE CURRENT TERM.
3. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THEREFORE, PHAT MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE GENERAL EXAMINATIONS IN ALL OF HIS PRIMARY FIELDS AND NOW PLANS TO START PREPARING FOR THESE EXAMINATIONS IN FEBRUARY. DURING THE SECOND SEMESTER OF THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, HE WILL TAKE TWO SEMINARS AND WILL HAVE NO OTHER COURSE WORK, SINCE HE WILL BE PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL EXAMINATION AT THE SAME TIME.

A FURTHER REQUIREMENT AT HARVARD IS THAT A STUDENT SUBMIT FOUR TERM PAPERS DURING HIS COURSE OF STUDY, AND PHAT HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED TWO OF THESE REQUIRED PAPERS. HE PLANS TO COMPLETE THE OTHER TWO DURING THE CURRENT TERM AND SPENT SOME PART OF HIS STAY IN EAST LANSING WORKING ON THEM.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. HAVE ALREADY BEEN MET IN THAT HE HAS PASSED AN EXAMINATION IN FRENCH AND HAS BEEN TOLD THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE ALLOWED TO USE EITHER VIETNAMESE OR ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENT OF A SECOND FOREIGN LANGUAGE. HIS PRESENT PLANS ARE TO TAKE THE GENERAL EXAMINATIONS DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

TERM REPORT OF TRAN NGOC PHAT  
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PAGE TWO

4. WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF HIS THESIS, AND HE HOPES TO WRITE A THESIS ON SOME ASPECT OF NATIONALISM IN THE FORMER ASSOCIATED STATES OF INDO-CHINA. SINCE THIS THESIS PROBLEM WOULD INVOLVE CONSIDERATIONS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF PRESENT SOUTH VIETNAM, PHAT FEELS IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE A GRANT OR SOME OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SO THAT HE COULD TRAVEL TO VARIOUS POINTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES WHERE DATA MAY BE AVAILABLE AND, HOPEFULLY, EVEN TO ENGLAND AND FRANCE WHERE THERE ARE OTHER SOURCES OF DATA ON THIS TOPIC. I TRIED TO INDICATE THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE IF HE COULD NARROW HIS TOPIC TO ONE THAT WOULD BE MANAGEABLE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF DATA AVAILABLE AT CAMBRIDGE. FURTHER, THIS WOULD BE ADVISABLE IN TERMS OF GETTING IT DONE WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

FURTHER DISCUSSION BROUGHT OUT THE FACT THAT HE IS SOMEWHAT UNFORTUNATELY SITUATED WITH RESPECT TO ACADEMIC ADVISORS. RUPART EMERSON, HIS MAJOR ADVISOR, IS CURRENTLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN UNTIL LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. HIS PRESENT ACTING ADVISOR IS DUE TO RETIRE AT THE END OF THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR. FOR THIS REASON, I SUSPECT THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY CAREFUL TREATMENT IN STEERING HIM TOWARD A MANAGEABLE TOPIC AND, ~~FOR THIS REASON~~, IS ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BUILD UP EXPECTATIONS OF TRAVEL GRANTS FOR PURPOSES OF DATA COLLECTION. HOWEVER, HIS IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS TO WIND UP HIS COURSE WORK AND PASS HIS GENERAL EXAMINATION, AND, DURING THIS TIME, PERHAPS HE WILL BEGIN TO FORMULATE HIS THESIS IDEAS SOMEWHAT MORE CONCRETELY SO THAT THE PROBLEM OF FINANCIAL AID CAN BE CONSIDERED MORE SPECIFICALLY THAN IS THE CASE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

6. PHAT'S GENERAL ATTITUDE SEEMS TO HAVE IMPROVED MEASURABLY OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, AND I GATHER THAT HE HAS WORKED HARD AND HAS MAINTAINED HIS GRADES AT A LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH WORK OF DOCTORAL CALIBER. HE TALKED FREELY OF HIS PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTMENT, BUT I THINK HE IS GENUINELY ANXIOUS TO COMPLETE HIS DEGREE AND, WHILE THIS IS NEVER EASY FOR ANYONE, HE SHOWS ALL INDICATIONS OF HAVING THE NECESSARY DRIVE TO CARRY HIM THROUGH THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF OR SO WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE DEGREE.

JBH:SF

2cc: LDMusOLF

APRIL 6, 1961

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT: TRAN NGOC PHAT

PHAT'S LETTER SHOULD BE SELF-EXPLANATORY. WE RECOMMEND THAT AN EXTENSION  
BE GRANTED.

RVA:SF  
ENCLOSURES (CORRESPONDENCE FROM AND TO PHAT)

*File  
Vietnam Participants*

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

APRIL 19, 1961

*file  
H.S.  
R.S.*

RALPH H. SMUCKLER  
ASSOCIATE DEAN  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS  
CAMPUS

DEAR RALPH:

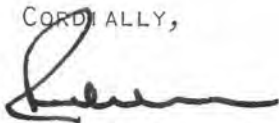
SUBJECT: MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT

THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION CONCERNING MR. PHAT. WE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIM. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARRANGED TO HAVE MR. PHAT DO WORK IN THE LIBRARY DURING HIS CHRISTMAS VACATION. IF HE WISHES TO BORROW COPIES OF THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF VIETNAM, I AM SURE WE CAN HELP HIM TO DO THIS.

YOU ARE AWARE THAT WE HAVE TRANSFERRED ALL OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MAIN LIBRARY ON CAMPUS SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO ARRANGE THIS ON AN INTER-LIBRARY LOAN BASIS.

WE SHARE YOUR VIEW CONCERNING THE LAPALOMBARA REPORT IN THAT WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT CIRCULATE INTO HANDS WHERE DAMAGE MIGHT ENSUE.

CORDIALLY,



RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR



Dm

## 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  
21.891 - 21.991

April 21, 1961

TO: Ruben V. Austin  
FROM: Guy H. Fox *G.H.F.*  
SUBJECT: Extension of Tran Ngoc Phat's Grant

Immediately upon receiving your recommendation that Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat's participant grant be extended until the end of the 1961-62 academic year, I got in touch with Rector Thong. He agreed with me that it would be highly desirable to extend the grant and said he anticipated no difficulty in obtaining the concurrence of the Planning Directorate.

Rector Thong suggested this procedure: (1) Dr. Musolf or I write a letter to the NIA recommending the extension; (2) that Phat write a formal request for an extension to the Government of Vietnam. Phat can write to the NIA through the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington or he can write the NIA directly, sending a copy of his letter to the Vietnamese Embassy. Thong said if he were faced with an emergency situation, he would take up the matter of extension at once with the Director of Planning, but since Phat's present grant will not expire until January, 1962, the Rector said there was ample time to follow the "normal procedure" (as he called it).

As a result of the meeting with Rector Thong, I shall draft for Musolf's signature a letter recommending an extension of Phat's grant until July 15, 1962 and give reasons for my recommendation. In the meanwhile will you please tell Mr. Phat to make, as requested by Rector Thong, a formal request for an extension.



APRIL 25, 1961

TO: GUY FOX  
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT: PHAT'S EXTENSION

THANK YOU FOR THE EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES THAT MR. PHAT SHOULD FOLLOW IN OBTAINING THE EXTENSION HE HAS REQUESTED. MR. PHAT IS DOING WELL AND IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS WORK.

HE HAS ASKED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF DOING SOME STUDY IN EUROPE WHICH, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND UNDER CURRENT ICA REGULATIONS, CANNOT BE APPROVED BY US.

I SHALL COMMUNICATE WITH PHAT CONVEYING THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE GIVEN US.

RVA:SF

ENCLOSURES: LETTER FROM PHAT 4/14/61  
LETTER TO PHAT 4/20/61  
LETTER TO PHAT 4/25/61

Rector Vu Quoc Thong, NIA

April 25, 1961

Guy H. Fox, Acting Chief Advisor

Extension of Tranh Ngoc Phat

Dean Austin has informed us that Mr. Tranh Ngoc Phat will soon make a formal application to the NIA for an extension of his participant grant. He wishes to extend until June or July of 1962. Mr. Phat arrived in the United States in January, 1959, and is presently authorized by the Government of Vietnam to remain there until January 1, 1962.

We strongly recommend that Mr. Phat's grant be extended. He is making splendid progress at Harvard University, one of the world's finest institutions of learning, and it is remarkable that he has accomplished so much toward his doctorate since 1959. The extension he seeks will enable him to obtain his degree at the end of the 1961-62 academic year. Thus, he would be available to the NIA for its academic year beginning August, 1962.

We hope that the NIA, upon receiving his application, will request an extension of stay from the Planning Directorate.

GHE/dw

cc: Dr. Ruben V. Austin ✓





MAY 3, 1961

TO GUY H. FOX  
FROM RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT PHAT EXTENSION

THANK YOU FOR THE MEMO WHICH YOU HAVE TRANSMITTED TO RECTOR THONG.  
WE SHALL INFORM MR. PHAT THAT THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE THROUGH  
RECTOR THONG.

RVA:JR



MAY 10, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: PARTICIPANT TRAN NGOC PHAT

PHAT CALLED MY HOME THE EVENING OF MAY 9, BUT WAS UNABLE TO REACH ME; CALLED BACK THIS AFTERNOON, INFORMING ME THAT HE HAD A VERY GRAVE PROBLEM PRESSING ON HIM (HE APPEARED GREATLY DISTURBED AND EMOTIONALLY UPSET) AND STATING THAT THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM WAS SO BAD AND THAT HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF HIS FAMILY WHICH SO GRIEVED HIM THAT HE IS ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AT THE COMPLETION OF HIS EXAMINATIONS ON MAY 24.

PHAT INDICATED THAT HE CANNOT STUDY AND ASKED THAT WE APPROVE HIS RETURN HOME AFTER HE COMPLETES HIS RESIDENCY AND EXAMINATIONS ON THE 24TH OF MAY. I INFORMED HIM THAT VICE RECTOR DANG WOULD BE VISITING HIM, AND PHAT SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO BOTH OF US IN ORDER TO MAKE A PERSONAL PLEA. I INFORMED HIM I WOULD MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE THIS AND ALSO THAT I WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH SAIGON TO ASK FOR THEIR OPINION.

RVAUSTIN

CC RHSMUCKLER

MAY 18, 1961

PROFESSOR JOHN M. GAUS  
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
LITTAUER CENTER 319  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PROFESSOR GAUS:

IT IS GRATIFYING TO KNOW OF PROFESSORS AND ADVISORS SUCH AS YOU WHO TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE PROBLEMS AND SUCCESSES OF THEIR STUDENTS.

OF COURSE, WE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY CONCERNED WITH MR. PHAT'S DECISION AND HAVE URGED HIM TO DELAY ANY DEFINITE COMMITMENT UNTIL SOME OF US HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF TALKING WITH HIM PERSONALLY.

IT SO HAPPENS THAT VICE RECTOR NGHIEM DANG, OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION, IS IN THIS COUNTRY. HE AND I WILL BE VISITING WITH MR. PHAT ON MAY 23. WE TRUST THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE IN SOME WAY TO HAVE HIM STAY A BIT LONGER TO HAVE HIS PROPOSED DISSERTATION PLANNED OR AT LEAST DEVELOPED TO A FURTHER STAGE OF PROGRESS. WE ARE NOT MINIMIZING THE SEVERE STRAIN UNDER WHICH MR. PHAT HAS BEEN WORKING, AND IT MAY BE THAT, THROUGH VICE RECTOR DANG'S INTERCESSION, HE MAY BE ABLE TO RETURN TO HIS HOME IN VIETNAM PRIOR TO CONTINUING HIS THESIS WORK AT CAMBRIDGE. THIS IS A FAR-FETCHED ALTERNATIVE, BUT, AT LEAST, WE WILL EXPLORE IT.

WE SHOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF VICE RECTOR DANG COULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF CONFERRING WITH YOU. UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE TO PROCEED TO WASHINGTON, BUT VICE RECTOR DANG WILL BE STAYING IN CAMBRIDGE FOR A FEW DAYS.

AGAIN, LET ME EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR INTEREST IN MR. PHAT.

SINCERELY YOURS,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:sf

cc: VICE RECTOR DANG  
MSUGROUP/SAIGON

MAY 31, 1961

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

RE: TRAN NGOC PHAT

IN ORDER FOR MR. PHAT TO COMPLETE HIS DOCTORAL PROGRAM, IT APPEARS IMPERATIVE THAT HE BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF ACCEPTING AN INTERNSHIP AND/OR FELLOWSHIP WHICH HE IS NEGOTIATING THROUGH HIS HARVARD COMMITTEE. I AM SURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO VIOLATION OF IMMIGRATION RULES CONCERNING THE EARNING OF MONEY, FOR, ACTUALLY, THE FELLOWSHIP WILL SIMPLY ENABLE HIM TO OBTAIN CERTAIN FACULTY PREROGATIVES (LIBRARY FACILITIES AND THE LIKE). NO OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION IS NEEDED ON THIS.

ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH SI.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RVA', is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:sf