

January 3, 1961

Miss Judith Rathbun  
Secretary to Dean Austin  
B & PS - MSU  
116 Morrill Hall  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Judith,

Please find enclosed the used air ticket sent back to you for accounting purposes as you once suggested to me. Also is enclosed herewith the statement on books expenditures for reimbursement; please notify Dean Austin that I should appreciate his agreeing to accept my request for reimbursement for books which I considered most useful for my fields of study in political science. If however this is not possible, please send back to me the book receipts without which I could not identify the books referred to for present purposes.

The present is also to request re-imbursment for taxi fares related to my last research trip back to M.S.U., which are as follows:

-12/22/1960: From Cambridge to Boston  
Airport.....\$4.25\*  
- 1/2/1961: From Boston Airport to  
Cambridge.....\$5.00

(\*From dormitory to Harvard Square, I  
had been given a ride by a friend as  
I had been given rides for distances  
not mentioned here)

Total : \$9.25

Finally, let me say thank you once again to you and other staff members in Dean Austin's office for having been so nice and helpful to me during my work there. I left the rent with Mr. Tri who has also accepted to return the sheet to you and the typewriter to Dean Austin. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

*T. N. Phat*

Tran Ngoc Phat

P.S.- I have also received Dean Austin's directive concerning travel provisions.

JANUARY 25, 1961

MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT  
64 PERKINS HALL  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PHAT:

BOTH DR. HENDRY, WHO IS ACTING COORDINATOR IN DR. AUSTIN'S ABSENCE, AND I HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO YOUR REQUEST FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO AMHERST AND CAN SEE NO WAY OF JUSTIFYING SUCH AN EXPENSE AS BEING DIRECTLY RELATED TO YOUR ACADEMIC WORK. ALSO, IN VIEW OF THE PROBABILITY THAT YOU WILL BE DOING SOME TRAVELING TO DO RESEARCH AND THE LIKE IN CONNECTION WITH WRITING YOUR DISSERTATION, IT IS OUR FEELING THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO USE ANY OF THE AMOUNT YOU HAVE LEFT ON YOUR TRAVEL ALLOWANCE FOR SUCH A TRIP.

IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT YOUR PER DIEM CHECK WILL REACH YOU BY THE 29TH, ALTHOUGH WE WILL DO OUR BEST, AND, AS SOON AS THE CHECK COMES TO US FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE, WE SHALL FORWARD IT TO YOU IMMEDIATELY VIA SPECIAL DELIVERY.

WE RECEIVED TODAY AN INVOICE FROM HARVARD COOPERATIVE SOCIETY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39.70 FOR BOOKS WHICH YOU PURCHASED LAST MARCH. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE BOOKS TO BE CHARGED TO THE VIETNAM PROJECT, AND WE ARE RATHER DISTURBED TO HAVE RECEIVED SUCH AN INVOICE. IF BOOKSTORES ARE WILLING TO EXTEND CREDIT TO YOU IN YOUR NAME, THIS IS FINE, BUT PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT NOTHING (BOOKS, TRANSPORTATION CHARGES, ETC.) IS EVER TO BE CHARGED TO THE PROJECT. THE INVOICE IS ENCLOSED HERewith SO THAT YOU MAY GIVE IT YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP TO AMHERST AND MAINE, AS I AM SURE YOU WILL FIND IT MOST ENJOYABLE--THE SCENERY IS LOVELY IN ALL OF NEW ENGLAND, BUT, TO ME, THERE IS SOMETHING SORT OF EXTRA SPECIAL ABOUT "DEAR OLD MAINE," AND I WOULD LOVE TO VISIT THERE AGAIN SOME DAY.

BEST REGARDS,

JUDITH RATHBUN  
SECRETARY TO DEAN AUSTIN

JR  
ENCLOSURE

January 27, 1961

Miss Judith Rathbun  
Secretary to Dean Austin  
B&PS - MSU  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Judith:

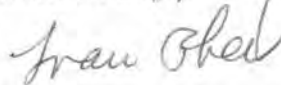
I am sorry to learn that the Harvard Coop. had erroneously charged a bill for books to the Project. Thank you for having brought my attention to it; I will take care of it as soon as possible. The reason might have been that there was a confusion between my old book account (in the Project's name, under a previous system) and my present all-purposed account with the Coop. in my own name (including the book-item part of it).

I would like to thank you and Dr. Hendry for your thoughtful consideration concerning a request for fund and the forwarding of my next per-diem check.

I am really looking forward to the visit with Professor Fenton, in Amherst, to get some rest and also to converse with him about my remaining academic plans eventually (he was my former Professor at M.S.U.). You seemed to have been happy once in the "Old" Maine; it is my wish to be able to find some flavor of it around there, if only an opportunity to skii for the first time!

Awaiting a further communication with you soon, I remain, with best thoughts,

Sincerely,



P.S.: After checking on the date of the bill: Tran Ngoc Phat

I am enclosing the said bill for your further confrontation of it with the record. This bill was charged during the month of March, while I still had an account with the Coop. in the Project's name under the previous system. Since Dr. Austin took over the direct management of VNP, I only received book allowance under the form of cash. Insofar as I know the bill was paid already (when Elsie was there, please check with her). I never have and will never charge anything to the Project as you suggested.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

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COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

FEBRUARY 3, 1961

MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT  
64 PERKINS HALL  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PHAT:

I HAVE SEARCHED THE FILES FOR INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE ATTACHED INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39.70 FROM HARVARD COOPERATIVE SOCIETY HAD BEEN PAID. EARLY IN MARCH OF 1960, WE PAID THEM FOR BOOKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31.95, BUT THE ATTACHED INVOICE WAS NEVER PAID AS FAR AS OUR RECORDS SHOW.

THEREFORE, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH THE COMPANY AND SEE WHETHER THEIR RECORDS ARE IN ERROR. LET ME KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING FURTHER YOU WISH ME TO DO IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THIS SITUATION.

DID YOU HAVE A NICE VACATION?

SINCERELY,

JUDITH RATHBUN  
SECRETARY TO DEAN AUSTIN

JR  
ATTACHMENT

FEBRUARY 6, 1961

MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT  
64 PERKINS HALL  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PHAT:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 4 SETTING FORTH THE WORK YOU HAVE BEEN DOING DURING THE LAST SEMESTER AND WHAT YOU PROPOSE TO DO BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE.

SINCERELY,

JUDITH RATHBUN  
SECRETARY TO DEAN AUSTIN

64 Perkins Hall  
Harvard University  
Cambridge 38, Mass.  
February 8, 1961

Miss Judith Rathbun  
Secretary to Dean Austin  
116 Morrill Hall  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Judy:

Thank you for your letter. I did spend a very enjoying time in Amherst. I even tried to learn how to skii; the first lessons were not so bad. I have been back to work for about a week now. I expect to have a rather rough term ahead with two seminar courses and the preparation for the May General Examination in the schedule. With regard to the books bill you asked me to countercheck with the Coop. here, I did go to their Accounting Department to find out which was the original bill. I got a photocopy of the latter and am sending it to you together with a copy of Harvard Coop.'s voucher to refer to. This bill should have been paid already, please check once again. Or else the provision for my book allowance for last year, written under and earmarked for this particular account (70006), must have left something which would cover the payment of this bill. In any case, as I once said, I did not overbuy during the time of the use of this account and, according to Dean Austin's new regulation, I had discontinued the use of my credit privilege card, receiving only cash allowance for books for the present year. My strong presumption, however, is that the bill must have been forgotten somewhere in the files. Otherwise, I should think that the enclosed bill and voucher would be enough supporting documents for disbursement for payment under the old regulation. You would help me a great deal in my studies for my degree-which are demanding more and more energy and concentration-, if you could send me the other re-imbursed money for books allowance for this year, too.

Sincerely, *Tran Ngoc Phat*

*P.S. - In addition to original bill concerned, and new voucher accompanying it, I am also enclosing the old credit card for your files. TNP.*

*RVA- do you have  
any comment on  
the HCS bill?*

FEBRUARY 17, 1961

MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT  
64 PERKINS HALL  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PHAT:

I HAVE PROCESSED A VOUCHER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60 TO COVER REIMBURSEMENT OF BOOKS PURCHASED, THE RECEIPTS FOR WHICH YOU FORWARDED TO ME RECENTLY. I HAVE ALSO WRITTEN TO ELSIE ABOUT THE HARVARD COOP INVOICE--I AM ALMOST CERTAIN SHE WILL NOT RECALL THIS PARTICULAR ITEM, SINCE IT IS ALMOST ONE YEAR OLD.

SINCE OUR RECORDS DO NOT INDICATE PAYMENT OF THE \$39.70, WE WILL PAY IT, BUT THIS AMOUNT WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SETTING UP YOUR ACCOUNT FOR THE 1961-62 ACADEMIC YEAR.

IT WAS NICE TO HEAR THAT YOU ENJOYED YOUR VISIT TO AMHERST AND THAT YOU HAD YOUR FIRST LESSON IN SKIING--IT REALLY IS A WONDERFUL SPORT.

SINCERELY,

JUDITH RATHBUN  
SECRETARY TO DEAN AUSTIN

Perkins Hall 64  
Cambridge 38, Mass.  
February 22, 1961

Miss Judith Rathbun  
Secretary to Dean Austin  
College of B & PS  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Judith:

I would like to thank you for your very nice letter and also for your help in connection with the question of the books allowance.

Your reference to my recent excursion to Amherst came to me almost as a surprise - a rather pleasant one, indeed. Being presently somewhat submerged in the work for this semester which is going to culminate with my attempt at undergoing the General Examination this coming May, I have already forgotten my recent wrestle with the skis..

Finally, I should like to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Hendry, you and other members of the Vietnam Project staff for your kind remembrance on the occasion of our New Year's Day (Tet). You and my other American friends by your "Tet" wishes have made that day more meaningful to me while my thoughts and good wishes went to you, on the same day, between two classes..

Sincerely,



Tran Ngoc Phat

Cambridge 25/2. 961

Dear Judith,

I should greatly appreciate if you could send me, at your earliest convenience, the following material (either on a loan- or grant basis):

① A copy of the (VN) JOURNAL Official issue in which there was a report of the debates of the 2nd Ordinary Session of the VN National Assembly (ending December, 960), concerning the setting-up of the Constitutional Court;

② And, as regularly as possible, the series of Viet-Nam Press relating the campaigns and preparations for the forthcoming (April, 961) Presidential Elections in Viet-Nam.

I shall also be grateful if you can forward to me the per diem check for next month as early as you can. Thank you again for having processed the checking of the books allowance.

I am all right and even that I am working hard. How things are going in your office?

Best thoughts,  
Hau Phan

MARCH 3, 1961

MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT  
64 PERKINS HALL  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PHAT:

WE ARE FORWARDING TO YOU TODAY UNDER SEPARATE COVER THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER ISSUES, AS WELL AS A FEW OF THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, OF THE JOURNAL OF THE FAR EAST AND SELECTED ISSUES OF THE TIMES OF VIET-NAM. THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL IS NO LONGER HOUSED IN THE PROJECT LIBRARY SO IS NOT ACCESSIBLE EXCEPT FOR READING AT THE MAIN LIBRARY ON CAMPUS. SINCE THESE PARTICULAR PUBLICATIONS BELONG TO ICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET-NAM, THEY MUST BE RETURNED TO THIS OFFICE WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED WITH THEM, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO URGENCY.

AS FOR YOUR BOOKS, ELSIE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE HARVARD COOPERATIVE INVOICE, AND I STILL CAN FIND NO RECORD THAT THE BILL HAS BEEN PAID BY THIS OFFICE. THEREFORE, WE SHALL PAY THE INVOICE, BUT THIS WILL PUT YOU CONSIDERABLY OVER THE ALLOWABLE AND FORCES ME TO REMIND YOU THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER BOOK PAYMENTS TO YOU THIS YEAR. FOR THE RECORD, LET ME ITEMIZE PAYMENTS MADE TO YOU SINCE YOU BECAME PART OF THE VIET-NAM PROJECT SO THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND CLEARLY WHAT THE SITUATION IS:

FIRST, AS YOU KNOW, \$120 PER YEAR IS THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE; THUS, JAN '59 - JAN '60 = \$120; JAN. '60 - JAN '61 = \$120; AND JAN '61 - JAN '62 = \$120, OR A TOTAL OF \$360 FOR THE THREE YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE ON THE PROJECT.

FOR THE YEAR 1959 THROUGH MAY OF 1960, YOU WERE PAID (OR BOOK STORES WERE PAID) A TOTAL OF \$250.29 AND FROM JUNE OF 1960 THROUGH FEBRUARY OF 1961, YOU HAVE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$121.00

THAT MEANS YOUR 3-YEAR ALLOWANCE IS \$360, AND YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN ALLOWED \$371.29. ADDING THE HARVARD COOP INVOICE TO THIS WILL PUT YOU APPROXIMATELY \$50 OVER THE ALLOWABLE.

IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANY OF THE FOREGOING, PLEASE LET ME KNOW, AS I DO NOT WANT YOU TO THINK WE ARE BEING UNREASONABLE OR UNFAIR IN ANY WAY.

BEST WISHES,

JUDITH RATHBUN  
SECRETARY TO DEAN AUSTIN

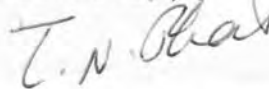
Perkins Hall 64  
Harvard University  
Cambridge 38, Mass.  
March 6, 1961

Miss Judith Rathbun  
Secretary to Dean Austin  
Morrill Hall 116  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Judy:

Thank you for your recent letter, in which you stated the books allowance situation so clearly to me that I do not think any further discussion of the matter will be required. I also appreciated your sending me the periodicals from Viet-Nam. If it should be all right with you, I shall keep these until my next trip to East Lansing to return them to the Project's library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. N. Phat', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tran Ngoc Phat

April 10, 1961

Miss Judith Rathbun  
Secretary to Dean Austin  
B&PS, M.S.U.  
116 Morrill Hall  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Judy:

Please find enclosed the statement of travel fees in connection with my trip to Philadelphia for the ASPA Conference, as well the related receipts -- submitted for re-imbursement. Altogether the trip and the Conference took me five days (April 4-April 8); and on both ways--back and forth--the train stopped over in New York City where I had to make twice the connections between the Pennsylvania RR station and the New Haven one.

I enjoyed the Conference very much, especially the professional tours organized under its auspices. I did try to contact the Vietnamese at Pa. Univ. and talked over ~~on~~ the phone with one of them. Apparently they were all busy with their studies, so that I had to introduce myself to the city during the time off. But from the little I saw of Phila., it seemed to me to be one of the most lovely cities in the United States.

On the whole, during the time of the Conference, I was glad to have another opportunity to come across with new men and new ideas in my field of study.

Best Spring wishes,

*Chas*

Tran Ngoc Phat

APRIL 20, 1961

MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT  
64 PERKINS HALL  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PHAT:


DR. AUSTIN IS OUT OF TOWN FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS AND WILL COMMENT FURTHER ON YOUR LETTER WHEN HE RETURNS--IN THE MEANTIME, HE ASKED THAT I ACKNOWLEDGE IT AS TO SEVERAL POINTS YOU HAVE RAISED.

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY \$100 REMAINING IN YOUR TRAVEL ALLOWANCE, WHICH MAY BE USED BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER 1. AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, YOU WILL BEGIN A NEW YEAR WITH A \$250 ALLOWANCE. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT YOUR TENTATIVE PLANS CALL FOR RETURNING TO VIETNAM IN JANUARY OF 1962, WHICH WOULD MEAN YOU HAVE \$125, AT THE MOST, TO SPEND ON TRAVEL BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND JANUARY. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO VISIT BOTH NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON, D. C., FOR \$100. IF YOU WERE TO WAIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER FOR ONE OF THE TRIPS, THEN I BELIEVE BOTH TRIPS COULD BE ARRANGED.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING FOR TRIPS TO LONDON AND PARIS.

PER DIEM RATES ARE ESTABLISHED ACCORDING TO LOCATION, NOT ACADEMIC STATUS. THEREFORE, I REGRET TO ADVISE THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE \$10 PER DIEM WHILE REGISTERED FOR THESIS WRITING ONLY IS INCORRECT.

THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT ALLOWED FOR THE TYPING OF A THESIS OR DISSERTATION IS \$100.

 WE SHALL FORWARD TO YOU THIS WEEK THE MATERIALS YOU HAVE REQUESTED.

BEST REGARDS,

JUDITH RATHBUN  
SECRETARY TO DEAN AUSTIN

JR

*Themos to msag  
4-25-61*

MAY 31, 1961

MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT  
64 PERKINS HALL  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PHAT:

COLLEGE TRAVEL OFFICE WILL FORWARD TICKETS TO YOU FOR THE FOLLOWING:

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| <u>JUNE 5</u> - LV. BOSTON | 8:40 A.M. EDT  |
| AR. NEWARK                 | 9:50 A.M.      |
| LV. NEWARK                 | 10:45 A.M.     |
| AR. WILLOW RUN             | 12:19 P.M. EST |
| LV. WILLOW RUN             | 1:35 P.M.      |
| AR. LANSING                | 2:10 P.M.      |

THE RETURN PORTION OF YOUR TRAVEL IS "OPEN" TO BOSTON VIA WASHINGTON.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT WITH US IN EAST LANSING.

SINCERELY YOURS,

JUDITH RATHBUN  
SECRETARY TO DEAN AUSTIN

CC COLLEGE TRAVEL OFFICE