

SUMMER REPORT

August 11, 1961

I.- Early plan for dissertation: (Cf. May plan entitled "Plan for research and writing for the dissertation")

After the oral examination, I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Nghiem-Dang, Vice-Rector of the National Institute of Administration, in Cambridge, off and on from May 23-26. With his cooperation, a plan had been tentatively worked out for the dissertation-writing phase of my training program in the United States, which included research outside of the latter. I must confess that I had been very strained at the time of his visit, probably because of my worries during the general examination period.

Then, I went to Michigan State University, where I had a scheduled week of consultation with my sponsors there, in connection with my former dissertation topic as well as concerning the possibilities for arrangement of travel from, and back to, the United States--via Europe. The consultation period proved to be very fruitful, with the result that my sponsors accorded, in principle, permission for me to eventually do dissertation work in a third country. But I still would have had to get the same approval from the Viet-Nam Government side. By that time news arrived that Dr. Vu-Quoc-Thong, the Rector of the National Institute of Administration, will arrive in Washington, D.C., the forthcoming week to attend a conference in that city: I wanted to see him, partly because I had been concerned, somewhat, about the late developments in Viet-Nam and hoped to get first-hand reporting from him, and also, partly because, as my former professor of law and administration and as my future employer, he might have given helpful advices as to my academic and other problems.

In Washington, D.C., during about three weeks of the remaining part of June, consequently, in addition to my daily work of research at the Library of Congress, I tried to see Dr. Thong (and also Mr. Dang, who came there to attend the same conference) for a couple of times or so. He gave me very reassuring news about my family and my country, and encouraged me to stay on until completion of my degree. I continued however with my former research plan, going to

New York City and staying there during the first week of ~~August~~^{July} to do some more gathering of references at Mr. Joseph Buttinger's library; while, of course, my mind was occupied with a re-consideration of the ways and means of accomplishing my training mission under the best conditions.

Back to Cambridge, I started arrangements to see my advisers at Harvard and also, my schedule of research at Widener Library. While Professor Fainsod was out of town at the time, I could see Professor Emerson and reported to the latter the new developments in my academic plan as drafted earlier. In view of the circumstances as described in the previous paragraphs, I asked Professor Emerson for suggestion concerning a thesis topic which could be researched as speedily and as effectively as possible, within the limits of the United States. Eventually, I got his approval for a topic on which I have already written a paper. It will center around a reconsideration of early nationalist developments in Viet-Nam, with a more scientific reappraisal of the forces and values involved: My present intent is really to try to emphasize the deservingly laudable role played by the West in this process, either subjectively or objectively. Besides, I plan to be as concise as possible in my dissertation.

As of now, although I have officially finished my residence requirements, and in addition to the dissertation, I will still have to take another course in the field of history the coming Fall term (September 23, 1961 to January 31, 1962) so as to try to "write-off" this field completely.

I have recently received a very nice letter from Dr. James B. Hendry, the new Coordinator of Viet-Nam Project (Assistant Dean of the Graduate School of Business Administration, Michigan State University), in which he mentioned, among other things, his promise to give his continued attention and support to my program and his official re-affirmation that if need be, I shall be allowed to do occasional research outside of the United States.

Right now, I am thinking of a possible research trip to Washington, D.C., sometime from now, to visit Professor Bernard B. Fall's library; and am planning to meet my advisers, Professor Emerson and Professor Fainsod, to report to them about my Summer work. Besides, I am in the process of making necessary administrative re-adjustments with my Project and government so as to carry out my new research and academic plan.

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(To be cont'd)