

JUNE 1, 1961

TO GUY H. FOX
FROM RUBEN V. AUSTIN
SUBJECT TRAN NGOC PHAT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE SHOULD LIKE TO NOTIFY YOU THAT VICE RECTOR DANG AND I HAD, WHAT WE CONSIDERED TO BE, A SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSION WITH PHAT. HE WILL REMAIN--AT LEAST THAT WAS HIS LAST DECISION--AND I HAVE POINTED OUT THAT HE SHOULD BEGIN WORKING ON HIS DISSERTATION AS SOON AS HE CAN GET HIS COMMITTEE ORGANIZED.

HIS CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR GAUS, IS RETIRING, AND HIS PRIOR ADVISOR, PROFESSOR EMERICH, WHEN TO AFRICA SO, ALL IN ALL, IT WOULD BE ACADEMICALLY DISASTROUS FOR HIM TO LEAVE AT THIS STAGE. THUS, IF HE CAN STAY IN THIS COUNTRY AT LEAST LONG ENOUGH TO COMPLETE THE FIRST DRAFT AND COMPILE ALL THE BASIC DATA, IT WILL BE TO HIS ADVANTAGE.

IN OUR DISCUSSIONS, PHAT BROUGHT OUT TO MR. DANG HIS CONCERN OVER HIS STATUS AT THE NIA. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT HE WISHES TO RECEIVE GREATER RECOGNITION IN LIGHT OF THE "SUPERIOR" TYPE OF SCHOOL HE HAS ATTENDED, NAMELY, HARVARD. WE HAVE TOLD HIM THAT OUR OFFICE WILL ATTEMPT TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AS WE CAN POSSIBLY BE IN ARRANGING FOR TRAVEL AND SO ON, ALL OF WHICH MAY BRING ABOUT A SPEEDIER CONCLUSION TO HIS UNFINISHED WORK.

RVA:JR

JUNE 8, 1961

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

DEAR PROFESSOR GAUS:

MR. PHAT ARRIVED IN EAST LANSING ON MONDAY AND HAS DISCUSSED WITH US HIS PROJECTED PLANS FOR RESEARCH AND HIS DISSERTATION. ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF OUR COMMENTS.

WE WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE WELL TO HAVE PROVISION MADE FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TOPIC FOR MR. PHAT IN CASE THE PROPOSED TRAVEL ITINERARY AND RESIDENCE IN VIETNAM, ETC., ARE NOT APPROVED?

SINCERELY YOURS,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR
ENCLOSURE

BCC MSUB/SAIGON



DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

319
LITTAUER CENTER ~~MAX~~
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

June 13, 1961

Dean Ruben V. Austin
Graduate School of Business Administration
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Dean Austin:

Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness and courtesy in sending the comments on the proposal made by Mr. Phat. I think your suggestion of an alternative topic is a useful one, but my inclination would be to postpone its formulation until his return to this country after a brief therapeutic visit to his family.

I think he is inclined to rush too quickly to large and elaborate restatements of program when he is questioned on some point of the one on which he is at work. I think he needs to shorten his range of planning to the more immediate next steps that may well be outlined for two or three months at a time. I think if he gets back here and goes to work under Professor Fainsod, who has a good tough mind and an emphasis on tangible questions of administration in undeveloped countries, this would be good. I myself viewed his proposals for travel all over the cosmos with a skeptical eye, but as I am retiring in two weeks, I felt that Mr. Phat must turn to advisors here who are working in the field in which he needs to equip himself to be useful to his country.

I am making your letter and mine available to the Chairman of the Department here, Professor Robert McCloskey, along with my folder as advisor--which seems to be a fat one!

Let me thank you again for your kindness. I know you must be a very busy person and I appreciate your keeping me informed of the larger picture. I may add that our examining committee felt that Mr. Phat had shown real thoughtfulness about the things he had studied here and was assimilating them in the light of their implications for his personal responsibilities not only as a graduate student but as a useful member of the teaching and administrative profession in his country.

Faithfully,

John M. Gaus

JMG:ft

cc: Prof. McCloskey

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator

DATE: June 19, 1961

FROM: Guy H. Fox, Chief Advisor *GHF*

SUBJECT: Phat

Enclosed is a memorandum from Finkle regarding the research plans of Phat for his doctoral dissertation. In general I agree with Jason's comments, though I realize we do not have the full facts out here.

GHF:dw

att

cc: J. Finkle



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: G. Fox

DATE: 17 June 1961

FROM: J. Finkle JZ

SUBJECT: Research Plans for Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat

RECEIVED

JUN 22 1961

MICH. STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM PROJECT

After having reviewed Mr. Phat's proposed dissertation and his research plans, I would like to make several comments which I hope will help avert future difficulties. I believe that the major value to be derived from writing a dissertation is learning how to conduct independent research and converting this research into a meaningful statement ---- a dissertation. The dissertation stage of ones' academic career is an integral part of graduate training. It requires the helpful guidance of a mature scholar who is familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of an individual student. The thesis subject, in terms of the long range development of the student, is of secondary importance. While there is a tendency on the part of graduate students (as well as instructors) to stress "original" research, such an approach often delays the completion of a dissertation and actually sets back the growth and career of the student.

With these considerations in mind, I strongly suggest that Mr. Phat select a topic of more manageable proportions and one which can be researched and completed without his leaving the U.S. where he has the splendid counselling of two outstanding professors. The Widener Library at Harvard is a rich source of information containing abundant material relating to underdeveloped countries in Southeast Asia. It is within easy travelling distance of Washington D.C., where additional information is readily available to any scholar. The change that I recommend may necessitate that Mr. Phat conduct research on a country other than Vietnam; however, I believe that this arrangement will permit him to complete his degree in a reasonable period of time and return to Vietnam as a Ph.D. Otherwise, I feel time and distance will have their toll on Mr. Phat and he will risk falling by the crowded wayside of Ph.D. "aspirants."

JLF/rbm

JUNE 29, 1961

PROFESSOR ROBERT McCLOSKEY
CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
LITTAUER CENTER
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PROFESSOR McCLOSKEY:

SOME TIME AGO, MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT HAD REQUESTED THAT WE ALLOW HIM TO RETURN TO VIETNAM IMMEDIATELY AFTER COMPLETING HIS DOCTORAL EXAMINATIONS BUT PRIOR TO FINISHING HIS DISSERTATION. OUR OFFICE AGREED TO THE PROPOSED PLAN, BUT POINTED OUT AT THE SAME TIME CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.

AFTER MEETING WITH MR. PHAT IN BOSTON RECENTLY AND DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH VICE RECTOR NGHIEM DANG OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION IN SAIGON, WE HAVE URGED THAT HE CONTINUE ON HIS DISSERTATION, WHICH MAY NECESSITATE A CHANGE IN TOPIC. ENCLOSED IS A SERIES OF COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MAY GIVE YOU FURTHER LIGHT ON THIS MATTER.

PROFESSOR JAMES B. HENDRY WILL BE SUCCEEDING ME AS ASSISTANT DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICE AFTER AUGUST 1; HOWEVER, SHOULD YOU FEEL IT DESIRABLE THAT WE CONFER WITH YOU, PROFESSOR HENDRY AND I SHALL BE GLAD TO ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING WITH YOU OR MEMBERS OF MR. PHAT'S COMMITTEE.

SINCERELY YOURS,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR
ENCLOSURES 3

AUGUST 8, 1961

TO GUY H. FOX
FROM JUDITH RATHBUN
SUBJECT TRAN NGOC PHAT

PLEASE ADVISE WHAT WE SHOULD DO TO ACCOMPLISH AN EXTENSION OF STAY TO APRIL 30, 1962 FOR PHAT, WHO PLANS TO COMPLETE HIS DISSERTATION WORK AND RETURN TO VIETNAM AT THAT TIME.

JR
ATTACHMENT (PHAT 7/14 LETTER)

AUGUST 8, 1961

MR. DONALD JAY GEMMEL
FOREIGN STUDENT ADVISOR
CAMPUS

DEAR MR. GEMMEL:

MR. TRAN NGOC PHAT IS PLANNING TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY UNTIL APRIL 30, 1962, AT WHICH TIME HE ANTICIPATES COMPLETION OF HIS DOCTORAL WORK AND WILL RETURN TO VIETNAM. IT WILL BE NECESSARY, HOWEVER, TO EXTEND HIS VISA FROM DECEMBER, 1961, UNTIL DECEMBER, 1962, IN ORDER THAT HE MAY HAVE A VALID VISA THROUGH APRIL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

SINCERELY,

JUDITH RATHBUN, SECRETARY TO
JAMES B. HENDRY, ASSISTANT DEAN

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Judith Rathbun

DATE: September 6, 1961

FROM: Guy H. Fox *G.H.F.*

SUBJECT: Phat

In your memorandum of August 8 you have asked for advice regarding an extension of the stay of Tran Ngoc Phat to April 30, 1962. The same procedure which I explained earlier to Dean Austin is in effect. Phat should write an application for an extension to Rector Vu Quoc Thong of the NIA. He should send a copy of the letter to the Vietnamese ambassador in the United States--or, if he prefers, write the ambassador of his intention.

If it is possible, please let us know when Phat has written the Rector and we will do what we can to push things along at this end.

GHF:dw

cc: L. Maynard



Rector Vu Quoc Thong

8 September 1961

Mr. Leonard Maynard
Deputy Chief Advisor

Extension for Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat

We have been advised that Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat has requested an extension through June 1962 of his Ph.D. participant grant in order to complete his study leading toward the Ph.D. Mr. Phat's studies have been highly satisfactory and he would be a valuable addition to the faculty of the NIA upon his return to Vietnam. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that the participant grant for Mr. Phat be extended through June 1962.

CC: Fox
→ Hendry
Buoi Dich

LM/rbm



SEPTEMBER 20, 1961

TO GUY H. FOX
CHIEF OF PARTY, MSUG/SAIGON

FROM JUDITH RATHBUN
VIETNAM PROJECT OFFICE/EAST LANSING

SUBJECT TRAN NGOC PHAT EXTENSION

ENCLOSED HERewith IS MR. PHAT'S LETTER TO RECTOR THONG REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF HIS ARRETE TO MAY, 1962, IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE DISSERTATION WORK FOR HIS PH.D. DEGREE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY. MR. PHAT HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HIS GENERAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SAID DEGREE AND WILL THUS HAVE COMPLETED ALL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE UPON COMPLETION OF HIS DISSERTATION.

JR

CC EMBASSY OF VIETNAM
WASHINGTON, D. C.