

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION  
TRAN NGOC PHAT/JBHENDRY  
(WASHINGTON)

6/23/61

TNP: DR. THONG HAS LEFT YESTERDAY, AS YOU KNOW. SO FAR AS MY PLANS ARE CONCERNED, HE IS NON-COMMITAL. I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THIS.

JBH: WHO IS GOING TO BE WORKING ON YOUR COMMITTEE? DR. GAUS IS RETIRING, ISN'T HE?

TNP: DR. EMERSON AND DR. Fainson

JBH: EMERSON WILL BE AWAY NEXT YEAR, WON'T HE?

TNP: I DON'T BELIEVE SO; HE JUST RETURNED FROM AFRICA.

JBH: OH, I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO AFRICA NEXT YEAR. WELL, THAT'S ALL RIGHT, THEN.

WE RECEIVED A LETTER YESTERDAY FROM FINKLE, AND HE FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT YOU SHOULD TRY TO FINISH YOUR DEGREE HERE BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO GO BACK, ON THE GROUNDS THAT SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DONE THIS BEFORE AND HAVE "FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE."

TNP: THONG FELT THE SAME WAY. IN THIS WAY, HOW DO YOU THINK I SHOULD PROCEED?

JBH: I WOULD SAY TO GO BACK TO THE CAMPUS AND TALK THIS OVER WITH YOUR ADVISORS AND SEE IF YOU CAN WORK OUT A PROJECT TO USE THE MATERIALS IN THE WIDENER LIBRARY AND THE WASHINGTON LIBRARIES. WHILE IT MAY NOT BE THE KIND OF WORK YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO, IT COULD BE A THESIS TOPIC WHICH COULD BE OF USE AND A CONTRIBUTION, AND WOULD BE SOMETHING YOU COULD GET DONE SOMEWHAT MORE QUICKLY. I THINK THIS IS REALLY THE IMPORTANT THING, AND THEN YOU CAN BEGIN TO DEVOTE YOUR TIME IN THE FUTURE TO A LONG-RANGE PROJECT.

TNP: THEN I WOULD HAVE TO HAVE AN EXTENSION TO STAY SIX MORE MONTHS?

JBH: WHEN DOES YOUR ARRETE EXPIRE?

TNP: THE END OF THE YEAR; DECEMBER 29, 1961.

JBH: THAT SEEMS TO BE NO PROBLEM. MR. CAO TOAN JUST HAD HIS EXTENDED.

TNP: COULD YOU DO THIS WITHOUT MY REQUESTING IT? I WOULD APPRECIATE IT.

JBH: WHEN THE ARRETE IS DUE TO EXPIRE, WE WILL WRITE TO SAIGON AND ASK THAT IT BE EXTENDED. THERE IS NO PROBLEM OF EXTENDING THE ARRETE.

TNP: WELL, I GUESS MY PLANS SO FAR HAVE BEEN TOO AMBITIOUS.

JBH: THIS IS TRUE, AND THERE ARE SO MANY UNKNOWNS IN THIS THAT I FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT YOU SHOULD STAY ON, FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE, BECAUSE, WHEN I LEFT CAMPUS, IT TOOK THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE MY THESIS.

TNP: I COULD NOT WAIT THAT LONG--MY FAMILY COULD NOT WAIT THAT LONG. THEY HAVE ALREADY WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THE DEGREE.

JBH: I LEFT BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE SOME MONEY, BUT IT REALLY PROLONGS THE PROCESS. THIS WOULD BRING MANY OTHER PROBLEMS IN GETTING BACK TO THE STATES, ETC.

TNP: DR. THONG TOLD ME THAT THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM IS BAD. HE SHOWED ME PICTURES OF THE NEW INSTITUTE; IT LOOKED VERY BEAUTIFUL.

OK, I WILL TALK TO MY ADVISORS.

JBH: ALSO, LOOK UP WAYNE SNYDER. I TALKED WITH HIM RECENTLY.

TNP: YES, WE HAVE PLANS TO MEET TOGETHER IN JULY.

JBH: HE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU OUT A LITTLE.

TNP: SAY, I HEAR THERE IS A RAISE OF SOME KIND IN THE TRAVEL PER DIEM. IT WAS IN THE WASHINGTON PAPERS.

JBH: IF THERE IS, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION ABOUT IT--OR BY TELEPHONE.

TNP: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I WILL REPORT TO YOU AGAIN NEXT MONTH.

SF