

October 5, 1959

Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan  
Box 487  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Xuan:

Unfortunately, I have not the power you would like to invest me with to send you home. As I indicated when I talked to you last week, Dave has presented what seemed to me a very strong argument for your being allowed to return to Vietnam to do your dissertation. Unfortunately, other people do not seem to be equally impressed with this argument.

You are on the second \$150 book allowance as of the beginning of September. Therefore, if there are books that you need that Dave will authorize, please feel free to purchase them against our reimbursement.

As you requested, I am enclosing the health insurance forms. I hope that the physical examination will allay any fears you may have and take care of your physical ailments.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham  
Participant Director

EMC:nm

Box 487  
Vanderbilt Univ.,  
Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Dear Miss Cunningham,

I would like to ask you to send me an insurance letter signed by the Coordinator of the Viet Nam Project; the last letter of this kind sent to me was mislaid somewhere and I was unable to find it. I have postponed my need of seeing a physician about my digestive apparatus trouble during the last year. I think that it is high time for me not to be afraid of what I have got - since this knowledge would no more interfere with my work and I want to have all the insurance papers before consulting the physician. I will try to persuade the hospital to take away some of the unnecessary items of my internal mechanism which are - according to my limited knowledge in physiology and anatomy - to become obsolete at a later stage of our lives.

One of my professors in the committee which administered the oral exam told me that I was on the air in the exam room; actually I did feel the same and now I have not got down to earth yet. Anyway the "hell" of the

Ph.D. monkey business" is over (I hope you are not shocked by our jargon at Vanderbilt)

I am still hopeful that you can find some "raison d'être" for a trip to Nashville. I wish to see you to ask some advice about sending books to Saigon and about more fund allowances for books if possible !!

I thank you for your friendly interest about my work lately and I certainly appreciate with gratitude your encouraging attention.

I rely on you for making the impossible to send me back to Saigon before the Têt.

Sincerely yours,

Nguyen

P.S. - I am planning to get away from Nashville during the whole Xmas vacation - partly in East Lansing and partly in Washington. I will produce some plausible reasons consistent with your circular letter about participants' travels.

October 8, 1959

Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan  
Box 487  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Xuan:

Please find enclosed your per diem check for the period from October 16th through the 31st. This check takes into account the fact that I had originally anticipated you would be in East Lansing for our ill-fated seminar.

I am curious as to what these courses are that you are now auditing. Given the stiff course requirements for completing a Ph.D. at M.S.U., the Vietnamese are very surprised that you are able to take your exams within just one year after completing the M.A. I indicated that this was no snap, and I am sure it was a long time since you had really enjoyed life, even though all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham  
Participant Director

EMC:ym

Box 487  
Vanderbilt Univ.,  
Nashville 5, Tennessee USA

Oct 10th, 1959

Miss Elsie Cunningham,  
Participant Director  
Vietnam Project Office,  
Michigan State University,  
East Lansing (Mich.)

Dear Miss Cunningham,

I thank you for your two last letters bringing to me the insurance papers and the cheque.

Yesterday, I have registered for an "advanced economic theory" course and a reading course. The purpose of the last course is to enable me "to pull together" the disciplines I have taken so far. The first is to consolidate my knowledge in economics theory of which I did not show a solid grasp and an easy manipulation during the exam. My advisor has asked me whether or not the registration for those courses will cause some financial hardship upon me; I have asserted that my sponsor (that is you) will honor the bill gladly. I hope that you are with me on this statement.

I would like to refer my beloved countrymen at MSU to the Vanderbilt regulations for Ph.D., and if there is any comment to make I should be given credit for having chosen the school which seems to offer the easiest requirements! But we know the character of the requirements only when we try to satisfy them. In the present circumstances with the NIA regulations, I may go as far as to make an official request that you should report to Saigon that I have failed my exam and should be sent home! I am hopeful that the NIA's move will not put me in a position to take such a step.

P.S. - I wish you can make a trip to Nashville so that I can talk to you in more details my problems

Sincerely yours  
Phung

This is the  
verdict of my  
committee.

I don't  
get this



② PS. — and how I envisage to solve them. I am pretty busy with my schedule and if I make a trip to East Lansing, I can do it only on week end i.e. to leave Nashville Friday night and return to Nashville Sunday night <sup>(and instead of my going up north, it would be more meaningful if you go South.)</sup>

I am auditing two courses and to Prof. Georgescu — one as a requirement: the advanced economic theory — and the other for my own sake: advanced statistics. And I have found them much more profitable than I first took them; that's why I would not like to miss any lecture.

Part of the time, I go over the literature in agricultural economics and try to formulate a problem to write ~~about~~ for my dissertation —

Sincerely yours,  
Mungy

October 15, 1959

Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan  
Box 487  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Xuan:

Dr. Gabis is suggesting that you plan to come to East Lansing on the weekend of November 14th if it is convenient. He is anxious for you to have the opportunity to discuss your plans with Mr. James Hendry and himself.

This, of course, again precludes the possibility of my coming to Nashville. Please let me know when to expect you, and if this is inconvenient, suggest another time. Also, where do you wish to stay while on campus?

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham  
Participant Director

EMC:nm

Box 484,  
Vanderbilt Univ.  
Nashville Tennessee

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1959

Miss Elsie Cunningham,  
Participant Director,  
Viet Nam Project,  
Michigan State Univ.,  
East Lansing (Mich.)

Dear Miss Cunningham,

I thank you for your last letter. I am sorry that my suggestion does not work and that we will not be given the pleasure to see you visiting Nashville. Tentatively I would like to accept your arrangement that I be in East Lansing by week end Nov. 14. I will let you know by telephone around the Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> whether or not I can make it, because I have arranged with Vanderbilt hospital to have an appendectomy sometime in the first week of November. If I won't feel fit to travel after the surgical operation then I try to suggest another date. I would like very much to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association in Atlanta (Georgia) which will be held during the week end 21<sup>st</sup> Nov., and I beg to submit it to you whether or not I shall be given the permission to do so.

While I am going to have an appendectomy, I have been informed that I have had an stomach ulcer to take care of, and I have already said "adieu" to cigarettes, beer, wine, coffee and a number of other good things! Anyway, I hope to be able to see you and Dr. Gabis by November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely yours.

R. K. Gungor



October 21, 1959

Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan  
Box 487  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Xuan:

Please find enclosed your per diem check for the period  
from November 1st through the 15th.

Dave told me the other day when I was talking to him on the  
telephone that as a result of the worry and work involved  
in the preparation for your prelims, you developed the old  
American standby -- an ulcer. I thought that this was  
reserved for the rising young executives, but I can see where  
the tension of this past few months could result in an ulcer.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham  
Participant Director

EMC:rm

October 22, 1959

Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan  
Box 487  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Xuan:

If you find there are any Vietnamese materials not available here, we will be glad to contact M.S.U.G., Saigon to secure these. We understand that the lack of Vietnamese background materials is conspicuous, and we will be glad to do all we can to assist you in obtaining these.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham  
Participant Director

EMC:nm

October 23, 1959

Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan  
Box 487  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Xuan:

I am glad to hear that you are going to have some of your difficulties taken care of and I hope that you are not laid up too long to recuperate after this operation.

I am asking College Travel to send you the tickets for travel from Nashville to Atlanta and return. I suspect it will be easier for you to make your own reservations.

I am off to New York (really home to New Jersey) for two weeks, but I will be back before you get here, if you are able to travel.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham  
Participant Director

EMC:rm