

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

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September 3, 1957

TO: S.K.Sheinbaum, Coordinator
FROM: David C. Cole
SUBJECT: Graduate Study Participants

On August 28, four candidates for the 3 graduate study scholarships were interviewed at the NIA. Candidates for these scholarships had been solicited through newspaper and radio announcements issued by the NIA. The requirements, as indicated in these announcements, were that the candidates should be graduates of the NIA, the Faculty of Law, or similar levels of study, that they should be under 30 years of age, that they speak some English, and that they be interested in studying Public Administration or Economics. Five persons in all had indicated interest in these scholarships, two were from the recent graduating class of the NIA and three were from outside the NIA. One of the three from outside did not present himself for the interviews. The two from the NIA had apparently been pre-selected by the NIA administration. Both of the candidates present from outside the NIA were over the 30 year age limit, one of them being 38 years old. This latter candidate, Mr. Quan van Chinh, was primarily interested in education and educational administration. In other words, he was not particularly suited for our program and we suggested that he should apply to USOM Education Division rather than for our scholarships.

This left us with three possible candidates; two from the Institute and one from the outside. All three of them seem very capable in terms of both educational background and intellectual ability. These three candidates were interviewed by a committee of the NIA, consisting of the Director, Mr. Vu Quoc Thong, the Chief of the Academic Division, Mr. Hach and the Chief of the Research Division, Mr. Chan. They were also interviewed separately by Dr. Dorsey and myself, representing MSU. The two committees met together after the interviews and decided that all three of these candidates were acceptable. The Institute has some reservations on the age of Mr. Tran Qui Than, who is 33, but they indicated they would try to obtain approval for him anyway. All three candidates expressed an interest in the economic or financial fields and Dr. Dorsey expressed the desire that one of the candidates should study Public Administration. Mr. Thong stated that the original instructions from the Presidency had indicated that candidates for these scholarships should study only Economics or Finance and that one of the candidates, Mr. Cao Toan,

specialized in the general administration curriculum at the Institute, had indicated his desire to do graduate work in Economics in order to comply with the instructions of the Presidency. Mr. Thong said he would request a change in the instructions from the Presidency and then discuss with Mr. Toan whether he would be willing to study Public Administration.

The Institute will present the names of the three approved candidates to the Direction of Planning and the Presidency for approval. In the meantime, we will begin their paperwork and preparation. Two of the three candidates are already fluent in English and the third can be fluent with some practice. It is hoped that the three candidates can arrive in the U.S. at the end of this year.

I am enclosing copies of the applications for admission to MSU prepared by the three candidates.

In addition I shall make some comments on each of the three candidates:

- English →
1. Mr. Tran Qui Than, who had under-graduate and graduate study in London and Geneva, returned to Vietnam one and a half years ago and worked for the National Bank for approximately five months. He left this position and transferred to the Ford Agency in Saigon because of the low salary at the National Bank and because they insisted upon his membership in a political party and participation in political activities. He assisted Dr. Lindholm in his night-school course in "Money and Banking" and is interested in a teaching career which he would like to supplement with outside business or governmental work. Mr. Than has a sound training in Economics and is now interested in moving into the area of Business Administration. We have suggested that if he could concentrate on Business Administration, supplemented with some work in Public Administration and several advanced courses or seminars in Economics, that he would be well prepared to give courses to those students of the NIA who might be engaged in business or semi-business activities of the government. It is only being realistic to say that the government has entered and will continue to enter into a number of business activities, and the Institute is likely to encounter increasing demand for personnel qualified to operate such activities. There is currently no such training provided in Vietnam, although the university may eventually enter into this area. We have been thinking tentatively in terms of the Harvard Business School or some similar institution for Mr. Than. We are interested in knowing the possibilities and the probable amount of time which would be required for him to obtain a PhD in Business Administration from Harvard. Considering that Mr. Than has already a BSc. in Economics and two years of graduate study, it would seem unwise for him to enter the MBA program at that university. Another possibility for him is the Cornell Graduate School of Business and Public Administration.

2. Mr. Cao Toan has this year received his diploma from the NIA and his "Licence" from the Faculty of Law. He specialized in the General Administration Section at the NIA and took some courses in Economics in his law study. He is the man that we are hoping to switch from a specialization in Economics to Public Administration. We shall request Mr. Toan to prepare a more detailed life story in connection with his MSU application form. Mr. Toan worked for Dr. Fox as a translator for some time and I am sure that Dr. Fox will remember him. Once the question is clarified as to the field of Mr. Toan's study, we shall write you in greater detail about him.
3. Mr. Nguyen Quoc Tri has completed his examinations for the first year at the Faculty of Law and will undergo the examinations for the second year in October. He has specialized in the finance area in the Institute. He has taken Hunter's ^{two} Courses, Lindholm's course in the Economics of Finance and Murphy's course in Budget Administration. He reportedly had the highest grade of the class from Lindholm. Mr. Tri wishes to do graduate study in the financial field, possibly combining Public Finance and Money and Banking. I feel confident he will be ready to begin graduate study once we polish up his English.
- W. of Mich
m. S. U.*

All three of these persons, if they are approved by the government, will be told that their scholarship is for one year, subject to renewal if their performance is satisfactory. We are anxious to see all three of them receive their PhD's and hope that they will be sufficiently capable to do this. Careful counseling and supervision will undoubtedly be required to see that they make the maximum use of their time and progress towards the degree as quickly as possible.

It is probable that employment within the faculty of the NIA will be dependent upon receiving the PhD. We would recommend that the three candidates should attend different universities, perhaps one of them studying at MSU, and the other two elsewhere. The selection of universities should depend upon the field of study, obviously.

I hope you can begin to explore the possibilities for Mr. Than and send us catalogues from Harvard, Cornell, etc. Probably you can do much of the arranging from there, but we will need to establish some contacts with the universities directly from here.

cc: Dr. Dorsey

Incl: 3 Copies of Applications.

September 23, 1957

TO: David Cole
THROUGH: Dr. W.R. Fishel
THROUGH: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
SUBJECT: Graduate Study Participants

A letter was received today from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration stating that they had sent the materials directly to you. In addition a pamphlet concerning an "Advanced Management Program" arrived in this office and I forward this to you although I do not think it is particularly relevant.

I have also written to Cornell and the University of Chicago. It has been suggested that I write to the University of Michigan regarding Mr. Nguyen Quoc Tri and the possibility of Public Finance and Money and Banking. For perfectly obvious reasons you know as much about this program as appears in writing and undoubtedly a lot more. In any case I shall write asking them to send catalogs and application blanks.

If Mr. Cao Toan does his work in Public Administration, it might be well for him to work at Michigan State where the staff is more or less familiar with the setup in Viet Nam. However in all these cases believe it would be wise to have the catalogs, and admission applications for several additional schools.

I believe that in the case of Harvard and probably Cornell it would be impossible to get admission in the second term, but this is no harm in trying. On the other hand a year's delay seems like a delay that might lost prospective participants.