

Elsie

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

MAILING ADDRESS: MSU-USOM
AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON - VIETNAM

CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBUR

GENERAL OFFICE:
137, DUONG PASTEUR

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 22.022-21.528
SAIGON: 383-384

June 9, 1958

TO: The Coordinator

FROM: The Chief Advisor *MS*

SUBJECT: Than and Toan Visas

I sense from your cable that you are disturbed about the slowness in the Than and Toan visas. Believe me, we are also disturbed. Than has actually quit his job and we will have to make arrangements for him here. Both of them are suffering a letdown as a result of the delay and we are redfaced with embarrassment.

Elsie
Explain to me
this implies
troubled time
for ICA/W.

I have checked into this now and have discovered that the fault was not all USOM's, although I believe the major chunk of it can rest there. The information was submitted on Than and Toan months ago. Their bio-data forms were typed and ready presumably on April 29, although the information had been at USOM months before. I understand that the information, however, was not complete. Unfortunately we operated under the assumption that it was complete and that the forms had been sent. When we discovered this, we immediately filled in the omissions and had the papers sent. They were sent from Saigon on May 6 and according to ICA/W were received there on the 20th. This is somewhat sooner than the June 6 date on your cable (I suspect June 6 was an error). If the papers were received on the 20th, we hope they can leave about the end of this month since visa numbers for Them and Trach were received on Saturday, June 7, and their papers had been sent in and received in Washington on May 7.

We will raise some questions at USOM about this one, but I think the only realistic way of handling this in the future is to have a full-time watch on all of these documents. Evidently we were not doing this before, since Waltman did not know they were being held up at USOM and USOM never bothered to inform us.

The question is - What about the program for Than and Toan? Assuming arrival about July 7, I suppose they will be able to participate in a portion of your seminar. Some kind of special program will have to be set up for them so they can do some basic reading; perhaps in the case of Toan, the study of some English, and in the case of both of them, get them oriented to the ways of the campus. We will send them on just as soon as we have visa numbers and can make reservations. All I can say is that we will try our best to see that this does not happen again.

August

RHS:mrw

152-19

Else

June 16, 1958

TO: The Coordinator
FROM: The Chief Advisor
SUBJECT: Vietnamese Ph.D.s in the United States

I am sure you are aware of the important need which will be filled by the Ph.D. candidates we are now sending to the United States. This, over the long run, will fill a crucial manpower shortage at the Institute and it will bring public administration training into its own at the N.I.A. However, some of us are not patient enough to wait three, four or five years for this to come about. In trying to figure out ways of speeding up the process, it might be possible for us to pick up under our participant program some of the Vietnamese who are now finishing their doctoral studies in the social sciences, particularly political science and economics. If we can do this, we might have some American-trained Ph.D.s on the faculty of the N.I.A. in one or two years, with the number increasing when our own people begin to return.

In discussing this possibility with Ngyiem Dang, we find that the Institute will be quite receptive to this type of recruitment. In fact, one of the most promising elements in our situation at the N.I.A. is the Institute's general receptivity to the idea of American-trained Ph.D.s on the faculty. We have heard about a Mr. Dat at Cornell University who is in need of some support in the next year in order to finish his Ph.D. on political science, primarily international relations. There must be others in a similar situation and we have been encouraged by the N.I.A. to see what can be done. For example, would "Gus" Phan be interested in becoming a professor in economics at the Institute? If he would, could we arrange something under our participant program so that he would be able to get MSUG assistance during his last year or two? Does he know of others, preferably in political science and public administration, who might qualify within the next two years and who would be interested in committing themselves to teaching and research at the Institute?

Let me put in one word of caution with respect to Mr. Dat. The people at the planning office here do not feel it is proper for Mr. Dat to deal directly with an American official agency. Should you establish some contact with him, please be sure that it is not blessed by your official role with the Project. Informal contacts might be better and contacts through Vietnamese students might also be preferred at this point. Meanwhile, we are working through the Direction Du Plan and they should begin the official contact which would enable us to deal more directly. John Dorsey is trying

to get the Institute to write a letter to Mr. Dat, so we will be working at it from this end as well.

Please let me know if you see some official obstacles to our picking up participants in the United States. In each case we assume there would be a commitment to the Government of Vietnam, and approval by the Government, that they would commit themselves to teach for a certain number of years at the Institute or at the Institute and University combined. The obvious advantage to us, as I have stated above, is that it would move the timetable up as much as two years in establishing a kind of genuine communication and acceptability which has been generally lagging.

RHS:mrw

June 20, 1958

TO: The Chief Advisor
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
SUBJECT: Than and Toan

The difficulties on the security clearances for Than and Toan and now also for the police leaders is partly due to the time lost in ICA/W as well as between USOM and ICA/W and partly due to the feeling that the branch concerned should not have to make a "rush" on each group of our participants. The normal period evidently is 4-6 weeks.

Whenever Than and Toan arrive if the seminar is still in progress, we would hope that they could attend. At the moment there are no Teachers of English as a Foreign Language on campus who are interested in doing this sort of work during the Summer, but it would seem that the next best solution would be to arrange audit status in several classes. In addition some directed reading would seem to be in order.