

February 24, 1958

TO: Howard Waltman  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Graduate Study Participants

I have just written my third letter to University of Chicago requesting an application form. I shall follow this up with a telephone call in a day or two. I have also written to Cornell.

In submitting Mr. Than's application to the University of Illinois I have indicated the need for speed in order to complete governmental formalities. In looking at the University of California admission procedure I see that Mr. Than will have to complete another form from the School of Business Administration (this is indicated at the top of the application form) and have requested that this form be sent to you. University of Illinois requests forms in duplicate and I have sent them a Themofax copy of Mr. Than's application.

In a memorandum to this office written on Sept. 23, 1957 David Cole mentioned in some detail the background of Mr. Than and Mr. Tai and suggested courses of study. We have MSU application forms filled out by all three gentlemen. In addition there are transcripts of Mr. Toan's 1st Baccalaureat examinations.

Does Mr. Than believe that he can obtain a certificate of attendance or some official details on the certificate he obtained from the London School of Economics? His acceptance is quite probable without this but starting at an advanced level might have to be worked out at a later date.

March 11, 1958

TO: Howard Waltman  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Graduate Study - U. of Michigan

Following an urgent request by Mrs. Brownstein dated October 29 I called Ann Arbor and had them send me catalogs which were forwarded to Saigon on November 27. Since the application forms had already arrived in Saigon, I am wondering if none of the candidates wished to apply there.

The courses available there in Public Finance and in Business Administration are outstanding. Perhaps the location is too close to East Lansing, but this could turn out to be an advantage.

March 25, 1958

TO: Howard Waltman  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Graduate Study Participants

1. All the applications have been forwarded to the universities as requested. It is difficult to make any accurate judgment on the possibilities of acceptance for Mr. Than and Mr. Toan except to say that Columbia, M.I.T., Harvard, U. of California and U. of Chicago probably have among the greatest number of foreign applicants and can probably only take a small proportion of these. My guess is that Mr. Than might have less trouble being accepted than Toan at Columbia; however, please find enclosed a letter from University of California which does not bespeak too well of his chances there.
2. I'll be sending under separate cover MSU Summer Session Catalogs and also cost estimates for the school year.
3. Please find attached a small pamphlet from the University of Minnesota for foreign students.

April 18, 1958

TO: Howard Waltman  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Graduate Study Participants

1. Since Mr. Xuan's visit here last weekend, we have discussed the question of ability relative to the doctoral candidates who will be coming to the U.S. Under the graduate study program. Stan and I were pleased with Xuan's interest, motivation and plans regarding his present work at Vanderbilt and what he might do while working on his Ph.D. This entire program must by its very nature be more closely geared to academic requirements and achievements than the other sectors of the participant program.
2. This brings me back to the comment you offer in your "Weekly Report on the Status of Participants" of March 28." While what you say about elevating the value of an American degree is true, it is our hope that we might achieve more positive results by the conclusion of a successful program in which all the graduate study participants complete their Ph.D.s.
3. Have you received final acceptance for Mr. Than at Cornell? Has Mr. Toan received any word from Columbia?

May 27, 1958

TO: Howard Waltman  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Graduate Study - Admissions Acceptances

Please find enclosed a note from Indiana University indicating tentative acceptance of Mr. Than for their graduate program. I suppose that it is now time to cancel out the other application for admission if he has definitely received a commitment from Cornell. Since his arrival is so imminent I am of half a mind to leave this matter until then. In any case we shall surely incur the enmity of some of the admissions people if we do not inform them soon to withdraw these applications. I shall take the necessary action within a few days or week.

# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

OFFICE OF RECORDS AND ADMISSIONS

May 23, 1958

Miss Elsie Cunningham  
Administrative Assistant, Vietnam Project  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Miss Cunningham:

It is now possible for us to report progress on the materials submitted with your letter of March 24 addressed to Dean Wendell W. Wright on behalf of Mr. Tran Qui Than who wishes to work toward the Doctor of Business Administration degree in the School of Business and who is to come to the United States under the sponsorship of the Michigan State University Vietnam Project.

The School of Business is willing to accept Mr. Tran into the D.B.A. program for the academic year beginning September 10, 1958 provided he is able to meet all personal and educational expenses without assistance from Indiana University. We were not quite sure how to interpret his statements about income but suggest that he and his wife would probably need \$3000 or more for each academic year of study. This does not include an allowance for summer maintenance.

We assume your project will use its program number in bringing Mr. Tran to the United States. However, if you need us to issue a Form I-20 we will be glad to do it.

We are impressed by the fact that Mr. Tran's records are not in regular form. In fact this lack of official documentation caused great hesitation in the School of Business. We are sure he can arrange for Exeter University to send from the registrar's office a record of the examinations passed and his standing on those examinations at the time he was there. If he took formal examinations at the other schools, they also should be able to furnish records. It would appear, however, from the letters of recommendation submitted that he probably did not take formal examinations at the London School of Economics or the Graduate Institute of International Studies.

Sincerely yours,

*Wm. H. Strain*

William H. Strain  
Associate Registrar  
for Admissions

WHS:bb

cc: Mr. Donald H. Sauer  
Dean Leo R. Dowling

August 1, 1958

TO: Howard Waltman  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Graduate Study Participants

It has been suggested that the easiest way to reach the Vietnamese students already in the United States would be through Chuong Viet, a publication of the Vietnamese Catholic Students Association in Chicago. Father Jacques in this organization has wider contact than even in the Embassy and if the possibilities of selecting a Ph.D. candidate from those who are already in the States still exist, this would seem to be the best available to reach the Vietnamese students here in the U.S. If the scholarships for 1958 have already been committed and you are sure that these participants selected will finally depart for the U.S., it would not be wise to give this additional publicity; but if there is any possibility that a vacancy might exist for a well qualified candidate, it would certainly save us certain expenses and adjustments that seem to be very difficult for the current graduate study participants.

EC:ke

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

*Elsie*

MAILING ADDRESS: MSU - USOM  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
SAIGON - VIETNAM

CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBUR

GENERAL OFFICE:  
137, DUONG PASTEUR

TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022-21.528  
SAIGON: 383-384

August 13, 1958

TO: Elsie Cunningham *EC*  
FROM: *HLW* Howard L. Waltman, Participant Director  
SUBJECT: No. 8 - Graduate Study Participants  
Re: Your Memo on this Subject

I do not think it is necessary at this time to contact Father Jacques about the possibility of selecting a Ph.D. candidate from those Vietnamese already in the States. We have extended our original number of three Ph.D. participants to five and it appears at this time that they are all interested and should all go to the States on schedule.

HLW:mrw

August 19, 1958

To: Howard Waltman  
From: Elsie Cunningham  
Subject: Graduate Study Participants

I am curious as to whether or not the catalogues and necessary application forms are already in process for the five graduate study participants due to come within the next six months. If not, it will certainly be too late for them to be admitted to other universities for the winter term.

You should have quite a selection of university catalogues available from last year, but I suspect not as many application forms.

EC:op

September 2, 1958

TO: Howard Waltman  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Graduate Study Participants

Since no word has yet been received regarding the universities where the next five graduate study people will be enrolled, I would like to make one suggestion. Unless there is a real obvious rational, I think that it would be wise to plan on sending each of the graduate study people to a different university. Not only will this give a diversity of total experience in the U.S., but also will put each one very firmly on his own.

EC:kc

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

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GENERAL OFFICE:  
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TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528  
SAIGON: 383 - 384

September 12, 1958

TO: Elsie Cunningham

FROM: Howard L. Waltman, Participant Director *HLW*

SUBJECT: No. 20 - Ph.D. Participants

Attached you will find applications and supporting documents for four of the five Ph.D. candidates. I believe it will be easier for you to forward them to the schools and establish yourselves as the point of contact on any questions pertaining to the applications.

*turned down U.S.C.*  
*Calif*  
Mr. Phat has indicated his first choice to be Harvard, followed by Cornell and Michigan State University. I believe he has all the necessary documents and have included rough drafts on all of them. I suggest that you have the drafts cleaned up and certified before sending them to the universities. The application fee to Harvard has already been forwarded.

*turned down U.S.C.*  
Mr. Bui Khanh has indicated the University of California as his first choice, followed by Cornell. I have included what supporting documents there are for Mr. Khanh; however, he is unable to produce any papers from his school in Hanoi. You realize, of course, the impossibility of securing any documents in a situation like this.

Miss Bach Lan is primarily interested in the graduate school of Radcliffe College. Enclosed you will find a copy of a degree from Oxford. Miss Bach Lan has written to her university and requested them to forward her supporting credentials to Radcliffe.

*ok for U.S.C.*  
Mr. Ky has selected Columbia University<sup>?</sup> as his first choice, followed by the Universities of Michigan and California. All supporting documents are included.

*Bui*  
Mr. Dich, the last of the five, is interested in doing his graduate work at Michigan State University. Will you please send me the necessary graduate school application.

HLW:mrw

cc: Dr. John T. Dorsey, Jr.