

University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
April 1, 1959

Dear Sir:

I am Nguyen-Thi-Hue, a graduate student from Viet Nam at the University of Michigan. I am working toward the Ph.D.'s degree with a major field in Public Administration (Organization, Personnel, and Fiscal Management), three minor fields in Municipal Government, Governments of Southeast Asia, and Political Theories, and a cognate field in Economics: Public Finance.

I wish to apply for a full scholarship from the quota of the ICA aid program to Viet Nam running from September 1959 to September 1961, date at which I expect to receive the Ph.D.'s degree. In the mean time, I will have the Master's degree in Public Administration in January 1960. In order to tie up my five fields of specialization as listed above and their application in meeting the needs of Viet Nam, my doctoral thesis would be a comparative study of the administrative organizations for Community Development in various countries of Southeast Asia.

After careful deliberations with my professors, I have chosen this topic for many reasons. In addition to the logical need for an efficient Community Development that any underdeveloped country has, Viet Nam has to face the heavy burden of resettling the refugees from North Viet Nam. The government's role is to promote social overhead investment programs of health, welfare, education, and vocational training in order to foster a general welfare which in turn expands the productive capacity of the country by increasing the energy and physical strength of the workers while developing their technical know-how and skills. Besides, with the view of creating an economic atmosphere attractive to private industries, the government has to invest in highways, irrigation, power projects, etc.. part of this program can be done locally at a minimum cost through Community Development.

The basic approach in Community Development is, in the words of Mr. David Lilienthal, TVA's ex-director, "not to do things for but with the people" therefore the criterion for comparison in my Ph.D. thesis will be the role of local government in Community Development as patterned by the degree of centralization or decentralization in the past colonial administration of countries of study. The comparison would

be between the Philippines(ex-American), Viet Nam(ex-French), and either Burma(ex-British) or Indonesia(ex-Dutch). I have to maintain the caution that the final focus of my doctoral thesis would be flexible depending on the amount of material available. My attempt would be to get a thorough understanding of the various administrative organizations for Community Development and an overall picture of the departmental units whose activities are connected with Community Development programs.

With the above program of study and proposed topic of doctoral dissertation, I might teach in the National Institute of Administration or work wherever I will be assigned upon my graduation and return to Viet Nam. I wish to point out that I was recommended by Ambassador Tran-van-Chuong to be an intern at the United Nations in 1957, it was understood that I will enter the Viet Nam government's service when I will have finished my studies.

About teaching in the N.I.A., I might cite Mr. John T. Dorsey of the Michigan State University Advisory Group to Viet Nam, "The problem is that there is a critical shortage of persons qualified to provide the high level of management and direction needed and to teach the knowledge and skill to coming generations. The same people have to do both at the same time." (J.T. Dorsey, "Viet Nam's Institute Of Administration", The Philippine Journal of Public Administration, vol. 2, # 2, April 1958, pp. 125-130). I also wish to point out that I have tried to keep myself informed of:

- recent developments in public administration such as the Regional Conference in Public Administration held in Manila in June 1958 with a preliminary meeting in Saigon;
- progress in public administration as published in the M.S.U. Advisory Group's reports;
- of the recommendations made by the United Nations Economic Survey Mission to Viet Nam in November 1957. Also during my internship at the United Nations, I had the opportunity to read the UNTAA files on Community Development in Viet Nam as well as the recommendations by Mr. Nguyen-quang-ganh, Secretary General of the Department of Social Affairs of Viet Nam. He was an UNTAA fellow from January to April 1957 and wrote his report on the comparative social welfare programs of France and Viet Nam. In short, I am well aware of the needs of Viet Nam as well as the proposed alternative solutions to face those needs.

As a future administrator, I wish to state my view as follows: Democracy alone can supply the vitalizing forces to stir the people into action not only against their human aggressors but also against their elemental enemies (hunger, misery, and despair). Community

Development programs will give a positive solution to these programs by bringing direct and immediate benefits to the common man. When the government has proved itself an instrument serving the needs of the people, it will be trusted; the people then will consider the government as an institution with which they can identify themselves and in which they have a stake. Once the popular identification is made, the question of purposive social change and technical integration is almost solved and depends only on time. I believe that economic progress can be achieved along with human freedom and dignity through popular support of governmental projects. The way to progress does not lie in tyranny, in the subjugation of individuals for the grandeur of the omnipotent state; but only an enlightened public administration can carry out the aim mentioned in the United Nations' charter, "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

I have chosen public service as a career because I like the challenge as well as the moral reward it offers <sup>an administrator for</sup> a task well done in a period of social change. To express my vocation in public service, I wish to borrow the following verses from "Sea Fever" by John Masefield,

"I must go down to the sea again, for the call of the running tide  
Is a wild call, and a clear call that may not be denied."

I cannot be complacent, indifferent, passive in front of the surging tide of social change in Southeast Asia.

To that purpose, I have tried to equip myself with an appropriate amount of knowledge in order to serve my country and people of Viet Nam. Until now, I have struggled financially to finish my undergraduate work and to start my graduate study in the United States, leaving my children at home in Saigon. During the final step toward the Ph.D.'s degree in public administration, I eagerly hope that you would give me the financial help which would enable me to devote my mind wholly to my study. I can assure you that your investment in my program will bring a great yield regarding the humanitarian purposes of the International Cooperation Administration.

Sincerely,

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