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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
MINNEAPOLIS 14

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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May 6, 1959

Mr. Stanley Sheinbaum
Viet-Nam Project
Wells Hall (A), M.S.U.
East Lansing, Mich.

Dear Stanley,

One of the teaching assistants at Minnesota, Mr. Dominic Khactu, is a Vietnamese. He is writing a dissertation on the economic development of Viet-Nam, and has asked me whether he might support himself by a job on the Viet-Nam project at M.S.U.

Khactu has passed the written part of his prelims, and plans to take the oral part this Summer. His fields are Money and Banking, International Trade, and Public Finance in addition to Economic Theory. His grade point average is pretty good on paper, but he "audited" some of the harder courses. As an economist he is a good deal better than most of the Asian students at most American Universities, but some of my colleagues here are less than enthusiastic about him. In two of my classes, I have thought him better than his reputation -- but he submitted no papers and wrote no examinations, so I judge only by class discussion.

Khactu has applied for jobs both in the Vietnamese language and in economics, the former at Government institutions and the latter at various small colleges. My personal belief is that M.S.U. would be better for him than either, especially since the two of you might work together on your respective thesis projects.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Bruegel

P.S. Mr. Khactu has been in this country since 1952, and has relatively little trouble with the English language.

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Mr. Stanley Sheinbaum
Vietnam Project
Wells Hall (A), M.S.U.
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
East Lansing, Michigan

May 10, 1959

Dear Mr. Sheinbaum:

Professor Bronfenbrenner has the kindness to introduce me to you. And I suppose, by this time, you have received a letter from him, mentioning about me. My situation is quite critical after the end of June. You see, I finished completing language requirements, written major and minor prelims for the Ph.D. But I didn't do a neat job on thesis draft, although I have spent nearly two years on that. And I have to look for a job in order to stay to complete my degree.

I would appreciate very much if you kindly give a job, any decent job that makes it possible for me to complete my research. I had borrowed from the University of Minnesota some money already (\$350) and things go worst, if I don't have anything coming soon.

I was research assistant at the University of Minnesota for one year, and teaching assistant for two years. I did my Graduate work at this university.

Furthermore, my younger brothers and sisters now attending colleges in the States, depend on me for their guidance and their pocket money. If you could find any way to help me, not only myself, but all of us here would greatly appreciate your generosity.

With my very best wishes, I am

Respectfully yours

Dominic N. Khactu

Dominic N. Khactu
Vincent Hall #10
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis 14, Minn.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
MINNEAPOLIS 14

June 9, 1959

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Professor Stanley Sheinbaum
Vietnam Project, Wells Hall -A.
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Professor Sheinbaum:

Professor Bronfenbrenner has told me that you would like to consider me for a teaching job at the Institute of Public Administration in Saigon, Vietnam. I am very flattered and I wish I could be ready for the kind offer you have suggested. However, I am very close to my Ph.D. degree here, I don't know whether you could help me in solving this:

- (i) I will sign the contract with you to teach at the Institute of Public Administration, Saigon, Vietnam, starting January 1960. This implies that I will go home immediately after finishing my Ph.D. at Minnesota.
- (ii) On the other hand, I will ask you to help me financially so I could remain here during this Summer and Fall quarter to complete my thesis and my final Oral. I am finishing some parts of my thesis already. It is a research on the policy and problems of economic reconstruction and development of South Vietnam. I would like to put emphasis on this point: I can get my Ph.D. degree on December 1959 if and only if I can get financial support from your program during this Summer and Fall quarter 1959.

I would greatly appreciate for letting me know about this as soon as it is convenient to you. Frankly, I wish to get your opinion soon so I can decide immediately. Without your help, I have only one solution, namely to look for a job and go on easily on my Ph.D. work. This is not the best answer. But I don't have any other alternative. Please kindly understand my situation. Today, I am eating lunch with Professor Bronfenbrenner; he mentions that you gather some impression about me being a Communist of some sort. I am sorry to say that I am not. My brother was jailed by the North Communists; besides, I am a Catholic, and it seems that Religion and Communism do not have the same ideology. I am inclined towards free democratic enterprise with some sort of state control for South Vietnam, but not Communist regimentation. I hate all kinds of dictatorship.

I send this letter by special delivery, showing how urgent I am. If it is not too much of asking, I sincerely hope that you will answer me soon.
With my very best wishes, I am,



Respectfully yours,

Dominic N. Khactu

Dominic N. Khactu
Department of Economics, VH-10
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.

June 15, 1959

Mr. Dominic N. Khactu
Department of Economics, VH-10
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, 14, Minn.

Dear Mr. Khactu:

I must firstly and very profusely apologize for the way that our correspondence has lagged. The fault has been entirely mine, and I am doubly apologetic because of the straits in which you apparently are.

I think it best to say now that it will be a matter of considerable time before an arrangement could be worked out; I thereby strongly suggest that at least for the present you make other arrangements for financial support. I am not in a position, myself, to consider you for a teaching job at the National Institute of Administration in Saigon. The role of Michigan State University is to provide assistance to the Rector of the Institute and to his faculty. The Institute is organizationally related to the Presidency of the Government of Vietnam, and Michigan State University could not negotiate for any of its faculty positions. In my telephone discussion with Professor Bronfenbrenner I should have more clearly told him that we could consider supporting you financially as a participant under our contract financed by ICA (the International Cooperation Administration) on two conditions: firstly, that you would consider committing yourself to a position on the Institute faculty staff for a specific period of time, and secondly, that the Institute itself would be interested in making you such an offer.

The best procedure at this time would be for you to submit to me a copy of all your academic records so that I may make a proposal to Rector Vu Quoc Thong of the National Institute of Administration. This would be handled through our Saigon office, but we would have to expect that weeks, perhaps months, would be required before a decision would be made.

Mr. Dominic N. Khactu
June 15, 1959
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I had hoped to be in Minneapolis this week, and I expect that I may yet make the trip in the next few weeks. At that point, if I go, we will be able to discuss the matter in greater detail. In the meantime let me urge you to forward to me the necessary documents so that we can begin processing at the Saigon end. I am fully aware of the financial problems you face, but I see no way of avoiding a delay in working out an arrangement. I hope you will understand the nature of these bureaucratic problems.

Sincerely,

Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Coordinator

SKS:ddk

c:✓ E. Cunningham