

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

MAILING ADDRESS : MSU-USOM  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
SAIGON — VIETNAM

CABLE ADDRESS : MICHGOVBUR  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADVISOR

GENERAL OFFICE :

137, DUONG PASTEUR

TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022-21.928  
21.891-21.991

September 21, 1959

TO: Coordinator  
FROM: Chief Advisor  
SUBJECT: Ph.D. Participants

*RHS*

In your memorandum of September 11 on this subject you ask whether there may be status problems which would hamper an effective reporting system. I think there probably will be some, but I do not believe there will be anything serious. Perhaps the more informal air of the United States will help overcome some of the status considerations and the future faculty colleagues will correspond more openly. In doing so, I believe they would be moving in the right direction and would not be causing themselves any potential problems for the future.

We are looking forward to Professor Quynh's return and to his report on his work and the work of the Ph.D. participants in the United States.

RHS/dcm

*Enclosed  
copy*



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SAIGON — VIETNAM  
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GENERAL OFFICE:  
137, DUONG PASTEUR  
TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528  
SAIGON: 3 8 3 - 3 8 4

September 30, 1959

To: Stanley T. Gabis  
From: Lloyd D. Musolf *PA*  
Subject: Buu Dich

In the absence of Howie Waltman, I shall endeavor to answer your memorandum of September 16 concerning Buu Dich. There have been discussions from time to time about this student and we have probably been as perplexed as you. I have talked generally to the Vice Rector of the NIA about the matter of the quality of graduate students. Mr. Dang agrees with me that the Institute should not have faculty members who were weak sisters in graduate school. There is no disposition in the Institute, as far as I can tell, to coddle Buu Dich or any other students who cannot make their own way. Actually, Mr. Dang has told me that he fully expects that Buu Dich will be sent back after a year (I will not attempt to discuss the question of who foisted Dich on whom in selecting him for graduate training).

As to the question of the relationship of the American university to students from Viet Nam, Ralph Smuckler and I are in agreement that it does the Project no good on campus if special pleas must be made for Vietnamese students.

I note that you remark that Dich did well in Fenton's course, but that he is not doing at all well in public administration. As the Institute badly needs faculty in the public administration area, success in these courses would seem important. What I am saying is that I suspect that Dich's failure in public administration should outweigh his success in other areas. In short, it seems to us out here that Dich probably should not continue his graduate training.

LDM:je

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GENERAL OFFICE:  
137, DUONG PASTEUR

TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022-21.528  
21.891-21.991

October 1, 1959



TO: Coordinator  
FROM: Chief Advisor  
SUBJECT: Buu Dich

*WAS*

Attached is Lloyd Musolf's comment on Buu Dich. I would add merely one comment of my own; that is, Dich should be given the chance outlined by Howie Waltman in his review of the Ph.D. participants. In other words, we have not given him up completely, but we do expect that he will not make the grade and will have to be returned before very long. Just as soon as that point has been reached in your judgment, do not hesitate to send him back.

I agree with Lloyd that we should not try to smooth the way for the Ph.D. participants any more than we would normally do for any other student. They must make the grade academically, and to have a few of them fail would actually add to the prestige of those who do return with the Ph.D.

RHS/dcm

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Musolf

*Enclosure has copy, but  
showed see attachment.  
sep*

October 2, 1959

To: Ralph H. Smuckler  
From: Stanley T. Gabis  
Subject: Dave Cole's Remarks concerning Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan

I am attaching a copy of a recent letter from Dave Cole to me as well as my reply of today. Mr. Xuan will be here shortly, and I will go over his situation carefully with him. The crucial factor here may be Xuan's emotional state. I will know more about this when I see him in a week or so. In the meantime if I can have initial reaction from Saigon I would be grateful.

STG/ap

attachments: 2

cc: Cunningham

Just received word that Xuan has passed his orals conditionally. He's being required to audit several courses next quarter. Nothing serious, however. The basic problem still remains.

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TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528  
21.891 - 21.991

October 8, 1959

TO: Coordinator  
FROM: Chief Advisor  
SUBJECT: Mr. Du Phuc Long

RHS



Mr. Long was in to see me this morning and informed me that he would probably be changing his plans about accepting the MSU Ph.D. grant. He gave several reasons for this and made some comments about the case study program. His reasons were related to his personal future and opportunities which seem to be opening up for him here. His comments on the case program were intended to present his side of what he perceives as a false evaluation of his work in the case seminar. He stated that he had a frank talk with Mr. Finkle and he has made suggestions to Mr. Finkle which, if followed, will tend to assure the success of our program. Since he feels that Mr. Finkle is an energetic and intelligent man, he is confident that he has done the right thing in making these comments.

Actually, Mr. Long's tentative decision not to go to the United States fits in very well with some of the recent rethinking we have been doing about his qualifications. As John Dorsey and Wes Fishel could tell you, we were not satisfied that we had made the correct decision on Mr. Long. In fact, as recently as a week ago Lloyd Musolf and I had re-opened the issue of Mr. Long's participant Ph.D. grant with Rector Thong. We had suggested to Thong that he look over Mr. Long's qualifications again since we were beginning to have second thoughts.

When meeting with Rector Thong this morning, we told him about Long's change of heart, and Thong appeared to be satisfied just as we were. He had not yet talked with Mr. Long, and this made it easier for him as it does for us. Long will let me know in writing when his present decision becomes final.

RHS/dcm

cc: Dr. Lloyd Musolf

*Recd [unclear]*

TO: Ralph Smuckler  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
DATE: October 12, 1959  
SUBJECT: Fall Term 1959 Courses - Ref. #312 --- (#326)

Please find listed below the courses that Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan and Messrs. Tran Ngoc Phat and Tran Qui Than are taking this fall term:

Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan

Government 103 -- The Process of Government -- 3 credits

Government 107 -- The American Constitutional System -- 3 credits

Public Administration 117 -- The Political Setting of Public Administration -- 3 credits

Government 137 -- American Political Ideas and Institutions -- 3 credits

Government 151 -- European Political Institutions -- 3 credits

Tran Ngoc Phat

Government 295 -- Nationalism -- 3 credits

Government 224A -- Constitutional Law -- 3 credits

Economics 206 -- Economics and Public Policy -- 3 credits

History 171B -- The United States and the Far East -- 3 credits

Tran Qui Than

397

Business Administration -- Seminar in Managerial Economics -- 3 credits

Business Administration 426 -- Financial Management -- 3 credits

Business Administration 306 -- Financial Accounting -- 3 credits

Business Administration 432 -- Seminar in Capital Financing -- 3 credits

Business Administration 101 -- Personnel Administration -- 3 credits

Business Administration 556 -- Seminar in Public Administration -- Audit course

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TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022 - 21.528  
21.891 - 21.991

October 13, 1959

TO: Mr. Stanley Gabis  
FROM: Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler

SUBJECT: Completion of Ph.D. Dissertation by Nguyen Duy Xuan

*DHS*



The feeling is unanimous among our staff members that Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan should finish his Ph.D. in its entirety before he returns to Vietnam. His dissertation should be written while in the United States.

The reasons members of the staff here feel this strongly relate to their own experience with other Ph.D. candidates who get away from their home base before completing the dissertation. As some staff members point out, a dissertation which can be completed in one year or thereabouts may stretch out into four, five, or ten years if the graduate student leaves his university environment. This would be particularly true in Vietnam where the demands on a returnee will be great. Furthermore, without the Ph.D., status problems will set in, and settling into the Institute may be more difficult.

Dave's argument that research must be done in Vietnam does not really hold up in that basic research of dissertation caliber on economic problems related to the Vietnamese scene would certainly have relevance here even though the data was not collected within the national boundaries of the country. I would certainly not recommend a dissertation which did not have any relationship to the problems and future work in Vietnam, but there are many subjects which could be researched in the United States which would have distinct usefulness after return.

RHS/dcm

5/9

File

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GENERAL OFFICE :  
137, DUONG PASTEUR

TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022-21.528  
21.891-21.991

October 15, 1959

TO: Mr. Stanley Gabis *MS*

FROM: Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler

SUBJECT: Packages for Ph.D. participants



Yesterday a Captain in the Vietnamese Army was in to see me with a package under his arm which he had addressed to Mr. Phat at Harvard. He asked whether I could send the package through APO to Mr. Phat who had requested that the items in the package be sent to him. When I inquired about the contents of the package, I learned that it consisted of books and papers which Mr. Phat feels would be useful and perhaps necessary in his work at Harvard.

I see nothing wrong in the Project sending such items to Mr. Phat through APO channels since they relate directly to the effectiveness of Mr. Phat's graduate work.

It would be best if you notify the Ph.D. participants that the Project can supply to them such items as might be necessary in classroom work. Instead of writing to friends they should write directly to your office and you can relay the request to us.

I should add that I am sending the package for Mr. Phat to your office and I assume that you will be able to relay it to him when it is received in East Lansing.

RHS/ep

*desire no copy*  
*of*

October 15, 1959



TO: Mr. Stanley Gabis  
FROM: Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler  
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RHS/ep

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP  
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Stanley Gabis  
FROM : Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler  
SUBJECT : Mr. Le Canh Xuyen and Mrs. Hue

DATE : October 20, 1959

WHS

With Howie Waltman away I am not able to know for sure whether he had followed up on the inquiry concerning Mr. Le Canh Xuyen. Howie should be back next week. As far as I know, nothing has been done to offer Mr. Xuyen a scholarship. I suggest that you contact him to determine his interest and to see whether he might be interested in minoring in Public Administration. Then when Howie gets back we will cable you exactly what action we think you should take.

As for Mrs. Hue, the Institute still has her papers and she is still under consideration, although chances do not appear good.

Elsie Cunningham asks whether she ought to continue to locate Vietnamese who might be interested in returning to the NIA after completing graduate degrees. I think that she should be alert to locating anybody who is in the process of finishing a Ph.D. in Public Administration or Political Science. If she can locate a male student who is far along toward his Doctoral degree, we would like to bring him into our program and get him back here to the Institute as soon as possible with the Doctor's degree.



*Cox to copy*

TO: Lloyd Musolf  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
DATE: October 22, 1959  
SUBJECT: Packages for Ph.D. Participants - Ref. Memo from Smuckler 10/15/59 - (#334)

We have informed all of the Ph.D. participants that, in the future, if they contact us we will relay their requests for materials to your office. Since it would seem more expeditious and logical, perhaps you might want to send these materials directly to them. Therefore, listed below are the names and addresses of the Ph.D. participants:

Mr. Bui Quang Khanh  
130 Fern Street  
East Lansing, Michigan

Mr. Tran Qui Than  
22½ Cornell Quarters  
Ithaca, New York

Mr. Luong Nhi Ky  
530 Thompson Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Mr. Cao Toan  
601 West 110th Street  
Apt. # 8K1  
New York 25, New York

Mrs. Le Thi Bach-Lan  
530 West 112th Street  
Apt. 4  
New York 25, New York

Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan  
Box 487  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Mr. Tran Ngoc Phat  
53 Trowbridge Street  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

October 23, 1959

To: Lloyd D. Musolf  
From: Stanley T. Gabis  
Subject: Participant Nguyen Duy Xuan

We have received disturbing news from Vanderbilt concerning Mr. Xuan. He has developed a case of ulcers, but it is not severe. Also, he is going into the hospital on the first week of November for an appendectomy. Originally he was scheduled to come to East Lansing for an interview on November 3. This will have to be postponed. As I indicated earlier, I tend to agree with the view expressed in Ralph's October 14 memo concerning Xuan, but you will recall that I had a reservation relating to his present attitude.

I have gone into this matter with Jim Hendry and he tends to agree with Cole, namely, that if there is a real problem we ought to try to have Xuan do his dissertation in Vietnam as part of the research section of our public administration division. He would be working under Frank Child thereby receiving expert guidance. Hendry seems to think that Cole and Child could work out a suitable arrangement. Despite my agreement with your position, I think we should start exploring this possibility. Hendry is in New York this week-end and will be seeing Cole at the American Friends of Vietnam Conference. He will talk to Cole and will drop you a line on his return to campus.

STG/ap

cc: Cunningham

October 27, 1959



TO: Miss Elsie Cunningham  
FROM: Dr. Lloyd Musolf, Acting Chief Advisor  
SUBJECT: Mr. Nguyen Duy Xuan

Re your memorandum of October 7 concerning the above named participant, we are still of the opinion that it is a good principle for Ph.D. participants to finish all degree requirements before coming out here to join the Institute. The NIA concurs. There is also the fact that if Xuan comes now it might set the kind of a precedent we do not wish to encourage. Nevertheless, we believe that you are in a better position than we to decide if Xuan's personal circumstances are such as to override our general policy determination. (An additional factor, the visit of Xuan's dissertation advisor (Cole) to Vietnam would provide an opportunity not likely to be repeated in the case of other participants.)

If it is decided that he will come soon (we understand it may be December), please let us know soon because the NIA will have to make arrangements for employing him.

LM/dcm

P.S. The information in your letter of October 23, which reached me after the above paragraphs were typed, appears to reinforce the idea that Mr. Xuan is a special case. (On the other hand, we shall hope that Xuan's health is not such as to endanger his status with the NIA when he does return.) Certainly Frank Child would be able and willing to advise Xuan on his dissertation if he did come.

Just as a precaution, I shall go ahead and explore with the NIA the question of Xuan's status should he return without a Ph.D.

October 30, 1959

To: Ralph H. Smuckler  
From: Stanley T. Gabis  
Subject: Mrs. Hue

I note your reference to Mrs. Hue in your memo dated October 20, 1959. I am sorry to hear that her chances do not appear to be good. We have just received word from Michigan that she has passed her qualifying exam and will now be permitted to proceed beyond the masters to study for the Ph. D. If she is not acceptable to the NIA, I wish there was some other place where she could fit in. She has drive and is intelligent. Heady thinks that she is a good Ph. D. risk, and I was favorably impressed when she was here. At present, she has a fellowship at Michigan and receives \$137 a month, which means that she barely gets by. She has no support during the summer period. I do not think she has a guarantee for the balance of her time, although some support is a possibility. We will try to get more assistance for her. I will check with Wes Fishel on this. If you can do anything at your end, I would appreciate it very much.

STG/ap

cc: Fishel  
Cunningham

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137, DUONG PASTEUR

TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022-21.528  
21.891-21.991

November 3, 1959

TO: Mr. Stanley Gabis, Acting Coordinator  
FROM: Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler, Chief Advisor  
SUBJECT: Packages for Ph.D. Participants

In reference to your memorandum of October 22, would you please be sure that our Ph.D. participants understand that the only types of items we can send to them are documents and written materials which relate directly to their participant work?

I would not feel justified in mailing personal packages through APO channels unless the items were clearly a part of their Stateside educational needs.

RHS/dcm

cc: Mr. Griffin  
Dr. Musolf



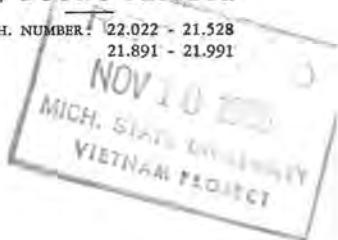
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TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528  
21.891 - 21.991

November 5, 1959



TO: Mr. Stanley Gabis, Acting Coordinator  
FROM: Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler, Chief Advisor *(RHS)*  
SUBJECT: Mr. Xuan

You have already received from us several memos on Mr. Xuan's case, and I merely want to summarize our position in this note. Our first preference and one which we assume will be followed in almost all cases is that the Ph.D. candidates complete the degree including dissertation before returning to Vietnam. In the case of Mr. Xuan, several factors may make it easier to accept his return before the dissertation is completed. The fact that Dave Cole will be here for three months shortly after Xuan's return and that Frank Child will be able to supervise Xuan's work to some extent for the next year and a half are both in Xuan's favor. Obviously, if he is going to go through some kind of emotional crisis by remaining in the United States, we would want to spare him such difficulties. I hope his early return does not have a bad effect on the other Ph.D.s, several of whom hoped that they could complete their work in less than the required three years.

Vice Rector Dang of the NIA, when approached on this question of Mr. Xuan's integration into the Institute, indicated that they would be able to put him into the program at a reasonably good level before the dissertation is completed. I do not think we will have a problem in that respect. However, the hazards of writing a dissertation while away from the American university home base would be too great to risk any additional returns before the degree is completed.

RHS/dcm

cc: Dr. Musolf

1325