

Washington D.C.

4/24/60

To:

Dr. Wesley R. Fishel.

Dear Sir:

I am going to leave The Voice of America (United States Information Agency) in Washington, D.C. in June 30, 1960. I have been a translator and announcer for the news broadcasts in Vietnamese language for the past nine years. As I will be available in July 1960, I am taking the liberty to offer you my services and hope that I can be of service to the 'Vietnamese Project' that you are now in charge.

I am fluent with both French and Vietnamese languages. I have also a great deal of experience through teaching Vietnamese in Vietnam and at the Sanz School of Languages in Washington D.C. where I am employed. Mr. John A. Nalley, former Chief of Far East Division at the Voice of America knows me very well. I was graduated from George Washington University in Washington D.C. with a B.A. degree (in Foreign Affairs.)

With thanks for taking my application in consideration and with the intent of serving the United States where I live for nine years and my own country of Vietnam through whatever service I may render, I am, dear Dr. Fishel,

Yours faithfully,

Trinh Van Chan

Trinh Van Chan
1614 - 17th St., NW.
Washington 9, D.C.



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1960

My dear Dr. Fishel,

Mr. Trinh Van Chan, of our staff, will shortly be leaving the Vietnamese Service of the Voice of America under our translator rotation policy. He has been with us since 1951 and has asked me to write you concerning his hopes for employment with Michigan State University.

I cannot speak too highly of Mr. Chan's work with us. He is diligent and conscientious. As a translator we have found him very conversant with current American idiom and, a trait sometimes uncommon in our experience, never hesitant to ask questions when in doubt. As you may know, since his arrival in the United States, he completed the secondary education requirements for college entrance in the United States and in addition, has taken his Bachelor's of Art degree in Political Science at George Washington University here --all at his own expense and in off-duty hours.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere hope that you will be able to consider his application thoroughly? He has been a real asset to us. I have enjoyed his friendship and I hope to see his many fine abilities utilized to the advantage of both our countries.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gilbert L. Newbold", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gilbert L. Newbold
Chief, Vietnamese Service

Dr. Wesley R. Fishel
Professor of Political Science
Michigan State University
Ann Arbor, Michigan

May 11, 1960

Mr. Trinh Van Chan
1614 Seventeenth Street N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chan:

Since receiving your letter the other day, and the very warm recommendation from Mr. Newbold which followed it, I have been making inquiries here to determine what if anything we can suggest to you.

As of this moment, because of the stringent budgetary problems facing this university, I am able to suggest only one likely possibility. I note that you have received your Bachelor's degree at George Washington University, and it occurs to me that perhaps you might wish to go ahead for a master's degree, either in Political Science, or in French, or some other subjects. It is just possible that if you have plans or hopes of this character that this university might be able to work out a half-time graduate assistantship in connection with the Vietnam Project, which would enable you to pursue your graduate study while teaching courses in the Vietnamese language in connection with the Vietnam Project and the Department of Foreign Languages, and perhaps assisting in the translation of Vietnamese materials as well.

Our graduate assistantship included about \$1,900 by academic year, plus exemption from tuition and fees. I realize that this is in no way comparable to the amount you have been earning with the Voice of America and I wish it were possible for us to offer you something more substantial. However, our situation at the present time does not permit this.

Assistant Dean Ralph H. Smuckler of the Office of International Program will be in Washington on Thursday and Friday of this week and will try to get in touch with you during his stay there, if his schedule permits. You may wish to telephone him at the Hotel Mayflower to make arrangements for an interview.

Sincerely yours,

Wesley R. Fishel

WRF:kc

May 24, 1960

Mr. Trinh Van Chan
1614 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chan:

Dr. Wesley Fishel has given us your name and suggested we contact you to see whether or not you might be interested in applying for a scholarship under a program we are currently engaged in with the National Institute of Administration in Saigon, Vietnam. According to information we received from Saigon this week, applications received from students already in the United States will be granted the same consideration as those received from individuals applying in Vietnam. Under this program, selected Vietnamese will study for their Ph.D. degrees at a suitable American university. Upon completion of their degree and return to Vietnam they will become staff members of the National Institute.

At present they are particularly interested in students in the fields of public administration, sociology, and business administration. If you are interested in applying for such a scholarship, we will need the following papers:

1. A complete transcript of your grades.
2. A letter should be addressed to Rector Vu Quoc Thong at the National Institute of Administration expressing your interest in the N.I.A. and making a commitment to teach there upon completion of the Ph.D. degree. (I suggest you send us a translation of the original which can be mailed directly to Rector Thong.)
3. Three letters of recommendation -- Mr. Newbold's letter to Dr. Fishel could serve as one of them. I suggest that at least one of these other letters be from one of the faculty members you have known at George Washington University.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Participant Director
Vietnam Project

EMC:nm

cc: Dr. Wesley R. Fishel

*Embassy of Viet Nam
Washington, D. C.*

May 31st., 1960.

No. 123

Miss Elsie Cunningham
Viet Nam Project
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Miss Cunningham,

Mr. Trinh ^{Van} ~~dim~~ Chan has requested our Embassy to write to you in connection with his application for an Assistantship at Michigan State University.

Mr. Chan has been living in Washington, D. C. since 1954, working for the "Voice of America".

He is a person of good character and has always shown an earnest desire to further his education. He is studying at American University, working towards an M. A. degree.

Sincerely yours,

TB Khanh

Truong Bui Khanh
Cultural Officer

TO: Lloyd Musolf
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
DATE: May 31, 1960
SUBJECT: Potential Ph.D. #507

Please find enclosed the transcript of Mr. Trinh Van Chan. I sent you a copy of my letter to him dated May 24th in the last Saigon mail. Although Mr. Chan's academic grade level is not impressive, it must be taken into consideration that he worked full time while he was pursuing his studies towards a degree.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

THE SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

June 2, 1960

Miss Elsie Cunningham
Participant Director
Vietnam Project
College of Business and Public Service
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Miss Cunningham:

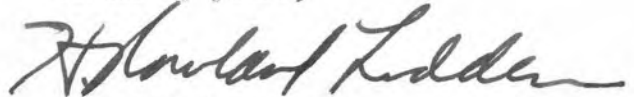
Mr. Trinh Van Chan has asked that I write you about him in support of his application for entrance into the Vietnam Project under which he would work towards a Ph. D. degree in Public Administration. He took two advanced undergraduate courses with me and was an advisee of mine in his foreign affairs program with concentration in international communications.

Mr. Chan was a most serious, hard-working student who completed his A. B. program while employed on a regular basis with the United States Information Agency, VOA. Though during his first couple of years with us he had some difficulty maintaining satisfactory grades, as he developed higher language skills and more background in the field of his major his grades improved. In his last course with me he made a solid "B" grade, high enough to permit him to take a graduate seminar for undergraduate credit during his last year with us. He did creditable "B" work in that seminar too. I believe that his performance in his last two years indicates that he is capable of doing graduate work.

He was always a quiet person, not participating in class discussion—which is understandable in lecture courses with more than 50, primarily American-born, students, only a few of whom did add significantly to the discussion. He seems to be a stable, mature, conscientious, trustworthy person. In personal conversations he exhibited a pleasant balance of reserve and intelligent understanding. Persons who worked with him on a day-to-day basis could undoubtedly comment in more detail as to his personality and all-around promise than can I, though he did impress me as one of the better of our oriental students.

His record will indicate that he has had a solid background in course work in foreign affairs with a significant amount of political science. This with his experience in government should provide an adequate foundation for work in public administration. I recommend him to you and hope that he does well in his program.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. Rowland Ludden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "H." being small and the last name "Ludden" being larger and more prominent.

H. Rowland Ludden
Asst. Prof. of Political Science,
Adviser in Foreign Affairs

Translation of the Letter to
Rector Vu-quoc-Thong
of the National Institute of Administration.

Washington D.C.

June 2, 1960

To:

The Rector,
The National Institute of Administration.

Dear Sir,

My name is Trinh-van-Chan, 1614 - 17th St., NW., Washington D.C. I have been working with 'The Voice of America' since 1951 and am still working till next July. I have a B.A. degree (in Foreign Affairs) from George Washington University in Washington D.C., and is still studying at 'The American University', also in Washington D.C.

I have sent my request for studying Public Administration to Miss Elsie Cunningham, Participant Director of Vietnam Project at Michigan State University. I swear that, when I will receive my Ph.D. degree, I will go back to Vietnam in order to teach at the National Institute of Administration.

With thanks, I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Trinh Van Chan
1614 - 17th St., NW.
Washington 9, D.C.

Washington D.C.

June 3, 1960

To:

Miss Elsie Cunningham,

Vietnam Project.

Dear Miss Cunningham,

I have received your letter of May 24, 1960 and thank you for giving me the opportunity to apply for a scholarship for studying Public Administration under the program of Vietnam Project. I will go back to Vietnam to teach at the National Institute of Administration in Saigon at the completion of my doctorate's degree.

Following the suggestions of Dr. Wesley R. Fishel in his letter of May 11 and my meeting with Assistant Dean Ralph H. Smuckler on May 13, 1960, I have requested both the George Washington University to send the transcript of my B.A. degree (graduated Jan. 22, 1960) and The American University to forward the grades of my recent courses last Spring, namely 'Regional Organizations of Western Europe' and 'Latin American International Relations', to Dr. Wesley R. Fishel of the Department of Political Science.

My letter to Rector Vu-quoc-Thong has been sent on June 2, 1960. I make a commitment to teach at the National Institute of Administration on the completion of my Ph.D. degree.

With many thanks, I am, dear Miss Cunningham,

Yours faithfully,

Trinh Van Chan

Trinh Van Chan
1614 - 17th St., NW.
Washington 9, D.C.

P.S. Please find enclosed the translation of the letter of commitment to Rector Vu-qu~~oe~~-Thong of the National Institute of Administration. Two letters of recommendation from the Embassy of Viet-nam in Washington D.C. and from Dr. Ludden, Professor of Political Science of George Washington University will be sent directly to you. Thank you.

June 3, 1960

Mr. Trinh Van Chan
1614 - 17th Street, N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chan:

Thank you for your letter of June 1st enclosing a translation of your commitment to teach at the National Institute of Administration. We have received the transcript from George Washington University, but are anxiously looking forward to receiving your transcript from American University.

I understand from Dr. Wesley Fishel that he mentioned the possibility of obtaining a graduate assistantship through the Vietnam Project at this University. Therefore, I am enclosing an application for a graduate assistantship as well as an application for admission to the University. I suggest that you complete these forms and return them to the proper office. Dr. Ruben V. Austin, who is Assistant Dean for International Projects in the College of Business and Public Service, has indicated that there may be such an assistantship available from the Project funds in the Department of Political Science.

We would appreciate very much your keeping us informed of any changes in residence or plans during the summer months. Dr. Austin is hoping to interview all of the Vietnamese in the United States applying for Ph.D. scholarships under our Project sometime during the summer.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Participant Director
Vietnam Project

EMC:nm

cc: Clarena Cook, Admissions and Scholarships

Washington D.C.

6/7/60

To:
Miss Elsie Cunningham
Viet-Nam Project.

Dear Miss Cunningham,

Following the instructions of your letter of June 3, I have sent my applications for a graduate assistantship and for admission to the University. The total application including : 1 - a Certificate of English Proficiency from Dean John Gage Allee of George Washington University, 2 - Two school records from George Washington University and the American University, and 3 - Three letters of recommendation from the professors of both universities, has been sent directly from the parties mentioned.

I have the same address through the whole summer and am eagerly hoping that I will be admitted to the University for the coming Fall semester. I am sincerely grateful to you for rendering any possible help and opportunity toward my admission to Michigan State University. I am looking forward to meeting Dr. Ruben V. Austin and will be available for the interview at any moment during the summer.

With many thanks, I am, dear Miss Cunningham,

Yours sincerely,

Trinh Van Chan

Trinh Van Chan
1614 - 17th St., NW.
Washington 9, D.C.

TO: Lloyd Musolf
FROM: Elsie Cunningham
DATE: June 23, 1960
SUBJECT: Mr. Trinh Van Chan - Potential Ph.D. #519

Please find enclosed Mr. Trinh Van Chan's transcript from American University. You will note that Mr. Chan has done fairly well in the graduate courses he took this past semester.

Dr. Fishel has recently talked to the former head of the Far East Service, Voice of America, who said he could recommend Mr. Chan without reservation as one of the most conscientious, hard working, and bright young men who worked for the Voice of America while he was head of this service. He indicated that he would be most willing to send a letter of recommendation for this gentleman to us.

161233

Trinh Van Chan

BIRTH 7-11-11 PLACE Viet Nam
 DATE ADMITTED September 1951
 ADMISSION STATUS
 UNITS FROM H.S.
 UNITS, ENTRANCE EXAMS
 UNITS, SPECIAL STUDENT
22 HOURS ADVANCED STANDING FROM
New York University; New School of
Social Research;
 INTELLIGENCE TESTS
 DIVISION Junior College
 CURRICULUM MAJOR Foreign Affairs
 TRANSFERS Govt. 10-57;
 DEGREES CONFERRED A.A. 10-19-57; A.B. in Govt. 2-22-60;

SCHOOL LOCATION

GRADUATED

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.

INTELLIGENCE TESTS

SUBJECT

UNITS

SUBJECT

SUBJECT

CONDITIONS

UNITS

REMOVED

YEAR	DEPARTMENT, NUMBER & TITLE	1ST SEM HRS	2ND SEM HRS	3RD SEM HRS	4TH SEM HRS	YEAR	DEPARTMENT, NUMBER & TITLE	1ST SEM HRS	2ND SEM HRS	3RD SEM HRS	4TH SEM HRS
	ADVANCED STANDING										
	Psych. 156, Psychology of Propaganda - Public Opinion	6				SS-57	Psych. 156, Psychology of Propaganda - Public Opinion	6			
	Pol. Sci. 111, International Law	2				57-58	Pol. Sci. 111, International Law	2			
	Pol. Sci. 191, Social Psychology	6					Pol. Sci. 191, Social Psychology	6			
	Hist. 181-2, Impl. Hist. of U.S.	6					Hist. 181-2, Impl. Hist. of U.S.	6			
	Journ. 146, Prob. in Pub. Relat.	6					Journ. 146, Prob. in Pub. Relat.	6			
	Total	22	Sem. Hrs.								
55	Engl. 11, Writing of Reports	3	C	-	-	SS-58	Pol. Sci. 111, Intro. to Comp. Govt.	3	C	-	-
	Econ. 1, Prin. of Economics	3	C	-	-	58-59	French 9-10, French Comp. & Comp.	3	A	3	A
	Bot. 1, Struc. Func. Flower Plant	3	C	-	-		Pol. Sci. 172, Int'l. Organ. & U.N.	-	-	3	B
	Engl. 52, English Literature	-	-	3	D	SS-59	Hist. 144, Modern History	3	A	-	-
	Hist. 40, Devel. European Civil.	-	-	3	B	59-60	Econ. 165, Govt. Control of Econ. Activity	3	B	-	-
	Psych. 1x, General Psychology	-	-	3	D		Pol. Sci. 271, Prob. in Internat'l. Politics and Organization	3	B	-	-
56	Engl. 71, Intro. American Lit.	3	C	-	-		Econ. 185, Econ. Hist. & Prob. of Latin America	3	B		
	Engl. 51, Intro. English Lit.	3	C	-	-						
56	Hist. 39, Devel. European Civil.	3	B	-	-						
	Engl. 135-6, Shakespeare	3	C	3	C						
	French 123-4, French Literature of the Eighteenth Century	3	B	3	A						
	Speech 32, Oral Reading	-	-	3	C						
56	Engl. 72, Intro. American Lit.	3	B	-	-						
	Pol. Sci. 10, Govt. of the U.S.	3	D	-	-						
57	Econ. 2, Prin. of Economics	3	C	-	-						
	Pol. Sci. 171, Int'l. Politics	3	C	-	-						
	Bot. 2, Survey of Plant Kingdom	-	-	3	C						
	Pol. Sci. 182, Int'l. Law	-	-	3	C						

Master Hours required for degree: A.A. 64s.h.; A.B., B.S., 124s.h.; A.B. in Educ. 126s.h.; B.S. in H.E. 126s.h.; B.C.E., B.E.E., B.M.E., B.S. in Engr., 140s.h.; B.S. in Pharmacy 141s.h.
 Undergraduate Grading System: A-Excellent; B-Good; C-Average; D-Passing; F-Failing; Inc.-Incomplete; W-Withdrawal; F.W.-Unauthorized Withdrawal from course; N.G.-No Grade.
 Graduate Grading System: Before Feb. 1953: Sat.-Satisfactory; Unsat.-Unsatisfactory; Inc.-Incomplete. After Feb. 1953: Ex.-Excellent; Sat.-Satisfactory; Unsat.-Unsatisfactory; Inc.-Incomplete.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS AN ACTUAL COPY OF THE RECORD OF THE STUDENT WHOSE NAME APPEARS THEREON. WHEN SIGNED AND SEALED WITH THE IMPRESSION SEAL OF THIS OFFICE, IT CONSTITUTES AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD. STUDENT IS ENTITLED TO A STATEMENT OF HONORABLE DISMISSAL.

Frederick T. Hensel, Registrar

June 24, 1960

TO: Joe LaPalombara
FROM: Ruben V. Austin
SUBJECT: Possible Graduate Assistant

I want to alert you to the possibility that we may nominate Mr. Trinh Van Chan to be a graduate assistant on this Project, working for his Master's degree, and presumably his Ph.D. as well, in political science--public administration .

We have been in contact with Mr. Chan over the last two weeks, and have now received copies of his transcripts from George Washington University and American University. These have been sent to the Government of Vietnam in Saigon, on the chance that the GVN might find Mr. Chan suitable for its own participant program at M.S.U. If, however, this should not turn out to be the case, we may wish to bring him here on our own program, which would mean that he would be doing his graduate work in your department, while working here on the Project.

The question of Mr. Chan's future at M.S.U. does not yet require urgent consideration, since we must first await word from Saigon as to the Vietnamese Government's interest in sponsoring him. However, I thought you might be interested in seeing two letters of support that have been sent to us by (1) his superior at the Voice of America, where he has worked for several years, and (2) his advisor at George Washington University.

You may be assured that we will keep you informed of any developments in Mr. Chan's case, and will consult with you if the question of his attendance at M.S.U. becomes a matter of primary interest to our two offices, rather than one of secondary importance, as is now the case.