

AUGUST 1, 1960

TO: DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN
SUBJECT: PARTICIPANTS

C
O
P
Y
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSURANCE THAT CHAN WILL RECEIVE THE CONSIDERATION OF THE NIA AND OF MSUG. AS YOU KNOW, WES HAS BEEN MORE THAN CASUALLY INTERESTED IN TRINH VAN CHAN'S ACCEPTANCE AND FEELS THAT HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT, AS IT DEVELOPS UNDER FORD FOUNDATION AUSPICES, WILL BE OF TREMENDOUS VALUE.

WE DO NOT WISH, HOWEVER, TO APPEAR TO BE ATTEMPTING TO HAVE YOU BY-PASS ANY OF THE NECESSARY AND PROPER CHANNELS WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS.

P
WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE STATUS OF MANY OF OUR PH.D. PARTICIPANTS AND ARE PARTICULARLY ALARMED AT THE INFORMATION WHICH HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO US THROUGH THE PLANNING GROUP MINUTES. SUCH INFORMATION CREATES SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER MRS. BACH-LAN AND MR. KY CAO TOAN THAN WILL FULFILL THEIR COMMITMENTS.

Y
WE SHALL WRITE THESE PARTICIPANTS A GENERAL LETTER ASKING THAT THEY PUT IN WRITING THEIR OVERALL ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL PLANS FOR THE PERIOD OF TIME THEY EXPECT TO BE IN THIS COUNTRY BEFORE RETURNING TO VIET-NAM. ON THE BASIS OF THEIR RESPONSES, WE CAN THEN FOLLOW UP WITH GREATER DETAIL AND OBTAIN EITHER THE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD A PH.D., WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RETURNING TO VIET-NAM UNDER GOVERNMENT OF VIET-NAM SPONSORSHIP, OR WE CAN DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE SIMPLY ATTEMPTING TO HAVE THIS TRAINING PROGRAM SUBSIDIZE THEIR EDUCATION HERE.

RVA:JR

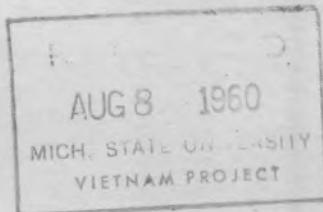
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor DATE: August 4, 1960
FROM: Guy H. Fox
SUBJECT: Mrs. Bach-Lan

Several members of the Division, including myself, have considered Ruben's letter (ELL-51) dated July 22, 1960 regarding participants.

We are especially concerned regarding Mrs. Bach-Lan. We believe her case points up the need for selecting more carefully the universities to which Ph.D. participants are sent. It seems to us that it is inadvisable for her to be majoring in American Political Institutions at Columbia just as a means for obtaining work in public administration. We wonder if the University of Pittsburgh with its strong interest in undeveloped public administration programs might not provide a feasible spot for her--at least such an offer might be given her as an alternate to returning now to Vietnam.

If Mrs. Bach-Lan is to remain at Columbia, it is my opinion that she should change her major field within political science.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator DATE: August 5, 1960

FROM : Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *JDW*

SUBJECT: Ph.D. Participants

Attached you will find Guy Fox's reaction to your letter to me on July 22. Before getting into a discussion, let me say how much we appreciate the fact that you have spent four days interviewing present and prospective participants. This sort of contact helps us a great deal in our recommendations and our reactions to reports on current participants.

As Guy points out, Mrs. Bach-Lan is the person who verges most nearly on trouble. I note that Truman's letter speaks only of the unsuitability of her major, but that in your notes you indicate that he felt she was not up to Columbia standards. If the difficulty with Bach-Lan is merely the possibility of taking an unsuitable major, then Guy's suggestion is certainly a good one. If either her caliber or her attitude constitute the difficulty, then I wonder if we should go on supporting her at all. You will recall that Howie Waltman's letter, a copy of which was sent to you, expressed skepticism about her attitude. I hope that this question can be resolved before she embarks on another year of work.

We were encouraged by your report on Mr. Phat. Apparently he recognizes that his own previous attitude was extreme and immature.

We were also encouraged by your favorable report on Xuyen's academic level. Following receipt of his earlier grades and of the Ambassador's statement about Xuyen we were quite uncertain. Hopefully the Ambassador will not regard his personal involvements as being serious enough to disqualify him.

We certainly agree with you that it would be quite inappropriate for Cao Toan to attend a conference in Geneva under project financing. I would be highly skeptical if GVN would consider financing this excursion.

IDM/dw

cc: Dr. Guy Fox



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AUGUST 8, 1960

TO: DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF

FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN

RE: PH.D. PARTICIPANTS

WE APPRECIATE THE COMMENTS GIVEN US ON PH.D. PARTICIPANTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL THAT IS POSSIBLE TO FURTHER THEIR WORK. AS SOON AS I RECEIVE ANSWERS TO THE LETTERS I HAVE SENT TO THE PH.D. PARTICIPANTS, I SHALL SEND YOU COPIES FOR YOUR REVIEW AND COMMENTS.

RVA:JR

JBM

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator DATE: August 9, 1960

FROM: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor

SUBJECT: Ph.D. Participants

Referring to your August 1 memorandum on participants, let me say that we have been very concerned, also, about the possibility that some Ph.D. participants may not return. Perhaps from your recent swing around the participant circuit you have better reactions than were reported by Messrs. Thong and Dang to Guy Fox. I think it will also be helpful if you do send the participants a general letter asking them to detail their academic plans. In connection with some participants' tendency to obtain an education without fulfilling their obligations, you will recall that Howie Waltman's letter gave some reactions on this point.

There is one point about participants' promises that probably should be explained. In the past, participants have promised to work ten years for the Government of Vietnam after returning from the States. For those participants who marry Americans or who have some other arrangement which permits them to remain in the United States indefinitely no promise is of any utility. For those participants, however, who plan to return to Vietnam it is important to ascertain exactly what agency they are returning to. If Mr. Ky, for example, states that he is returning to Foreign Affairs, this is still consistent with the actual pledge which he made, which was to work for the Government of Vietnam. The two Ph.D. participants who recently returned, namely Khanh and Xuan, were both released from their previous ministries after their return from the States. In the case of Xuan, the Vice President told me that he had thought Xuan would be returning to his own department. As Xuan expressed a preference for going with the NIA, the Vice President told me that he had let him go. Much the same situation obtained for Khanh, who is an old friend of Vice Rector Dang. The point is that unless these agencies had released the participants they could presumably have remained with their original agencies under the terms of the pledge that they signed. Furthermore, it is important to note that the Institute has in the past taken the position that this arrangement is adequate. Rector Thong has told me that this arrangement enables the NIA to choose whether it wants to accept a participant on his return.

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AUG 15 1960

MICH. STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM PROJECT

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More recently we have persuaded Thong to put pressure upon the participants to sign a commitment that they will work for the NIA on return. I believe there is another step that is necessary: somehow we must get agencies to agree to release participants rather than expect them to resume work with them. Perhaps this release could be worded so that it took effect upon the return of the participants from the States. The reason for this is that the NIA apparently can take people on its roster much more swiftly if the participant is already an employee of another government agency.

My point in going into detail on this is that I suspect there has been a misunderstanding on the part of MSU as to the affiliation of participants upon their return. Apparently GVN has not exercised any particular threat or force or persuasion in getting participants to affiliate with the NIA.

Apropos of the above discussion is the following excerpt from Guy Fox's report on his most recent meeting with Vice Rector Dang:

"Mr. Dang said that there would probably not be any difficulty in getting the agencies to release these persons, but he would want to avoid a situation that would make it obligatory for the NIA to accept all participants regardless of their performance in the U.S. He cited Mr. Buu Dich as an example. He was released by his agency before he went to the U.S. and put on the NIA payroll. Upon his return the NIA felt obligated to take him although he is not of the caliber which they would like. After some discussion we agreed that the only feasible course of committing agencies beforehand, would be to have each agency agree to release a participant in the event he receives the Ph.D."

LDM/dw

cc: Dr. Guy Fox



AUGUST 11, 1960

TO: DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: JUDITH RATHBUN
SUBJ: PH.D. PARTICIPANTS

ENCLOSED ARE COPIES OF REPLIES WE RECEIVED TO DR. AUSTIN'S LETTERS TO THE OFF-CAMPUS PH.D. PARTICIPANTS REGARDING THEIR ACADEMIC FUTURE. MR. CAO TOAN IS THE ONLY ONE OF THE FIVE WHO HAS NOT YET SENT A LETTER.

ENCLOSURES 4

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

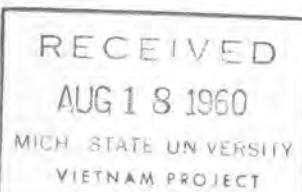
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator DATE: August 12, 1960
FROM : Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *PDm*
SUBJECT: Attached Letter from Rector Thong to Professor Hach

On the basis of the meeting of the other day, Rector Thong has apparently decided that there was sufficient agreement on the suggestion that you and Professor Hach interview candidates for Ph.D. participant grants to warrant the attached letter. Once again, you will have to be the judge as to the feasibility of this suggestion and the arrangements under which it can be carried out, if feasible. As I stressed the other day, we do see an advantage to having you and Hach interview the students at their universities in order that you may get reactions from people who know them and their work.

If you do undertake the project, there is undoubtedly considerable virtue in completing it very soon.

IDM/dw



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AUGUST 15, 1960

Pending
copy for
- folders &
part to
trip to
Visit Participants

TO: DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: JAMES B. HENDRY
SUBJECT: PH.D. PARTICIPANTS AND THE NIA

I SHALL ALSO BRING TO RUBEN'S ATTENTION UPON HIS RETURN TO THE OFFICE YOUR MEMO ON THE KINDS OF COMMITMENTS THAT PARTICIPANTS MAKE TO THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY ACCEPT A SCHOLARSHIP TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE PROBLEMS FACED IN GETTING GUARANTEES THAT THEY WILL WIND UP IN THE NIA.

I DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT THERE HAS BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF MSU WITH RESPECT TO THE AFFILIATION OF PARTICIPANTS UPON THEIR RETURN TO VIETNAM, BUT I AM SURE YOUR MEMO WILL BE A WELCOME CLARIFICATION.

JBH:JR

AUGUST 19, 1960

C
TO: DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: JAMES B. HENDRY
SUBJECT: RECTOR THONG'S LETTER TO PROFESSOR HACH

O
THANK YOU FOR SENDING A COPY OF THE LETTER TO PROFESSOR HACH FROM
RECTOR THONG ASKING THAT PROFESSOR HACH COOPERATE WITH RUBEN IN
INTERVIEWING THE TWO PH.D. CANDIDATE NOMINEES NOW IN THE UNITED
STATES.

P
I CANNOT SPEAK FOR RUBEN, BUT I ASSUME THAT HE WOULD BE MORE THAN
WILLING TO WORK SOME ARRANGEMENTS WITH PROFESSOR HACH TO MAKE AN
EXAMINATION POSSIBLE SOMETIME IN THE FALL.

Y
JBH:JR

Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor

August 20, 1960

Guy H. Fox

Ruben's letter about participants

The letters which Ruben sent us from the participants stating their present status and future plans were quite informative and interesting. If the letters can be taken at face value, much of our concern (that participants might not return to Vietnam, or, if they do return, not to the NIA) appears groundless. None of the participants gave any indication that he or she would not come to Vietnam after receiving the doctorate; and only Ky indicated he might not join the NIA. Following your suggestion, I shall at the next meeting with Mr. Dang, take up Ky's case to see if we cannot get some assurance that he will be assigned to the Institute faculty upon completion of his degree. A conference with the Department of Foreign Affairs will probably be necessary. I agree with you that there is no particular reason to be disturbed over Than's expression of preference for the "private sector;" he is committed by contract to work for the government and can be claimed by the NIA.

In spite of Mrs. Bach Lan's expression of intentions to return to Vietnam and work for the NIA, I have some misgivings over her real intentions. Mrs. Bach Lan's friends in New York repeatedly have written their friends here to the effect that she never intends to return to Vietnam. Moreover, according to one report her husband is an American citizen; even if he is not a citizen, the information we receive about him indicates he plans to remain in the United States. Admittedly, it is difficult to question or contradict a person's stated future intentions, and I am not sure whether a check on the reports from her New York friends who say she won't return here would be of any value. But if it is feasible for Ruben or someone from his office to make some discreet inquiries, I agree entirely with you that they might possibly be worthwhile. Two persons whom it might be well to see in New York are Nguyen Ngoc Bich and Miss Vu thi Yen, both students at Columbia University. Nguyen Ngoc Linh (brother of Mr. Dich mentioned in the last sentence) was in New York this month; he says that all the Vietnamese students at Columbia University know Mrs. Bach Lan but that she is universally disliked and has no real friends among the other Vietnamese students.



Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator

August 22, 1960

Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor

Attached Memorandum from Guy Fox

The attached memorandum will give you some idea of the results of our continued attempt to get at the true intentions of our Ph.D. participants, and also some notion of our reactions to reports already received. I think all of us recognize that this is a question that will continue to plague us. I suppose that one caution is that we will have to be careful not to overdo the harrassment of our participants.

LDW/dw



cc: Dr. Austin

August 27, 1960

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Part "parent"
PhD
Felder*

Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler
Associate Dean
International Programs
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Ralph:

Thank you for your letter of August 11 commenting on the latest Semiannual Report. Your letter is testimony to your continued interest in the Project and we appreciate this interest.

The section on consulting probably looked excessively gloomy to you. A brutally candid assessment seemed desirable at the present time in view of our imminent phase-out. We were hoping to build a fire under Trach at the last moment, in the hope that USOM might be able to get some cooperation going with him, when USOM takes over from MSU in this area. So far the Civil Service Agency seems to be as lackadaisical as ever, although from time to time there are brief spurts of announced activity--with few results. As to the Treasury reorganization, the new Secretary of State for Finance has been an absolute cipher. I have ventured to discuss his inactivity with the Vice President, who discreetly agrees. There are rumors that he will be replaced soon. If this takes place, perhaps there will be some way in which to bring the Treasury reorganization question to the new Secretary's attention.

The police program, after many stormy moments with USOM, appears now to have the prospect of continuing on a smooth course for the rest of our contract. Ralph Turner is handling planning in good fashion and I know he is respected at USOM. Both Adkins, the fingerprint identification man, and Joe Nicol, short-term staff member from Campus, appear to have developed good relations with Vietnamese counterparts. We do anticipate that after Hemmye leaves, USOM will encounter trouble with the installation of the communications system, as USOM seems to have no technician of Hemmye's caliber. Whether in its frustration USOM will lash out at MSU for real or fancied faults in the past communications program we do not know. We shall hope for the best here. As to the lithograph machine that you mention, Ralph informs me that there is a part missing and it is not in operation.



Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler
August 27, 1960
Page 2

Guy Fox wrote a most thorough report on the activities of his Division. As you mentioned, it is a most encouraging report. Naturally, there are failures as well as successes. For example, the non-credit seminar did not work out well. Only a few students could be induced to participate, and these were obviously practising their English and noticeably uninterested in the subject matter. Certainly it is an idea not to be discarded after only one try, but we shall have to be very careful about the manner in which we try the idea again.

In our latest calculation of participant man months remaining, we believe there may be room for three participants in addition to the three mentioned in the Semiannual Report. The NIA has assured us that they can use additional participants because they intend to gradually get rid of their part-time faculty. One of the three participants mentioned in the Semiannual Report will be in Public and Business Administration--not in Business Administration alone. This plan does not mean that the prospects for Business Administration at the NIA have revived. It merely means that, given the presence of certain mixed corporations in the economy, we thought that at least one faculty member should have business administration as one of his fields. At my insistence NIA and MSU will jointly study the future of the advanced program. Most of our people here are inclined to drop the program without further ado, and the NIA itself seems puzzled that study of the advanced program is one of the ProAg projects. We have been utterly discouraged by the lack of progress made by USIS in getting books translated. The time table for completion of translations is far in the future, I am afraid. Jason Finkle served on a committee to facilitate this program, but he encountered the ire of John Anspacher, the new head of USIS, who did not appreciate Finkle's criticism of USIS staff members on the committee. In the in-service training area, it appears that NIA faculty members will finally begin teaching training courses of their own; thus the loss of Melanson will not be felt to any great extent. Incidentally, USOM, with our concurrence, has abolished the 172 ProAg. Part of the activities are absorbed into USOM's Civil Service ProAg and activities connected with the NIA are being absorbed into 080. We have the promise from USOM of increased funds, if our 080 ProAg cannot absorb this cost.

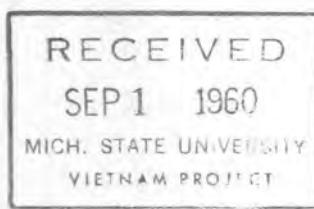
By November I hope that we will have some sort of report on the future of the NIA. This report will be based upon the joint study, and my trip to the Philippines next month will also help to give background.

Best regards to you and Lil.

Cordially,

Lloyd D. Musolf
Chief Advisor

IDM/dw



James B. Hendry

August 28, 1961

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JULY

Guy H. Fox

Do Lenh Tuan

As soon as proper arrangements can be made with the Directorate General of Planning, the NIA will announce competition for at least two more participant grants. One of the two grants will be for the place which we failed to fill recently.

Although the fact that Mr. Do Lenh Tuan, whom you mentioned in your August 16 memorandum, is a business administration major will place him in a somewhat disadvantageous competitive position with public administration, economics, and possibly sociology majors, I suggest, if he is interested in applying for a grant, that he send to Rector Vu Quoc Thong an application consisting of: (1) curriculum vita; (2) a statement agreeing to work as faculty member for a ten-year period following his return to Vietnam; (3) official transcript of his scholastic record; (4) recommendations from professors. You may assure Mr. Tuan that he will receive serious consideration.

Please encourage any other prospective Ph.D. participants to make a similar application. Would Mr. Long, who I believe is now at MSU in Economics, be interested in applying?

SEPTEMBER 2, 1960

TO: DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN
SUBJECT: SELECTION OF PH.D. PARTICIPANTS (#3)

WE HAVE JUST TALKED WITH THE CONTRACT OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, AND, UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO USE ANY OF OUR CONTRACT FUNDS TO PAY FOR ANY OF THE EXPENSES OF MR. HACH OR FOR BRINGING MR. CHUNG FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW YORK FOR A MEETING. NATURALLY, WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ALL OF THE NECESSARY INFORMATION AND YOUR GO-AHEAD (BY CABLE, IF NECESSARY) BEFORE MAKING DEFINITIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERVIEWING AND EXAMINING OF THE PH.D. CANDIDATES AT COLUMBIA AND PHILADELPHIA.

SINCE RECTOR THONG HAS COMMUNICATED WITH PROFESSOR HACH, I MAY, IF THE OPPORTUNITY AND CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAIL, COMMUNICATE WITH HIM CONCERNING HIS IMMEDIATE PLANS. NATURALLY, WE ARE EMBARRASSED IN BEING UNABLE TO MEET HIS EXPENSES UNDER CONTRACT FUNDS, BUT PERHAPS SOME OTHER WAY MAY BE FOUND. WOULD IT BE AT ALL POSSIBLE FOR THE NIA TO REIMBURSE HIM OR REIMBURSE US FOR HIS EXPENDITURES? FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF EXPENSE, IT APPEARS MORE ECONOMICAL TO HAVE PROFESSOR HACH VISIT THE PARTICIPANTS WITH ME RATHER THAN HAVING THEM GO TO BOSTON. I DO NOT KNOW THE FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES; IT MIGHT BE THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO TRAVEL TO CAMBRIDGE AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

THE INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED INDICATES MR. CHUNG IS HIGHLY COMMENDATORY. FURTHER INVESTIGATION, I BELIEVE, IS WARRANTED IN THE CASE OF MR. NANG'S BACKGROUND AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.

WE HAVE NOTED THAT MR. THUYET, MR. HUNG, AND MR. CHAN HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED.

WE SHALL BE INTERESTED TO FIND OUT OFFICIALLY WHEN WE CAN NOTIFY MR. XUYEN OF HIS AFFILIATION WITH THE PROJECT. I ASSUME THIS CAN BE DONE AFTER THE ARRETE HAS BEEN ISSUED.

RVA:JR

SEPTEMBER 2, 1960

TO: DR. LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN
SUBJECT: PH.D. PARTICIPANTS AND THE NIA (#1)

I HAVE READ YOUR AUGUST 9 MEMO CONCERNING CLARIFICATION OF SOME OF THE POINTS OF CONFUSION OR MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH HAVE ARISEN OR MAY ARISE IN THE PARTICIPANTS' VIEWS ON THEIR OBLIGATIONS UPON RETURNING TO VIETNAM. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASCERTAIN EXACTLY WHAT AGENCY THE PARTICIPANTS ARE RETURNING TO.

ALSO, I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET THE AGENCIES TO AGREE TO RELEASE PARTICIPANTS RATHER THAN EXPECT TO RESUME WORK WITH THEM AS YOU HAVE STATED. PERHAPS WITH THE SITUATION AS IT IS AND HAVING PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES BEING PROCESSED, A DOCUMENTATION OF THESE CONDITIONS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE SO THAT EITHER YOUR OFFICE CONVEYS THIS INFORMATION OR IT IS GIVEN TO THEM AS AN ADJUNCT TO THE ARRETE, OR PERHAPS YOU WOULD FEEL THAT OUR OFFICE COULD COMPILE THESE VARIOUS PROVISIONS BEFORE WE TAKE THE LAST STEP--NAMELY, PUTTING THEM ON OUR PROJECT PER DIEM ACCOUNT AND ASSUMING OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THEIR TRAINING.

RVA:JR

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator DATE: September 15, 1960
FROM: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *DR*
SUBJECT: Ph.D. Participants

The status of Ph.D. participants continues to be one of our major concerns, both in East Lansing and Saigon. Having just returned from Manila, where the Ph.D. participant program has been a great success, I am more than ever concerned about the status of our own program. At the IPA/Manila, Ph.D. participants have been selected from the faculty. Here this has not been possible because NIA faculty members are always reluctant to admit that they need more training. Under the IPA system there has been no question of returning to the IPA and to the Philippines. It must be conceded, however, that, because of the exceedingly low salaries at the IPA, other agencies--including the University of the Philippines itself--have managed to steal some of the returned participants.

As to those participants who are about to be selected, the NIA has agreed to follow the procedure of requiring that the agency for which any prospective participant works must agree to release him after he receives his doctorate. We will try to double-check this procedure, and may call on you for help with respect to any participants selected from among applicants now in the United States.

As to present participants now affiliated with an agency, we have been unable to work out as satisfactory a solution. The NIA still refuses to make any move toward getting the Foreign Affairs Department to release Ky. Vice Rector Dang has made a suggestion which sounds like a last-ditch hope but may be worth trying. He suggests that we try to persuade Ky to send in a request to Foreign Affairs to teach at the NIA. Dang believes that the Foreign Affairs probably would honor such a request. Dang doubts, however, that Ky would be interested in making the request--given the allure which Foreign Affairs overseas posts have. As you will recall, one of the possible areas of concentration for the NIA has been Foreign Affairs. Even while Ralph Smuckler was here, this possibility was discussed with Rector Thong. I intend to bring up this matter again with Rector Thong, and if there is any possibility of the NIA's branching into this field we may have a good talking point with Ky. I shall let you know the results of my talk with Thong.



Referring to Mrs. Bach-Lan, Guy Fox has had further conversations with Dang about her. We agree out here that it would be unfair to terminate her merely on the basis of hearsay evidence about her intentions. I think everyone is in agreement that if definite evidence that she is not going to return can be obtained we can act. Also, if Professor Truman informs you she has fallen below acceptable academic standards, we should drop her. The NIA agrees that in either case it would initiate the termination proceedings. Guy Fox is wondering whether you or anyone else will have a chance to interview the persons whom he mentioned as possibly having information about Mrs. Bach-Lan (Nguyen Ngoc Bich, Miss Vu Thi Yen). Guy has also received information from a Vietnamese diplomat that Mrs. Bach-Lan's husband probably is not now an American citizen but probably intends to become one; therefore, it might be worth while for you to follow up your suggestion about checking with the Vietnam Embassy or the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization on the citizenship question. We have discovered that his name is Truong Ngoc Binh, and his address is an unknown number on West 112th Street, New York City.

IDM/dw

*cc Taggart
Smeekler
Fiske
Dorsley*

