

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator      DATE : September 19, 1960  
FROM : Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *LD*  
SUBJECT : Ph.D. Participant Candidates

As feared, the procedure for examining participant candidates is moving only slowly. Last Saturday we had our second meeting at the NIA on examining procedures. It was finally agreed that the examining board will be composed of three NIA faculty and three MSU staff members. The three from MSU are Fox, Woodruff, and Child. The examination will last from October 3 through 5. There will be three-hour written examinations, one in Vietnamese and one in English, followed by one-hour oral examinations in English. Some of the candidates are in the provinces and therefore there is a lot of red tape concerned with getting them to the NIA for examination.

Your report on Nang and Chung will be matched with the results of the examination here before a final selection is made. This means that if your report arrives by the fifth it is still in plenty of time.

IDM/dw



SEPTEMBER 26, 1960

TO           LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM         RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT      PH.D. PARTICIPANTS

BOTH OF US ARE AWARE OF THE CONCERN OVER THE PARTICIPANT TRAINING AND THE RELUCTANCE MANY TIMES OF THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD ACCEPT THIS TYPE OF TRAINING TO CONSIDER COMING TO THE UNITED STATES.

SO FAR, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE LETTER THAT WAS PROMISED US BY ICA/W. WE BELIEVE THAT MR. HUYNH'S (LE QUANG) CASE IS NOT A UNIQUE ONE, FOR THERE APPEAR TO BE INSTANCES OF MANY OTHER PARTICIPANTS WHOSE PROGRAM AT TIMES DOES NOT SEEM TO BE FOLLOWED AS SPECIFIED. WE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO REQUIRE A REPORT FROM EACH PARTICIPANT AFTER ANY FIELD TRIP. THIS WE HAVE DONE WITH OUR BRAZILIAN PARTICIPANTS, BUT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, SUCH HAS NOT BEEN THE PRACTICE WITH THE VIETNAMESE. THE ONLY RECORDS WE HAVE OF THEIR FIELD TRIPS ARE VOUCHERS SHOWING DATES AND PLACES VISITED FOR PURPOSES OF REIMBURSEMENT.

CERTAINLY WE SHALL WANT TO KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEDURE CONCERNING THE RELEASE FROM A PARTICULAR AGENCY OF A PARTICIPANT RECEIVING HIS DOCTORATE. OF COURSE YOU MAY BE ASSURED OF OUR COOPERATION AND ANY SUGGESTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS WE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE IN SELECTING THE PARTICIPANTS FROM THE APPLICANTS NOW IN THE UNITED STATES.

WE ARE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE PRESENT PARTICIPANTS NOW AFFILIATED WITH AN AGENCY. KY'S CASE SEEMS TO HAVE STRATEGIC VALUE IN THAT IT MAY HELP TO CLARIFY RELATIONSHIPS AND ALSO BRING INTO FOCUS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE NIA WILL HAVE AN AREA OF CONCENTRATION ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

RVA:JR

September 27, 1960

TO: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor  
FROM: Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Ph.D. Participant Candidates

We are aware of the red tape in getting some of the candidates to the NIA for examinations. We are particularly interested in the outcome of these examinations.

It is my hope that I can send you a cable before the 5th of October concerning Nang and Chung.

RVA:sf

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## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator DATE : October 3, 1960

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

SUBJECT : Examination of Ph.D. Participant Candidates

Attached find a copy of the written examination questions to which local applicants for the Ph.D. participant positions are being subjected. In addition, as a previous memorandum indicated, there will be a written examination in Vietnamese, and oral examinations in both Vietnamese and English. There were originally eleven local applicants, but only seven or eight are eligible to take the examination. As an age limit of thirty was applied, some candidates who are somewhat older were eligible because up to five years of service in the government was credited to them.

There is some anxiety at the NIA about the fact that some applicants are now in the United States and others are applying from here. The NIA apparently anticipates some criticism if the edge is given to applicants already in the U.S. Our line has been that all applicants should have an equal chance because the goal is to select the best possible candidates. The problem of how to examine the candidates in the States arose some time ago, as you know. We regret exceedingly that Professor Hach had no time to join you in interviewing the three candidates. If he had, the interviews could have taken on much more of the appearance of an examination somewhat comparable to the examination given here.

At the very least, it is essential that your comparative estimate of the three candidates be furnished in some detail. I am sure you will see the logic of this, from what I have said above. This is by way of explanation of our cable S-26. We are naturally glad to hear that in your opinion all three candidates are worthy of a participant grant. On the other hand, given the fact that there are only three positions and there are eager applicants from Vietnam, it is necessary that a careful ranking of all candidates be made. Obviously there are great handicaps to this procedure, but nevertheless the attempt must be made. We shall therefore appreciate as much information as is possible on the academic backgrounds, scholarly qualifications, capacity for graduate work, attitude toward Ph.D. studies, and attitude toward teaching at the NIA in Vietnam.



## EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

Instructions: This examination consists of four questions. You are to write on any three---omit any one question.

1. Write an essay on the social, political and economic consequences of an unequal distribution of income in Vietnam.
- 2a. Evaluate deductive and inductive reasoning as means of arriving at "valid" conclusions.
- b. Discuss the thesis that public administration is a function separate and distinct from the determination of policy.
3. Most economically underdeveloped countries have plans for economic development (five-year plans, three-year plans, etc.). It is conceivable that such a procedure could be applied to political development. Formulate a long-range step-by-step plan for the political development of Vietnam.
- 4a. Identify in one or two sentences:
  - Col. Mobuto
  - Norodom Sihanouk
  - King Hussein
  - Rafael Trujillo
  - John Myun Chang
  - Bourgiba
  - Willie Brandt
  - Ikeda
- b. Explain (in a short paragraph for each, with reference to Vietnam):
  - Personalism
  - Chinese integration problem
  - Agrovilles
  - NRM
  - Family law

OCTOBER 5, 1960

TO LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT PH.D. PARTICIPANTS

YOU HAVE RECEIVED OUR CABLES CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS WITH PHAM CHUNG (WHARTON SCHOOL OF FINANCE IN PHILADELPHIA), DO QUANG NANG (ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK), AND NGUYEN HUI LONG (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON). CERTAINLY, A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION BY NECESSITY IS A DIFFICULT THING TO ESTABLISH, FOR ALL THREE ARE AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF ACADEMIC WORK AND ARE AT THREE DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF THEIR PROGRESS TOWARDS A DOCTORAL DEGREE AND, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ACADEMIC STANDINGS, THE EVALUATION MADE GAVE PHAM CHUNG FIRST RANKING, DO QUANG NANG SECOND, AND NGUYEN HUI LONG THIRD.

CHUNG: PHAM CHUNG HAD BEEN WORKING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PROFESSORS BLOOMFIELD, CARSON, AND WEINTRAUB. I REGRET THAT BOTH PROFESSORS CARSON AND BLOOMFIELD WERE UNAVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF MY VISIT, BUT A LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 30 FROM CARSON INDICATES THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD BEYOND THAT WHICH HE EXPRESSED IN A LETTER TO YOU ON JULY 1, IN WHICH HE STATES THAT CHUNG IS AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT AND A YOUNG MAN WHO WILL HAVE MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE AS A SCHOLAR UPON HIS RETURN TO VIETNAM. CARSON INDICATES CHUNG HAS CONTINUED TO GROW ACADEMICALLY AND IS GRATIFIED THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT FINANCIAL HELP MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM.

I SPENT SOME TIME IN THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE AND WENT OVER HIS ACADEMIC RECORD AND FIND THAT HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE, HAS PASSED HIS LANGUAGE EXAMINATION, HAS 40 PH.D. CREDIT HOURS AT THE PRESENT TIME, AND NEEDS ONLY 8 MORE TO FINISH THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PH.D. COURSEWORK. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR A COURSE SOME TIME AGO IN CORPORATION FINANCE, IN WHICH HE RECEIVED A C IN ONE OF THE TWO SEMESTERS, HIS GRADE-POINT AVERAGE WOULD BE HIGHER THAN IT IS NOW. A ROUGH CALCULATION PUTS HIM IN THE A- CATEGORY.

A "MEATY" AND EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR SIDNEY WEINTRAUB, CERTAINLY A DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIST INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN, WAS MOST HELPFUL. PROFESSOR WEINTRAUB INDICATED THAT CHUNG HAS AN EXCELLENT GRASP OF THE FIELD AND, IN SOME AREAS WHERE HE WAS ORIGINALLY DEFICIENT, HE HAS TENACIOUSLY WORKED AND CAME OUT ON TOP. PROFESSOR WEINTRAUB INDICATED THAT THERE WERE FEW



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FOREIGN STUDENTS WHO HAD IMPRESSED HIM AS MUCH AS PHAM CHUNG. HE FELT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO QUALMS CONCERNING HIS ACADEMIC ABILITY, EMOTIONAL STABILITY, MOTIVATION, AND SINCERE DESIRE TO RETURN TO VIET-NAM TO FULFILL HIS POSSIBLE COMMITMENTS.

I SPENT SEVERAL HOURS WITH CHUNG ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING AND AGAIN PRACTICALLY ALL DAY WEDNESDAY. PERSONALLY, I ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE HIS GRASP AND DEPTH IN SUCH AREAS AS MACRO- AND MICRO-ECONOMICS, FISCAL POLICY, ECONOMIC THOUGHT, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, AND THE NEW MATHEMATICAL APPROACHES--MODEL BUILDING--THAT HAVE REFERENCE TO GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. I WAS AMAZED BY HIS CLEAR-CUT EXPRESSION IN ENGLISH AND FOUND THAT, TO MY FURTHER AMAZEMENT, AT HIS OWN CONFESSION, HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND ENGLISH NOR EXPRESS HIMSELF WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO THE STATES UNDER A FULBRIGHT ARRANGEMENT, ALTHOUGH HE OBVIOUSLY HAD MET THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ON THE SURFACE TO HAVE OBTAINED SUCH A GRANT. (AS AN ASIDE, I MIGHT SAY THAT THIS SAME THING WAS REVEALED TO ME BY DO QUANG NANG NGUYEN HUI LONG--WHEN THEY FIRST CAME TO THE STATES, THEIR COMMAND OF ENGLISH WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE THEM TO DO SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC WORK--ALL THIS, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN CORRECTED BY NOW ON THE PART OF ALL THREE CANDIDATES.)

DURING MY STAY AT WHARTON SCHOOL OF FINANCE, I ALSO MADE INQUIRIES THROUGH THE FOREIGN AND GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORS' OFFICES TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANY INCIDENTS OR FACTS THAT MIGHT AFFECT CHUNG'S ACADEMIC WORK OR IMPEDE HIS FULFILLING THE COMMITMENT TO RETURN TO VIET-NAM. NOTHING BUT THE MOST COMMENDATORY REMARKS WERE MADE CONCERNING HIM. PERSONALLY, I HAVE BEEN SINGULARLY IMPRESSED BY HIS PERSONALITY, HIS MATURITY, PERSONAL APPEARANCE, AND WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE A SINCERE DESIRE TO RETURN TO VIET-NAM. HE IS IN DIRE FINANCIAL NEED; HE IS LIVING WITH ANOTHER VIETNAMESE STUDENT IN A SMALL ROOM, WHERE BOTH DO THEIR OWN COOKING. HE IS HUSBANDING HIS SMALL SAVINGS THAT HE WAS ABLE TO EFFECTUATE FROM HIS FULBRIGHT--THIS, OF COURSE, EXPIRED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

AS TO THE EXPECTED TERMINATION OF CHUNG'S DOCTORAL WORK, PROFESSOR WEINTRAUB STATED THAT HE SHOULD FINISH WELL BEFORE JUNE 30, 1962, EVERYTHING ELSE BEING EQUAL, OF COURSE. PHAM CHUNG IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A TOPIC FOR HIS DISSERTATION IN THE AREA OF FINANCE AND CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT. HIS GRASP OF MATHEMATICAL THOUGHT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO FULFILL THIS REQUIREMENT SO, ALL IN ALL, IT IS MY BELIEF THAT HE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE HIGH RANKING INDICATED.

NANG: DURING A PRIOR VISIT TO COLUMBIA, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF INTERVIEWING DO QUANG NANG, WHO IS A VERY QUIET, MODEST PERSON; YET HE REVEALS INNER STRENGTH. PROFESSOR GOODRICH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS INDICATED THAT, WHEN NANG FIRST ENROLLED IN THE DEPARTMENT, HE WAS DOING MARGINAL WORK, MEANING THAT HE WAS MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RETENTION AS A GRADUATE STUDENT, BUT HE FELT THAT EVERY STEP NANG HAD TAKEN ACADEMICALLY HAD BEEN AN UPWARD ONE. GOODRICH FEELS THAT PERHAPS NANG WILL NOT BECOME AN OUTSTANDING, WORLD-KNOWN ECONOMIST, BUT THAT HE CERTAINLY WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL ONE. ONE OF HIS COMMENTS WAS

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THAT CHUNG MIGHT NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING BRILLIANT BUT HE DOES HAVE DEPTH. IN GOING OVER HIS ACADEMIC RECORD WITH THE DEPARTMENTAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, I VERIFIED THE FACT THAT HIS WORK IS STEADILY IMPROVING AND THAT PERHAPS THERE WERE SEVERAL FACTORS THAT HAD IMPEDED A HIGHER ACADEMIC GRADE-POINT AVERAGE AT THE BEGINNING. THESE CAN BE MOST EASILY CLARIFIED AS LACK OF A FIRM FOUNDATION IN ENGLISH, PARTICULARLY IN DEALING WITH ABSTRACT IDEAS; A FINANCIAL SITUATION WHICH CONFINES HIM TO A VERY LIMITED AREA OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES; AND A TRAUMA--PERHAPS THE RESULT OF HIS WAR-TIME EXPERIENCES.

IN DISCUSSING THE EVENTS THAT MIGHT HAVE AFFECTED HIS EMOTIONAL CALMS, IT WAS REVEALED TO ME BY SEVERAL OF THE STAFF MEMBERS (INCLUDING PROFESSOR GOODRICH) THAT SOME TIME AGO, IN A CLASS IN BUSINESS CYCLES, NANG ASKED A QUESTION CONCERNING THE OCCURRENCE OF THESE IN PLANNED AND/OR COMMUNIST ECONOMIES. THE VISITING PROFESSOR FELT IT WAS A LOADED AND BAITING QUESTION AND PROCEEDED TO TAKE NANG TO TASK IN FRONT OF THE CLASS. IN SHORT, IT TOOK SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE NANG COULD RECOVER FROM WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN A DIRECT ACCUSATION, MADE PUBLICLY, THAT HE WAS A COMMUNIST.

REGARDING THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT, THE GRADUATE ADVISOR, MRS. MILLER (WHO HOLDS A HIGH POSITION IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES BECAUSE OF HER PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY), ASSURED ME THAT HER OFFICE HAD TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS CASE AND THAT, AS OF NOW, NANG HAS MADE WONDERFUL PROGRESS. SHE FELT THAT, IF HE HAD ANY TENDENCIES TO HARBOR RESENTMENT OR BECOME INTROVERTED, SUCH HAD NOW DISAPPEARED. WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM FURTHER, AND I WAS ASSURED THERE ARE TANGIBLE EVIDENCES OF HIS ADJUSTMENT, SUCH AS HIS VOLUNTEERING TO HELP OUT THEIR OFFICE IN A LIMITED WAY WITH OTHER FOREIGN STUDENTS.

IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO SAY THAT NANG RANKS "SECOND," FOR HE HAS INDICATED GREAT STRENGTH AND INTELLECTUAL TENACITY, EVEN WITH THE PROBLEMS HE HAS HAD TO FACE, INCLUDING EXTREME FINANCIAL NEED, A CULTURAL SHOCK BROUGHT ABOUT BY A PERHAPS CARELESS PROFESSOR, AND HIS ORIGINAL LACK OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY. PERSONALLY, I HAVE BECOME VERY FOND OF NANG AND FEEL THAT HE IS A SINCERE, COMMITTED PERSON.

LONG: NGUYEN HUI LONG WAS INTERVIEWED AT SCRANTON (PENNSYLVANIA); IN ADDITION TO SPENDING TIME WITH LONG, I HAD A LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH DR. SENKER, HIS MAJOR ADVISOR AND HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, WHO INDICATED HE WOULD RECOMMEND LONG WITHOUT QUALIFICATION FOR GRADUATE WORK. ACTUALLY, LONG HAS FINISHED HIS BACHELOR'S, BUT, BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL NEEDS, THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION (WHICH FEELS SO WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD LONG) HAS GIVEN HIM THE CHANCE OF REMAINING UNTIL JANUARY. IN THE MEANTIME, HE HAS TAKEN SOME GRADUATE COURSES NOW BEING OFFERED BY SCRANTON, AND HIS OVERALL ACADEMIC RECORD SHOWS AN ABOVE B AVERAGE. INQUIRING AS TO WHY THIS MIGHT NOT BE HIGHER, I FOUND HE WAS REQUIRED TO TAKE ALL OF THE LIBERAL ARTS ENGLISH COURSES, SUCH AS LITERATURE, ETC., AND HIS BACKGROUND IN THESE AREAS AND ORIGINAL DIFFICULTY IN ENGLISH KEPT HIS GRADE-POINT AVERAGE DOWN. PROFESSOR SENKER INDICATED



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THAT, ON THE SURFACE, THERE MIGHT BE SOME QUALMS ABOUT LONG'S ORAL ENGLISH, BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, HE FEELS HIS COMPREHENSION OF WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ENGLISH WAS ABOVE THAT OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN AT THIS STAGE. HE COMMENTED ON A PAPER LONG HAD WRITTEN ON INFLATION WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, WAS SO BRILLIANTLY WRITTEN IT WAS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SCHOOL'S MAGAZINE. LONG'S DEPARTMENT ADVISORS INDICATED LONG SPENT MORE HOURS ON STUDYING THAN POSSIBLY IS NECESSARY.

FATHER KELLEY, DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY, STATED TO ME THAT "THERE IS NO PERSON I WOULD RECOMMEND ANY HIGHER." DEAN KELLEY TOLD ME HE HAD EXPRESSED TO FATHER JACQUES (CATHOLIC ADVISOR FOR THE VIETNAMESE IN THE UNITED STATES) THAT, ACTUALLY, THEY HAD BEEN TOO HARD ON LONG AND THAT, KNOWING NOW HIS ABILITY AND PROFICIENCY, THEY COULD HAVE ACCEPTED MORE OF HIS CREDITS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SAIGON.

BECAUSE LONG HAS NOT HAD THE GRADUATE WORK OF THE OTHER TWO, I HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RANK HIM "THIRD."

TRAN QUI THANH: DURING THIS SAME TRIP, WHICH INCLUDED STOPS IN WASHINGTON, PHILADELPHIA, SCRANTON, NEW YORK, AND BOSTON, I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INTEREST AND ACADEMIC PURSUITS OF TRAN QUI THANH. I FOUND HIM IN HIS APARTMENT IN WASHINGTON, WHERE HE IS DOING SOME RESEARCH NOW, ASSIDUOUSLY STUDYING FOR HIS PRELIMINARIES WHICH HE WILL TAKE AT CORNELL SHORTLY AND AFTER WHICH HE PLANS TO DO RESEARCH ON HIS DISSERTATION IN BOSTON AT HARVARD AND IN WASHINGTON AT THE WORLD BANK. I COULD NOT DETERMINE ANY REASON WHY HE MIGHT NOT RETURN TO VIET-NAM NOR ANY INDICATION THAT HE MAY HEDGE ON HIS COMMITMENTS.

TRAN NGOC PHAT: IN BOSTON I VISITED SEVERAL HOURS WITH TRAN NGOC PHAT AND FOUND HIM MAKING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS ACADEMICALLY. HE HAS MOVED TO PERKINS HALL, WHERE HE IS SHARING A ROOM WITH AN AMERICAN STUDENT. AS YOU HAVE BEEN AWARE IN THE PAST, PHAT HAS HIS UPS AND DOWNS, PARTICULARLY WITH HIS CONCERN OVER THE ROLE HE MIGHT PLAY UPON HIS RETURN. I COMMENTED CASUALLY ON HIS EXTENSION FROM VIET-NAM FOR THIS YEAR, AND THIS SEEMED TO TOUCH OFF AN EXPLOSIVE REACTION. HE FEELS THAT, IF THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET-NAM IS INTERESTED IN HIS PURSUING AN ACADEMIC CAREER, THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE KEPT IN SUSPENSE. I GAVE HIM MY ASSURANCE THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY A ROUTINE MATTER AND THAT I WOULD INDICATE TO YOU I WAS SATISFIED WITH HIS PROGRESS AND THAT HE HAS A KEEN DESIRE TO TEACH UPON HIS RETURN TO VIET-NAM.

VIET-NAM PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: HAVING RETURNED SATURDAY, I WAS NOT ABLE TO HAVE A MEETING UNTIL MONDAY MORNING WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HERE ON CAMPUS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR REACTIONS TO SOME OF MY FINDINGS AND ALSO WHATEVER COMMENTS THEY MIGHT WISH TO MAKE.

I DISCUSSED WITH THEM THE MATTER OF MRS. BACH-LAN AS A RESULT OF THE LETTER FROM PROFESSOR TRUMAN, A COPY OF WHICH WE SENT TO YOU, AND IT IS A CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP--AND I CERTAINLY CONCUR--THAT MRS. BACH-LAN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHIFT TO A LITERATURE MAJOR. ALSO, THAT, IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR HER

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TO FINISH A MASTERS, SAY BY JANUARY, IT BE RECOMMENDED SHE BE ALLOWED TO DO THIS. WE ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED OVER HER DISTORTED VIEWS ON THIS WHOLE CASE (ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF HER MOST RECENT LETTER). THE GROUP IS NOT CONVINCED OF HER COMPLETE SINCERENESS ABOUT RETURNING TO VIET-NAM. THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT MSUG AND THE NIA TAKE THE PROPER STEPS TO TERMINATE MRS. BACH-LAN BY THE END OF JANUARY IF SHE CAN FINISH HER MASTER'S; IF NOT, THEN BEFORE THAT TIME.

I VISITED WITH PROFESSOR TRUMAN CONCERNING MRS. BACH-LAN, AND HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD EXCEPT TO STATE THAT HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO HANDLE HER AS DIPLOMATICALLY AS POSSIBLE (WHICH HE CERTAINLY HAS DONE) AND THAT, PERSONALLY, HE FELT IT WAS UP TO HER TO CHOOSE A TOPIC FOR A PAPER TO FINISH HER MASTER'S AND TAKE ALL OF THE INITIATIVE IN MAKING THE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE INDICATED TREMENDOUS CONCERN BECAUSE THE THREE PROSPECTIVE PH.D. PARTICIPANTS, WHICH I INTERVIEWED, WERE NOT POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS. NATURALLY, THEY FEEL THAT WE NEED STUDENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE.

SINCE THE THREE SELECTED ARE EITHER IN ECONOMICS OR BUSINESS, THEY FELT THAT, IF THERE WERE OTHERS WHO MIGHT RANK ABOVE THESE (AND SUCH COMPARISON IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE), THEN PERHAPS THESE THREE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEED THROUGH USON-ICA'S OWN PARTICIPANT PROGRAM. PERSONALLY, I FEEL THAT IT IS WELL TO HAVE A WELL-TRAINED PERSON IN ECONOMICS OR BUSINESS AND ONE WHO HAS DISPLAYED QUALIFICATIONS FOR SUCCESS TOWARDS A DOCTORATE--MORESO THAN A PERSON IN THE FIELD DESIRED WHO MIGHT NOT BE AS WELL-QUALIFIED.

PROFESSOR FISHEL ASKED THAT I CONTACT MR. KHAMM IN WASHINGTON AND FATHER JACQUES IN CHICAGO TO SEE WHETHER THEY HAVE ANY PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA OF POLITICAL SCIENCE.

PROFESSOR LAPALOMBARA'S VISIT TO VIET-NAM WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH THE IDEA THAT JOE COULD BEGIN TO OBTAIN VARIOUS COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE CONCERNING HIS SHORT-TERM DUTY IN VIET-NAM SOMETIME IN JANUARY. IN THIS WAY, HE MIGHT HAVE A BETTER IDEA AS TO WHAT PROGRAMS WILL BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE, WHAT COMMITMENTS SHOULD BE MET, WHAT FIELDS SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED, WHETHER WE SHOULD CONTINUE AS A PRE-ENTRY PROGRAM, WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE A POST-ENTRY PROGRAM, WHETHER THE NIA IS MEETING THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, ETC.

WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT THIS LETTER WILL SUFFICE SO THAT YOU CAN HAVE ADDED INFORMATION IN MAKING YOUR SELECTION. WE SHALL BE MOST INTERESTED TO HEAR FROM YOU.

RVA:JR  
ENCLOSURES (BACH-LAN LETTER)

*This letter mailed separately*

OCTOBER 7, 1960

TO LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT EXAMINATION OF PH.D. CANDIDATES

ON OCTOBER 5 WE SENT YOU A SEPARATE LETTER COVERING AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE MY EXAMINATION OF THE THREE PROSPECTIVE PH.D. PARTICIPANTS. FURTHER, I ALSO INFORMED YOU, I BELIEVE, THAT WES FISHEL HAD SUGGESTED THAT FATHER JACQUES BE CONTACTED AND ALSO MR. KHANH OF THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY. WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD FROM MR. KHANH, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MADE CONSISTENT EFFORTS TO CONTACT HIM BY TELEPHONE.

FATHER JACQUES HAS ANSWERED US BY TELEPHONE AND BY LETTER. BY 'PHONE, HE EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT MR. NGUYEN HUY LONG IS A MOST SUITABLE CANDIDATE. A COPY OF FATHER JACQUES' LETTER IS ENCLOSED.

IN SUMMARY, IN ANSWER TO YOUR OCTOBER 3 MEMO, IT IS MY FEELING THAT ALL THREE APPLICANTS INTERVIEWED POSSESS THE ACADEMIC BACKGROUND, SCHOLARLY QUALIFICATIONS, CAPACITY FOR GRADUATE WORK, PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD GRADUATE STUDIES, AND THE DESIRE TO TEACH AT THE NIA IN VIET-NAM.

NATURALLY, I DID NOT GIVE THEM A FORMAL, WRITTEN EXAMINATION, FEELING THAT A REVIEW OF THEIR RECORDS AT THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE AND/OR WITH THE DEPARTMENTS IN ADDITION TO MY ORAL EXAMINATION WOULD SUFFICE.

RVA:JR  
ENCLOSURE

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## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator      DATE : October 21, 1960

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

SUBJECT : New Ph.D. Examination Announcement

At a meeting between NIA and MSUG which concluded less than an hour ago, it was decided that another announcement for Ph.D. candidates would be issued. The plan is to have December 31 as the closing date on which applications will be received, and to open competition to candidates from the United States as well as from Vietnam. It is likely that there may be a relaxation of the upper age limit of 30, provided that a candidate is willing to accept the fact that, if successful, he will not be entitled to civil service retirement provisions.

At the meeting Chung was accepted unanimously as a Ph.D. participant, as per our cable S-30. Nang and Long were not seriously considered, partly because of the fact that they also are in the economics field. It was agreed that they and any other candidates from the States could apply for the second examination. A candidate named Hoang, pushed by the NIA, was finally turned down at this meeting because, upon re-examination, MSUG held to its original opinion that Hoang was not of adequate caliber. He, too, can apply for the second examination.

It was also agreed that both NIA and MSUG individuals would actively seek to interest outstanding candidates in the examination. Finally, the examination will be open to third-year students at the NIA and at the Faculty of Law.

In view of the concessions achieved at this meeting, we are hopeful that there will be a considerable improvement in the caliber of local applicants for these grants. Certain members of the NIA pushed very hard for Hoang not because they thought he was outstanding but simply because, politically, they felt it was bad to announce that no local candidates had succeeded in passing the examination.

IDM/dw

cc: Dr. Guy Fox



October 27, 1960

TO: Lloyd D. Musolf  
FROM: Ruben V. Austin  
SUBJECT: Ph.D. Examination Announcement

We appreciate the plan to have December 31 as the closing date for examining further Ph.D. candidates.

Shall we, from our office, notify Messrs. Hong and Long that they should apply for the second examination or will the HIA notify them directly?

We are gratified to know that the candidate named Hoang, who was being pushed by the HIA, was finally turned down.

This morning, Wes Fichel called me long-distance from Washington, and he told me that we had overlooked an excellent candidate in public administration, namely, Mr. Dien. His address is: Apartment 507, 1400 Fairmont Street, N.W., Washington 9, D.C. He has been working in the Viet-Nam Embassy for several years. In the meantime, he has been enrolled at the Georgetown University and had taken his comprehensive master's examination, but, because of a time lag, and in continuing with his work, these will have to be taken again in February. Wes has informed me that he has seen Mr. Dien's transcript, and that, on an overall basis, he has an excellent grade average. Although some courses indicate an incomplete, actually this work was completed, but the grade was not given since he did not continue with his work.

Mr. Dien is a brother-in-law of Nguyen Thai, who is, I understand, an official in the Viet-Nam Presidency in Saigon. This possible candidate is 27 years old, has been in the United States ten years, and has indicated to Wes a firm commitment to go back to Viet-Nam and work there after he completes his academic training. Should I have the opportunity, I will interview him, but I should like to hear from you officially concerning a notification whether an announcement of the extension of the examination for Ph.D. candidates should come from the HIA or from this office. If we should proceed, what documents should we transmit?

RVA:sf

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## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator      DATE : November 1, 1960

FROM : Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *LDm*

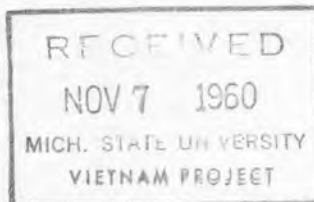
SUBJECT : Ph.D. Participants and the NIA after June, 1962

Referring to your memorandum of October 19, I think it may well be true that not all of the Ph.D. candidates now in the States will be members of the NIA faculty by June, 1962. You also have a good point in indicating that for those who will be in the NIA there may be a problem of lack of experience and maturity. One can add to this that the Ph.D. participants may encounter jealousy on the part of other NIA faculty members.

Our only point in mentioning the availability of the Ph.D. participants after June, 1962, is that the situation would be an improvement on the present and in that sense the NIA should probably expect some decrease in the number of advisors after that time. Incidentally, we have learned that the NIA expects to add to its faculty four Vietnamese who have been studying for their doctorat in France. It is anticipated that these will be added before June, 1962. If this actually comes about, you can see that, even if the American Ph.D.'s do not have the prestige we would like, the NIA will still be augmented as compared with the present time.

IDM/dw

cc: Guy Fox



NOVEMBER 11, 1960

TO LLOYD D. MUSOLF  
FROM RUBEN V. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT PH.D. PARTICIPANTS AFTER JUNE, 1962

IN DISCUSSING THE BEST METHOD OF HANDLING PH.D. PARTICIPANTS WHO MIGHT BE IN THE PROGRAM AFTER 1962, THE CONTRACT OFFICE INFORMED US THAT THIS IS SOMETHING GUS HERTZ SHOULD EXPLORE. ONE SUGGESTION THAT HAD BEEN MADE WAS THAT A CONTRACT BE DRAWN WITH MSU TO HANDLE THE THREE OR FOUR PH.D. PARTICIPANTS WHO MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE UNDER PROJECT AUSPICES AFTER JUNE 30, 1962. THE CONTRACT OFFICE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE WAY TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM, BUT RATHER THAT PIO/P'S MIGHT BE IN ORDER. AT ANY RATE, MR. HERTZ IS TO PRESENT THE RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONTRACT OFFICE, AND I AM SURE HE WILL COMMUNICATE WITH USOM ON THIS MATTER.

RVA:JR

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

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COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

NOVEMBER 11, 1960

TO           LLOYD D. MISOLF  
FROM         RUBEN Y. AUSTIN  
SUBJECT      MESSRS. DIEN, LONG, AND NANG

WE HAVE NOTIFIED THESE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES OF THE RE-OPENING OF THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BY THE NIA; ALTHOUGH IT WOULD PROBABLY CARRY A GREATER DEGREE OF EMPHASIS IF THEY WERE TO HEAR FROM THE NIA DIRECTLY, ADVISING THEM INFORMALLY AS WE HAVE DONE SHOULD RENEW THEIR INTEREST.

THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE QUESTION ON TRANSFERRING THE GRANT FROM BACH-LAN TO NANG. I APPRECIATE THE REASONS, WHICH ARE CERTAINLY VALID.

RYA:JR