

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lloyd D. Musolf
FROM: Guy H. Fox *GHF*
SUBJECT: Prospective Participants

DATE: January 12, 1961

Below is a list of the Ph.D. candidates who have made, or who are expected to make, applications from the United States:

1. Phan Thien Chau
2. Nguyen Xuan Dien
3. Huynh K. Khanh
4. Nguyen Tien Hung
5. Do Quang Nang
6. Ngo Dinh Tu
7. Nguyen Hui Long

The only applications which are complete are those of Chau, Nang and Tu. Since writing my memo to you yesterday all of Chau's materials have been received. ~~However,~~ Long's application is completed except for a letter restating his willingness to work for the NIA.

In the case of Messrs. Dien, Khanh and Hung, we have as yet received no materials whatsoever.

It is not known whether or not the Vietnamese Embassy in the U.S. has received applications which will be forwarded to the NIA.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Ruben Austin

DATE: January 12, 1961

FROM: Lloyd Musolf *LDM*

SUBJECT: Stateside Participant Candidates

Attached you will find a ^{two}~~thermofax of a~~ ^a memorandum written to me by Guy Fox at my request summarizing the present situation as to the applications made by Stateside candidates for the series of participant grants. Very shortly there will be meetings to choose the successful candidates. Meanwhile, my cable S46 will have alerted you to the fact that materials are still missing for a number of Stateside candidates. I hope you have been able to get action with regard to the parties involved.

LDM:pp

Attachment



JANUARY 13, 1961

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

JIM HENDRY WILL BE FOLLOWING THROUGH ON THE PARTICIPANTS, AS REQUESTED IN YOUR S-47. WE APPRECIATE KNOWING THAT THE NIA HANDLED CHAU, BUT JIM WILL STILL OBTAIN WHATEVER INFORMATION IS APPROPRIATE AND AVAILABLE. A REPORT WILL BE GIVEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE--HE WILL BEGIN HIS INVESTIGATION MONDAY MORNING.

RVA:JR

Saigon, January 17, 1961

To : Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf
Chief Advisor, MSUG

Subject : Selection of 1961 Ph.D. candidates

Reference: Your letter dated October 29, 1960

Dear Mr. Chief Advisor:

Approving the proposals of your Group in above-mentioned letter dated October 29, 1960, the NIA issued a communique No.4029-HVHC/TN dated November 7, 1960 to call candidates applying for 1961 Ph.D. scholarships in the U.S. After the deadline for receiving applications set for December 31, 1960; the NIA received 22 more applications from candidates in Viet-Nam and 4 from candidates residing in the U.S.

Concerning the selection of candidates, the NIA proposes the following procedure:

1. For candidates in Viet-Nam:

- On January 31, 1961 and February 1, 1961: MSUG will examine candidates to eliminate those who do not have an adequate knowledge of English.
- On February 2, 1961: MSUG will examine the general capacity of the remaining candidates and proposes to the NIA those candidates it considers able to follow the Ph.D. program.
- On February 3, 1961: The NIA will examine candidates proposed by MSUG and will meet with the latter to make the ultimate decision.

2. For candidates in the U.S.:

- MSUG will ask Dr. Austin to interview these candidates and inform the NIA of his opinion.

Sincerely Yours,
Vũ-Quốc-Thông

c.c. the Director
General of Planning
"for information"



JANUARY 20, 1961

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN
SUBJECT: STATESIDE PARTICIPANT CANDIDATES

WE SHOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MEMOS ENCLOSED ON THIS SUBJECT AND ALSO THE NOTIFICATION FROM GUY THAT THE MATERIALS FOR MR. CHAU HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. I AMLL HAVE JIM HENDRY REVIEW, UPON HIS RETURN FROM HIS TRIP WHICH DEALS MAINLY WITH INTERVIEWING THESE PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS, THIS CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS CONCERNING IT.

RVA:sf

10³

*File
Allen*

JANUARY 20, 1961

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: JAMES B. HENDRY
SUBJECT: Ph.D. PARTICIPANT CANDIDATES

OVER THE LAST FOUR DAYS, I HAVE BEEN ON A TRIP TO VARIOUS POINTS TO INTERVIEW THE FOUR CANDIDATES FOR EXISTING OPENINGS AS Ph.D. PARTICIPANTS MENTIONED IN YOUR CABLE, S-46--HUYNH K. KHANH, NGUYEN XUAN DIEN, NGUYEN THIEN HUNG, AND PHAN THIEN CHAU. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DIEN, FOR REASONS WHICH WILL BE INDICATED BELOW, I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW FACULTY MEMBERS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE WORK OF THESE CANDIDATES. AT THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERVIEW, I INSTRUCTED EACH CANDIDATE TO FORWARD TRANSCRIPTS, LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, AND A LETTER TO RECTOR THONG TO THE EAST LANSING OFFICE SO THAT WE CAN FORWARD ALL OF THESE MATERIALS DIRECTLY TO YOU AS SOON AS ALL HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE CULTURAL ATTACHE OF THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, I ALSO AGREED THAT ALL OTHER MATERIALS RELEVANT TO THE APPLICATION OF EACH CANDIDATE SHOULD BE FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO THE NIA THROUGH THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY. THIS DIVISION OF LABOR REGARDING THE VARIOUS REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION WAS MADE LARGELY AT THE WISH AND SUGGESTION OF THE CULTURAL ATTACHE. WITH LUCK, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FORWARD THE NECESSARY PAPERS WHICH COME TO OUR OFFICE WITHIN ANOTHER TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS.

AFTER TALKING WITH EACH OF THE CANDIDATES, I HAVE COME UP WITH A CLEAR IDEA IN MY OWN MIND OF THE PRIORITIES I WOULD ASSIGN TO EACH CANDIDACY, BUT THESE PRIORITIES ARE LIMITED TO THE FOUR PERSONS I INTERVIEWED ON THIS TRIP. I HAVE NOT MET AND TALKED WITH ANY OF THE OTHERS WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED OR WHO HAVE ALREADY APPLIED. THESE PRIORITIES, AND MY REASONS FOR THEM, ARE GIVEN BELOW:

1. HUYNH K. KHANH--MR. KHANH WAS, BY FAR, THE MOST IMPRESSIVE OF THE GROUP, AND I WOULD RANK HIM AS A VERY FINE PROSPECT FOR A FUTURE MEMBER OF THE NIA FACULTY. HE HAS COMPLETED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT JOHNS HOPKINS WITH A GOOD ACADEMIC RECORD. I AM TOLD HE COULD HAVE IMPROVED HIS PERFORMANCE HAD HE NOT BECOME THOROUGHLY INVOLVED IN STUDENT AFFAIRS WHILE AT HOPKINS. HE HAS SPENT THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR AT LEHIGH UNIVERSITY, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, AND EXPECTS TO COMPLETE A MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BY JUNE OF THIS YEAR. HIS RECORD AT LEHIGH HAS BEEN VERY GOOD, AND HIS ADVISOR IS PUSHING HIS APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE SO THAT HE MAY CONTINUE HIS GRADUATE WORK, EITHER IN THE US OR ABROAD. HIS ADVISOR, DR. CAREY B. JOYNT, CHAIRMAN OF THE

LLOYD D. MUSOLF
JANUARY 20, 1961
PAGE TWO

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TOLD ME THAT HE HAS DONE FINE WORK ON HIS THESIS THUS FAR, AND FEELS THAT HE IS AN EXTREMELY ABLE AND TALENTED YOUNG MAN. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET A MORE ENTHUSIASTIC RECOMMENDATION THAN THE ONE GIVEN BY PROFESSOR JOYNT FOR MR. KHANH.

MR. KHANH IS A VERY MATURE, SELF-POSSESSED PERSON. HE IS QUICK AND INTELLIGENT IN HIS CONVERSATION. HE EXPRESSED A STRONG DESIRE TO WORK FOR HIS GOVERNMENT IN ANY CAPACITY IN WHICH THEY WOULD WISH TO UTILIZE HIS BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE. ALTHOUGH HIS INTEREST HAS BEEN IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THUS FAR, HE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE HIS GRADUATE WORK WITH A MAJOR OR MINOR IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF A DOCTORATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. THERE SEEMED NO DOUBT AT ALL IN HIS SINCERITY IN WISHING TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF THE NIA, AND ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION OF HIS ABILITY TO ASSUME FURTHER GRADUATE WORK.

2. NGUYEN XUAN DIEN--MR. DIEN HAS BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR SOME YEARS, IS THOROUGHLY FLUENT IN ENGLISH, AND IS A VERY SELF-ASSURED YOUNG MAN IN MOST RESPECTS. HE HAS AN A.B. FROM GEORGETOWN, RECEIVED IN 1955, WITH A MAJOR IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. PRIOR TO THIS, HE HAD ALSO ATTENDED CANISIUS (1950-52), AND ALSO HAD A BRIEF PERIOD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT, AND IN BOTH OF THESE SCHOOLS HIS TRAINING WAS IN THE FIELD OF ENGINEERING. HE LATER DROPPED THIS INTEREST IN ORDER TO PURSUE HIS INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT GEORGETOWN. HE ALSO HAS MOST OF HIS WORK COMPLETED TOWARD A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. THE COURSE WORK WAS DONE IN 1955-56, BUT HE HAS HAD TO RETURN THIS PAST SEPTEMBER FOR SOME ADDITIONAL WORK, SINCE THERE HAS BEEN A PROBLEM OF CREDIT FOR COURSES TAKEN BUT NOT COMPLETED AT THE EARLIER PERIOD. THERE ARE ALSO PROBLEMS BECAUSE SOME OF HIS EARLIER INSTRUCTORS HAVE NOW LEFT GEORGE WASHINGTON, AND HIS ADVISOR ON THESIS IS CURRENTLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HE HOPES, HOWEVER, THAT ALL OF THESE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WILL BE CLEARED UP AND HE WILL GET HIS DEGREE IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR. SINCE THERE ARE NO INSTRUCTORS AT GEORGE WASHINGTON WHO ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH HIS WORK OF THE EARLIER PERIOD, I DID NOT ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW ANY OF THE FACULTY AT THIS TIME.

I BELIEVE THAT DIEN WOULD MAKE A GOOD ADDITION TO THE FACULTY, BECAUSE HE EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, INDICATED AN AWARENESS OF THE CRITICAL ROLE WHICH THIS HAS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY, AND EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO CONTINUE WITH HIS GRADUATE WORK IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REGARDLESS OF HIS ACCEPTANCE OR NON-ACCEPTANCE UNDER THIS NIA-MSU PROGRAM.

AS OF THIS WRITING, HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT ACTUALLY DECIDED THAT HE WILL SUBMIT HIS APPLICATION, SINCE HE HAS MENTAL RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF TIME HE WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO SERVE THE NIA SHOULD HE BE GIVEN A POSITION AS A PH.D. PARTICIPANT. SHOULD HE DECIDE TO MAKE APPLICATION, HE WOULD BE THE ONE CANDIDATE OF THE FOUR INTERVIEWED CONCERNING WHOM I HAVE DOUBTS ON GROUNDS OF WILLINGNESS TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. HE IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY INFORMS ME THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAS A JOB WITH THEM AND CAN CONTINUE TO HOLD THIS POSITION AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VIETNAMESE PRESS, HE IS KNOWN AMONG VIETNAMESE IN WASHINGTON TO BE RELUCTANT TO RETURN TO VIETNAM.

LLOYD D. MUSOLF
JANUARY 20, 1961
PAGE THREE

THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE MULTIPLE, BUT IMPORTANT AMONG THEM IS THE FACT THAT HE HAS TIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND HAS A JOB WHICH PAYS HIM A FAIRLY DECENT SALARY AT THE PRESENT TIME.

I WOULD RANK HIM SECOND MOST ELIGIBLE OF THESE FOUR INTERVIEWEES BECAUSE OF HIS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION INTEREST AND BACKGROUND AND THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION WHICH HE GIVES. I WOULD RANK HIM FOURTH IN TERMS OF EXPECTATIONS OF RETURN TO VIETNAM. AS OF THIS DATE, WE HAVE HAD NO STRONG INDICATION FROM HIM THAT HE HAS RESOLVED THE DOUBTS IN HIS MIND CONCERNING HIS RETURN.

3. NGUYEN THIEN HUNG--MR. HUNG IS CURRENTLY COMPLETING HIS MASTER'S DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WHERE HE HAS BEEN SINCE 1958. HE IS 25 YEARS OLD, SOMEWHAT YOUNGER THAN THE FIRST TWO INTERVIEWEES. I WAS ABLE TO TALK WITH PROFESSORS YAGER, SNAVELY, AND BUCHANAN OF THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, THE LATTER CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT. ALL GAVE HIM VERY GOOD RECOMMENDATIONS, AND INDICATED THAT HE HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT DURING HIS STAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA. HE IS APPARENTLY QUITE STRONG IN MATHEMATICAL ECONOMICS AND WEAKER IN THE INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS AS THEY APPLY TO THE UNITED STATES. ALL HAVE NO HESITANCY IN RECOMMENDING HIM FOR FURTHER GRADUATE WORK AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL CUT ABOVE THE USUAL STUDENTS COMING FROM THE FAR EAST TO DO GRADUATE WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA. HIS GRADUATE RECORD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA IS IN THE VICINITY OF B+ TO A-.

MR. HUNG HAS ALSO BEEN ACTING AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES, AND HAS ALSO SERVED IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WHILE A STUDENT IN VIETNAM. HE CURRENTLY HOLDS A GRANT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WHICH PAYS HIM SOMETHING BUT WHICH DOES NOT ELIMINATE HIS FINANCIAL WORRIES. THE DEPARTMENT IS WILLING TO CONTINUE THIS ASSISTANCE, BUT THEIR ABILITY TO EXTEND MORE IS LIMITED, AND THE SMALLNESS OF THE GRANT IS IN NO WAY A REFLECTION ON HUNG'S PERFORMANCE TO DATE.

I WOULD RANK HUNG THE THIRD MOST DESIRABLE CANDIDATE ON TWO GROUNDS: THE FIRST THAT HE IS SOMEWHAT LESS MATURE AND LESS SELF-ASSURED THAN THE FIRST TWO, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY CHANGE WITH TIME; AND, SECONDLY, THAT HE EXPRESSES AN INTEREST IN ECONOMICS WHICH IS LESS OF A PRIORITY AT THE PRESENT TIME THAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. HUNG INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SHIFT HIS FIELD AND GO INTO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, IF THIS WERE NECESSARY AND IF AN AWARD OF PARTICIPANT STATUS DEPENDED UPON IT. THIS MAY REQUIRE A SOMEWHAT LONGER PERIOD TO PICK UP THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SOME REVERSAL OF FIELD ON HUNG'S PART, BUT HE DID SAY THAT HE WAS WILLING TO MAKE THE CHANGE IF NECESSARY.

4. PHAN THIEN CHAU--MR. CHAU IS THE YOUNGEST OF THE FOUR, AND IS CURRENTLY FINISHING HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT MARION COLLEGE IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA. HE HAS BEEN MAJORING IN ECONOMICS, BUT THE PROGRAM IS A FLEXIBLE ONE, AND HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO GO ON INTO GRADUATE STUDY EITHER IN ECONOMICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, OR POLITICAL SCIENCE. THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT AND THE DEAN OF MEN OF THE COLLEGE BOTH GAVE HIM GOOD

LLOYD D. MUSOLF
JANUARY 20, 1961
PAGE FOUR

RECOMMENDATIONS, AND BOTH SAID THEY FELT HE WAS CAPABLE OF DOING GRADUATE WORK. HE IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE THE GRADUATE RECORD EXAM THIS WEEK, AND THIS WILL GIVE A BETTER INDICATION THAN HIS RECORD TO DATE. HIS ACADEMIC RECORD IS ABOVE A "B" AVERAGE, BUT HE HAS SHOWN CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT SINCE FIRST STARTING AT THE COLLEGE. ALTHOUGH SHY AND RETIRING AT FIRST, HE HAS GRADUALLY COME OUT OF HIS SHELL AND HAS EVEN BEEN ELECTED TREASURER OF THE STUDENT BODY. CHAU EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE A GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IF THIS WERE NECESSARY, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT PARTICULARLY CONSIDERED PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AS A FIELD OF INTEREST PRIOR TO HIS APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPANT STATUS. HE HAS A BROTHER WHO IS CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES AND REPORTEDLY MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND ALSO HAS A SISTER WHO WORKS FOR MSUG IN SAIGON. I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FACULTY MEMBERS I INTERVIEWED WERE UNCERTAIN OF THEIR ABILITY TO JUDGE CAPACITY FOR GRADUATE WORK, BECAUSE THEY FELT THE STUDENT BODY AT MARION WAS NOT THE IDEAL BASIS FOR COMPARISON. WHILE CHAU IS AN EXTREMELY GOOD STUDENT IN COMPARISON WITH HIS CONTEMPORARIES AT MARION, BOTH FACULTY MEMBERS ADMITTED THAT THIS MIGHT REFLECT THE FACT THAT HE IS A MORE CONSCIENTIOUS STUDENT THAN HIS CONTEMPORARIES RATHER THAN THAT HE IS NATURALLY BRIGHTER.

MY OWN IMPRESSION OF CHAU, FROM JUST TALKING WITH HIM, WAS THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY DO WELL IN GRADUATE SCHOOL, SINCE HE SEEMED MOTIVATED TO WORK HARD AND TO ATTAIN A GRADUATE DEGREE, BUT HE SEEMED BY FAR THE LEAST MATURE OF THE FOUR INTERVIEWED. THIS SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE HELD AGAINST HIM, EXCEPT THAT FOR PURPOSES OF CHOOSING CANDIDATES WHO ARE NEEDED AT THE NIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HE SEEMS TO HAVE FARTHEST TO GO BEFORE ACHIEVING THE POISE AND ASSURANCE A FACULTY MEMBER OF THE NIA OUGHT TO HAVE.

IN CONCLUSION, MY IMPRESSION IS THAT ALL FOUR OF THE CANDIDATES WOULD MAKE ACCEPTABLE PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE PH.D. PROGRAM, AND I BELIEVE THAT ALL FOUR OF THEM WILL CONTINUE IN GRADUATE WORK IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, AND WILL PROBABLY SUCCEED. IN FACT, IT WAS VERY HEARTENING TO FIND THAT FACULTY MEMBERS GENERALLY SEEMED TO BE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE VIETNAMESE AND COMPARE THEM FAVORABLY WITH OTHER FOREIGN STUDENTS.

MR. KHANH, AT THE EMBASSY, INDICATED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD HAVE NO OPPOSITION TO KHANH, HUNG, OR CHAU ON ANY GROUNDS, BUT THAT HE WAS STILL UNCERTAIN AS TO DIEN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD A CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENT TO SERVE THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT FOR TEN YEARS. IF DIEN DECIDES THAT HE DOES WANT TO MAKE APPLICATION, THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY MAY STILL GIVE HIM CLEARANCE. THIS IS SIMPLY TO INDICATE THAT, AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE IS SOME DOUBT THAT DIEN IS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN RETURNING TO VIETNAM.

I DID NOT ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW NGO DINH TU, BECAUSE HIS NAME DID NOT APPEAR AMONG THOSE IN THE CABLE. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT HAVE A PERSONAL INTERVIEW ON HIM AT ALL AND HAVE NO WAY OF RANKING HIM WITH THE FOUR DISCUSSED IN THIS MEMO.

LLOYD D. MUSOLF
JANUARY 20, 1961
PAGE FIVE

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to raise the question concerning participant examinations which your S-6 said would be given in Saigon from January 30 through February 3. We, here, have no plans to administer, or have administered on our behalf, the type of examination which you forwarded in your memo to Dr. Austin on October 3, 1960. The reason is that all of the people interviewed in this country have already had some training in American universities or colleges, and, therefore, we have fairly certain evaluations of their capacity from faculty who have had them in classes. Admittedly, it is difficult to weigh faculty recommendations from institutions as varied as, say, the University of Virginia and Marion College. Still, it is already a matter of record that the interviewees discussed above have achieved certain levels of proficiency in competition with American students. This eliminates any doubts as to their capacity to pursue university graduate work in this country, although it does not, in all cases, mean that it is a simple matter to assign priorities among them. For these reasons, we do not currently plan to administer any further written examinations to candidates in this country unless the NIA specifically requires that this be done. It is our hope that you can dissuade the NIA from this should the point arise.

Two final points: One is that I do not plan to make a special trip to personally interview Mr. Tu unless you think that this is particularly necessary; the other is that the Vietnamese Embassy told me that they have no applications on file other than those of which you are already aware.

JEM:SF

JANUARY 20, 1961

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: RUBEN V. AUSTIN
SUBJECT: YOUR CABLE S-47

IN ORDER TO HAVE THE PROPER PROCEDURES FOLLOWED, AS WE HAVE WITH OTHER PH.D. CANDIDATES, IT SEEMED PRUDENT TO HAVE JIM HENDRY INTERVIEW ALL OF THE CANDIDATES MENTIONED IN YOUR CABLE AND, IN THAT MANNER, EXPEDITE THE OBTAINING OF THE DOCUMENTS, ETC.

I SAW JIM FOR A FEW MINUTES WHEN OUR PATHS CROSSED IN WASHINGTON, AND HE HAD INTERVIEWED DIEN AND CONFERRED WITH MR. KHANH, CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER AT THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY.

RVA:sf

14/3

JANUARY 26, 1961

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: JAMES B. HENDRY
SUBJECT: PHAN THIEN CHAU

ATTACHED IS A COPY OF A LETTER RECEIVED FROM MR. PHAN THIEN CHAU, WHOSE APPLICATION FOR A PARTICIPANT GRANT TO PURSUE A PH.D. PROGRAM HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED WITH THE NIA. HE APPARENTLY IS ANXIOUS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS WILLING TO PURSUE A PROGRAM IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, ALTHOUGH HIS UNDERGRADUATE WORK HAS BEEN MAINLY IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS.

IT SEEMS MORE APPROPRIATE TO FORWARD THIS LETTER TO YOU AT THE PRESENT TIME RATHER THAN TO INCLUDE IT WITH THE OTHER MATERIAL WHICH WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE FROM THE OTHER CANDIDATES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

JBH:sf
ENCLOSURE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

February 2, 1961

To: Professor James Hendry, Acting Coordinator, Vietnam Project
From: John T. Dorsey, Jr., Acting Department Head
Subject: Attached Letter Concerning Mr. Pham Van Trinh

Attached is a copy of a letter we have just received concerning a Vietnamese student who is interested in studying in this country. Before going into the matter of an assistantship in this department, I thought perhaps you might wish to consider him for a participant grant. If so, please feel free to communicate directly with Saidel. If not, let me know and I will write to suggest that he apply for an assistantship.

JTD:jm

Enclosure

*replied negative by phone - 2/3/61
JTD*

Hing

FEBRUARY 6, 1961

TO LLOYD D. MUSOLF, CHIEF ADVISOR
FROM JAMES B. HENDRY, ACTING COORDINATOR
SUBJECT PH.D. PARTICIPANTS

IN REPLY TO YOUR S-9, INDICATING THAT THE NIA IS SEEKING SOME EXPLANATION FOR PARTICIPANT APPLICANTS NOT MEETING THE DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE, A SEARCH OF OUR FILES REVEALS THE FOLLOWING CHAIN OF EVENTS:

1. IN OCTOBER OF 1960, THIS OFFICE FORWARDED SOME SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED FROM FATHER JACQUES, AS WELL AS OTHER SOURCES, AND ALSO RECEIVED A MEMO FROM YOU, DATED OCTOBER 3, REQUESTING THAT SOMEONE FROM THIS OFFICE MAKE A COMPARATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE THREE CANDIDATES THEN BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED, NAMELY, CHUNG, LONG, AND NANG.

2. ON OCTOBER 21 YOUR MEMO INDICATED THAT CHUNG WAS ACCEPTED BUT THAT NANG AND LONG WERE NO LONGER BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THEY WERE ALSO IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS. THIS SAME MEMO STATED THAT DECEMBER 31 WAS PLANNED AS THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS FROM CANDIDATES BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM AND THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO INTEREST THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS AT THE NIA AND THE FACULTY OF LAW IN APPLYING WITH THE HOPE OF ATTRACTING SOME OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES.

3. THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION IN THE STATES CONCERNING APPLICATIONS AND DEADLINE DATES WAS APPARENTLY HANDLED BY THE NIA, SINCE THIS OFFICE CONTINUED TO DO NOTHING MORE THAN FURNISH NAMES TO YOU OF INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES WHO MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR THE PROGRAM, AS, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR SUGGESTIONS ON DIEN (RUBEN'S OCTOBER 27 MEMO) AND TU (NAME SUPPLIED TO US IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH TRUONG BUU KHANH, CULTURAL ATTACHE AT THE EMBASSY OF VIETNAM IN WASHINGTON).

4. A LETTER INVITING MR. TU TO MAKE HIS APPLICATION WAS SENT ON NOVEMBER 11, NOTICE OF WHICH WAS SENT TO YOU ON NOVEMBER 18. MR. TU WROTE TO US, SAYING THAT HE HAD APPLIED DIRECTLY TO MR. THONG AT THE NIA AND, PRESUMABLY, AWAITED FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM RECTOR THONG CONCERNING COMPLETION OF HIS APPLICATION.

5. ON DECEMBER 14, MR. HUYNH K. KHANH SENT US A LETTER SAYING HE HAD HEARD OF THE PARTICIPANT OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MR. KHANH OF THE EMBASSY; THIS LETTER WAS FORWARDED TO YOU IN A LETTER FROM US DATED DECEMBER 19.

AT THIS POINT, IT SEEMS THAT THE ONLY EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE WAS NOT MET IS THAT, IN SOME CASES, THE NIA FAILED TO SUPPLY THE

LDM
PAGE 2
FEBRUARY 6, 1961

NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPENINGS OR THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED ONCE INQUIRIES WERE RECEIVED FROM PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES. THUS, THE APPLICANTS COULD NOT COMPLETE THE PROCEDURES ON TIME. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, OF COURSE, IS THAT APPLICANTS FAILED TO REPLY QUICKLY ENOUGH TO FINISH THE PROCEDURES BY THE DEADLINE. FROM OUR RECORDS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHERE THE FAULT MAY LIE; I SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MAJOR DIFFICULTY IS SIMPLY POOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE NIA AND THE EMBASSY OF VIETNAM AND, IN TURN, THROUGH THE LATTER TO THE VARIOUS PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES.

6. TO CONTINUE THE STORY, WE RECEIVED WORD IN YOUR S-46 AND S-47 (JANUARY 20) THAT WE WERE TO OBTAIN TRANSCRIPTS, LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, AND LETTERS TO RECTOR THONG FROM DIEN, KHANH, AND HUNG, BUT THAT CHAU'S APPLICATION WAS COMPLETE. THIS WAS LATER SUPPLEMENTED BY COPIES OF MEMOS TO YOU FROM GUY FOX WHICH INDICATED THAT NANG AND TU HAD COMPLETED THEIR APPLICATIONS AND THAT LONG HAD COMPLETED HIS EXCEPT FOR THE LETTER STATING THAT HE WISHED TO ENTER THE COMPETITION. THERE ALSO WAS SOME INDICATION THAT THE NIA BELIEVE THE VIETNAM EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS HOLDING SEVERAL MORE APPLICATIONS. TO FOLLOW THIS UP, I WENT TO INTERVIEW THE FOUR WHOSE NAMES APPEARED IN YOUR CABLES S-46 AND S-47--THAT IS, DIEN, KHANH, HUNG, AND CHAU--AND SUBMITTED A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF THESE CANDIDATES IN A MEMO TO YOU DATED JANUARY 20. IN THAT SAME MEMO, I REPORTED THAT THE EMBASSY OF VIETNAM DID NOT HAVE ANY OTHER APPLICATIONS AND SAID THAT I DID NOT PLAN TO MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP TO INTERVIEW MR. TU (WHOSE NAME DID NOT APPEAR IN THE CABLES) UNLESS YOU FELT THIS WAS PARTICULARLY NECESSARY.

CONSIDERING THIS SERIES OF EVENTS, WE COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE NIA HAD BEEN WILLING TO EXTEND ITS DEADLINE BEYOND DECEMBER 31, APPARENTLY AWARE THAT INFORMATION HAD BEEN SLOW IN GETTING TO PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS AND ANXIOUS TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO GET THE BEST PEOPLE AVAILABLE. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PROCESS THE LATEST NAMES FORWARDED TO US BY YOU UNDER THAT ASSUMPTION.

AS OF THE MOMENT, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY MATERIAL AT ALL FROM DIEN, AND I ASSUME HE HAS DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE HIS APPLICATION BECAUSE, AS YET, HE IS UNWILLING TO MAKE THE COMMITMENT OF TEN YEARS' SERVICE WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED.

I HAVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON MR. HUNG, BUT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE TRANSCRIPTS OF HIS ACADEMIC RECORD NOR THE LETTER TO RECTOR THONG. NEVERTHELESS, I AM ENCLOSING WHAT I HAVE, SINCE HUNG MAY HAVE SENT HIS TRANSCRIPT DIRECTLY TO THE NIA DESPITE MY INSTRUCTIONS TO FORWARD THEM HERE.

MR. KHANH HAS SENT US A LETTER SAYING HE HAS REQUESTED JOHNS-HOPKINS AND LEHIGH TO SEND TRANSCRIPTS AND HAS ASKED HIS REFERENCES TO SEND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION TO THIS OFFICE. WE HAVE RECEIVED ONLY THE TRANSCRIPT FROM LEHIGH, WHICH I AM SENDING ALONG WITH A COPY OF THE LETTER RECEIVED FROM KHANH. AS THE TRANSCRIPT SHOWS, KHANH IS A VERY PROMISING CANDIDATE WHO SHOULD NOT BE ELIMINATED SIMPLY FOR FAILING TO MEET A DEADLINE.

I HAD TENTATIVELY PLANNED TO INTERVIEW TU THIS WEEK IF I COULD GET TO WASHINGTON (SEVERE SNOWSTORMS HAVE HIT ALL OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT PARTICULARLY THE EAST, DURING THE PAST WEEK--NEWS REPORTS THIS MORNING INDICATED THAT 2,600 FLIGHTS INTO NEW YORK ALONE HAD BEEN CANCELED), BUT, IN VIEW OF YOUR S-9, I WILL DEFER ATTEMPTING TO MAKE THE SPECIAL TRIP TO INTERVIEW TU UNLESS I RECEIVE FURTHER CABLE INSTRUCTIONS FROM YOU TO DO SO.

LDM

PAGE 3

FEBRUARY 6, 1961

I HOPE THE FOREGOING CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, INSOFAR AS WE CAN PIECE THEM TOGETHER FROM MATERIAL IN THE FILES HERE, PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE EXPLANATION TO THE NIA OF WHY THEIR DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE WAS NOT OBSERVED. TO REPEAT, THE MAJOR "VILLAIN" OF THE PIECE APPEARS TO BE A RATHER POOR FLOW OF INFORMATION TO PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES CONCERNING PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED AND AN EQUALLY POOR LINE OF COMMUNICATION IN RETURNING THE APPLICATIONS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MATERIALS INCLUDED HERewith, WE HAVE FORWARDED EVERYTHING THAT HAS COME INTO THIS OFFICE. DESPITE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO SEND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, TRANSCRIPTS, AND LETTERS OF ASPIRATION TO RECTOR THONG TO THIS OFFICE FOR FORWARDING, NOTHING ADDITIONAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE.

JBH:JR

ENCLOSURES 3

FEBRUARY 14, 1961

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF
FROM: JAMES B. HENDRY
SUBJECT: YOUR CABLE S-9 AND PLANNING GROUP MINUTES RE
PH.D. PARTICIPANT APPLICANTS

FURTHER COMMENT ON THE CABLE-REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION WHY PARTICIPANT APPLICANTS DID NOT MEET THEIR DECEMBER 31 APPLICATION DEADLINE IS STIMULATED BY PLANNING GROUP MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 1961 IN WHICH THERE WAS A STATEMENT THAT NO APPLICATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM KHANH BECAUSE, PERHAPS, THE DEADLINE HAD NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR TO HIM. WHEN I SPOKE WITH MR. TRUONG BUI KHANH, CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER OF THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, HE ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD SEND THE NECESSARY APPLICATION FORMS TO THE APPLICANTS AT THEIR REQUEST. FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MR. KHANH AT LEHIGH UNIVERSITY, IT APPEARS THAT HE HAD TO WAIT SOME TIME BEFORE LEARNING THAT THERE WERE NO "APPLICATION FORMS" TO BE FILLED OUT, AND THAT THE EMBASSY SIMPLY FORWARDED A RESUME OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S BACKGROUND PREPARED BY HIMSELF. THIS WAIT BY THE APPLICANTS MAY, THEREFORE, HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY DUE TO THEIR FAILURE TO GET A QUICK RESPONSE FROM THE EMBASSY ITSELF.

WHILE WRITING THIS, YOUR CABLE S-12 ARRIVED, AND I WILL ATTEMPT TO GO TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW AND WILL CABLE MY APPRAISAL OF TU AND MY RANKING OF HIM AMONG CANDIDATES I HAVE INTERVIEWED AS SOON AS I RETURN.

JEH:sp

FEBRUARY 24, 1961

TO: LLOYD D. MUSOLF¹
FROM: JAMES B. HENDRY
SUBJECT: Ph.D. PARTICIPANTS

NOTHING FURTHER ON THE PARTICIPANTS HAS COME INTO THE OFFICE IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, SO I ASSUME THAT ANYTHING THAT IS TO BE FORWARDED HAS ALREADY REACHED YOU.

IN THE SAME CONVERSATION WITH RALPH SMUCKLER IN WHICH WE DISCUSSED KY'S LETTER, RALPH REMARKED THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED THAT BOTH KHANH AND TU WERE WELL ADVANCED IN GRADUATE WORK IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE WORK IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. HE ASKED ME TO PASS ON HIS VIEW THAT THESE TWO CANDIDATES SHOULD BE GIVEN THE VERY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION BECAUSE OF THEIR SUBJECT INTEREST AND THE LACK OF SUCH CANDIDATES EARLIER. IN HIS OPINION, THE RISKS OF A FAILURE TO ADJUST TO VIETNAM, UPON THEIR ULTIMATE RETURN, BY APPLICANTS KHANH AND TU WERE MUCH LESS THAN THE POSSIBLE RISKS OF ADJUSTING TO US GRADUATE EDUCATION BY CANDIDATES OF UNKNOWN QUALITY WHO MIGHT BE SELECTED FROM VIETNAM. SINCE THE EXPERIENCE OF CANDIDATES WHO HAVE COME FROM VIETNAM AND STARTED GRADUATE WORK FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS BEEN MIXED, THE SUCCESSFUL RECORDS OF CANDIDATES ALREADY IN THE STATES BECOMES A MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION.

JBH:sf