

December 21, 1959

General Nguyen Van La
Director General
Police and Security Services
Republic of Vietnam
Saigon, Vietnam

Dear General La:

As promised during our meeting of December 15, 1959, I am forwarding to you our recommendations with regard to the use of 30 participant scholarships scheduled for 1960-61.

For your information, your letter of November 27, 1959 addressed to the Minister of Interior was considered by members of the USCG staff. Following the USCG staff meeting, a second meeting was held on December 14, 1959 with members of USCG/PSD. As a result of these meetings we are presenting the following proposals for the 1960 group of participants. Please rest assured that these recommendations are based upon our four years of experience dealing with participants and are presented with the best interests of the Police and Security Services of Vietnam in mind.

1. You request 12 scholarships for training in intelligence and counter-espionage. There are no schools available in the United States which are able to provide the kind of training which I know you desire; however, in an attempt to assist you in this matter, Mr. William Jones of USCG/PSD will contact you and discuss this matter. I believe that Mr. Jones will be able to help you arrive at a satisfactory answer to this request.
2. You are requesting 4 scholarships in the area of municipal police administration, and indicate that they are likely to be assigned the function of chief of police upon their return. I should like to compliment you on this suggestion. Our experience has shown that, in order for the participant program to be most successful, it is necessary that people, of command rank, be selected as participants. With this thought in mind, we are recommending that you select 9 people of command rank to be trained in the broad area of police administration.

3. As mentioned in my recent letter to you, outlining progress achieved by the Police and Security Services, you have established the basic necessities for police training schools at Rach Dua and Camp des Mares. It is our feeling that at least 5 people associated with these schools should be sent to the states for specialized training in instructional techniques, visual aid techniques, and methods which will be helpful to them in enlarging the capacity of your training schools.

4. In reviewing the participants who have studied in the states in the past, we note that very few have received concentrated courses of training in traffic. I am sure you are well aware of the increasingly complex traffic problems which Saigon and some of the other larger cities in Vietnam are being faced with, and I believe it is most important that we consider sending 5 officers to receive training at the Northwestern Traffic Institute, one of the finest institutions of this type in the United States.

5. The Police and Security Services have received a considerable amount of American Aid in the form of vehicles, and I am sure you are aware of the fact that maintenance problems are beginning to develop and will continue to become more critical in future years. Therefore, we are recommending that 2 participants be selected for training in motor vehicle maintenance.

6. As you know, 19 participants departed on December 9 for training in radio maintenance. It is our hope that 2 to 5 of the best students in this group can be selected to remain in the states for additional specialized training in the period fall of 1960 - winter-spring 1961, provided they are capable of assimilating such training and provided such additional training is available.

7. If, in the present group of participants which are about to begin study at Michigan State University, there are some superior students, we will consider recommending them for further study in crime laboratory techniques. If it develops that these students are not able to handle more advanced study, I do not think that you have to be concerned about this problem, for you already have the nucleus of a trained group who, if properly utilized, can perform several of the important functions of the crime detection laboratory. In addition to this, when Mr. Nicel arrives in July of 1960, he will be able to give his former students additional training here in Vietnam.

8. I note in your letter of November 27, 1959 that you request training in interrogation techniques. I wish to inform you that there are no specialized courses in interrogation techniques which the participants would be eligible for. However, the participants who would be sent to Michigan State University will be enrolled in a three months course in Interview and Interrogation which I am sure will be useful to the Police and Security Services.

If you review these recommendations, you will note that we are providing scholarship training for 30 participants in addition to the participant training which you will discuss with Mr. Jones.

With regard to the participants (9) to be selected for training in general police administration, USOM and NSU will insist upon the following recommendations:

(a) The participants to be selected should have at least a rank of assistant commissioner or deputy chief at the time of selection. Five officers should be selected from Saigon and one each from Cantho, Hue, Nhatrang and Tourane. It will be recommended that these participants will receive 9 months of academic training in the broad area of police administration, and then will have one month of observation and travel, visiting police departments where they will have an opportunity to study and observe problems in a city similar to the one in which they work.

(b) The officers who will study traffic enforcement and safety should be selected from command officer rank from municipal police departments in the principal cities of Vietnam.

(c) The people selected for training in police instruction and audio visual techniques should be selected from the staff of the VBI academy at Camp des Mares and the staff at Rach Dua. These officers will also receive academic training in addition to periods of travel and observation.

(d) People selected for motor vehicle maintenance training should be recruited from the VBI vehicle maintenance division.

(e) Participants selected for training in intelligence and counterespionage should be recruited from the investigative branch of the Surete.

You are well aware of some of the problems which we have encountered in previous years with regard to delays in selection, screening, and examination of the participants. It is my desire to make the 1960 group of participants one of the best which has been sent from Vietnam. As you know, the first screenings and interviews should take place sometime in January (no later than January 15, 1960); therefore, I am asking Mr. Strecher to keep in touch with your training office so that this phase of the work will move along as quickly as possible.

We have benefited greatly by our experience this past year with regard to English language training and are making plans for an improved course of study which I hope will be much more beneficial to your officers and, in the long run, should not be drawn out over as long a period as occurred this year. For your information, we would like to advise you

that we are planning the English language training course in such a way that the participants who finally complete this course successfully should be able to leave by September 1960, or possibly August.

As I review these proposals I feel that this represents a very generous participant program, and I am looking forward to your cooperation in implementing this program.

Sincerely yours,

RALPH P. TURNER, Chief
Police Administration Division

cc: Frank Walton, USOM/PSD
Bill Jones, USOM/PSD
Coordinator's office
A.F. Brandstatter
Vic Strecher