July 15, 1966

Dr. John A. Hannah
President
Michigan State University

Dear President Hannah:

I have drafted the enclosed letter for your possible use. Although there is a certain amount of risk involved, it may be well to get some additional facts in the hands of such people as Senator Wayne Morse. I am enclosing a copy of his statement in Detroit to which the draft letter is a partial response.

The Ramparts business seems to have died down considerably. However, the Government Research Committee hearings which have been going on in Washington have from time to time brought us into the news. Furthermore, I understand that the National Student Association at its annual meeting in late August will consider several matters directly related to the Ramparts article. Since the N.S.A. meetings are frequently reported in the press, we may have a flurry of attention at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph H. Smuckler
Acting Dean

RHS:dy
2 enclosures
July 19, 1966

Dear Senator Morse:

Just recently I had occasion to read a copy of your remarks to the International Studies Association at Wayne State University, Detroit. Since you refer specifically to the Michigan State activity in Vietnam, I thought you might be interested in receiving additional facts on our participation in Saigon during the 1955-1962 period.

We feel that the Ramparts article from which you quote was a distortion of both the University's role in Vietnam and our relationship to government agencies including the CIA. Mr. Sheinbaum's statement which you quote is in error in a number of significant ways. There were in fact Michigan State professors who were critical of various elements in the Vietnam situation. There were other professors who were not publicly critical because in their individual views the situation was not such that it warranted open criticism. The fact that by 1961 and 1962 our people were so outspokenly critical that our contract project was discontinued, is some evidence of the fact that "controversy is not dead".

I hope that the enclosed statements help to clarify the situation.

Sincerely,

President

The Honorable Wayne Morse
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

rj
John A. Hannah  
President  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Dear President Hannah:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your statements in response to the article in Ramparts magazine. I appreciate having your comments on this issue.

Even on the basis of your presentation, the use of Michigan State University by the CIA to carry out a covert government program has made many people suspicious of the academic community in international relations. Overt activities abroad on behalf of the federal government are, of course, far more common. Such endeavors will receive far closer attention and supervision by Congress than they ever have before, I am sure.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Wayne Morse

Copy to Dean Taggart, 9-14-66