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SCHOOL OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION
AND PUBLIC SAFETY
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

March 29, 1960



Professor Joe Nicol
School of Police Administration
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Joe:

Art's recent letter indicated that things are moving along in East Lansing with regard to your trip to Saigon. Naturally, I am very pleased to learn that you will be able to make it.

Construction work on the laboratory is moving along according to schedule. They are at the stage now where they are fabricating and will be installing sinks in the darkrooms and the chemistry laboratory. Once this is finished, they will wind up with painting and then Chanh should be ready to move from his old quarters. Due to delays in procurement I don't know if the air conditioning units will be installed by the time you arrive; however, this will not be too serious a problem. They have been operating without them for these many years.

As far as your work is concerned, I will want you to help them assemble some of the apparatus which I have not allowed them to fool with until they move into the new building. This includes the analytical balance, a Barnstead water still, etc. Then, you should recheck them out on the photomicrographic camera and the comparison camera. They also have a Linhoff camera which they acquired themselves some time ago, but I do not think are too familiar with. You will also want to check out on a few of the more simple techniques on the microscope. As you know, I sent you an inventory of the reagents which they have on hand. After you have become familiar with their routine, I will want you to prepare another inventory of reagents and/or apparatus which will be needed to fill in some gaps.

As you know, I gave them a simple plan for routine operation of the firearms laboratory. This has not been fully implemented for many reasons, such as, administrative obstacles on the part of GVN, lack

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of an American advisor to push this thing in 1958 and 1959, and not too many serious cases of firearms identification, unless you would want to go into South Vietnam on the battlefield where the Viet Cong are slaughtering people to no small degree. You probably could have a field day with firearms identification in that area. The only thing that would make your work a little difficult is that the GVN does not bother with such matters of arrest and trial. Whenever they catch a Viet Cong in a skirmish, they slaughter or behead him ~~at~~ equally quick, so a firearms identification expert is a little superfluous in those places.

After you have familiarized yourself with the laboratory routine, I hope that you will set up a series of informal seminars several times a week wherein you will discuss their problems and techniques. This will be a matter of adjusting the capabilities of the various participants you have worked with to their problems. In addition to this, I will ask you to rough out a report which will contain recommendations for future programing. I have a lot of ideas on this matter and naturally we will discuss them before you work on your report.

With regard to the matter of intoxication testing, I hope that we will be able to find extra time to work this into our schedule. I suggest that you get the breathalyzer in shape and have the project ship it our air freight with provisions for it to be shipped back to East Lansing when you leave. I have made arrangements with a laboratory in the GVN Department of Health to help us out. By helping us out I mean that they can provide technicians who will draw blood samples and if the Surete laboratory isn't in shape, we can use their laboratory for doing a few bloods to check the breathalyzer. Will you give me a list of the glassware which you and/or Hung will need to run the bloods. I will make sure that this is rounded up before you arrive. Undoubtedly we can put this together from the glassware which Chanh has, although I don't know if we have equipment with all ground glass joints. We may have to use old-fashioned rubber stoppers. If Chanh doesn't have it, I will try to find the pieces in one or two of the laboratory supply houses. I don't know what ^{in blood} message you have had Hung work on, but whatever it is, plan on bringing all of the dry reagents, indicators, and other chemicals with you. This shouldn't be too much weight to distribute a few pounds of reagents between you and Hung. Do not attempt to bring any sulphuric acid for we can get that on the local market. I cannot vouch for its purity, but we will do the best we can.

As you see by the enclosed memorandum, I am requesting the Coordinator to arrange for an extra day of official stop in Tokyo and Hong Kong. When you get to Tokyo, contact Mr. Kinza Kimura, scientific laboratory,

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National Police Academy, Tokyo, Japan. He is in the laboratory of the National Police (not the metropolitan police). Mr. Kimura has been to the states and is a good friend of mine. Incidentally, I would appreciate it if you would send me your itinerary as soon as you get it so that I can write to Kimura and tell him when to expect you. Also, while you are in Tokyo, have Kimura take you to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police laboratory. Mr. Sasaki is the chief of the identification bureau and Mr. Machida can show you an interesting gadget which they have developed in the questioned document laboratory regarding writing pressure. I hope that you will be able to visit at both laboratories. I think you will find the Metropolitan one most interesting.

When you get to Hong Kong, contact Mr. Alfred Bagget. He is superintendent of the Narcotics Bureau, Room 212, Mercantile Bank Building, 9 Ice House Street, Hong Kong. You will have to introduce yourself as being from Michigan State, a forensic scientist, a friend of Turner's, who is a good friend of Senior Superintendent of Police J. F. Ferrier. Unfortunately, Ferrier is now working in the New Territories and is no longer in Hong Kong. After you get through all this, have Bagget set things up for you to visit the crime laboratory of the Hong Kong PD. If you cannot make contact through Bagget, go directly to the Hong Kong PD headquarters and ask for Dr. Pang or Dr. Theo. These two fellows are medical doctors who handle the forensic pathology and also are friends of mine from previous visits. You'll have to go through the explanation and introduction routine, but I am sure through one of these sources you will be able to take a look at this laboratory.

Well, I guess this is about all I can give you for the present. Write and ask me some questions so I can send another letter.

Sincerely yours,

RALPH F. TURNER, Chief
Police Administration Division

Enclosure

cc: Coordinator
Brandstatter
Musolf