



UNITED STATES OPERATIONS MISSION TO VIETNAM

AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON, VIETNAM

March 29, 1956

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



Dear President Hannah:

I hope you will not think me presumptuous in writing you directly about one of the team members of the Michigan State University group in Vietnam, Ralph Smuckler. I have already told Professor Weidner and Professor Fishel, as well as Deans Meulder and Erickson, personally, in what high esteem Mr. Smuckler is held by those of us who have worked with him here in Saigon. He performed the difficult task of acting as Chief Adviser during the period between the departure of Professor Weidner and the arrival of Professor Fishel with exceptional skill and effectiveness. I regret very much that under present plans we are soon to lose him from the group in Saigon. In fact, I think it would be very much in the interest of the MSU program here if the University could without jeopardy to Mr. Smuckler's academic career keep him as a member of the MSU team for at least another year. This, I know, is a matter of University administration on which it is not my business to comment but I venture to make the suggestion as an indication of the high regard I have for Mr. Smuckler's work.

Although I have thus taken the liberty of writing you about a single member of the MSU group, I should like also on this occasion to express the satisfaction I feel at the uniformly high quality of personnel the University has selected for the Vietnam project. The group as a whole is a credit to the University and to United States efforts in technical assistance. This I should think is an evidence of the strong and effective leadership which the project has had, both here and in East Lansing.

Sincerely,

Leland Barrows

Leland Barrows
Director of Mission

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
President's Office