

February 1, 1961

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

H.E. Buy Van Think  
Ambassador of the Republic of Vietnam  
Tokyo, Japan

My dear friend:

It has been a great source of pleasure to me to know that you have continued to represent your government in Japan. These are critical days and the President is indeed well advised to retain the services of so experienced and distinguished an envoy in Tokyo.

On August 10, 1961, I expect to arrive in Tokyo, accompanied by my family, and am looking forward to spending the better part of the year that follows as a resident of that city. I have been awarded a fellowship by the Guggenheim Foundation, to do research in Japan and certain Southeast Asian countries on the Japanese reparations problem -- the background, rationale, and settlements. I would, of course, appreciate your cooperation and assistance.

More specifically, I would appreciate it if you could send me, at your earliest convenience, copies of whatever Japanese and Vietnamese publications you may have bearing on the reparations question. One in particular which might be useful would be Vetnam Binran ( ) (Handbook Concerning Vietnam), issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs periodically. I am sure there will be other items which you will know about and which would be helpful to me in my preparatory work here at Michigan State University during the coming weeks.

Speaking personally, I would be most grateful to you for your private and confidential appraisal of developments in Vietnam since last summer. I must confess that I, like all true friends of your people, have been most disturbed by some of the things that have taken place. You may be assured that I will treat your remarks as being made in complete privacy and will not under any circumstances repeat them.

Mrs. Fishel joins me in sending our warmest regards to you and your charming wife, with our hopes that the Tet will usher in a new year of success and good health for you both and for the people of Vietnam.

Very sincerely,

Wesley R. Fishel  
Chairman, Asian Studies Group

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