

DATE: April 26, 1957
TO: Vice President Hamilton
FROM: Paul D. Bagwell

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
RECEIVED
APR 30 1957
DEAN OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Since I will be out of town until next Thursday, I wanted to report to you what I have done to date in preparation for the State Dinner in honor of President Diem of Vietnam.

I have contacted Roy Underwood, Director of the School of Music, and Mr. Robert Emerson of Kellogg Center. The following agreements have been made:

- (1) A string trio will be available during the dinner. I have asked Mr. Emerson to have a piano in the Big Ten Room.
- (2) The State Singers (MSU A Capella Choir) have been engaged for the occasion.
- (3) I have arranged for the persons who are to sit at the head table to assemble in the Galaxy Room at approximately 7:45 p.m.
- (4) I would like the advice of the Committee on who should serve as Chairman of the dinner session. If President Hannah is not to appear on the program for remarks, or a short speech, he might be the logical one to serve as Chairman. In the event that he is otherwise tied up, I would recommend either yourself or Dean Taggart. It is my understanding that Governor Williams has been invited to give a talk at the dinner, and that President Diem will be asked to give a brief informal speech, or remarks, on this occasion. I would personally recommend that President Hannah be asked to talk on MSU's international program, in the event that he doesn't cover this subject in the afternoon. Even if he should discuss this subject at the convocation, I should think that since the audience will be quite different in the evening, it would still be appropriate for him to acquaint our guests at the dinner with the aims, objectives, and extent of our international program.

As soon as I return, I will contact your office concerning composition, etc., of the audience. At that time, we can decide such questions as who will sit at the head table, what type of menu we should have, and similar matters. I would strongly recommend that, for the evening affair, we invite the Vietnamese students, the

Page 2
Vice President Hamilton
April 26, 1957

heads of State Government, including the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, and a selected number of industrial and business leaders. I would like to raise the question as to whether or not we should have a printed program for the dinner?

This was dictated in a hurry, and I apologize for any mistakes herein.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Bagwell
(djm)

Dictated but not read

PDB/djm

cc: Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler
Dr. Glen L. Taggart

COPY



April 29, 1957

TO: Thomas H. Hamilton, Vice President
FROM: Edward W. Weidner, Department Head
SUBJECT: Possible Invitees from the Community for President Diem's Visit

I would like to propose the following people be added to the reception list for the reasons indicated. Perhaps some of them ought to be invited to the dinner also, but I do not know which categories you are working with for that occasion.

1. Mrs. Robert Walker, 1900 Abbott Road, East Lansing - Head of Edgewood Peoples Church circle which has done extensive sewing for poor Vietnamese families.
2. Mrs. Charles Gingras, 1801 Roseland, East Lansing - Head of Edgewood Peoples Church circle which has done extensive sewing for poor Vietnamese families.
3. Mrs. H. C. Venzke, 1630 Ridgewood, East Lansing - Head of Edgewood Peoples Church circle which has done extensive sewing for poor Vietnamese families.
4. John Seaman - Has taken leadership in the World Affairs Council and the Great Decisions Program locally.
5. Arthur Boettcher - Has taken leadership in the World Affairs Council and the Great Decisions Program locally.
6. Mrs. John Taylor - President of the League of Women Voters, who have had a very active part in the World Affairs Program.

Sincerely yours,

Edward W. Weidner
Department Head

EW:1
cc: Dean Taggart

Mr. Phan Huy Dan will go to the airport with the delegation to meet President Diem

The following Vietnamese students have volunteered to serve in the tour of the campus:

Mr. Tran Ngoc Nhuy
Mr. Cao Xuan Linh
Mr. Hoang Minh
Mr. Thu Ngoc Phan
Mr. Le Phu Nhan
Mr. Nguyen Tu Ban

If possible, the following Vietnamese would like to be seated with the members of President Diem's party as indicated:

Mrs. Trang	Mr. Thai
Mr. Dan	Mr. Diem, Chief of Planning
Mr. Nhuy	Mr. Don
Mr. Minh	Mr. An
Mr. Thong	Mr. Gia
Mr. Bon	Mr. Thien

cc: H. H. Kimber
G. L. Taggart ✓

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

April 29, 1957

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT • JOHN A. HANNAH



His Eminence
Edward Cardinal Mooney, D.D.
1234 Washington Boulevard
Detroit 26, Michigan

Your Eminence:

I am sure you will recall that you have been invited to visit Michigan State University on several occasions when you have found it impossible to do so, but have encouraged us to believe that you would accept an invitation on some future occasion when your schedule permitted. We have just scheduled an event in which you may well have an interest, and I hope that this time it will be possible for you to accept.

His Excellency, Ngo Dinh Diem, the President of the Republic of Viet-Nam, will visit our campus on May 15 and 16. This will be something of a homecoming for him, for he was a member of our faculty for a time while undergoing a self-imposed exile from his native land.

Michigan State University is planning to make the occasion a memorable one for him, both because we hold him in high honor for what he has accomplished for his people and for the free world, and because a mission from this University has participated actively in his successful establishment of a stable government.

The major event will be an academic convocation on the afternoon of May 15, at which time an honorary degree will be conferred upon President Diem, and when he is expected to make a major address. Michigan State University would be highly honored if you would consent to participate in this convocation by offering the invocation and pronouncing the benediction.

As you may well know, President Diem is a member of a prominent and devout Roman Catholic family, and his steadfast adherence to his religious faith is one of his greatest strengths as a leader of his people and an avowed enemy of Communism. His brother is Bishop Ngo Dinh Thuc, Apostolic Vicar of Vinh Long in Viet-Nam, and another of his brothers was killed by Communist terrorists in 1945.

C
O
P
Y

His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney--page 2
April 29, 1957

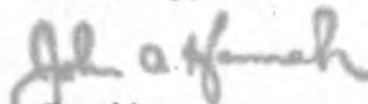
I am sure that he would be gratified if you found it possible to take part in the convocation and the other events planned for his short stay on the campus. These latter will include a dinner given by our governing board, and a public reception following, both on the evening of May 15.

If you are free to accept this invitation, I would be happy to make reservations for you at our Kellogg Center, and for such others as might accompany you. If, unhappily, you cannot be with us, I would appreciate your designating an appropriate dignitary of the Church to represent you.

Because of the comparatively short time remaining for us to make our arrangements, we will greatly appreciate your letting us have your answer as soon as you find it convenient.

Let me repeat that Michigan State University would be highly honored to have you take part in this event, and that I would be most grateful personally for the opportunity to welcome you to our campus on this important occasion.

Sincerely,


President

rj

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

MAILING ADDRESS : MSU-USOM
AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON - VIETNAM

GENERAL OFFICE : 1ST FLOOR
26. DUONG GIA-LONG
(EX-LAGRANDIÈRE)

CABLE ADDRESS : MICHGOVBUR

TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022 - 21.528

Office of Chief Advisor

May 6, 1957

TO: Mr. Stanley K. Sheinbaum, Acting Coordinator
FROM: Dr. Wesley R. Fishel, Chief Advisor *WF*
SUBJECT: President Ngo's Visit

Enclosed herewith is a preliminary English text of the address the President intends to give at MSU on 15 May. There may be further changes in it, of course, since, as you know, he usually alters his text at least once an hour up until the moment of delivery. The important thing is that he will deliver it in English.

We were all a little confused here by East Lansing's request that he deliver "a major speech" there, until everyone agreed that what was desired was that he not confine himself simply to politely saying "thank you for this nice piece of sheepskin." As it now stands, his address will be as long as any he gives in the United States, including that to Congress, and it seems to me that it has sufficient substance and "message" for the occasion. His public relations in the United States are handled by Harold Oram, 8 West 40th Street, New York City, and I think you might contact Harold if you want further information, later drafts, etc.

I think you will be favorably surprised (and by "you" I mean Ralph and others who have met him and heard him speak English) when you hear him give his speech. He astonished us late the night before last, just prior to his departure from Saigon, when he took the several English texts that had been prepared and proceeded to sight-read them aloud with what was to us a surprising degree of understanding, emphasis, and nuance. However, I would suggest that the microphones be carefully placed beforehand with the thought in mind that he does not always speak as loudly as, say, President Hannah or any other American who has done a good deal of public speaking. Furthermore, it might also be useful when setting up the lectern to remember that he is even two inches shorter than I, and might be handicapped by too high a reading stand.

7121

His party will almost certainly include the following persons, and I assume you will receive a complete list from the State Department before his arrival: Secretary of State Nguyen huu Chau; Secretary of State for Public Works Le van Quang; Director General of Budget and Foreign Aid Vu van Thai (see enclosure **12**); Director General of Plan Huynh van Diem; Press Secretary Ton that Thien; and Chief of the President's Personal Secretariat Vo van Hai. Also coming may be Ambassador Chuong, perhaps Ambassador Elbridge Durbrow (or someone else from the Department of State), and various valets, military aides (Ed Lansdale may be assigned to be the President's military aide while he is in the States), etc. All of the major persons listed, with the exception of Secretary Chau, speak English at least reasonably well, and even Chau understands a good deal and can speak, though with some difficulty.

I know that Hai and Thien in particular are eager to see those members of the White Suit Club presently in East Lansing, and I would assume you are arranging for some sort of an informal get-together in somebody's house the latter part of the evening on the 15th.

Have arrangements been made for any of our participants to be on campus on this particular day? One further thought: if the President is expected to make any remarks, however brief, after dinner or when descending from his plane at the airport, etc., etc., it might be well to advise Oram or Ambassador Chuong of this in advance, since this aspect of his schedule was not clearly spelled out before he left here.

WRF/dcm

Enclosure

2127

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

MAILING ADDRESS : MSU-USOM
AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON - VIETNAM

GENERAL OFFICE : 1ST FLOOR
26, DUONG GIA-LONG
(EX-LAGRANDIÈRE)

CABLE ADDRESS : MICHGOVBUR

TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022 - 21.528

Office of Chief Advisor

May 9, 1957

TO: Mr. Stanley K. Sheinbaum, Acting Coordinator
FROM: Dr. Wesley R. Fishel, Chief Advisor *WRF*
SUBJECT: President's Visit

For your edification, Nguyen huu Chau is a connoisseur of oriental art. I know that Lansing and MSU do not have much to offer him along these lines, but if there is anyone in our Art Department who might engage him in intelligent discussion during a few minutes of the reception, he might well come away with the thought that the American Midwest does have at least a few cultured people. Mr. Chau is 36 years old, has a wife and, I believe, three children in Paris. I would suggest that his family is a good subject not to discuss, since he and his wife are separated, and his seven-year old son is very seriously ill. Furthermore, it is normally considered poor form among Vietnamese for strangers to ask probing questions about their families. He is a lawyer by profession, and his income as such supposedly was in excess of \$100,000 annually, until he accepted the post of Secretary of State at the Presidency. He is generally regarded as one of the most brilliant persons in the Government.

Another subject which it seems to me one might well avoid in talking with the President is his family, and his sister-in-law, Madam Nhu, in particular. He is extremely sensitive to remarks in this connection, although it would not be untoward if one had followed the visit of his brother, ~~Nguyen~~ dinh Nhu, to the United States, to comment on that trip.

In looking over the list of persons who will accompany the President to East Lansing, I find that I neglected to mention the possibilities that his personal Chief of Staff, Lt. Colonel Huynh van Cao may also be along, in charge of his security.

WRF/dcm

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

*Diem
visit*

DEAN OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

9 May 1957

Suggested draft of letter to be sent to all staff members:

The President of the Republic of Viet-Nam, Ngo Dinh Diem, will visit Michigan State University on May 15.

President Ngo Dinh Diem is emerging as one of the strongest democratic leaders of the Far East. His friendship with the United States and with our own institution is playing a significant role in the political and social development of Viet-Nam.

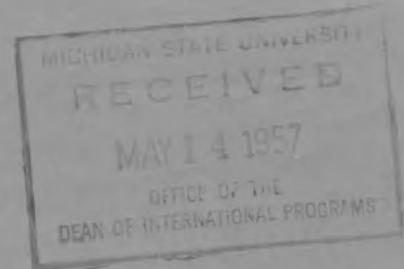
The major event of his visit will be a convocation to be held at 3.30 pm May 15 in the Auditorium. On this occasion the University will bestow an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon the President, and he will deliver a major address.

All students are invited to attend this important ceremony. Classes from 3 to 5 pm on Wednesday, May 15 ^{will} be dismissed to enable students to be present. I hope you will impress upon the members of your classes the importance of this occasion, both to them and to the University, and that you will urge them to attend.

Since President Ngo Dinh Diem ^{we} and his party will be arriving at the Auditorium at 3.20 pm, the students should be encouraged to be in their seats by no later than 3.15 pm.

Sincerely,

President



May 7, 1957

Mr. Tom Weber,
Radio News Editor
WKYZ Radio Station
15500 Joy Road
Detroit 26, Michigan

Dear Mr. Weber:

Michigan State University will entertain a distinguished visitor on its campus May 15. He is Ngo Dinh Diem, president of the Republic of Viet-Nam. This will be one of President Diem's stops on a tour of the United States. High light of his visit on our campus will be a convocation in his honor at which he will make a major address and receive an honorary doctor of law degree. This is scheduled for 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., May 15.

Although we do not have an indication of the exact nature of President Diem's address, it has occurred to us that you may be interested in a direct broadcast of this feature. Since he represents a country whose loyalty to the Western Powers and the United States is of critical importance, his message should be of great public interest. If you are interested in originating such a broadcast we should be happy to work out arrangements for you. I am attaching a copy of the convocation program for your inspection.

Sincerely yours,

W. Lowell Treaster,
Director of
Information Services

WLT:em
Encl.

Same letter sent to: William R. McAndrew, NBC, New York
Harold M. Wagner, Mutual Broadcasting System, New York
Sig Mickelson, Columbia Broadcasting System, New York
Don G. Coe, American Broadcasting Company, New York
Tom Weber, WKYZ Radio, Detroit
Ron Gamble, WJR Radio, Detroit
James Clark, WWJ Radio, Detroit
Peter Stoner, WJBK Radio, Detroit
John Gordon, CKLW Radio, Detroit

Same letter sent to:

Hayden Palmer	W. Abbey	Jerry Jennings
Robert Voges	Ralph Reed	Donn Shelton
Willard Baird	James Trainer	Joe Hoffman
William Kulsea	Damon Stetson	Rob Downey
Jack Vandenburg	Everett Martin	Dave Smith
Al Kaufman	James C. Jones	
Don Hoenshell	Norm Nicholson	
Bill Pyffe		
John Martin		
Fred Olmstead		
Godfrey Sperling		

May 8, 1957



Mr. Ralph Reed
State Editor
Detroit News
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Reed:

By now you are no doubt aware that Michigan State University will play host to a distinguished visitor on its campus May 15. He is Ngo Dinh Diem, president of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

President Diem will arrive in East Lansing at about 3:30 p.m., May 15, by special plane and will be taken immediately to the campus where he will give a major address at a special convocation held in his honor in the Michigan State University Auditorium. The faculty will attend in full academic garb and the occasion will be accompanied by pageantry similar to that of spring commencement. An honorary doctor of laws degree will be conferred on President Diem by Michigan State University. A special table will be reserved for the press at the convocation.

Immediately following the convocation we have arranged a press conference in Room 128 of the Michigan State University Auditorium. Representatives of all newspapers, radio, and television stations are invited to this conference where they will have an opportunity to visit and ask questions of President Diem.

Attached is a biography, protocol information, a complete program schedule and itinerary for your information.

We regard Diem's visit as one of our more significant campus events of the year, especially in view of the close association of Michigan State University with the Republic of Viet-Nam. Michigan State has a mission in Viet-Nam which is actively engaged in helping President Diem to establish a new and democratic state in an area of the world highly important to the United States.

If we can be of any help in providing information or in making arrangements for reporters please contact this office.

Sincerely yours,

W. Lowell Treasurer,
Director of
Information Services

WLT:bn
Enc.

American Broadcasting Company

7 WEST 66TH STREET · NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

SUSQUEHANNA 7-5000



May 10, 1957

Mr. W. Lowell Treaster, Director
Information Services
Michigan State University
Agricultural Hall
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Treaster:

As you know, President Dien has made a number of appearances on his current tour all of which we are recording in our regular news programs.

We will not be able to schedule any special coverage of his visit to Michigan State University.

Many thanks for calling it to our attention.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Coe, Director
Special Events & Operations

DGC:dr

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC.

485 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York - PLaza 1-2345

HELEN J. SIOUSSAT
Director
Talks Department

May 10, 1957



Mr. W. Lowell Treaster
Director of Information Services
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Treaster:

Your letter of May 7th, addressed to Mr. Sig Mickelson, has been referred to our attention inasmuch as such matters come under the direction of this department.

Thank you very much for the information relative to the address to be made by President Ngo Dinh Diem on your campus, May 15th. Prior to President Diem's arrival in this country, we made a careful check of his English and learned that he speaks with a very heavy accent which is difficult to understand on radio or television. For this reason, we have felt it wise not to schedule him on our network.

We, however, appreciate your calling this event to the attention of CBS and shall be very pleased to hear from you whenever events of national importance are scheduled by your university.

Sincerely yours,

Helen J. Sioussat
Director, Talks Department

KC:hra

Special Delivery

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH ON OVERSEAS PROGRAMS

May 13, 1957



TO: Dr. Glen L. Taggart, Dean, Internat. Prog.
FROM: Edward W. Weidner, Institute Director
SUBJECT: Faculty seminar for President Diem

Attached is an outline of the suggested procedure in connection with the Colloquium. All persons whose names appear on this sheet have been informed of their part or invited to attend and have accepted.

As you may know, Professor Dorsey will be in charge at the faculty Colloquium.

Cordially,

Ed

EWV:dy
Enclosure
cc: Thomas Hamilton
James Denison

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH ON OVERSEAS PROGRAMS

May 13, 1957

TO: Dr. Glen Taggart, Dean, Internat. Prog.
FROM: Edward W. Weidner, Institute Director
SUBJECT: Reception invitations

It will be necessary to send invitations to the eleven members of the official party who are going to have faculty contacts for the evening reception. I assume you or Ralph will be taking care of this item, although I will be happy to do so if you would like me to. The eleven persons should be invited to come to the Red Cedar Room shortly before 8:30 where the faculty contacts will meet their respective members of the official party and take them into the reception.

The Ambassador should be invited to attend the faculty Colloquium with President Diem in the Galaxy Room, 8:00 p.m.

Cordially,

Ed

EWW:dy

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM

(To give certain members of the faculty an opportunity to meet with President Ngo Dinh Diem and hear his views in response to questions. Ambassador - - Chuong invited to attend.)

Time: 8:00 - 8:30 p.m., May 15

Place: Galaxy Room, Kellogg Center

Faculty committee to escort the President and the Ambassador from their suites to the Galaxy Room at 7:55 p.m.: Professors Weidner, Smuckler, Hunter, and Dorsey.

Professor Dorsey will chair the session.

Faculty members invited to be present for the discussion: Professors Adams, Baril, Battistini, Bonnen, Brandstatter, Carmichael, Dorsey, Drews, Fee, Geist, Hawkins, Hendry, Hunter, Ishino, Jaffe, Joyaux, Killingsworth, LaPalombara, Lipski, McCleery, McQuitty, Maxwell, Scigliano, Sheinbaum, Smith, Smuckler, Turner, Weidner, Whiting, Witt, and Wright.

Shortly before 8:30, President Hannah will come to the Galaxy Room to escort the President and the Ambassador to the reception being given in honor of President Diem.