

April 24, 1958

Mr. Jack E. Ryan, Deputy Chief  
Police Administration Division  
USOM-MSUG  
Box 34  
Navy 150, % FPO  
San Francisco, California

Dear Jack:

Thanks for your letter of April 9. I appreciate all the very good information. I have dictated a little note to Howard, together with this one today, to bring him up to date regarding a few things going on in East Lansing--nothing official, mostly personal.

I assume there will be a party for Wes Fishel when he returns to East Lansing. There is some conjecture where Fishel will be assigned when he returns. My guess is that he will join Glen Taggart and the International Programs Department. In any event, I think he will have quite an adjustment to make upon his return. I know that Seelye will not stand for any monkey business, and perhaps the International Programs assignment will be best for Wes.

I am glad to hear that the training programs are going so well. I do not hear anything at all, officially, from Howard any more. He does not seem to want to communicate with me, which is perfectly all right. I am pleased you give me some idea of the success of our program. I appreciate such news, although it probably is not as significant since all the turbulence has subsided.

The new VBI director had some advancement in raising from corporal to a two-star general. This is a real jump! I wish I could do it. He must know someone important.

I am not surprised about the decision being made regarding the Civil Guard. From all the information I was able to obtain, I anticipated this decision. I think it is unfortunate perhaps, but I would not try to second guess the President, as long as he thinks this is in the best interest of the country. I hope that all the money will not be lost to the police operation.

The East Lansing High School basketball team came through with flying colors. They won twenty-four straight games without a defeat, beating Holland Christian, Marquette, and River Rouge in the quarter finals, semi finals, and finals. John, in particular, hit his stride in the last three games of the tournament. I really think he was the difference between victory and defeat on a couple of occasions. In the semi finals, between he and Art they scored thirty-one points--Art getting nineteen and John getting twelve. In the final game, they beat River Rouge, who looked awfully good in the semi final game with Flint Tech. They looked so good,

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in fact, that everyone was betting on River Rouge. River Rouge had a ball club that did nothing but run and employ a full court press. East Lansing handled the full court press beautifully, and by the time the fourth quarter started, they had a ten-point lead. Art was given the assignment of bringing the ball down court, which he did exceedingly well, considering the fact that this was the first complete game he played at guard. The River Rouge High School player guarding him took the ball away from him only once, and that was the first time Art had the ball. The coach, Lofton Green, said after the game he expected his full court press to beat us. Needless to say, we were very proud of the kids, as they did a beautiful job, especially John, who had his best game during the season against River Rouge. He scored fifteen points and Art scored fourteen, for a total of twenty-nine between them. John was also placed on the All-Tournament Team and Art made the second team. This was a switch, but we were real pleased for John, as it gave his ego a real lift, which he needed. So much for the athletic news.

The Legislature has raised hell with the University's appropriation request. The cut exceeded one-million dollars and no one knows what is going to happen. President Hannah is in the Philippines and is expected back before the end of the month. Consequently, no decision regarding the extent to which the budget cut will effect the departments will be made until he returns. We anticipate severe cuts in the various accounts and probably considerable curtailment of travel. So far, there has been no talk about reductions in salaries and none of us anticipate this type of action.

The enclosed newspaper clipping regarding Bucky O'Connor will be of interest to you. It is too bad this had to happen, as he was a real fine guy from all reports. Commenting about O'Connor recalls to my mind that Michigan State really broke up in the basketball game against Indiana for the Big "10" championship. Indiana did not go very far in the NCAA; they were beaten in the first game by Notre Dame and pretty badly.

Everything is normal in the department, except for a little travelling I have been doing. I was on the West Coast about ten days in connection with a Campus Safety Association program and some work for the Vietnam Project, in the event Chamberlin is replaced. Regarding Chamberlin, we are thoroughly puzzled about his replacement here. We were informed earlier that he was to be replaced and I was even given the date of July 7 as a departure date for Saigon for his replacement. Then, on the West Coast trip I was asked to cancel my plans to visit other cities and return home, as MSU-Saigon was not replacing Chamberlin. There is only one thing I want to say at this juncture: I do not want Howard or anyone else to complain to me about a lack of communication between East Lansing and Saigon, laying the blame on East Lansing. I have tried in the last three or four letters to Howard to get him to answer some of my questions; he has yet to do so.

It is always good to hear from you. Keep writing. I shall let Ralph read your letter and no one else. I hope you found your family all well and in good health, upon your return to France. Kindest regards and give my best to everybody on the staff.

Cordially,

A. F. Brandstatter  
Director

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1958

SCHOOL OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 1, 1958  
Saigon

Dear Art :

Thought I'd drop you a few lines on this lovely May Day of 1958 in order to bring you up to date a bit. Since my last letter to you, much has transpired. As a matter of fact, I find it difficult to stay abreast of things even though I am here on the scene. At any rate, here is the situation as I see it:

The State Department has agreed that the Civil Guard should remain a civil police type organization — not controlled by the military, and not supported by MAAG. It is agreed that ICA retain the support function for the Civil Guard. USOM/Saigon has recommended to ICA/W that MSUG be the source of technicians for the expanded Civil Guard program involving the recruiting of some 16 additional police advisors. The Country Team has approved a combined MSU/MAAG recommendation

relative to Civil Guard organization tables and equipment. The total cost for such an equipment program is no doubt available to you through other channels — I'll omit the figures here.

As you also are aware, the security situation in the south-west area has deteriorated during the past six months. For example, some 32 reported murders were committed during the month of March alone — only ten were reported in February. These figures do not include those casualties suffered by ARVN, the Civil Guard, the VBI, or local police forces. How can anyone expect agricultural or economic development to take place under these conditions? I have been told by experts that in some areas, the threat of overt aggression by communist groups is so strong as to bring progressive developmental programs to a standstill.

We have long since explained our own concepts to various people here, including Vietnamese, as they pertain to handling the ~~above~~ above mentioned internal security situation. With the exception of the Palace, these ideas have made

good sense and have been well received.

However, because of Diem's continued failure to clarify the legal position of the Civil Guard in an official decree, USOM has sat still.

So, as a result, very little material assistance has actually been given to the Civil Guard by ICA.

I must say that however regrettable such action may be, I agree with USOM's position.

Meanwhile, MSU seems to be backing away from the expanded program — Ralph Snuckler continues to harbor serious ~~and~~ doubts as to whether MSU should undertake such a program — Tom Hamilton was here, as you know; he was thoroughly briefed on the situation. It appears as though the Political Scientists are reluctant to go along for the following reasons, some of which I am guessing at:

1) Fear that such a large police team will dominate or completely overshadow the NIA program and the others as well.

2) Fear that success of the police project will completely outstrip any they may achieve in the other MSUG projects here.

3) Fear that we would become too involved as an equipment distribution agency — which is

university should not be getting into:

4) Fear that as a result of the huge quantities of ICA furnished equipment involved, that we would be too closely identified with USOM, and could not, therefore, hold out to the Vietnamese a purely impartial position which a university type advisory group allegedly must have.

5) Fear that the other MSUG projects may suffer as the result of our over-involvement in political affairs stemming from such a large program.

6) Fear that Diem may not understand the necessity of having additional technicians — on the grounds that ARVN could do the job instead (which is a completely phoney premise, by the way).

These are just some of the possible reasons for Smuckler's hesitancy — undoubtedly, there are others. Frankly, Art, if MSU decides not to go along and tackle this job, its stock will take a long plunge here, at ICA/W, in the State Department, and in the police field in the U.S. How could you explain such a

refusal? Furthermore, I believe that the future that MSU has in the international field would be temporarily, if not permanently, damaged. So, it is now up to you to take the ball and back this thing up — sure, the deal is loaded with problems — but so what? It would seem to me that if the expanded Civil Guard program led to a sound security situation which would allow faster economic development in Viet-Nam, not to mention the <sup>resulting</sup> decrease in communist activities and capabilities, MSU could be justly proud in having had a part in the act. After all, Art, what are we out here for?

I don't know just what Howard has written to you in the matter, if anything. You should be kept informed — sometimes, Howard is a little slow on the up-take in such deals. I am now trying to get him to sit down for a while and review our program as it is right now, the Civil Guard question aside, in an effort to identify those

day-to-day problems which are slowing us down. Possible solutions should be worked-out with our staff people in order that the various situations can be exposed to Smuckler and to USOM for guidance. Then, we can go ahead. For example, this General La is hampering our program — he is totally incompetent and thoroughly detested by the men in the VBI and municipal police circles. This problem is a toughie, to say the least — and it is but one of many. Yet, Howard is slowly moving along without any real plan in mind — maybe things will work-out all by themselves; but when?

Meanwhile, many of our people are wondering at the lack of real drive topside — they come to me continuously. Yet, Howard is doing a fine job — but, things could be better. (I trust that you and Ralph Turner will keep this business to yourselves!)

When Chamberlain leaves, Manopoli and I will assume the duties as counterparts to General LA, in addition to those we now have. We are



contemplating means by which we will have regular meetings with the Minister of Interior. Once General La finds-out about this, the easier he will be to handle. His arrogance and know-it-all attitude are enough to make an average American vomit! From what I've been told by my Vietnamese friends, they are already beginning to sand-bag the guy. It would be wonderful if he could hang himself as General Le did. Time alone will tell!

The general atmosphere continues to improve since Fishel's departure. How could it do anything else? We now have some brains up front — not a green schoolboy! The difference is unbelievable! I think the same reaction will be had at USOM and at the Embassy — maybe in the GVN too. Fishel's biggest enemy was himself. Best thing they could do is to send him to Brazil and move Donna McKee out of the front office here when she returns. Otherwise, she will keep Fishel advised as to various deals out here. The guy is a shoney and should be kept completely out of the

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

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May 5, 1958

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Mr. Arthur F. Brandstatter  
School of Police Administration  
and Public Safety  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Art:

Your letter of April 24 arrived this morning. As is always the case, I found it very interesting and appreciated the information it contained very much.

First of all, let me congratulate you and Mary, proud parents, for the excellent manner in which young Art and John handled themselves in this past winter's East Lansing High School basketball schedule. Art's accomplishments did not come to me as a surprise; nothing less would have been expected. However, I was particularly pleased to learn of John's progress. It would have been indeed a great pleasure for me to witness these two boys in action during the tournament. Would you be so kind as to express my sincere congratulations to them both.

It is easy to imagine the consternation which has reigned on the campus as a result of the legislature's handling of the University's appropriation request. No doubt a reaction will be felt here, inasmuch as some of our people were looking forward to salary increases this year. It certainly is too bad that the current recession in the United States had to occur. However, one must learn to accept the good with the bad in life.

We had learned of Bucky O'Connor's death in a short wave broadcast recently. This must certainly have been a blow to the University of Iowa's athletic people. I believe it is safe to say that it was also a blow to Big Ten basketball in general. I thank you for the newspaper clipping for it gave us additional details regarding this unfortunate event.

As a result of meetings held today between Ralph Smuckler, Howard, myself, and the Minister of Interior, the Director of the Civil Guard and the Director of the VBI, considerable groundwork was laid for better cooperation and enhanced future progress. The meetings with Colonel

Le-Khuong of the Civil Guard and General Nguyen Van La of the VBI were also attended by Ed Updike and John Manopoli.

As you know, during the past two years (since the departure of Bui-Van-Thinh as Minister of Interior) our close association with GVN was reduced very considerably. This may have been in fact the result of Wes' desire to be the sole MSU representative dealing directly with GVN. In addition, Nguyen-Huu-Chau, who was Minister of Interior during these past two years, was greatly overburdened by a myriad of responsibilities which made it virtually impossible to meet with him regularly. Therefore, we were not able to apprise the Ministry of Interior with our problems and our program on a frequent and regular basis. As a result of the fairly lengthy discussion we had this morning with the new Minister of Interior, Mr. Lam-Le-Trinh, we may see a reversal of the trend of the past two years. Our discussion with him was frank and open. We briefly discussed some of the misunderstandings which have arisen during the past few months as a result of lack of adequate communication and poor interpretation of intent. It was indeed encouraging to hear Mr. Trinh expound his opinions and personal theories relative to reorganization and administration of the police services of this country. Frankly, it sounded as though he were reading a composite memorandum of the important points or suggestions which we had made at various times to GVN since the inception of this program. The extent to which this man will be successful in the implementation of the plans which he outlined to us this morning will depend upon the degree of support he actually receives from the President and his advisors. In my opinion, Ralph did an outstanding job in outlining MSU's position in Vietnam. The Minister pointed out that the matter of internal security is one of the most delicate confronting him at this time. He gave us several interesting recommendations and suggestions relative to the manner in which we can assist him in achieving the goals which he has set for himself and his organization. It will be interesting to watch how much success Mr. Trinh will actually have in pushing forward his program.

Our meetings with the other two aforementioned gentlemen also went off very well. I firmly believe that both were pleased in Ralph's interest in them personally as well as in their respective organizations and their problems. It has been quite obvious to us that the Vietnamese government is undergoing a change which, I suppose, is a natural result of the evolution through which it has gone during the past 2-1/2 years. It is certainly a refreshing experience for us to find the Chief Advisor of MSUG taking a personal interest in even the minor problems which are confronting the Police Division and its Vietnamese counterparts. It is my

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firm opinion that the degree and amount of confusion, lack of understanding, and occasional lack of cooperation on the part of the Chief Advisor will no longer be the case as it was during the past.

We are still awaiting final decisions from East Lansing and Washington relative to MSUG's role in the proposed expanded Civil Guard program. Once these decisions have been made, it will then become a matter of selling the program to President Diem. At the present time, we are gaining the impression that there has perhaps been a change in the thinking on the part of the Presidency relative to the Civil Guard in that there may be a possibility it shall become a civilian police organization. In our discussion today with Colonel Le-Khuong he reiterated this point on several occasions and thanked us very sincerely for the position which MSU has taken in backing his proposals to the Presidency.

With regard to Chamberlin, it is anticipated that John Manopoli and I will assume the responsibilities of acting as advisors to the VBI following Chamberlin's departure. I made this known this afternoon to General Ia who seemed quite pleased at the prospect since we would no longer have need for an interpreter in our meetings and discussions.

At the present time, each of our section heads is beginning a self-inspection. This has been needed for a long time. Frankly, no one on our staff actually is aware of all the existing problems confronting the various section heads in their day-to-day activities. Furthermore, I suspect that no one actually knows how much progress or lack of it has occurred during the past six months or year. In view of the recent changes in administrators in the Ministry of Interior and within the VBI, not to mention in our office of Chief Advisor, it would seem to me that now is an excellent time to begin a detailed appraisal of our program in terms of identifying existing problems and attempting to develop adequate solutions thereto. Once each of the section heads has outlined progress against the goals we set for ourselves a year ago, plus a list of problems and their possible solutions, a meeting will be held between Howard, myself, and each of them. Subsequently, we intend to hold a staff meeting which will be attended by the section heads, Howard and myself, for the purpose of arriving at a common program in light of existing and anticipated problems. We will then present these to Ralph and ask him for guidance. It is also our intention to keep USOM abreast of developments. It seems to me that through this procedure we may perhaps be able to come out of the woods to the

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extent that all of us will be pulling our own respective weights on the oars and that the ship will be going in the right direction. Lack of communication within our own staff has been a constant problem and it is only through frequent and regular discussions that it can be overcome.

Meanwhile, the weather becomes hotter every day with a relatively cool 84 degrees Fahrenheit at 7 o'clock in the morning and a somewhat warmer temperature of approximately 95 in the shade in the afternoon. I have no idea what the temperature is in the direct sunlight. Most of our staff have been troubled with varying degrees of various types of ailments during the past several months. According to old Indochina hands, this type of thing can be expected at this time of year just before a change in the weather. The Vietnamese themselves also suffer considerably when going from one season to the other.

The situation in France is under control. My person day-to-day life will change radically once Janine and the children are here. The fellows rib me about this constantly. For example, they often say, "Get a good look at Ryan now because when his wife is here, you will only see him during working hours." My mother and dad recently returned to Minneapolis from a trip to California during which they were able to visit my aunts and uncles in Los Angeles and Randy in Santa Ana. Randy stands slightly over 5'8" now and weighs a little over 135 pounds-- which is not too bad for a lad just over 13 years of age. He played guard on a split-T junior league football team last year and was the center on a junior league basketball team this past winter. I understand that he is now actively engaged in various track and field events. It is with some deep regret indeed that I think of him, knowing that my chances of taking an active part in his life during these coming years and in these various sports activities is virtually nil. That situation, I suppose, is one of the bumps which one must learn to take in stride. It isn't easy, however.

During the next week or two, I shall attempt to familiarize myself as much as possible with the various details involving the Crime Laboratory and the Identification Bureau of the VBI. Then I shall write as much as I can relative to these two organizations to Ralph.

In closing, I again wish to thank you for your interest and for your most recent letter. Please advise Betty that I have often felt regret in not having had the opportunity while on campus to have visited with her more fully, and that I intend to write to her in the very near future.

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Please extend my best regards to all on the staff.

Best wishes to you, Mary, and the boys.

JER/her

Jack

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This letter was held up in typing until late yesterday afternoon — will go out tomorrow. Here are a few additional news items: The Secretary of State at the Presidency, NGUYEN-HUU-CHAN, has resigned. The Civil Guard and the Self-Defense Corps are being transferred to the Ministry of Interior. The decree was signed on the 6<sup>th</sup> — we are trying to get copies. Sure hope this trend continues! And all of this without Wesley!

June 25, 1958

Mr. Jack E. Ryan, Deputy Chief  
Police Administration Division  
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Navy 150, % FPO  
San Francisco, California

Dear Jack:

I apologize for the long delay in responding to your letters of May 1 and May 5. Needless to say, I appreciate the complete information you gave me regarding the status of the Civil Guard program. Howard also wrote me in a letter dated May 3 a brief outline of his position and the status of the Civil Guard. However, I did not do anything about the Civil Guard because of the strong feeling that existed on campus, plus the fact that we had not heard from Ralph Smuckler regarding his recommendations. Needless to say, his letter of June 5 addressed to the M. S. U. Coordinator stated quite clearly his position, and I assume that he had discussed his feelings and decision with both Howard and you. However, this was not indicated in the letter and, therefore, I asked Sheinbaum to determine whether or not this had been done before I took a stand regarding the Civil Guard question. As you know, Ralph Smuckler, in a letter dated June 13, indicated that these matters had been cleared with both you and Hoyt. I assume this took place subsequently to your letters written early in May.

Very little is happening in East Lansing, except that we are just completing our summer school enrollment and registration. It appears, at the present writing, that all of the courses, except two, will be offered. Consequently, five or six of our staff will be teaching in the summer session. Three of the staff--Shields, Haun, and Schultz--are in the Upper Peninsula, offering the four-week Basic and the one-week Command courses to U. P. law enforcement personnel.

The weather has been atrocious. We have had one of the poorest springs in my memory. It has been cool and has been raining all day. As a result of this weather, we have not been able to utilize our pool as much as we would like.

With respect to the Brandstatter family, Art is now a high school graduate and has elected to attend M. S. U. Needless to say, this decision caused a lot of people on campus, as well as in the adjacent communities, to be very happy. We received a very nice letter from Notre Dame, accepting his decision, but leaving the door open to enroll there if he changed his mind.

A few weeks ago, I heard from Sheinbaum that both Clowers and Gollings had been returned to the States at the convenience of the Project. I was not aware Clowers was returning so soon and I am wondering if he became a problem.

Mr. Ryan

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June 25, 1958

I am glad to hear that everything is well with the Ryan family and that they will join you in the not too distant future. I understand from our bachelor group in Saigon that they are not welcoming this change in your status. I can imagine they are crying big crocodile tears over this fact.

Kindest personal regards. Remember me to everyone.

Cordially,

A. F. Brandstatter  
Director

AFB:br