

March 23, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

March 23, 1957, 10:15 a.m.
Office of Chief Advisor

Persons Present: Mr. Leland Barrows and Mr. Howard Hoyt

The following matters were discussed:

(1) I advised Mr. Barrows of information we have received from two sources in the Vietnamese Government that the Viet Minh plans on a terrorist campaign against MSU staff members. This unverified rumor was given to the Chief Advisor before he left for the States. Since his departure, it has been further verified through Vietnamese military intelligence sources. Mr. Herschel Helms, Security Officer, Embassy, is being advised. Locally it is not felt that this is serious enough to necessitate specific action. In view of the fact that Vietnamese officials know of it, we feel appropriate action is being taken to protect us if there is any real danger.

(2) Sheinbaum's memorandum of March 11 regarding participant program was discussed with Mr. Barrows. His reactions are: (a) ICA is definitely committed in its stand, no doubt, so there is no need to discuss a change; (b) He inquired as to who in USOM gave MSU approval for the expanded program which seems to be assumed in Sheinbaum's memo. I suggested that MSU technicians might be able to assist USOM in selecting and preparing participants in fields where USOM is not working. He asked for an example. I suggested the police field, to which he agreed 100%. He again expressed his fear that MSU might get too far afield from the area in which they were originally contracted for. I think all of us have heard this expression before.

(3) Mr. Barrows assured me there will not be an ICA police advisor on his staff. He was under considerable pressure but resisted it, as he is satisfied with the present arrangements, as long as they continue the way they have been.

(4) Mr. Barrows gave me a carbon of the latest agreement drawn up in Washington between ICA/W and MSU relative to additional police personnel and the relationships between us and any U.S. employee who might be added to our team. This agreement, which is classified, was placed in MSU's classified file at USOM.

(5) Inquiry was made as to what I knew about "third country travel or free wheeling by MSU staff throughout Asia." Mr. Barrows went ahead to state that apparently Haraldson had raised the issue during his absence after four Americans and two Vietnamese officials went to Thailand, and upon their return made a report which was primarily copies of portions of the Thai manuals. I told him I knew nothing about the Thailand trip and questioned whether the proportion of Americans to Vietnamese was as high as he pointed out. I told him I did, however, clear with

the Chief Advisor before he left on possible requests from our staff for third country travel and received his assurance that none was to be approved, except Mode's trip to Japan. He pointed out that this was one area of our operations that he feels has brought on some of the jealousies, hard feelings, or however you might describe the frictions between certain USOM technicians and our staff.

(6) Field Administration has been making a study of the administration of the mountain people. In this study they have come in contact with representatives from the British Embassy who claim to be interested in the same area. They have studied a report by a Mr. Noone, who made a study at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government last November. Our Embassy found that our people were working with these Britishers and immediately became concerned. They sent over Alan Campbell, a young employee of our Embassy, to thoroughly go into it. I was able to advise Field Administration to go a little slow in this regard, based on my experience in the police field. Any joint activity with representatives of other governments should definitely be cleared through our Embassy.

HVH/dcm

cc: Dr. Fishel
~~Dr.~~ Smuckler