

December 10, 1959

Mr. A. F. Brandstatter, Director
School of Police Administration & Public Safety
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Art:

My time is fully occupied and the weeks slip by so quickly that I am embarrassed at not having answered yours of November 24 before this date. I will first bring you up to date on recent developments and then try to answer your specific questions.

My last letter of November 16 was written immediately after Jack's departure. A certain amount of time between November 16 and December 3 was taken up by meetings with Ralph Smuckler and Lloyd Musolf with regards to planning the future of our program. We have a general idea as to our phase-out and personnel plans for the period 1960-62. Ralph will fill you in on all of these details when he gets back on campus. Naturally, there was quite a round of receptions and parties for Ralph and as a result we have enjoyed the let-down since December 3.

Things within the division seem to be going fairly well and currently everybody is in good health. Paul was out for awhile with a case of dengue fever and Vic was in the dispensary hospital with another severe bout of amoebics, but after the hospital treatment and concentrated medication he has checked out free and clear as of December 5. You can appreciate how much this means to all parties concerned and we hope that the group can continue in good health. Last night we were at a reception at Frank Walton's house where he introduced the new members of his staff: Wy Vernon, Emil Weiner of the Los Angeles PD, and Emil Simek who is the new communications man. Frank had apparently been having a little bout with the amoebics or similar stomach trouble and as a result of his weakened condition passed out during the reception. He revived quickly and we assume that with a little rest and treatment he will be o.k.

My Mercedes 220S 1960 model arrived the other day and I drove it for the first time yesterday afternoon. It is a nice car and we are all pleased with it. I'll have a chance to try it out when we drive up to Dalat and Nha-Trang during the Christmas holidays.

Now to get back to your letter of November 24. With regard to Nicol's visit next summer, I will prepare a formal letter of notification for General Ia that we are trying to bring Nicol out in 1960. He has been advised of this informally so as soon as we receive his formal o.k. I will initiate a formal request to the Coordinator's office. You should tell Joe that the construction work which I described to him in my letter of October 22 is moving along and I am keeping the pressure on the people at the Surete to have some kind of a workshop finished by the time Joe arrives.

I am glad to see that you are going to try a five week summer session next year. I think this is something that is long overdue and I will be interested in seeing the results.

I certainly can appreciate your personnel problems with regard to the PLA staff and hope that you can resolve some of them with Eastman and Bryan.

In view of the fact that we have not received any notice to the contrary, we are all assuming that by now Handville is on his way back to Saigon. I am glad he was able to stop in and visit with you on his return trip.

With regard to Taggart's views about continuing MSU police advisors out here in Vietnam after the contract expires in 1962, I believe that he seriously would like to do this under some financing other than ICA, or if it was financed by ICA it would be under a different kind of contract than we now have. My opinions on what the picture will be in 1962 are very premature and undoubtedly will be subject to many changes, but at present I view the situation something like this. In my discussions with Walton I have outlined MSU's projected plans for 1960 and 1961. As you might suspect, some of these projects will be concluded during this period and others will be of on-going nature. It seems reasonable to both of us that if USOM is going to continue out here in the public safety field, we should plan to shift some of the on-going projects from MSU to USOM during the period 1961-62, assuming that USOM/PSD is willing to continue them. In other words, at this stage of the game I do not see any reason for MSU Police Division negotiating a new contract beyond 1962. This thinking, however, may be changed radically depending upon developments in USOM and MSU during the next two years. I do feel, however, that it would be very beneficial to have one or two MSU PLA staff members out here in Vietnam under other financing for six months or one year periods. What I have in mind is this. Under our present contractual arrangement we are doing a lot of

work with and for the Police and Security Services. As I see it, and particularly in my own case, we do not have the time or opportunity to really study and evaluate what is going on. Possibly Shields and Strecher have a little more time for this sort of thing if they are so inclined, but I cannot see my way clear personally for doing this kind of work in the way I would like to do it. Therefore, in view of the fact that MSU has established an excellent entree and rapport with the Police and Security Services, given the right kind of staff, I feel that there would be a wonderful opportunity for scholarly study which would be of direct benefit to MSU/EL. This is the sort of thing which I believe Taggart envisions and is also the kind of project that I would support and be interested in myself at some later date. Naturally, I am going to try and squeeze in some scholarly efforts on my own, but I am not too optimistic about it unless there are radical changes in my current responsibilities.

Moving on to Manopoli's replacement, the information which you sent about Nellegar looks good. His past experience would seem to qualify him for the job, assuming it is factual and not exaggerated. Naturally, we have nothing on his personality background or reaction my job description. I will appreciate it if you will move ahead and let me know as soon as possible what you develop. Time will be running out and I certainly hope that you will be able to get Manopoli's replacement and Hemmye's successor out here on the scene no later than June 1960.

I am enclosing a copy of the agenda and minutes of the first staff meeting which was held on November 24. The minutes of the staff meeting have not been edited so please do not take each statement at its face value. I am merely forwarding this for your information to see what direction our planning is taking. Also enclosed please find a copy of an agenda and memorandum of the meeting I had with Frank Walton on November 24. The purpose of my meeting with Walton was to present the MSU program for the forthcoming year and also to try and dispel many of the misunderstandings which had developed and were developing between USOM and MSU. As Ryan has probably told you by now, we probably still have to contend with some of the latent influences of Bryon Engle and company in addition to having to do a certain amount of fence mending and public relations work with USOM as a result of some MSU goofs during the past years. I am meeting regularly with Walton and I think that by being patient, allowing him to make a few mistakes of his own, not slipping in the needle and trying to get our MSU people to do a superlative job, we will be able to work smoothly with his group. As you might suspect as a result of all of the monkeyshines in the Rundlett affair, MSU is on the spot and we have to work our way out of the hole. As things stand at this moment, we seem to be in fair shape with the PSD and I will try to continue to maintain this balance.

Vic is working on the return participant interviews and we are still planning to have material ready for you when you arrive.

I have received a check from Matthew Bender so Betty will not have to be on the lookout on this. I am waiting for the reprints which she is sending.

As far as the Rundlett affair is concerned, it appears that we are gradually winding it up unless new complications develop. I have referred above to the unpleasant side effects of the business and I am sure this is something that will be with MSU for several years to come out here. As far as the facts are concerned, a special committee was appointed by Gardiner and Walton. This committee reviewed the 1958 PIO/C's which caused all of the original trouble. It was the report of the committee that these bids were not preclusive and they felt that Rundlett's technical recommendations were satisfactory. However, they were very critical of the manner in which he handled the entire procedure. Walton and Gardiner feel that this report vindicates MSU and USOM with regard to the accusations that specifications were restricted. The investigators out here have completed all of their work with regard to the possibility of Rundlett being involved in kickbacks and have turned their information over to the Justice Department. Walton told me yesterday that unless new evidence or new accusations are developed, we have completed as much work as we can on the case at this end and hope to move forward. One additional factual result of the Rundlett case is the matter of five major PIO/C's which were prepared by Hemmye during April and May of 1959 which have been suspended. These PIO/C's involve the procurement of the bulk of equipment necessary to complete the project. Frank and I are interested in getting these PIO/C's reactivated and now that Simek, his communications man, is on the scene, we hope that Simek and Hemmye can get together, resolve any technical differences and reactivate these PIO/C's sometime in January or February 1960. In view of the fact that these PIO/C's have been suspended for at least five months, it means that when they are finally approved this large shipment of equipment will undoubtedly not arrive in Saigon until Hemmye is ready to leave sometime this fall. This is why it is important to have Hemmye's successor out here no later than June 1960 so that Hemmye will have adequate time to tell his replacement exactly what to do with all of this equipment. If this is not done, we will be in one hell of a mess and will suffer further embarrassment as far as the communications program is concerned. It also means that Hemmye's successor must be a capable fellow who will be able to take over responsibility for the distribution and installation of approximately one and a half million dollars of equipment. If you do not find an adequate successor for Hemmye who can meet all of these requirements, I think we would be faced with the possibility of having to turn the communications program over to USOM and recognize the fact

that MSU could not keep its share of the bargain in this arrangement. So I can appreciate the fact that back in East Lansing all parties concerned do not view the Rundlett matter as very serious, but I can assure you that out here the Rundlett affair has put us on one hell of a spot and it will take careful timing along with superior personnel to help us work out of this one.

Well, I guess I have brought you up to date on all matters and know that Ryan and Smuckler will keep you posted on all the details. I hope that you will keep in close touch with Smuckler and Gabis and relay on to them any information in my letters to you which is important. I am keeping Musolf posted on my communications with you and trust that he passes on whatever is necessary.

As mentioned earlier, we are planning to take off the 25th or 26th for Dalat or Nha-Trang and will spend a few days on the beach. Inasmuch as the family has not been out of Saigon for any length of time, we are all looking forward to this little vacation.

Hoping that you and your family have a pleasant Christmas season and with regards to all members of the staff, I remain

Sincerely yours,

RALPH F. TURNER, Chief
Police Administration Division

P.S. I have not received any letters from the staff and will appreciate it if you will jog Nicol for a reply to my letter of October 22.

RFT

December 16, 1959

Mr. A. F. Brandstatter, Director
School of Police Administration & Public Safety
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Art:

Lloyd Musolf just gave me a memo from Stan Gabis asking for information about your proposed trip out here, dependent somewhat upon my schedule. This letter will give you the best information I have to date and should enable you to make your necessary plans.

As you know, my vacation period will be determined by the dates when the children are out of school and available sailing dates. I have finally received word from the travel agency that I can sail from Singapore to Saigon on June 4, which means that I will be leaving Saigon some time around May 15, 1960. It appears, therefore, that if you plan to arrive in Saigon around April 25, we will have at least three weeks together which should be ample time for us to take care of any problems or business involving both of us. I am sure there will be no difficulties if you would want to stay for a short time after I would leave on my vacation.

As soon as I receive your arrival date in Saigon and the length of time you plan to stay, I will prepare a work schedule which should keep you busy.

For your information, Lloyd Musolf has sent the first letter to the Minister of Interior requesting clearance for Nicol's visit next summer. As soon as we receive an answer we will send you a copy which will enable you to start negotiations in East Lansing.

Right now I do not have anything substantial to add to my letter of December 10 and will await your reply.

Best wishes for a pleasant holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

RALPH F. TURNER, Chief
Police Administration Division

cc: Musolf
Gabis

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

December 31, 1959

Mr. Ralph F. Turner, Chief
Police Administration Division
MSUG, Box 34
APO 143
San Francisco, California

Dear Ralph:

Thanks for your long letter of December 10. I can fully appreciate how quickly time passes when you are busy. This will be my last letter for a couple of weeks, as I expect to be on military duty for the first two weeks of January and will not return to my office until January 18. There are a few items that I want to bring to your attention and let you know where we stand regarding Manopoli's replacement:

1. I was informed, today, that Ruben Austin will replace Stan Gabis as the on-campus Vietnam coordinator. Austin, apparently, is to be in charge of all overseas programs administered by the College of Business and Public Service.
2. Since receiving your letter of December 16, I have made tentative plans with the Travel Office to leave East Lansing on April 25 with an anticipated ETA in Saigon of April 30 at 4:15 p.m. The Travel Office is attempting to find hotel space for me at the Caravelle Hotel. I have never heard of it! If it is possible and could be arranged, I would prefer to have you take care of my lodging needs. However, I do not want to impose upon anyone and shall leave this matter to your judgement. However, I would like to be advised of your decision so that I can notify the Travel Office to cancel reservations, if necessary. I shall plan on staying in Saigon until May 21. This allows me about two weeks for travel within the country.
3. I have two prospects for Manopoli's replacement. One is Nellegar and the other is E. H. Adkins, Jr. I talked to the former over the telephone, yesterday, because he had not responded to a letter I had sent to him. Apparently, he has a number of personal problems and there is a possibility that he will be eligible to take an examination for promotion. A number of other questions are also involved in his case, and at the moment, I believe he is well qualified, technically, but I doubt whether he can reconcile his personal problems in sufficient time to meet our time schedule. Regarding Adkins, I am enclosing a copy of a letter I just received from him. I also talked to him over the telephone, today. He is extremely interested and I believe he would leave in a matter of weeks, if we can agree to employ him. I have known Adkins for about four or five years as a result of associations I have developed with the American Society for Industrial Security. I first met him in Washington when he was attending an A.S.I.S. meeting as the industrial security representative of the Creole Petroleum Corporation from Venezuela. He is a former FBI agent, has a very pleasant personality, and I like him, personally. I have learned from other sources that he left the Creole Corporation, recently, and settled in Miami. Obviously, his roots

December 31, 1959

are not very deep. He has had extensive overseas duty and I know he has a fluent knowledge of at least two foreign languages and would prefer to work outside the United States. I understand that he married either a Portugese or Spanish woman while he was in Venezuela. To the best of my knowledge, there is no family strife, although this is something I shall check when and if you decide you are interested in having me conduct a background investigation by mail. One of my good friends in the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization in Battle Creek worked as a consultant to the Creole Corporation in Venezuela a few years ago. He knows Adkins, intimately. My reaction to Adkins is favorable. I shall ask him to fill out Form 57 and return it to me as quickly as possible. In the meantime, I would appreciate your reaction to his qualifications based on the enclosed letter by return mail. Except for these two candidates, I do not have any others in mind. If neither meet the qualifications setforth, it will be necessary for me to make a nation-wide search through announcements and personal letters to police officials throughout the country. I am prepared to do this upon my return from military duty. Incidentally, it just occurred to me to mention the fact that I will be spending the next two weeks on the University of Wisconsin campus, which is in your backyard, I believe.

The Smucklers arrived home this week and I went out to the airport with Howard and Blanche to meet Mrs. Smuckler arriving from Milwaukee; Ralph had arrived a few days earlier.

I had a long visit with Seelye and he is generally very pleased with the Vietnam Project and, especially, the police phase of it. He thinks the outstanding effort we have put forth is in the training field and he is quite impressed with the results. He does not want to have anyone serve in Vietnam beyond two years. There may be exceptions, but I think we better plan, accordingly. At the moment, he does not know whether the program will be continued, but has suggested that we tentatively plan to continue beyond 1962. I suggested that if his thinking prevails, I would plan on replacing you for a two-year period. He offered no objections to this suggestion, so I shall plan accordingly and will discuss my plans in detail with you in May. He mentioned some other things with respect to internal problems, the need to administratively clear mail over your desk and the chief advisor's before we approve items of major significance for perusal by USOM. He also mentioned some of the differences he is having with Taggart, but they are not important as far as you and I are concerned. I am keeping an open mind regarding the continuance of the police program beyond 1962. As you indicated, many things could happen to change our plans for this period and beyond. In any event, we shall attempt to have one or two of our staff close out the project in Vietnam if this should take place.

I have been concerned about Strecher's health, although I have not mentioned it before. Is he making a good adjustment, physically, to the Vietnam climate and food? It occurs to me he has been sick quite often. I would not want anything to occur in Vietnam to jeopardize his health and suggest that if there is any possibility of this occurring, you strongly consider urging him to return to East Lansing.

Incidentally, Seelye did mention the Rundlett affair and, apparently, does not have any more information than we have, namely that there does not seem to be any evidence to indicate any criminal acts on the part of Rundlett, and at the worst, he used extremely poor judgement; and as a result, we may be criticized for not exercising greater control over him and the correspondence Rundlett had with USOM and other agencies.

Mr. Turner

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December 31, 1959

For your information, I have asked Ebert to contact Hemmye to get detailed information regarding job assignments in Saigon. He promised to do this two or three weeks ago and to get in touch with me as soon as he ~~had~~ ^{heard from} Hemmye. You might discuss this with Hemmye, as I believe his comments will have considerable affect on Ebert's final decision regarding the Vietnam Project.

I have alerted Joe to the fact that he should be prepared to spend the coming summer in Vietnam and he is thinking accordingly. At the moment, there are no storm clouds on the horizon.

I am looking forward to seeing Ryan, although we do not know whether he will arrive January 2 or 3. I have taken care of all of his immediate needs, and in the event he arrives on the third, I will not see him until I return to East Lansing on January 15.

Kindest personal regards to your entire family and to the staff. I hope all of you had a very merry Christmas and will enjoy a happy and prosperous new year.

Yours sincerely,

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A. F. Brandstatter
Director

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