

December 31, 1954

Dear General:

I wish that we might sit down around the lunch room table in the Pentagon and discuss this matter in person.

I would like this to be a personal communication from me to you rather than an official one and hope that you will be similarly free to respond in the same vein.

As you know, Michigan State College had a mission of four of our people in Viet-Nam in October. Professor Weidner has just returned from there. Wesley Fishel is still over there in some advisory capacity to the Viet-Nam President.

I have on my desk today a tentative contract between FOA, the government of Viet-Nam, and Michigan State College with which I think you are familiar. It places principal emphasis on a program designed to strengthen the office of the president and in the direction of training men in government service and those in training for government service. Mention is made of police administration, but there is less emphasis on the establishment of an adequate police system than was suggested in the original mission report, and there is no provision for the public information features that were originally recommended.

If Michigan State College can perform a service that will advance the long-time interests of the United States, we will do everything we can to render such service. Sitting here, I feel that I am in no position to determine what the real situation is and what the prospects are for a successful outcome. I have no desire whatever to have our folks involved in this program unless there is a fair prospect for a useful outcome.

In your opinion, should our people be encouraged to become involved in the contract as proposed?

The Honorable J. Lawton Collins--page 2
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I will appreciate if it you will give me your frank appraisal
on a confidential basis between two old Pentagon friends.

Sincerely,

President

The Honorable
General J. Lawton Collins
The American Ambassador
Saigon, Viet-Nam

Air mail