

*Project Vietnam*

SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT - Michigan State University Vietnam Advisory Team

The Michigan State University group has engaged in a variety of activities since the first person arrived in Free Vietnam last Spring. The MSU team which came under contract with the Government to render technical advice and assistance in administration now numbers twenty-seven Americans. Of this group, ten are in police administration, five take part in the field administration project, one person has been working with administration in the Presidency, and five are directly engaged in activities at the National Institute of Administration. Of course all activities of the group are related to the Institute, including the internal administration of the group, the work of the In-service Training and Research Coordinators and the office of the Chief Advisor.

Perhaps the specific activities and progress of the group as a whole can best be considered under the various projects--the Field Administration, Police, Presidency, Participant, and Institute Degree projects.

FIELD ADMINISTRATION. Since one of the goals of the Government has been to get its programs to the people outside of Saigon in an effective manner, the MSU group has been asked to assist in developing adequate field administration. The Field Administration project was created to meet this task. The first ministry requesting advice along this line was the Refugee Commission which asked that a survey be conducted and suggestions be made to improve its field operation.

With the full cooperation of the Commission officials, MSU personnel first examined administration in the central office and then, in greater detail, the field organization of the Commission. Based on this study which covered refugee program administration in all regions and fourteen provinces of Vietnam, two reports were submitted to the Commissioner-General for Refugees. These reports proposed a field organization which would be able to handle a new project method of operation. Michigan State field administration personnel are now working with USOM and Commission officials in order to implement and adapt the proposals as accepted by the Commissioner-General for Refugees.

A second major aspect of the field administration project has been a recently completed survey of regional and provincial administration, the results of which have been reported orally to the Government. The report of this survey contains proposals for reorganizing regional and provincial structure and reallocating administrative responsibility.

At present, the field administration project is beginning research in the Ministries of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Education and Civic Action. In each ministry a three stage pattern of research, reporting and implementation is followed and in each case administration outside of the central office is the major concern of the group.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION. Another field of administration of great importance to the government is police. Michigan State police personnel have engaged in a wide variety of advisory and training activities during the past six months with the objective in mind of assisting in perfecting organizations for the maintenance of law and order.

Several members of the MSU police team have been involved in training activities. With the possible exception of a few lectures by MSU specialists to teacher training classes, all instruction has been by Vietnamese police officers. For example, the new National Police Academy in Saigon is entirely staffed by Vietnamese. The role of the MSU group has been to assist in organizing the academy, to advise on the curriculum, to suggest techniques of instruction, and generally to lend support to the newly created staff. The role of the MSU group in relation to the Civil Guard training at QuanTrung has been roughly similar. One hundred twenty-seven police officers have been trained at the Academy and five thousand civil guardsmen have been or are in the process of being trained at QuanTrung.

The MSU police team was instrumental in sending several groups of police to the Philippines for advanced training. Several specialist training programs in other areas of South Asia are also being used for the Vietnamese police.

In addition to training, the MSU police team has been assisting Vietnamese authorities in reorganizing their identification and fingerprinting system, in establishing a more adequate special investigation system, and in revising security clearance procedures.

During the past three months some members of the MSU team have been engaged in a survey aimed at determining equipment and organization needs of the three major police groups--the municipal police, security police, and the civil guard. Police officials have cooperated in bringing the necessary information to the attention of the Michigan State team. From this survey it is expected that realistic plans can be drafted by Vietnamese police specialists working with MSU personnel which will form the basis for assistance on equipment, expansion of training and advice on organization.

PRESIDENCY PROJECT. The Chief Advisor and one public administration specialist have worked closely on administrative matters with members of the Presidency. After months of extensive observation and a period of intensive study, a report containing various organizational proposals was submitted to the President for his consideration.

One member of the MSU has continued close contact with administrators within the Presidency in order to help implement and adapt those suggestions which are accepted by the Government.

PARTICIPANT PROJECT. As provided in the agreement between the Government and Michigan State University a group of government officials have been sent to the University for study. Ten persons composed the first group which left Saigon for East Lansing during November.

At the University they are following a routine which includes regular course work in administration, economics and related subjects, as well as special conferences and tours which should provide a well rounded experience in American administrative and governmental practice.

INSTITUTE DEGREE PROGRAM. While most of MSU activities are related in some way to the National Institute of Administration, a relatively small portion of the staff is involved directly in Institute affairs. The role of the MSU professors

(4)

for the most part has been to offer advice on curriculum, research, and general program when requested by the Vietnamese faculty members who are in charge of the Institute. In addition, courses have been offered by the American professors in administrative fields. These courses which are conducted in French or through interpreters are usually subjects which have been developed in the United States (for example, "Introduction to Public Administration") and they are now a part of the regular curriculum of the Institute.

In addition to the regular degree program of the Institute a new night school certificate program has been started. This program, which has been received enthusiastically by government employees, is aimed at meeting vital mass education needs in fields of administration and economics. Michigan State personnel have been active along with Vietnamese leadership in developing night school plans and will be teaching several of the courses.

In the fields of research and in-service training a similar role has been played by MSU professors. Plans in both fields are well advanced and the first in-service course has been offered in the Ministry of Finance under the auspices of the Institute.

IN SUMMARY. The first six months of participation by the Michigan State University group have been active and productive. During this period a firm working relationship has developed in each of the projects between MSU advisors and the Vietnamese operating officials. This participation and these relationships have yielded specific progress in each field and should contribute to developing the energetic, well trained, and efficient public servants needed in Free Vietnam.

Submitted by Ralph H. Smuckler, Acting Chief Advisor  
Saigon, Vietnam  
December 29, 1955