

cc: Dean Muelder
Mr. Weidner
Emory Morris

Vietnam Proj.

June 4, 1956

Dear President Diem:

I appreciate very much your good letter of May 15 in which you indicate that the professors from Michigan State University are making a real contribution in South Vietnam and that they are rendering a worthwhile service to the people with whom they are working.

It pleases me very much to learn directly from you that they are putting forth sincere efforts and that their work is meeting with some degree of success. I have received excellent reports from Dr. Fishel, Professor Weidner, Dean Muelder and Dean Erickson. I have been particularly gratified and most favorably impressed by the reports indicating that you personally have given this program your enthusiastic support.

Last week Rector Nguyen Quant Trinh of the University of Vietnam was on our campus for three days. I was favorably impressed with him in our conversations which unfortunately were too brief due to the fact that he had too little time to spend on our campus in view of his itinerary which called for his visiting a great many other places in this country.

It is a matter of real regret to me that it has not been possible for me to visit you in your country. Twice during the last year I have made tentative plans to make a trip that would include visits to our project in Okinawa as well as South Vietnam, but in each instance conditions over which I had no control made it necessary for me to change my plans. I am now planning definitely to come to South Vietnam in November if that is an agreeable time with you for me to come. I am looking forward to this visit to your country with a great deal of pleasure.

In conclusion, I should like to commend you, sir, upon the very great progress that your country is making under your guidance and leadership.

Sincerely,

President

The Honorable Ngo Dinh Diem
President of the Republic of Vietnam
Saigon, Vietnam

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Air mail