

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Vietnam Advisory Group
Saigon, Vietnam

Office of Chief Advisor

March 8, 1958

TO: USOM, MSU

FROM: Dr. Wesley R. Fishel, Chief Advisor

SUBJECT: Monthly Report of the Michigan State University Group

February was another month punctuated with visits. Dean John T. Ryder, of the MSU College of Engineering, arrived in Saigon on February 2, joining Dean Glen L. Taggart of the MSU Office of International Programs, who had arrived towards the close of the previous month. Dean Ryder, who was here on an unofficial visit, discussed matters of engineering training with officials of the Vietnamese Government, while Dean Taggart continued his conferences with members of the MSUG staff. Both deans addressed a meeting of American and Vietnamese personnel on February 5, at which the campus and international aspects of Michigan State University's educational programs were discussed. Deans Taggart and Ryder departed Vietnam on February 8.

Other visitors to MSUG included the Vietnamese Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Bui van Thinh; Indian Consul General Dr. S. E. Gupta; and Miss Laverne Burchfield, Managing Editor of Public Administration Review. Also, Mr. Edouard Theysset, Conseiller of the French Embassy, met with interested members of the MSUG staff on February 11 to discuss the French budget and accounting system.

Agreement on two clauses of the amended contract with the Government of Vietnam was reached on February 1 with the Secretary of State at the Presidency, Mr. Nguyen huu Chau. These clauses, which had remained in question for some time, have been forwarded to ICA/Washington for approval, which is still being awaited.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

1. General:

a. From February 7 to 13, the Government was host to the Preliminary Meeting for the Regional Conference on Public Administration (Philippines 1958). MSUG cooperated with the organizing committee and Secretariat.

The meeting, which assembled representatives of 10 Asian nations, was a success. An important advance in Asian public administration was made with the decision to establish a permanent regional institution to stimulate and serve as a clearing house for undertakings in public administration.

b. Delegates to the Preliminary Meeting attended a briefing and reception at the NIA on February 11, where Institute programs and the role of MSUG were explained.

c. Mr. Charles B. Myers joined the Public Administration staff on February 2 and was assigned to the Consulting Section as an Organization and Methods Specialist.

2. Academic Instruction:

a. The first case in Vietnamese administration ("The Employee Suggestion Plan at STANVAC") was prepared and submitted to STANVAC for approval. Three additional cases from American sources, one of which includes a Vietnamese version, have been mimeographed.

b. The first semester of the 1953 academic year began in February. For the first time, all undergraduate courses are being offered by members of the Institute faculty.

c. MSUG professors inaugurated the NIA graduate program, presenting courses in political science, budget and fiscal policy, in-service training, financial statistics, and social psychology. Total enrollment is 195 regular students, 118 auditors, and a number of still-unclassified students.

d. An evening course at the NIA, Introduction to Public Administration, is again being offered by MSUG, with about 200 students enrolled.

e. The responsibility for English language instruction has been shifted to the NIA.

f. An integrated plan for the 1953 participant program has been prepared. Six participants are preparing to leave for the United States in March.

3. Consulting:

a. The Vietnam Press has made changes in its distribution procedures as suggested by MSUG.

b. The Department of Information will soon begin publication of a picture magazine replacing several current periodicals. (See MSUG Report on the Department of Information, 15 January 1957.)

c. A draft of an organization plan for the General Administration for Malaria Control has been completed and is being reviewed by representatives of the Administration, Directorate of the Budget, USOM, and MSUG.

d. Assistance is being given to the staff of the General Directorate of Budget and Foreign Aid in the improvement of methods, forms, and instructions for 1959 agency budget requests.

e. A series of informal training sessions are being conducted for newly appointed budget examiners at the Budget Directorate, and will continue for several months.

f. The General Directorate of Budget and Foreign Aid has received a new IBM installation, which will greatly increase the production of machine accounting applications.

g. Printed copies of Albert A. Rosenfeld's lecture series, Organization and Methods, are being distributed to all government offices.

4. In-Service Training:

a. Two thousand copies of the first issue of the monthly "In-Service Training Newsletter" were distributed to government agencies in Saigon and the provinces.

b. A training course for typing trainers was completed. These trainees will continue to receive guidance as they establish and conduct typing training programs in their respective agencies. Since all applicants could not be accommodated in one class, another course has been scheduled for March.

c. The Vietnam Press has initiated weekly classes on headline writing and journalistic English to be offered by a member of the MSUG Consulting Section.

d. Material from the Philippine Training Officers Manual has been translated and will be included in the training packet used in the provincial training program.

5. Research:

a. During the month, staff members working on the rural community study visited the village of Khanh-Hoi in Long-An province, site of the UNESCO

fundamental education project. The approval of the Province Chief has been requested for the use of this village for the study of a rural community. This is a typical village of the delta rice-growing region, with the advantage that it should be easier to do research here than in villages where we have not already established the same type of contact.

b. David C. Cole's Lectures on Taxation, Volume II, appearing in Vietnamese and English, were distributed along with a collection of student term papers.

c. Wayne W. Snyder completed the estimates of "Value Added in Production during 1956 for the Aluminum, Plastics, and Dentifrice Industries." These contributions to the 1956 National Income estimates are part of on-going joint research with the Service des Etudes of the National Bank of Vietnam.

d. The forms for ordering books arrived from East Lansing, and processing has begun on a large backlog of orders. Two hundred seventeen orders were placed for books and periodicals during the month, and one or two items ordered actually reached Saigon before the month was out, indicating the efficiency of the new procedures.

e. Much of the Library Advisor's time has been devoted to preparing lecture materials for a course in Cataloguing and Classification, to be given during March and April under the auspices of the In-Service Training Division of the NIA. Fifty-four librarians from the Saigon area have registered for the course, indicating strong interest in this subject.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

1. General:

a. Civil Guard equipment orders for FY-57 continue to be withheld pending agreement between the Vietnamese Government and American authorities respecting the future status of the Civil Guard.

b. Brigadier General Nguyen Van La has been named to replace Colonel Phan Xuan Chieu as Director General of Police and Security. Colonel Chieu has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and assigned to duty in the Office of the Army Chief of Staff. General La, himself just promoted from Colonel, has been assigned as Chief of Staff to the President.

c. The Vietnamese Government has agreed to the sending of leadership participants, including high ranking police officials, to the United States for two month periods of study and observation.

d. The directors of the three police services have been requested to select their next group of United States and third-country participants now so that sufficient English-language and other training can be provided in advance.

e. The Division hosted a number of visitors during February. Among them were Deans Toggart and Ryder who inspected the two Civil Guard Training Centers and the National Police Academy at Cap St. Jacques. Mr. Jack Monroe, USOM Police Administration Chief at Phnom Penh, and two accompanying high Cambodian officials were conducted through Municipal and VBI headquarters in Saigon and Dalat by Vietnamese police officials and MSUG police advisors.

f. In the early part of the month, police advisors completed a two weeks survey of police installations and operations in 14 cities of central Vietnam. Members from the Research and Training, Civil Guard, and Municipal Police Sections participated in this trip.

2. Research and Training:

a. Research:

(1) Work continues on plans for a national census and on revision of the Vietnamese Vehicle Code. The latter project is being conducted jointly by the MSUG traffic engineer and the GVN Department of Public Works.

(2) An English-Vietnamese glossary of police terms is now being prepared.

b. Training:

(1) Lectures given during the month include 16 hours at the VBI Higher Officers' School and 110 hours at the Civil Guard Commissioned Officers School, in addition to English-language instruction for prospective police participants. A graduation ceremony for the VBI group will be held March 4, while the Civil Guard class will be graduated on March 8. A new course for 200 Civil Guard officers is planned for sometime in March.

(2) All lecture outlines in current use have been translated into Vietnamese, permitting the distribution of the lecture outline to the students following each class meeting. The outlines are being submitted to continuous review in order to guarantee their adequacy.

(3) Class evaluations of instructors and interpreters have been tabulated for analysis and review.

(4) Fingerprint training of 175 VBI, military, and Civil Guard personnel is continuing under VBI auspices.

(5) Firearms instruction at Municipal Police and Surete Headquarters is proceeding, with the remodeling and enlarging of the present Municipal Police firing range being planned for the near future.

3. Civil Guard:

a. The personnel changes effected by the new Director General of the Civil Guard appear to be part of a major reorganization of this police service.

b. The American Country Team has formulated its response to the Vietnamese Government's document of last November defining the future status of the Civil Guard. This counter proposal will be presented to the Government early in March.

c. At the request of the Chief Advisor, a member of this section surveyed the two training sites at Cap St. Jacques for the purpose of estimating building repair costs. A conference to be held shortly with the Director General of the Civil Guard will determine Vietnamese budgetary allocation for building construction and repair at these locations, having in mind some assistance from the Counterpart Plaster Fund for the construction of new buildings and repair of old buildings.

4. VBI:

a. The operations manual for the VBI Identification Bureau, which is being translated into Vietnamese, deals with internal procedures, personnel positions, questions of supervision and control, and establishes a system of priorities and routing of material.

b. The Central Identification Bureau in Saigon now handles fingerprint inquiries from Dalat in one and a half to two days, a remarkable improvement.

c. The VBI Immigration Service survey by the Consulting Section of the Public Administration Division and members of the VBI Section, has been completed. Recommendations will be made to the Director General of the Surete.

5. Traffic:

a. Several tours of the City of Saigon, for the purpose of inspecting traffic problems, were made with Saigon Municipal Police officials and engineers.

b. An inspection tour of the Saigon-Bienhoa highway was made with government officials.

c. A meeting of the Inland Transportation Committee, ECAFE, UN, Bangkok, on highway traffic safety was attended in conjunction with a staff member of Research and Training.

d. Various conferences were held, including meetings with the Director of the Saigon Municipal Police and his Traffic Commissioner concerning "Tet" traffic control measures.

6. Communications:

a. The planning work for the joint VBI-Civil Guard radio teletype system was continued.

b. In conjunction with VBI communications counterparts, inspection trips were made to potential transmitter and receiving station locations in the Saigon area.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

1. Housing:

a. Maintenance was normal. Electrical and plumbing problems still exist.

b. An inventory of present dininaware has been started, with the object of furnishing each housing unit a complete matching set of dishes, a feat not accomplished since the early days of the project.

2. Motor Pool:

The last two Peugeots loaned by the Government of Vietnam were returned. Total mileage was slightly under average due to the short month and "Tet" holidays.

3. Finance:

a. The annual "Tet" bonus, amounting to \$VN543,751, was paid to 122 Vietnamese employes. The bonus was paid at the rate of 1/12 of a month's salary for each month worked.

b. The Division is placing greater emphasis upon obtaining bids from a number of suppliers in purchasing supplies in the local market. It is hoped that the stimulation of competition will result in lower prices for goods.

4. Personnel:

a. The need to fill certain important interpreter-translator positions continues.

b. MSUG staff on February 23, 1958 had the following composition:

53	Americans
131	Vietnamese
<u>1</u>	Inspecting Officer
195	

The figures include one American staff member on home leave.