

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Vietnam Project
East Lansing

January 25, 1956

To: John T. Dorsey
From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Subject: Course work of Participants.

In accordance with your request listed below is the course work being taken by each of our Vietnamese participants.

DIEN, Nguyen: Economics 320 (Monetary Theory)
Economics 321 (Banking Operations)
Accounting 210 (Principles of Accounting)
Political Science 300* (Public Administration)

DO, Nguyen Thanh: Economics 318 (Money, Credit and Banking)
Economics 501 (International Trade and Finance)
Political Science 300 (Public Administration)
Economics 520 (Interdisciplinary Seminar on the Impact of International Military, Economic, and Technical Assistance Programs)
Economics 511 (Thesis research: Mr. Do is working towards the Masters' Degree and is planning to write on The Impact of U. S. Aid on the Vietnamese Economy. He is writing under Professor Anthony Koo.)

GIAU, Truong Ngoc: Political Science 300 (Public Administration)
Political Science 327 (The Constitution and Civil Rights.)
Political Science 421 (Administrative Legislation)

HUAN, Hoang The: Political Science 250b (Introduction to Political Science)
Economics 200 (Introduction to Economics)
Sociology 241 (Introduction to Sociology)
Business Education 363 (Office Management)
Journalism 100 (Survey of Journalism)

LAN, Nguyen Quoc: Political Science 300 (Public Administration)
Political Science 311 (Budgeting and Planning)
Economics 428 (Modern International Commercial Policy)
Economics 407 (Taxation)

*Political Science 300 has been specially prepared for the particular problems of Vietnamese Public Administration by Professor Norton Long.

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LEM, Truong Hoang: Psychology 260 (Psychology of Business and Personnel)
Business Administration 363 (Office Management)
Political Science 300 (Public Administration)

NGHI, Buu: Political Science 260 (International Relations)
Political Science 300 (Public Administration)
Journalism 429 (Directed Reading under Dean Sabine of the School
of Journalism in Public Opinion and Propaganda.)
Speech 281 (Fundamental of Broadcasting) /Dean Sabine is personally
directing the activities here of Mr. Nghi./

NGUYEN, Duong: Political Science 300 (Public Administration)
Poultry Husbandry 336 (Marketing of Poultry Products)
Agricultural Economics 446 (Agricultural Prices)
Agricultural Economics 405 (Special Problems. Professor Ulrey of
the Agricultural Economics Department is directing Mr. Nguyen's
work in cooperatives.)

THANH, Than Thi: Economics 200 (The General Economy: the aggregate picture)
Statistics 401 (Statistical Methods)
Business Administration 363 (Office Management)

THANH, Tran Phuoc: Police Administration 211 (Patrol and Communications)
Police Administration 310 (Criminal Investigation)
Police Administration 320 (Law Enforcement Administration)
Police Administration 341 (Traffic: Police and Court Traffic
Administration)
Police Administration 472 (Interrogation and Case Preparation)

SKS:jb

cc: R. H. Smuckler
C. C. Killingsworth

MEMORANDUM

March 2, 1956

To: E.W.Weidner
From: S.K.Sheinbaum
Subject: Hoang The HUAN, Viet Nam Project Participant

Since his arrival on campus Mr. Huan has been a matter of concern to the Viet Nam Project staff. He is the youngest of the group of participants. His immaturity and a profound lack of confidence seem to combine to hinder his performance here. From the onset he has complained of lacking the necessary background with which to approach his course work. He has consistently consumed hour upon hour of the scarce time of his instructors and the project staff both in their offices and at their homes. Apparently he goes to these people for greater degrees of direction inasmuch as he feels unable to cope with his work on his own.

My discussions with his instructors afforded the following comments:

Journalism 100 (Blumberg):

Bright - good language facility
Lives across the street; six or seven home visits
Seems to rationally accept obligations and responsibilities; yet work remains undone.
Way behind in work.
Constantly talks of the struggles of the other participants because of their weaker language command.
Current grade "C", but the same work from an American would be "F".

Sociology 241 (Bealer)

Instructor at first anxious to learn from Huan's background and experience. Almost from start Huan failed to meet requirements.
With Useem it was decided to give Huan special tutoring. This has not helped. Often cancels appointments.
Shyness and reluctance to speak out hinders communications. However when informed on a particular subject his excellent language facility shows.
Bases his inability to do the work on the work he is doing in his other courses.

Bus.Ed. 363 (Maxwell) (Office Management)

Misses too many classes: 3 one and a half hour sessions.
Claims he's carrying too many hours. (This is Huan's claim.)
Instructor suggests incomplete. Present grade "D" stretches the point.
Seems scared and unsure. Yet bright. In discussions he can do well.
Does not bluff. On what he does (and this is far too little) he does well.
On two occasions has failed to keep appointments.
On technical essay test he only completed 1/3 rd.
Miss Lem and Mrs. Thanh are in the same class. With a far poorer language command both are doing amazingly good work.

Economics 202 (Gherity)

Instructor sense language difficulty: Huan speaks well, but can't take notes fast enough. Cannot read fast enough to cover work.
Startling lack of background: after several lectures on the money supply involving discussion of checking accounts Huan claimed not to know what a check was.
Missed about four classes. Suspicion aroused because two involved quizzes.
Instructor refusing to doubt Huan's sincerity has given him 1 1/2 to 2 hrs. a week extra. No visible results.

Generally there seems to be a great dependence upon others especially superiors. (He has always remained rather distant from the rest of the participants. His attempts at social contacts here seem to veer not towards his own age group but to older people and usually those with whom he is related via the project.) He lacks an aggressiveness necessary to take his work in hand and deal with it. Instead he rationalizes his inability to sit down and perform. In each course his failure is attributed to the work in the other courses; in none of them is there any real evidence of accomplishment. At some points he attributes his problems to the language; however, his facility with the language far exceeds the best of the other nine participants. His consciousness of a lack of background though unfounded is a deep seated affair, I believe, and does set up a block. (I tried to explain that all his courses are of an introductory nature and therefore by nature the material was new to all the people in his classes.)

To further complicate his relations with the staff of the project from his first week here he has made it aware that he would like to get an extension and remain on if not only for one year possibly even to complete his Bachelor's. He has spoken that he 'is the only one with the real American attitude; the others don't have this asset'. (I suspect that the Americans he worked with when he was Field Interpreter for USOM fed him a bit too much of this sort of thing.) Nevertheless there is a fear on the part of the project staff that he is not motivated by a desire to return to Viet Nam and aid his country. He has stated that he does ultimately wish to return, that he does not want to stay here. This cannot be categorically denied of course, but it cannot be accepted per se.

Yesterday, March 1, I had a long (three hour) traumatic talk with him. I firstly made it clear to him that in no way should he expect to receive an extension to his present stay here. I emphasized that this is a technical assistance program designed to develop the capacities of the participants to the goal of returning them to Viet Nam as soon as possible to be of positive use to their country. It is not a student exchange program as he seemed to infer. I then went on to discuss the nature of his work and what he was accomplishing under the program. I pointed out that despite superior language facility he was doing exceptionally poor work. (I tried to keep from making comparison to the other participants although at times this did get into the discussion.) He was quite disturbed by this and seemed unable to discuss the problem for at least fifteen minutes. I left him alone, and when I returned we were able to resume a logical conversation. At this point he was ready to concede that things were wrong. We tried to trace his 'block' to loneliness for his wife and home, to failure to accept responsibility for his position here and in general, to an inability to avoid reliance on others, and to other armchair psychoanalyzing. Certainly elements of truth exist in most of the factors I've mentioned.

Throughout the discussion I kept in mind the possibility of returning Huan to Viet Nam at the end of the quarter. I raised the issue with him as to why he would want to stay here longer than his allotted nine months when it was obvious to both of us that not only was he not doing his work, but he was also extremely unhappy. He groped for a few minutes and could not give a rational answer. (I suspect that from Americans in Viet Nam he had gotten the notion that he could stay over. This sounded good to him, and it became a goal, in itself, regardless of its value.) In light his work failure and his unhappiness here I further suggested that he should seriously consider returning to Viet Nam as soon as possible. This suggestion came as less of a blow to him than I had

expected. By this time we had spent about two hours, and I'm sure he had become realistically aware of his situation here. The important point is that he is now aware of what the official attitude towards him is, that there is a possibility of his leaving, and that the only factor that can save him from leaving (and I'm not certain that down deep he wouldn't be happy to get out) is his own ability to take his problem in hand and work with it. The desire to give him another chance and the concern I had for the group as a whole (his departure might be a shock to them) led me to the following step.

I decided to relieve him of responsibility from two of his five courses. He had been carrying the second largest number of hours relative to others in the participant group. He will receive "X"s in Sociology and Office Management. (This is the grade considered conditional - work not completed through fault of student.) He is aware of his problem now at the conscious level. I strongly indicated that the resolution is in his hands. If he cannot display a more positive attitude in the remaining weeks of the quarter it would be our responsibility to reopen the question of his staying on.

March 19, 1956

MEMORANDUM

To: J. Russell Andrus, University Contract Coordinator

From: S. K. Sheinbaum, Director, Participant Program

Subject: Participant Training at Vanderbilt Summer Institute

JUNE 16 - July 14
JULY 22 - Aug 18

In confirmation of telegram sent this morning I am recommending that the following five Vietnamese participants on the Michigan State contract attend the Vanderbilt Institute:

1. DANG, Nghien. Mr. Dang is Associate Director of the National Institute of Administration. He is due to leave Saigon momentarily for this campus where he will broaden his background in the fields of economics and public administration. (Second Session)
2. BAC (first name unknown at this time). Like Mr. Dang, Mr. Bac is also Associate Director of the National Institute of Administration and has the same purpose in coming to the U.S. (Second Session)
3. DIEN, Nguyen. Mr. Dien's interests are in the field of banking and public finance. In Vietnam he had been assigned to regional administration in Huê. He is tentatively scheduled to enter the Ministry of Economic Affairs upon his return to Saigon. Exceptional leadership ability and motivation. (First Session)
4. DO, Nguyen Thanh. Mr. Do was confidential assistant to the Minister of the Plan and Reconstruction of Vietnam. Particularly interested in the investment problems of economic development. As a graduate of the Faculty of Law in Paris he probably has the best formal training in economics of the five being recommended. (First Session)
5. LAN, Nguyen Quoc. Mr. Lan was an inspector in the customs service before coming to the United States. Here he has shown a keen interest in the problems of governmental budgeting and planning. It is hoped that upon return to Vietnam he will be reappointed in light of his training here. (Second Session)

Participants are listed according to our preference in having them attend the Vanderbilt meetings. All can be reached at this address. Mr. Dang and Mr. Bac should be on campus by April 1. The others arrived here November, 1955. All are scheduled to return to Vietnam mid-August or late August, 1956. All have civil service status in Vietnam.

JUNE 16 - July 14
JULY 22 - AUG. 18

Dr. Richard Seldon, March 26, 1956, page 2

planning. It is hoped that upon return to Vietnam he will be re-appointed in light of his training here. (Second Session)

Please keep me informed as to what further information you want relative to these participants and their work.

Very truly yours,

Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Director, Participant Program

SKS:jb

April 11, 1956

To: Donald J. Gemmel, Foreign Student Adviser

From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum, Director, Participant Program

Subject: Vietnamese Participants

Following is a list of our Vietnamese Participants and their local addresses along with their addresses in Vietnam:

- S ✓ Nguyen DIEN, 126 Fern Street, East Lansing; 77/4 rue Gl. De Lattre de Tassigny, Saigon.
- S ✓ Nguyen Thanh DO, 413a Butterfield Hall; 10 rue Colonel Grimaud, Saigon.
- S ✓ Truong Ngoc GIAU, 309b Bryan Hall; 4 rue Nguyen-van-Thoai, Cholon.
- S Hoang The HUAN, 445 Abbott Road, East Lansing; 23/25 Bui-Chu (Guillerault), Saigon.
- S ✓ Nguyen Quoc LAN, 235 Ann Street, East Lansing; 142b Ho Van Nga, 1st floor, Apt. 2, Saigon.
- S ✓ Truong Hoang LEM (Miss), 18 Mason Hall; 166 Arras, Saigon.
- S ✓ Bui NGHI, 413a Butterfield Hall; 18 rue Roses, Dalat.
- S ✓ Duong NGUYEN, 409a Butterfield Hall; 110 rue Bui-thi-Xuan, Saigon.
- S ✓ Tran Phuoc THANH, 313a Rather Hall; Avenue Chi Lang, PHU-NHUAN, Saigon.
- S ✓ Tran Thi THANH (Mrs.), c/o M. Lepere, 4998 Algonquin Way, Okemos; 24 Cite Audouit, Saigon.

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

May 18, 1956

To: Wesley Fishel
From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Subject: Course work of Participants

Listed below is the course work being taken by each of our Vietnamese participants.

DIEM, Nguyen: Economics 319 (Financial Institutions)
Economics 429 (Foreign Trade Practice and International
Institutions)
Interdisciplinary Course 579 (Behavioral and Historical
Approaches to Problems of
Selected Foreign Areas)

DO, Nguyen Thanh: Economics 318 (Money, Credit and Banking)
Economics 429 (Foreign Trade Practice and International
Institutions)
Economics 320 (Monetary Theory)
Economics 503 (Fiscal Policy)

GIAU, Truong Ngoc: Political Science 251a (The Principles of American Government)
Political Science 414 (Comparative Administration)
Political Science 510 (Readings in Administration Organization
and Behavior)

HAUAN, Hoang the: Political Science 250c (Introduction to Political Science)
Political Science 260 (International Relations)
English 200 (English Sentence & parts of Speech)

LAN, Nguyen Quoc: Economics 429 (Foreign Trade Practice and International
Institutions)
Economics 408 (State and Local Finance)
Economics 503 (Fiscal Policy)

LEM, Truong Hoang: Political Science 312 (Public Personnel Administration)
Psychology 360 (Psychology of Human Relations in Industry)

NGHI, Bau: Political Science 364 (The U. S. in World Affairs)
Political Science 464 (International Law)
Interdisciplinary Course 579 (Behavioral and Historical
Approaches to Problems of
Selected Foreign Areas)

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

May 18, 1956

TO: John T. Dorsey, Jr.
THROUGH: Wesley R. Fishel and Edward W. Weidner
FROM: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
SUBJECT: Progress Report on Participants

I am enclosing to you a copy of my memo of January 25 on which I have indicated the course grades of each of the participants. I am also sending a list of the present course work in which each of the participants is involved. The following is a general statement of the work of each of them:

DIEN, Nguyen:

Dien continues to display all the energy and aggressiveness as Wesley will remember. His work-grade wise last quarter was somewhat disappointing. If the nature of the course was in the form of study, he did not fare well. The one course in which he got an "A", Banking Operations, was a course in which they visited banks and actually dug into the mechanics of banking.

Dien's interests have veered almost completely towards banking, and as a result, I am interning him with the National Bank of Detroit from June 25 to August 1. At that time he will go to either the Hanover Bank of New York or the Chase National of New York for a two or three-week period.

DO, Nguyen Thanh:

Mr. Do continues with primarily academic interests. He will attend the seminar at Vanderbilt University this summer. I feel that he is the most equipped for the over all problem of economic development that they will deal with at that meeting. He has dropped his plans to obtain a Master's Degree here in as much as the course ^{REVISED} ~~is~~ for the time limitation that he has was too great. I also plan to have him spend some time with the Michigan State Department of Revenue during the summer.

GIAU, Truong Ngoc:

Mr. Giau is following an academic interest in Constitutional Law and will continue straight academic work during the summer. His "B" grades do not ^{adequately} reflect ~~the~~ earnestness with which he has been approaching his work. His English has improved considerably, but in conversing with superiors, he is extremely nervous, and I suppose this has impeded his grades.

HUAN, Hoang The:

Huan unfortunately floundered considerably during his first quarter here despite the fact that we allowed him to drop two courses during the course of the quarter. He was unable to salvage the remaining three. Mr. Huan is very young and has suffered from loneliness and homesickness here. The Riot act about three weeks before the end of winter quarter did serve to jolt him into a greater sense of responsibility.

I am going to use Mr. Huan to help teach ~~English~~^{VIETNAMESE} to the next group of briefees departing for Vietnam in June. The news of this to Mr. Huan has given him a sense of importance and responsibility which I think will overlap into his training here.

LAN, Nguyen Quoc:

Mr. Lan has done spectacularly well which I know we did not foresee. His grades reflect this. He has spent considerable time with the Budget Department down at the State Capital, and during the summer he will spend two months with the Treasury Department surveying their customs operations and attempting to solve many of the problems faced as a customs inspector.

LEM, Truong Hoang:

Miss Lem is likewise one of our most successful trainees. She spends several mornings a week at the State Civil Service Commission, and her curiosity and energies have been the source of many positive comments from the people down there. Likewise, her instructors have been particularly impressed with her quality of taking problems in hand and dealing with them. Miss Lem will spend the summer interning with the Civil Service Commission in Washington.

NGHI, Bui:

As previously reported, Mr. Nghi ranks with the cream of the group. His classwork has been superb. It was hoped that he would spend some time with Paul Weber, the Governor's Press Secretary, but this has not worked out. However, he will spend the summer with the Voice of America and the United States Information Agency.

NGUYEN, Duong:

Mr. Nguyen's classwork has been disappointing. His interest in cooperatives has not been diminished. He has made numerous field trips and will spend just about the entire summer on farms.

THANH, Than Thi:

Lt. Thanh's work was approached seriously even though his grades may not have reflected that. The following is a statement by A. F. Brandstatter evaluating Mr. Thanh:

"We found Mr. Thanh to be an attentive student and one who applied himself; his attitude was one of cooperation and willingness to learn. Mr. Thanh attended classes regularly and frequently

sought the counsel of the Director of the School of Police Administration and Public Safety, as well as that of the members of the staff. He was well received by everyone; his principle problem is the inability to express himself."

Lt. Thanh spent a week in Detroit, a week in Kalamazoo, two weeks with the Lansing Police Department, and two weeks with the F.B.I. in Washington.

Mrs. Thanh's main interest has been in the field of Science and Mathematics. It has been somewhat difficult to help her plan her course work; at times the math courses she took were either too hard for her or too low. Her instructors inform me that she is "absolutely brilliant".

GENERAL:

Generally speaking the main problem dealing with the Vietnamese group here is that some of them do not know what they wanted from their stay in the United States. Those who did, those who had purpose in mind, approached their work, ~~not necessarily more seriously, but~~ certainly more earnestly. They knew what they wanted. It would greatly facilitate the work here if you could obtain from each of the participants a statement answering the following questions:

1. Exactly what has been your function in Vietnam?
2. What do you expect your function to be upon returning to Vietnam?
3. What would you like your function to be upon returning to Vietnam?
4. What were the problems you faced in connection with your work before you left Vietnam?
5. Especially what is it that you want to gain from your stay in the United States?

In addition to this there is one thing that I would appreciate your impressing upon the minds of them even though this may be difficult. Almost all of them at first were very reluctant to state what they wanted - be it relative to their general work or just to simple mechanics of ~~American~~ living. It was hard for us to find out, therefore, what was best for them. I think this may have stemmed from a feeling on their part that we knew what was best. This, of course, is not true. If we know their problems - be they relative to the work or again to the mechanics of living - we can help them. But, they feel confident in placing their well being in our hands, which is flattering, but does not give us good grounds on which to operate.

In trying to ascertain, for instance, what it was that a particular participant needed, the asking of a direct question did not help. As a result, we at times had to make decisions for them, and only after the action was taken did we find out that this was not necessarily what they ²¹⁸~~wanted~~ wanted. Had we been able to attain in advance exactly what it was they wanted, there would have been much saving of time and motion. So I urge you to impress on them that they

are not to look to us as protectors. We will help them ~~from~~ the nature of their stay here, but without information from them, we cannot do an adequate job.

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