

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. John T. Dorsey, Jr.                      DATE : August 29, 1958  
FROM : M. A. Sanderson, Jr. *[Signature]*  
SUBJECT : Status Report - Department of Health Study

As of this date, one project has been completed. This is the report to the Department on a suggestion program in which they had expressed interest. In addition, copies of three hospital regulation laws were forwarded to them per their request. We have requested similar laws from other Southeast Asian nations but to date have not received any. In this connection I would like to point out that Dr. Brown of WHO is prepared to give them technical assistance on medical laws and has at his disposal the combined efforts of over 82 nations. It would seem advisable that the Department be advised to consult with WHO on this matter. This could well be taken up at the forthcoming conference with Tran Vy.

In other areas, progress is being made satisfactorily with the possible exception of the Personnel Service survey. Mr. Waltman, who has been assigned to help us on this project part-time, is at the peak of his activities in the participant program and has, therefore, been unable to do much work on the Personnel section of the Department. At present he is not too optimistic that we can make any significant contribution

in this area, since civil service reforms will necessarily have to precede reforms within the Department.

Mr. Myers has made great strides in the Service of Finance and in the Service of Medical Supply. An excellent working arrangement has been set up in which MSU will work in conjunction with the Direction General of the Budget and the Health Department in establishing a new and modern control system for medical supplies. This will involve the use of IBM machines and procedures, the organization of new warehousing methods, and a complete revamping of their present unsatisfactory system. During the initial phases, it is planned that there will be one member of the MSU-Budget team on hand to render assistance at all times. After this phase it is felt that weekly contacts will be sufficient. With the introduction of this modern system we feel that it can be used as a model system for the benefit of other governmental departments.

In the Service of Finance we have been endeavoring to track down the reasons why the Health Department takes longer to process its accounts for purchases than any other department. Research revealed that a delay did not rest with the Treasury or the Department of Finance but within the Health Department itself. The Chief of the Service of Finance was somewhat uncooperative when Myers tried to look through his records and

accounts, so no further work was done in that office.

Dr. Cam suggested at this point that it might prove fruitful to study the financial and procurement activities of several hospitals in the Saigon area. Here two extremes were found. Some of the hospitals were doing an excellent job in preparing purchase orders, processing papers, etc., while others were doing an incredibly poor job. Dr. Cam has agreed that we in cooperation with Budget O and M men may work on the preparation of a standard simplified procedure to be used throughout the Department and the province hospitals. This would include a certain amount of in-service training, which has been discussed with Mr. Maynard. A written proposal on this subject is now being prepared. Dr. Cam has appointed the Chief of the Service of Finance as our point of contact within the Health Department.

In conjunction with WHO personnel and USOM Health and Sanitation Division personnel, a proposed reorganization for the Department has been prepared. This reorganization is considered a more efficient and workable organization than the present one. However, since some of the modifications proposed are liable to run into resistance, the proposal will be made casually and informally at a series of round-table conferences to include Health Department, WHO, USOM and MSU personnel.