



May 29, 1957

Dean Glen Taggart
Dean of International Programs
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Glen and Ralph,

The Chief is most happy about the visit to the States, and he enjoyed himself immensely in East Lansing. Clearly, you gave him the most royal of treatment. His single, strongest and most vivid impression is the friendliness of the American people -- and he has in mind the people -- not only the bureaucrats, official or academic. The effects of all this will be worth watching. One thing is certain: the Michigan Project is indeed very special. Now all he has to do is to see to it that his Government acts upon the recommendations.

Under the impact of his account -- breakfast lasted two full hours -- I regret the more my failure to visit East Lansing. However, I console myself with the thought that the fault was not mine. I hope to make good the gap in 1958.

I continue in good spirits, although the frustrations are beginning to make their appearance. In short, I am back to usual.

My warmest greetings, my dear Gentlemen, and don't forget the downtrodden.

As ever,
Walf

Pro Ann

File



Office of Chief Advisor

June 1, 1957

Dr. John A. Hannah, President
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear President Hannah:

I thought you might be pleased to know that President Ngo Dinh Diem considered his East Lansing visit one of the most enjoyable portions of his recent trip to the United States. Not only has he himself talked enthusiastically about the warm welcome he received at the University, but his chief secretary, Mr. Vo Van Hai, told me privately that, as they prepared to step off the plane in Lansing, the President turned to him and said with some emotion, "Why, it's like coming home."

He was quite taken with the fact that there were apparently large numbers of students awaiting his arrival at the Kellogg Center (even there), and that the crowd in the auditorium was so large and enthusiastic. There is no question but that he was sincerely pleased by the cordiality of MSU's hospitality.

I gathered also from the President that, as an indirect consequence of his private conversation with you, it may be possible for us to make changes in the curriculum of the National Institute of Administration which will improve its ability to turn out public-service-oriented civil servants.

May I express my personal thanks and the gratitude of the MSU Group for the open-hearted manner in which MSU greeted the President. His experience in East Lansing will have favorable consequences for our program in Vietnam.

Sincerely yours,

Wesley R. Fishel
Chief Advisor

WRF/dcm

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June 4, 1957

SKS

President John A. Hannah
Michigan State University
319 Administration Building

Dear President Hannah:

This morning I received the following communication from Wesley Fishel:

I had breakfast with the President this morning and was delighted with his glowing references to the reception he got in East Lansing. In fact, Wolf Ladejinsky was moved to protest loudly because every time he brought up a "serious subject," either the President or Vo Van Hai switched almost immediately to the subject of "the magnificent" welcome East Lansing had given them. Bill Burke of the State Journal was kind enough to send me tear sheets from his newspaper so that I might know what went on during the visit.

The President was particularly impressed by the "high caliber" of the faculty, by the remarks on foreign aid made by Governor Williams, and by the cold weather that greeted him in Lansing. He tells me he barely avoided the mistake, when visiting the Ford River Rouge plant, of asking Henry Ford if that was the place where they made Oldsmobiles. Just before the remark would have passed his lips, he turned to an aide and whispered the question and got the obvious reply that Olds was a GM product and he shouldn't say a thing about it to Mr. Ford.

I thought you would enjoy this kind of a report on the President's visit from Dr. Fishel.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Acting Coordinator

SKS:jb

cc: Dean G. L. Taggart