

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Musolf

FROM : J. E. Griffin *JEG*

SUBJECT: Radio Equipment

DATE: October 30, 1959

The purpose of this memorandum is to officially inform you of the situation regarding MSU-purchased radio equipment on which there is currently a question of possession. Since the purchase of this equipment was actually handled through East Lansing in accord with regular dollar purchasing procedures, all documentation is not available.

The following items are, or were, according to Mr. Hemmye, in Rundlett's possession:

- Hemmye witnessed his signing this out of office just days before he left.*
1. BASSETT VC-1075 center load coil, fender mount and quick connector including antenna mast. The cost of this equipment is approximately \$33.
  2. HW-3 Mark Mobile Heliwhip. The cost of this item is approximately \$19.50.
  3. Collins 75A-4 radio receiver valued at \$695. This receiver was at one time in the possession of Mr. Rundlett and was always in his custody.

Respecting the radio receiver referred to in (3) above, it is necessary for us to assume that the receiver was in fact received in Saigon although, because of extremely sloppy administrative handling, there is no record available of delivery. Mr. Rundlett was apparently given a completely free hand in ordering, receiving, and using items of a communications nature. Therefore, based on information available, it is next to impossible to prove that Mr. Rundlett has these items in his possession at the present. His air and surface shipments include several cartons of "personal effects" which, in the absence of a packing list, may well have included any or all of these items.

✓  
file

Dr. Lloyd Musolf, Acting Chief Advisor

October 30, 1959

Jack E. Ryan, Chief, Police Administration Division

Scripps Howard Newspaper Reporting of British PYE Firm  
Protest on Specifications and Contract Award for Police  
Communications Equipment

On 29 October 1959, the Public Safety Division of USOM received a cable from ICA/W (ICATO 748) which states as follows:

"Scripps Howard papers are carrying article today on alleged favoritism in specifications for dollars one and a half million worth of police radio equipment. Bids close July 8, 1959 and ICA threw out all bids when determined to be pre-conclusive. Scripps Howard now seeking information on a contract for police radio equipment supposedly entered into in summer of 1958 with Westrex as sale agency representing Motorola. Scripps Howard says British firm PYE protested that specifications were preclusive and were 60% higher than PYE bid but contract went to Westrex. Please send full details by cable."

As a result of the receipt of the above cable, a meeting was called at USOM on 30 October 1959, which was attended by the following individuals:

Mr. Frank E. Walton, Chief, PSD/USOM  
Miss Dora M. Epperson, PSD/USOM  
Mr. William F.X. Band, Personnel Security Integrity Officer, ICA  
Mr. Taylor H. Greenfield, USOM advisor to Central Purchasing Authority/GVN  
Mr. William C. Taylor, Chief, Contracts & Procurement Division/USOM  
Mr. Lloyd Musolf, Acting Chief Advisor, MSUG  
Mr. J. H. Hemmye, Communications Advisor, Police Admin. Division/MSUG  
Mr. Ralph F. Turner, Police Advisor, MSUG  
Mr. Jack E. Ryan, Chief, Police Administration Division/MSUG

The PIO/C which covers the ordering of the equipment which is the subject of the above mentioned cable is No. 70498. Upon a brief review of the files of the Contracts & Procurement Division of USOM, the Public Safety Division of USOM, and of MSUG, it was agreed that Mr. Walton appoint a committee of communications specialists consisting of Mr. Hemmye and one

or two employed by Television Associates and Civil Aeronautics Authority (contractual groups to USOM), who will review PIO/C specifications and the bids involved. Mr. William Band advised that although it may appear that Mr. Hemmye's participation in such a review could appear to be inappropriate since it involves MSU directly, that he has the highest regard for Mr. Hemmye's capabilities and frankness. Mr. Hemmye's services in this respect were deemed indispensable by virtue of the lack of fully qualified electronics technicians in the area. It was agreed that a meeting of the committee to be formed by Mr. Walton would be called as soon as possible in order that a complete report of the entire affair be submitted with a minimum of delay. It was further agreed that Mr. Walton would prepare a draft of a cable in answer to ICATO 748, for forwarding to Washington as soon as possible. Reference would be made only to Westrex and PYE bids. It was also agreed that a statement would be included that the bids for one and a half million dollars of police radio equipment were not thrown out by ICA because of being preclusive, as alleged in the Scripps Howard article.

Although the total amount of money expended on PIO/C 70458 is \$108,109.11, it should be noted that the actual amount involving Westrex is approximately \$72,000. The difference between the two figures involves the purchase of special vehicles and other equipment not involving Westrex.

November 2, 1959

PERSONAL

TO: Mr. Stanley Gabis, Acting Coordinator  
FROM: Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Acting Chief Advisor  
SUBJECT: Radio Equipment

Today I sent you a second cablegram dealing with the two antennae and one Collins radio receiver which have disappeared. As you know by now, I suggested that you press Rundlett for these items. This decision is backed up by Ryan, Turner, and Hemmye. The reason for asking whether two Collins receivers were purchased is that since the first cablegram was sent on Saturday information has come to light that not one but two Collins receivers must have been received by us. The vagueness arises from the fact that John Griffin can discover no record of delivery of any receivers. Apparently Rundlett was given a free hand in ordering, receiving, and using items of a communications nature, and this is the explanation for the lack of records. However, it is Hemmye's recollection that he saw a Collins receiver in Rundlett's apartment, and he also reasons that since two transmitters were ordered there must have been two receivers. You can see from all this how circumstantial the evidence is. Hemmye did see Rundlett remove the center load coil from his office the day before he boarded the plane. Even this, however, is not more than circumstantial evidence.

I think that rather than stressing the amount of evidence which we have your emphasis should be upon securing from Rundlett an affirmation or denial as to whether the items are in his possession and, secondly, if they are not an explanation of where the items are. As it seems fairly certain that the items were once here and cannot now be located, it seems reasonable to ask the former communications man about their location.

The number 754A that you sent in your cable appears to be garbled version of the model number (75A4) rather than a serial number. The purchase order probably would not have serial numbers on it. Can you find out from the dealer what the serial numbers were? The serial number of the receiver we now have is 3214.

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Jack Ryan has suggested that you ask both Howard Hoyt and Wes Fishel about the purchase of these two receivers. Ryan believes that they were purchased in the summer of 1957. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance on this matter.

IDM/dca

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

November 4, 1959

*Griffin*  
*Comments - Draft*  
*response*  
*RHS*

To: Ralph H. Smuckler  
From: Stanley T. Gabis *STG*  
Subject: Lyman Rundlett

We finally received a check from Westrex settling the indebtedness of Lyman Rundlett for his compassionate leave. This check has been completely processed by the University.

We were prepared to close out this account when we recalled the fact that Saigon was missing some items of communication equipment. I have sent a letter to Rundlett which will be forwarded to Beirut asking him about the whereabouts of this equipment. In view of the fact the evidence that the items may be in his possession is only circumstantial, I thought that I had to state the request in rather general terms. I have checked with Howard Grider, and he thinks it wise that we do not settle our accounts completely until we have heard from Rundlett. However, in view of the fact that the evidence is only "circumstantial" it doesn't seem to me that there is very much we can do. If you have a contrary opinion I would very much welcome your advice. Incidentally, was this equipment inventoried before Rundlett's departure? If it was, then the question of accountability might be more easily established.

STG/ap

cc: International Programs

2-76



November 9, 1959

PERSONAL

Mr. Howard Hoyt  
2391 Shawnee Trail  
Okemos, Michigan

Dear Howard:

I just finished writing a personal letter to you, and I did not realize I would be writing this soon again. It almost seems like the good old days when all I had to do was pick up the telephone.

I received your letter of November 4 written from Washington, and I appreciate hearing from you. I had already received the information contained in the clippings you sent, and there have been various discussions here about the police radio situation and Rundlett. So far there has been much more smoke than fire, and it may stay that way. The smoke is bad enough, however, when you consider that it is appearing in the newspapers and, whatever the final outcome, an impression is being firmly planted.

I am enclosing in this letter a copy of a personal memorandum to Bill Band concerning the Rundlett cable. My memorandum was prepared in August, and as I think back upon the episode again there is very little in the memo that I would change. Actually, it seems to me that the cable was signed by Buck rather than Westrex. Be that as it may, it sure does appear on hindsight that the cable may have some significance. Given Rundlett's tendency to be borrowing money from friends, however, it seems much more likely that his friend in Singapore was tiding him over a tight situation relating to his son's departure for the United States.

The situation here at the present time is much different than when you left. The Colegrove Scripps-Howard series and the resulting attention to this program has resulted in the higher echelons of USOM spending most of their time looking into the past instead of thinking about the present and the future. I am sure that Arthur Gardiner feels much harrassed and unhappy about the present situation. We are bound to get dragged into it in more ways than one. The police communications project will cause us plenty of headaches before they are through,

but in addition to this Colegrove or his colleagues have stated in writing to one of the Congressmen that I as Chief Advisor of the MSU Group suppressed a report written by Hickey on the FMS in order to "not rock the boat." The whole thing is pure fiction as Hickey and I have pointed out for the record. However, once this type of thing starts there is no telling where it ends. For every mountain of fiction they will probably find a molehill of truth, and in a program of this size even a molehill begins to look significant in the eyes of the American press and public.

We already have another Scripps-Howard man on the scene, but he has had no contact with us, and we do not anticipate having any contact with him. We also had members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House and I believe USOM is expecting the arrival today of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chief staff researcher. Following these visits will be several additional Congressmen and Senators.

MSUG is also expecting some inspection. Deans Taggart and Seelye are due to arrive today for a five-day stay.

I assume that Barrows will have access to my memorandum, but if you want to you can go ahead and show it to him. I still wonder why it is not possible to get ahold of the original cable. I also wonder if anybody has bothered to talk to Rundlett in all of this.

Sincerely,

Ralph H. Smuckler  
Chief Advisor

RHS/dcm

bc: Coordinator



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

To Griffin

Discuss with Hemmige  
and draft reply  
for Gabis.

November 17, 1959

RHS

To: Ralph H. Smuckler  
From: Stanley T. Gabis *STG*  
Subject: Missing Radio Equipment

I am attaching a copy of a letter which we received from Lyman Rundlett today. It contains some interesting information concerning the missing radio equipment. I would very much appreciate your advice as to possible courses of action. As you know, we are withholding a rather large payment which is due Rundlett pending the settlement of this problem.

I tried to reach Hoyt today to get his reaction, but he was out of town, and I wanted to send this letter off to you today.

STG/ap

cc: Hoyt

Ferry:  
Please give me your  
reaction to the letter. Please  
check out equipment mentioned  
and I should like your help  
in drafting the requested reply

*J*

شركة ويستريكس الشرق الأوسط  
Westrex Company, East

P. O. B. 341 - BEIRUT - LEBANON

الشركة العامة للتلفزيون والبرق في بيروت

CABLE ADDRESS: WESTREX-BEIRUT

تلفون 42243

TELEPHONE: 42243

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Dr. Stanley T. Gabis

November 12, 1959

- 1 ea. Weston Test set in wood case OK
- 1 ea. P.P. Signal Generator - JDP
- 1 ea. Reflectometer - OK
- 1 ea. B & W T-R Switch ?
- 1 ea. URR388 Receiver JDP
- 2 ea. Antenna Change-over relays 2  
mounted in metal boxes
- 1 ea. Leather Tool bag with Misc. hand  
tools including soldering gun, 1/4" OK  
electric drill, electric soldering  
iron, etc...

We had a wonderful trip out via Paris, London, Lisbon, Barcelona and Rome. Met Stan Sheinbaum in New-York and we met Olga Pierce, on the plane from London to Lisbon. We spent several pleasant days with her and met her husband who just returned from Morocco.

Sincerely,

L. M. Rundlett

LMR/ip



Westrex Corporation

A DIVISION OF LITTON INDUSTRIES



November 19, 1959

TO: Stan Gabis, Coordinator of the Vietnam Project  
FROM: Howard W. Hoyt *HW*  
SUBJECT: Correspondence on Missing Radio Equipment

I have read over copies of the correspondence on the above subject.

I will forward to you in the next day or so, the memorandum covering all I can remember on this subject, as I gave it to you by phone one day last week. It was dictated and has been in the typing pool two days.

After reading Rundlett's reply to your letter of October 30, 1959 on the three pieces of equipment missing from the Saigon inventory, I would suggest this phase of the investigation be closed, because:

1. As I told you, I recall that his personal Collins receiver arrived in his air freight. The equipment in question had not been ordered at that time.
2. I am not inclined to believe his explanation on the center load coil and mobile whip antenna.
  - a. I have no recollection, and I am sure there is no record, of any incident that might have "accidentally destroyed" these items.
  - b. If he felt he should be reimbursed for them, he would have mentioned it.
  - c. Hemmye is not the rattle-brained type who would have "no doubt forgotten" any conversation on the matter.
  - d. The fact he offers to return the coil and antenna is an indication to me of the lack of truthfulness of his claims. (Like Charles Van Doren, now that he is caught, he will make amends.)
3. Much depends on how strong Saigon feels on this matter. Total cost of the two pieces does not exceed \$45. If Saigon does not wish to write them off, the easiest way would be to withhold the cost of replacement from what MSU owes him rather than have him ship them.

You asked for my reaction to this matter. Thank you.

rn

cc: Chief Advisor ✓

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

November 20, 1959

To: Ralph H. Smuckler  
From: Stanley T. Gabis *STG*  
Subject: Missing Radio Equipment

I am attaching a copy of Howard Hoyt's memo of November 19 to me in answer to a request that he evaluate Rundlett's letter of November 12, 1959 which you should have by now. Howard is of the opinion that Rundlett should not be held liable for the missing Collings receiver inasmuch as our records indicate only one Collins radio receiver had been purchased for Saigon, and that Rundlett did ship in his personal Collins receiver. This leaves the center load coil and the heliwhip which are very minor items. We have the following alternatives:

1. We can ask him to return the items to Saigon.
2. To deduct the cost from the money which we are holding for him here.
3. To forget the whole matter.

Also please find attached a copy of Hoyt's memo of November 16, 1959. I want to be sure you have this. I would appreciate any evaluation you think necessary as it relates to the question of missing equipment.

STG/ap

att.



November 16, 1959

TO: Stanley Gabis, Coordinator of Vietnam Project

FROM: Howard W. Hoyt

SUBJECT: Memorandum for the record.

Thank you for the telephone conversation about 2 p.m., Thursday, November 12, 1959, during which you read to me portions of the recent correspondence from Saigon suggesting you ask me what I could recall on the matter of the Collins radio receivers. I feel I should list in memorandum form what I recall about this matter.

I am forwarding a copy to Dr. Smuckler direct, together with a personal letter I happen to be sending him on this date.

1. Mr. Rundlett arrived in Saigon in March, 1957.
2. He advised me that he had a list of radio equipment that he felt was necessary for him to have for training the future radio technicians of the Vietnam Police Forces.
3. He said he had cleared this order with Dr. Smuckler who, I believe, was coordinator at that time, during his East Lansing orientation and that the MSU contract permits the purchases of equipment we need for the training we have agreed to undertake.
4. Ralph had advised him to send the order in from Saigon. He agreed to ship the order by air freight as soon as it was available.
5. After discussing this with Dr. Wesley Fishel, the Chief Adviser in Saigon at that time, we sent the Coordinator's Office this list of equipment.
6. One or two items of this list cost individually more than the maximum amount MSU was permitted to purchase without securing specific authority from ICA/W, so East Lansing advised us of this and asked for instructions. I do not recall how this problem was resolved. Rundlett was consulted, however.
7. The equipment was consigned to MSUG, did come air freight, was purchased by MSU/EL; not by USOM, PIO/C's. I believe some of the equipment had arrived before I left Saigon the middle of May, 1957 for home leave.
8. Rundlett lived at first in the small Duy Tai Apartment, facing on the back court where Ryans lived.
9. A Collins radio receiver owned by Rundlett personally was shipped over in his air freight and was in Saigon when he arrived.
10. He had Administrative Services help him put up an aerial over his apartment, and he started monitoring amateur broadcasts and discussing his results with us within a week of his arrival.
11. When the equipment we ordered through MSU arrived, it was apparent that it was a transmitter and receiver, Collins equipment, for an amateur radio station. I cannot say how many transmitters or receivers were in the order.
12. It was installed in an air conditioned office at the rear of the Saigon headquarters and, after temporary permission to operate on an amateur station was received from the Government of Vietnam, and after we had installed a 300 or 400 antenna on the top of the building, Rundlett was in regular communications with other amateurs in many parts of the world.



Stanley Gabis

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November 16, 1959

13. I learned about a year and a half ago that he also had amateur radio equipment installed in his apartment on Duy Tan, where he lived the last eight months. I also learned that he was operating from that location of evenings and often interfered with high fi and tape recording fans in the neighborhood.

14. I checked the next day in the MSU Headquarters and found the equipment was still there.

15. I then asked Rundlett if he had duplicate equipment in his apartment. He said that he did and admitted that part of it was that purchased by MSU.

16. Again, after the Government of Vietnam had refused to reissue his temporary license, and I had instructed him not to use the equipment except with explicit permission from the Government of Vietnam, I asked him if he still had the equipment in his apartment. He said that it was still there at that time and assured me that it would not be used.

17. About a year ago, realizing we did not have this communications equipment listed in our inventory in Saigon, as was the case with all other equipment we bought or handled, I suggested to Ralph Smuckler that we get the complete list so that we could have a complete record of all of it, if and when Rundlett leaves. As it was, no one had a record except what Rundlett might choose to list himself.

18. The Administrative Services Division checked their records at Ralph's request but did not find where they had ordered or received it.

19. The Coordinator's Office was then asked by the Chief Adviser to check the campus records for this information. I was told that they did not find any records on the purchases or on the shipment of this radio equipment.

20. I have it in mind that there was additional equipment purchased besides transmission and receiving equipment, which included some basic testing equipment and some accessories that might be necessary for replacement during normal operation. I have it in mind that this total cost ran between two and three thousand dollars.

Summary: I do not recall whether the equipment was originally ordered through requisitions initiated in Saigon in March or April of 1957. I do recall that the equipment did arrive consigned to us. I do know that before it arrived we had correspondence with the Coordinator's Office on the matter of the items that came over the maximum amount we could order. I also know that there was correspondence with the Coordinator's Office in the early fall of 1958 when we were attempting to find what the items were that were originally purchased. I also am sure that Rundlett was fully aware of the fact that we did not have a complete detailed list of the equipment bought by MSU in our inventory.

HWH/cs

cc. Dr. Ralph Smuckler  
Arthur Brandstatter

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Smuckler  
FROM : J.E. Griffin  
SUBJECT: Attached Memos - Rundlett

DATE: November 24, 1959

The attached is my recommendation toward attempting to clear our records in the Rundlett matter. As you suggested, Mr. Hemmye and I have discussed the matter fully and Mr. Hemmye has undertaken a full search of the equipment and the records where possible.

As I pointed out to the Coordinator, my only real concern is the discrepancy in serial numbers on the 75A4 Collins Receiver. My concern, of course, stems from the fact that even a superficial End Use Audit is bound to turn up this discrepancy.

Attach.