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October 2, 1959

TO: Coordinator
FROM: Chief Advisor
SUBJECT: Rundlett

The most recent development on the Rundlett question results from a cable received by USOM. USOM has been asked to send to Washington copies of official correspondence which ~~seems to suggest misconduct on~~ *by* Rundlett's part. Jack Ryan is working with the USOM Investigations Officer to select those pieces of correspondence which appear to be official. We will make copies of these and send the originals to Washington via USOM.

Your cable informing me that Rundlett is unlikely to reimburse the University for his emergency trip fare is very surprising to me. Rundlett admitted in writing that he was committed to a repayment if he did not return for a second tour. He himself resigned from the second tour and made that decision in full knowledge that it would require his reimbursing the University. We have this in writing in the form of a letter from Rundlett to Jerry Hemmeyer (a copy of which I will obtain and send to you). I will be interested in receiving more information about this issue, and I hope you are sending me a memorandum on it.

Rundlett's car and household effects are in Saigon. We had just received your memorandum giving us guidance on the shipment, and we were going to have the household effects packed up next week. We will not take any further action until we hear from you. In your cable you ask whether we can recoup the cost of the round trip ticket through savings on the household effects shipment. It seems to me we are getting into a rather legal matter on which we should have some legal guidance, and I hope that the business office is obtaining the necessary legal advice so that you can be guided accordingly. We have nobody out here to ask on any legal matter such as this because Walter Menke, the USOM Legal Advisor, is on home leave. As I am indicating in my cable, the cost of the shipment which we could send collect to Beirut would probably be in the vicinity of \$1,200, still leaving us in the hole

even if we can save money on one item to repay another. Personally, I doubt whether it is possible to arrange this kind of an exchange of funds within the accounting system. In a sense, it becomes a forced reimbursement, and even if you could get the money totals up to the necessary level so that the University would not lose anything, would an auditor not insist that any money so saved had to be considered ICA money and not MSU funds to counteract the loss on Rundlett's round trip ticket? Since we have a legal audit rather than a common sense audit, I doubt if we could make it stick.

Probably the best use of the car and household effects would be to force Rundlett to pay before any of these items are shipped. On this too we would need some legal guidance since some of us may be leaving ourselves open to a lawsuit if we take such action without being fully informed. In other words, if I were to instruct Griffin to hold onto all shipments of Rundlett's effects until I receive instructions from the University, to what extent is the University or am I open to legal action from Rundlett?

I am merely raising these various questions because I honestly do not know the answers, and while they might be irrelevant perhaps they will give you some food for thought as you try to dope this out.

RHS/dcm

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

October 2, 1959

*Griffin -
Info and as
action appropriate
RAS*

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

*Notify
Band*

I talked with Rundlett today. He's leaving for Beirut tomorrow night. He informed me that a check has been sent us in the full amount of his compassionate leave. We should be receiving it any time. As soon as it is cleared we'll notify you and then it should be possible to process the shipment of his property in our usual manner. Thanks for your help.

STG/ap

cc: International Programs

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

*file
HSS*

TO : Dr. Smuckler *29*
FROM : J. E. Griffin *JEG*
SUBJECT: Attached Memo - Lyman Rundlett

DATE: October 9, 1959

As soon as we receive information from East Lansing confirming the receipt of clearance of Mr. Rundlett's check, his household effects are ready to ship.

In accordance with your note, Mr. Ken Christiansen, who is Mr. Band's assistant, has been notified of Rundlett's departure date for Beirut and the destination of the household effects. For your information, it appears that Mr. Band's office has no legal way to seize the effects of Mr. Rundlett upon arrival in Beirut. This may pose a problem for them but I can see no alternative for us other than to comply with Rundlett's instructions on the check clearance.

TÉLÉGRAMME

VOIE T.S.F.

ODU25 THO 9/11 1953

CENTRE RADIOÉLECTRIQUE DE SAIGON

exploité par

TÉLÉVIETNAM

4/1800 BEYROUTH 24 9 1230

file



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og 9

MICHGOVBUR SAIGON

DO NOT REPEAT NOT SHIP AUTOMOBILE DELIVER CLARK FOR
FURTHER DISPOSITION WHEN DID PERSONAL EFFECTS SHIP
ADVISE CABLE WESTREX BEIRUT

RUNDLETT +

og 9

COPY

fg ✓

November 25, 1959

Dr. Stanley T. Gabis
Co-ordinator, Vietnam Project,
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Stan:

Further to my letter of Nov. 12th, I wish to inform you that I have made arrangements to return the Basset VC-1075 Coil and Antennas to Saigon since I have no actual need for them. I will write-off my lost Coil and Antenna to "Experience".

I hope this will simplify the problem of closing my account with Saigon.

I cabled Saigon on November 9th:

"Do not repeat not ship automobile deliver Clark for further disposition. When did personal effects ship stop advise cable Westrex Beirut"

To date I have received no reply from Saigon, though I requested a cabled reply. I need to know when and how my personal effects were shipped and I must have an inventory for Customs declaration and insurance purposes. I do not even know if the automobile has already been shipped or not.

I can think of no reason for Saigon's apparent lack of action on my request. Will you please follow-up. Thanks.

Sincerely yours,

L. M. Rundlett

cc: Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler
Michigan State University Group
c/o, American Embassy
Saigon, Vietnam

DECEMBER 3, 1959

LYMAN RUNDLETT

WESTREX

BEIRUT LEBANON

YOUR EFFECTS LEAVING SAIGON FIVE DECEMBER PRESIDENT ARTHUR
VIA ALEXANDRIA TO BEIRUT. LETTER FOLLOWS.

MICHGOVBUR

Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler, MSUG Saigon Vietnam, en compte

**MICHGOVBUR
EASTLANSING MICHIGAN USA**

**SMUCKLERS DEPARTED THIRD. BUNDLETT EFFECTS LEAVING SAIGON
FIVE DECEMBER PRESIDENT ARTHUR VIA ALEXANDRIA TO BEIRUT.**

S-46

Dr. Ralph H. Smuckler, MSUG Saigon Vietnam, en compte