

Vietnam Student Discusses First Month Impression

By PAT SINGLETON
and GAIL KNIGHT
Spartan Daily Staff Writers

Students gazed in wonder at this group of visitors. Is the U.S. government, in addition to sending Americans to Vietnam, now sending Vietnamese visitors to San Jose?

Yes, it is. On Wednesday, March 1, 15 Vietnamese students moved into the men's residence halls at SJS to participate in a pilot education program sponsored by the Agency for International Development. The students are among 105 from South Vietnam attending seven State Colleges.

The 15 Vietnamese students will undergo intensive orientation in English through the summer. It is expected they will begin regular classes by the start of the fall semester.

Uong Dinh Chuyen spoke for the group when he told of some of their activities since arriving at SJS.

MEET MORE PEOPLE

"We find the dormitory to be quite comfortable. It is the best place for us to live, because we meet more people this way. The most important aspect of this living condition is the opportunity to speak and understand English at the regular American pace."

The Vietnamese students have become acquainted with the campus and many of the students during their first month at SJS. They also have learned a little about the city of San Jose by frequent walks through the downtown area.

"I'm glad that we are here in San Jose, because it's a small city. We feel more comfortable and do not feel lost.

"We've done some shopping because when we came we brought only the very basic necessities with us.

"We have joined the ISO and plan to take a more active part in campus activities."

BORN IN NORTH VIETNAM

Chuyen was born in North Vietnam. He migrated to the south in 1954, following the Geneva agreement to divide the country.

Chuyen will study for his master's degree in international relations. With this degree he can work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Saigon. Later he plans to earn his Ph.D. and teach in a university.

"In Vietnam one has to have a Ph.D. to work in the university. High school there is about the same level work as junior college in the United States."

The orientation classes attended by the Vietnamese students consist of at least three

hours a day of reading in English, compositions, speech, language labs, lectures and seminars. The seminars with graduate stu-



—Photo by Pat Singleton

VONG DINH CHUYEN (r.)

... greets roommate Paul Gonzales

dents are conducted to discuss the materials covered during the day.

Other state colleges involved in the program are San Diego, Sacramento, Long Beach, Fresno, Fullerton and California State Polytechnic College at San Luis Obispo.

"The girls in our group were sent to San Diego because SJS didn't have the facilities for them. It's too bad. We wish they could have come with us.

"SJS is a good school. I hope that I can stay here to continue my studies. The campus is not as beautiful as some, but is more convenient than many. I'm glad the buildings are so close together, because, like the other students, I don't like to run to my next class.

NEEDS STUDENT BODY CARD

"If I remain at SJS it will take me two years to complete my master's degree requirements. I'm looking for another school that has international relations as a separate course of study and in this way I could be finished in one year. I sincerely want to stay here, however.

"I'm still waiting for my student body card so I can check books out of the library. Right now I'm doing background studies for

my degree in addition to the orientation program, and it's difficult to do so much of my reading in the library. Bringing the books to the dormitory would be more convenient.

"Sometimes if we don't feel like eating in the cafeteria we go out for spaghetti or other good American food.

'LEARNING VERY MUCH'

"Before coming here, my friends and I didn't know much about American life or the American college system, so we are learning very much through the orientation program.

"My roommate, Paul Gonzales, wanted me to be a guest in his home during Easter vacation, as did many of the students with Vietnamese roommates, but the college had arranged for each of us to live with a host family in the area during the week-long vacation. This was interesting and it helped us to find out how families live and what American family activities are like. I'm glad we had the experience of living with an American family.

"In sports we found that we enjoy ping pong and watching basketball. We haven't seen a baseball game yet, but we hope to see one here soon."