

DRAFTED: June 15, 1966

15.

ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR.

THROUGH: EXSEC

FROM: Walter G. Stoneman, AA/FE

Problem: Retention of personal grade of R-1 by Ogden Williams during pending tour in Vietnam.

Discussion: Mr. Ogden Williams has been Deputy Director, USAID/Tunisia, for the past year at the personal grade of FSR-1. When he came to the Agency about 1962, he was appointed as FSR-1, Director for Laos, but because of special political circumstances obtaining there he did not proceed to post. After that time, although he reverted to a permanent personal rank of FSR-2, he was assigned to Vietnam as Special Assistant to the Director and later as Acting Assistant Director for Rural Affairs under a special arrangement whereby he retained the personal grade of FSR-1 for the duration of his tour in Vietnam.

Mr. Williams has been requested by both the Mission and AA/FE to return to Vietnam as the Chief of the Chien Hoi operations (the Viet Cong defector program) in which the White House has again expressed a great interest recently. Although this is an apparent substantial step downward in organizational hierarchy within a Mission, Mr. Williams has agreed to the position, provided he can retain his personal rank of FSR-1, because it is a discrete special operation of great importance with considerable potential substance and challenge.

Mr. Williams has extensive background knowledge and experience in Vietnam, is virtually bilingual in French and has numerous personal friends and contacts among the high officials in the Vietnamese Government. He served in Vietnam in 1955-56 as a member of General Lansdale's team and more recently as a member of USAID. At other times he has followed the Vietnamese picture closely and through both experience and current knowledge he is considered to be one of the "old Vietnamese hands" whose talents are badly needed in Vietnam today.

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Recommendation: That you approve the continuation of the personal grade of FSR-1 for Ogden Williams for the duration of his pending tour in Vietnam.

Concurrences: Mr. K. Kugel, FE/VN _____
 Mr. A. Hughes, FE/MOT _____
 Mr. C. W. Kontos, A/PA _____
 Mr. W. O. Hall, AA/A _____

Andrey - I talked to Adams office & we will assume, if this is approved, that this constitutes approval of termination of his 631 to app.

*RS Moore
 6/22*

WGStoneman:AA/FE:as