

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, CORDS

MACCORDS-CH

31 August 1967

Mr. Leonard Maynard
Vietnam Training Group
Foreign Service Institute
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Len,

Thanks for your recent letter, and I apologize for the brief delay in replying. We have been involved in massive briefings and reports writing lately and have little time to get on with the operation, let alone answer letters.

Your suggestion is intriguing. I had originally thought to spend a year polishing up my Spanish which is already fairly good, and studying a little economics and then hope for something in Latin America. Primarily, however, the interlude would give me time to settle my plans and intentions for the next few years. Such an assignment would, of course, involve losing my present grade and would have other drawbacks. Your suggestion is, as I said, intriguing and I would like to be considered. Perhaps in the months before June the pace would not be too demanding and I could settle a few things during that time, part of which would, of course, be home leave anyway. Is this a good enough answer for the moment? If you want me to be more specific, perhaps you can fill me in with more details as to what the job amounts to, its advantages and disadvantages, etc.

I am almost more intrigued by the reaction you and Jeanne will be having towards life in the States again after so long. Will you still try to live in Maryland or try to find something nearer your work?

Chieu Hoi is going along fairly well. After the year of work, the GVN is now becoming increasingly efficient. We have finally obtained a Special Fund to give us certain flexibility, and within six months we could have the best program in Vietnam, if we do not have it. Of key importance is the process now going on, namely the hiring by newspaper and radio appeals of retired ARVN officers to replace weak Chieu Hoi Chiefs in the provinces. The key aspect of this is that we have been able to get permission to use the Special

Mr. Leonard Maynard

2

Fund to supplement the salaries of these candidates up to a level where competent people are willing to work. I enclose a copy of a fifteen-minute briefing which I gave to Westmoreland and his Division Commanders on August 27. It might be of some interest to some of the people on your staff. Finally, you will be amused to know that in the transfer of all the chiefs out to what is known as the "Pentagon East" in Tan Son Nhut, Chieu Hoi Division has been moved downstairs and I now occupy your former office here. When the first mortar hits out there, however, we expect to have all the chiefs back and find our way upstairs again. We are all surviving under the new dispensation, but one is increasingly struck by the question as to whether the massive bureaucratic procedures we increasingly encounter are not hopelessly anomalous in the little, personalized war like we have in Vietnam.

Rufus Phillips is back with Ed Lansdale for several weeks. John O'Donnell has been for several weeks, but is about to leave. He really sees no utility in his being here at the moment. I am hoping to get away for a little vacation any time now.

Many thanks again for your letter. I am interested and will hope to be in touch with you about this in the future. With best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams