

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, CORDS

1 October 1968

MACCORDS-CH

Mr. Rutherford M. Poats
Deputy Administrator
Agency for International Development
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20523

Dear Rud,

In view of the cable correspondence between you and Ambassador Komer last December (AIDTO 6335) regarding my return to Saigon for another year--until March 1, 1969--I take the liberty of soliciting your guidance and assistance in planning my future assignments in AID for the period after March 1.

After two and one-half years in Vietnam, a little temporary deceleration would not be amiss, although I would have no objection to an immediate "pressure" assignment if the interests of the Agency so dictate. Accordingly, if I were permitted to suggest possibilities for myself, I would mention the following options:

(1) If we still have phase-out responsibilities in Taiwan so that I could make some contribution to AID there, I would like about 6-9 months there in order to study Far East economics, and perhaps a little Mandarin, to prepare for ultimate assignment to a Mission in the FE area if acceptable to the FE Bureau. Obviously Taiwan would be a pleasant and healthful temporary change after Vietnam, and I take this into account.

(2) Study development economics and Spanish in the Washington area for about 6-9 months looking to ultimate assignment to Latin America. (My Spanish is already at a better than 2 level and could be raised to 3 or higher relatively easily.) The economics would be a refreshing return to the main preoccupation of AID and a continuation of experience gained in this field as Deputy Director in Tunisia.

Alternatively I would be interested in a more immediate assignment if a post is open. After being sworn in as Laos Mission Director in

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1962, but not having a chance to serve; as Assistant Director in Saigon in the days when there were only two; and as Deputy Director in Tunisia, I would obviously prefer to get my own Mission at last. Latin America, Far East, North Africa or South Asia--indeed anywhere except tropical West Africa--would greatly interest me if the Agency had a post available after March. I would rather prefer the interim assignments noted in (1) or (2) above, but not if it meant losing an opportunity which might not soon again become available.

I would be much honored by any assistance or guidance you could offer.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams