

File

December 31, 1969

O/FSI/VTC - Coordinator

Conversation with Randolph A. WEDLER, FSRL-7, CORDS XXIII—
December 29, 1969

I told Wedler that he was considered in the Basic Course to have ample potential value, but he appeared to have some problems along motivational lines, even though he was a volunteer for the program, and perhaps I could help clear up any apprehensions he might have about his forthcoming tour. Wedler was extremely friendly and likable during the conversation. He said he was frankly a bit confused by the mass of material with which he had been confronted in the Basic Course. He had heard so many different things, both about Viet-Nam and the problems there and also about potential jobs, that it left him uncertain and a little uneasy. He referred to the District Senior Advisor's job as one example. I assured him that a young civilian would not be asked to assume responsibilities of a DSA at the outset, and that Viet-Nam, on the ground, was not as confusing as the whole panorama of material about Viet-Nam presented in a training course. We wanted to expose the students to the broadest possible points of view, and were willing to risk their being confused, which was far better than their being narrow. Wedler said that he believed that during the District Operations Course he would be able to get a clearer picture of specifics. I assured him that he would have the full support of the staff and that when he was confused about anything, he should go to the instructor and get the matter clarified—that was what we were here for.

Wedler's attitude throughout the conversation was excellent, and I would be glad to have him on my team in Viet-Nam. I told him that his tour would be extremely meaningful, particularly if he did well in language, which would open many doors which would otherwise remain locked. He concurred and said that the language training was one of the things he specifically wanted in the program. His motivation for this training is apparently excellent. I believe Wedler should be watched during the District Operations Course, but with a view towards reinforcing him rather than weeding him out. He seems to me one who would respond very well to assistance, and I am confident he can be an asset in Viet-Nam.

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:pak:d