

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

December 31, 1969

Mr. Larry L. Laverantz
248 N. Dithridge
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

Dear Larry:

Some days ago Mr. Sang called me on the phone and asked if there was anything new about his proposed trip to Europe. I told him that I had talked on the phone with people in the Training Office, and they had told me that all Vietnamese personnel coming to the States under PIO/Ts are authorized travel from Saigon to the States and return via the shortest (i.e., Pacific) route. If they wish to return via Europe, they must pay the extra small amount necessary to make up the difference between Pacific and Atlantic route tickets. This is not a big deal. For your information the people in training indicated that Mr. Sang had been something of a pain in the neck, and they did not seem disposed to give him better treatment than other similar candidates. Also, I told Mr. Sang that I had contacted two State Department Desk Officers who would be happy to talk with him, in accordance with his earlier request, but I got the impression that all he was really interested in was getting his trip to Europe financed, and he rapidly lost interest in talking with State Department officers when I gave him the bad news on the trip.

The one point I feel bad about is that I have not completely checked out whether or not Bob Matteson verbally told Sang that he could go via Europe at US Government expense (over and above the amount that he was being provided anyway for a return via the Pacific). If you think this is really a big deal, I will specifically check this point out. Matteson was out of town when I talked to his office, as I recall.

I wish you a very happy and prosperous 1970.

With best regards,

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Ogden Williams

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