

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

December 22, 1969

Dr. Harold J. Mandl
Mandl and Associates
3127 Huntoon
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Dear Hal:

The time has come for us at VIC to make future plans with respect to our courses here. As you know, we have been most interested in the contributions you have made and have been very anxious to confirm our hopes that such contributions were fully relevant to our essential mission here. In this regard, we have closely monitored both student and faculty assessments, and a picture has emerged which I wish to discuss with you frankly.

We are primarily concerned with improving the quality of our personnel in terms of advisorial attitudes and techniques, with specific reference to the Viet-Nam situation. How U.S. advisors can better relate to the Vietnamese is one of the central themes of our entire course. While the students find the time they spend with you very interesting and enjoyable, and from this point of view have given your segment of the program highest praise, they generally question its relevance and applicability to the specific work they are preparing themselves for in Viet-Nam. Unfortunately, because your organization does not have first-hand experience in Viet-Nam, it is difficult for you to help them with this problem.

Another area of obvious interest to us would be the improvement of our ability here at VIC to increase social awareness among our students and faculty in more general terms, and not necessarily specifically keyed to Viet-Nam. To do this, however, I feel we would need much more than a day or two every seven weeks. Indeed, to accomplish basic attitudinal changes, I am sure you would tell me that we would need many months, if not years, of intensive work, and that regrettably little could be accomplished by just an occasional session. For the above reasons, I reluctantly find it necessary to indicate to you that we do not feel the experiment of the last few months should be continued into 1970, particularly in view of the short duration of our courses and the great competition that exists with respect to the subjects that have to be

covered. I have greatly enjoyed our association and if, indeed, your fertile brain could conceive of a way of overcoming the difficulties which I have noted above, we would be very happy to re-open the question at a future time. In order that you may make your plans, however, I have felt it necessary to send you this letter without further delay. I would obviously welcome any thoughts you may have on the subject at any time.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

S/ Ogden
Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

cc: Mr. Sollenberger

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:HES:v *pek*