

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : File

FROM : O/FSI/VTC - Ogden Williams, Coordinator

SUBJECT: Marc S. Heilweil, FSO-7, Class XXII

DATE: November 18, 1969

I personally counseled this officer on two occasions--October 20 and November 7. On the first occasion I called him in because I had been informed by Mr. Mahler, Chairman of the Basic Course, that Mr. Heilweil had severe attitudinal problems. I asked Mr. Heilweil, in my office, to explain any problems he might be having and to indicate how we could help him. He recounted that he had been included in the Viet-Nam group in specific violation of the Department's commitment to him, and that he had been five years in the Peace Movement and did not want the assignment. I said that I had received indications that he was absent from class, failing to pay attention, and generally uncooperative. Mr. Heilweil admitted that his attitude was "lousy," but indicated it all stemmed from the Department's basic breach of trust with him and his basic objection to US policy in Viet-Nam. I said that whatever one might think of the Viet-Nam situation, it was clear that Viet-Nam, as seen from this distance, had a largely distorted image, and that perhaps he would have much less difficulty if he gained new insights into the situation in that country. This exposure VTC was prepared to offer to him. We did not attempt to impose any "school solution" regarding the Viet-Nam problem, but did require that students pay attention and attempt to listen with an open mind to all speakers and presentations. I emphasized that no one would criticize his personal opinions on Viet-Nam, but that he would be subject to criticism if he continued to display a noncooperative attitude as regards attending class, being on time, etc. He was, after all, a paid Foreign Service Officer and must show proper attention to duty. I urged him to attempt to learn as much as he could while at this school and that we would cooperate in helping him achieve his career interests to the extent of our ability. Mr. Heilweil said he would try to show a better attitude and would "wait and see."

On November 7, after receiving repeated reports from the Basic Course that Mr. Heilweil was showing no change of attitude regarding class attendance and participation in student exercises, I called him in again. I noted that his class was about to depart for a week at Fort Bragg and that it now appeared that he should be separated from the program, but that my final decision would be reserved until his return from Bragg. He asked whether separation from the program would mean his dismissal from the Foreign Service. I replied that, according to



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my information, he would in all probability be reassigned elsewhere. /This information had been given to me by Mr. John Stutesman in a previous telephone conversation concerning Mr. Heilweil.7

I then asked Mr. R. G. Jones, Deputy Coordinator for Management, VTC, who was accompanying the class to Ft. Bragg, to observe Mr. Heilweil's attitude and give me his opinion on his fitness to remain in the program. On November 12 or 13, I received a phone call from Ft. Bragg from Mr. Jones to discuss another student, and Mr. Jones added that Heilweil clearly should not be sent to Viet-Nam. He said his attitude at Ft. Bragg was childish, immature, and uncooperative, and there was no justification for retaining him in the program. He specifically noted Heilweil's sleeping in class and reading newspapers in class to the point that a Lt. Colonel instructor had requested him, during a class break, to please have the courtesy to refrain from reading during the lecture.

Accordingly, on November 17, I officially notified Mr. Heilweil that he would not be required to attend the opening of the District Operations Course with his classmates and that his file was being returned to the Department for such reassignment or other action as the Department might desire. Later in the day, I informed him that he should report without delay to Miss Karen Jenkins at FSI.