

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

October 24, 1969

PERSONAL

Honorable William E. Colby
Deputy COMUSMACV for CORDS
c/o American Embassy
Saigon Viet-Nam

Dear Bill:

As you know, two State Department officers, Howard Meyers (FSO-1) and Loren Lawrence (FSO-2), departed Washington on October 16 for an inspection tour in Viet-Nam. They did not visit or consult with this Center prior to their departure.

Their purpose in going to Viet-Nam, as we understand it, was to investigate alleged complaints of FSO's regarding their service in CORDS. I do not know whether the FSO's were alleged to be unhappy with our policies in Viet-Nam, with the CORDS setup, with their own career situations (promotions) or what. Concurrently, other State Department officials have queried us as to whether the type of FSO we are getting is the proper one for CORDS duty. Specifically, should we continue to get young FSO's fresh from the campus who would be going to Viet-Nam on their first tour, or should we rather get junior FSO's who have already had one tour in some less controversial post and are better used to the ways of the US Government, etc.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your opinion on all these matters, as well as your estimate of what the FSO situation is in CORDS. Are they dissatisfied? If so, why? No doubt the inspection team will be rendering its own report, but your opinion on the matter will be most helpful to us, particularly since the Department has raised these questions with us. The origins of the current visitation are totally unknown to me, but I am informed that it was engendered by complaints from FSO's returning from Viet-Nam or possibly from FSO's writing letters from Viet-Nam. Beyond that, I know nothing about the case.

Amb. Colby

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I had the pleasure of meeting your wife at the Viet-Nam Wives' Group's visit to VTC two days ago. I hope she found the exercise useful. We would like to do more to reassure and encourage the wives of our students, particularly the younger ones who are new to the game.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

cc:

O/FSI - Howard E. Sollenberger

O/FSI/VTC - Daniel L. Quaid, Jr.

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:pak 10/24/69

OW Chron.

Subj: ow Travel

cc: Mrs. Jones

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Ogden Williams, O/FSI/VTC				2701, SA-15		70700