

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

Personal

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Mr. Leonard Maynard
CORDS/CCO/OPS
USAID II
APO San Francisco 96243

Dear Len:

This letter concerns the subject of travel to Viet-Nam by VTC personnel. Naturally, I am well aware of the burden that visitors may constitute to hard-working field personnel and would not permit our people to impose on the time and energies of CORDS officers in Viet-Nam. Nevertheless, if we are to run a school which is relevant, I feel it is essential that our senior officers update themselves approximately every six months. Situations change so fast in Viet-Nam that one gets out of date almost as soon as he steps off the airplane. There are some five or six people at the Center who should visit Viet-Nam once every six months for about ten days to two weeks at the most.

As you know, the State Department runs this school and AID pays for it. The visit of these officers to Viet-Nam is not only in the direct interest of CORDS, but is in response to a need of ours. I would like to get a reading from you because in one case already the field has responded querying a visit proposed by Cosgrove of this staff. Cosgrove has been away from Viet-Nam for a year; his responsibility here is for teaching District Operations. How he can be expected to teach realistically when he is that far out of date is a mystery to me.

In September I will have been here six months and will wish to visit Saigon to discuss problems with you and others. Included would be such topics as reinstating the TV idea which you launched sometime back. Visits of our staff will not impose any burden--and we will see to that. On the other hand, we have our needs here if we are to conduct the only kind of school that you and I would be interested in.

If you think there are any other problems in this area, please advise me informally so that we can reach an agreement. Hope to hear from you soon.

All the best,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center