

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

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Mr. Leonard Maynard
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Dear Len:

I received a letter today from Guy Jones who is most concerned about his successor in the Chieu Hoi program, commenting that Jacobson was looking for someone. He cited recent cases where Chieu Hoi personnel were re-assigned to the provinces without the Saigon staff even being consulted, in a deal between Whitehouse and Colby, which no one even told Jones about. Many of our best people are leaving, and Guy was concerned that the entire program will break up psychologically unless its priority is reaffirmed in real terms. Particularly the Filipinos need to feel they are working for a leader of some stature.

I am most amused that a search for talent is going on, having received a letter early in June from Bill Colby withdrawing his suggestion that I come back to take Chieu Hoi over again, allegedly because he had solved the problem locally. The tone of his letter made it appear that such was really the case, but it may really have reflected an awareness that I did not fully concur in the total militarization of CORDS, and had not been loathe to say so. I presume you are aware of the repercussions from my telephone conversation with Erwin Brigham, which he transcribed without my knowledge and sent up the line by telegram until it reached Abrams verbatim. I hastened to send Abrams a letter making sure that he understood my real views and also my regard for him. Obviously, in VTC we do not debate at length whether CORDS should have been organized, or how. We have to prepare the students to operate in the current environment.

I hope to visit Saigon in September since I will have been away six months by that time. I hope to establish the rule here that all Course Chairmen must visit Viet-Nam every six months because the complexion and activities of programs change so rapidly there. I have attended the Basic Course myself in the past seven weeks, and have noted instances where the instruction was already out of date, based on even what I knew as of March. I think these visits by four or five key members of the staff will be essential to our preserving a grasp of reality in our instruction of students going to Viet-Nam. I do not propose to let the content of our instruction deteriorate for failure to keep up with the

real situation on the ground, and will bespeak your support for these objectives.

Also, Len, we do need to be alerted as to possible staff members coming back from the field. The slot situation is so tight that we will not have many openings, but our policy is to replace personnel once a year if possible, and we must keep new blood coming into the school as long as it exists. Right now, Jim Smith is near the end of his tenure as Chairman of the PSA Course. Saigon should alert us to a top-grade military or civilian PSA who will be returning this fall and could be assigned to that course. Although they are doing a good job on the whole, you should know that we have a variety of medical "holds," which has been the only way we could fully staff the organization.

On another theme, whatever became of the video tape equipment that you had out there in 1967? Getting on-the-spot comments on realities of programs from the field people at province and district level, as well as in Saigon, would be as good an idea as ever. You have a secretary and an immense amount of spare time on your hands, so send me a long letter on these subjects and everything else.

As ever,

Ogden Williams
Viet-Nam Training Center

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