

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

July 7, 1969

Mr. Raymond G. Jones
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APO San Francisco
96243

Dear Guy:

First, please note my change of address. I am at
Washington, D. C. 20007.

Regarding your successor, the following scenario will amuse you. Back in May before I became involved in anything here, I had dropped a note to Colby and MacDonald indicating that perhaps I could be more useful in Viet-Nam again. Colby wrote back toward the end of May that the only job now opening up would be to return as Chief of Chieu Hoi after you left. I immediately replied that, much as I believed in Chieu Hoi and would support it for as long as necessary, I did not prefer to get back under the MACV staff restraints which had become so irksome even of a different type opened up which would not involve getting enmeshed in the MACV bureaucracy. A week or so later I received a letter from Colby which either crossed my letter or was written as if my letter had not been received. In this letter, Colby said that he wished to withdraw the offer of my returning to Chieu Hoi because of the necessity to do justice to personnel already in Viet-Nam. I interpreted this to mean that Gene Bable might have asked for some firm commitment and being given it. On the other hand, this may merely have been a pretext and the real reason was that my views regarding the extent of MACV staff takeover were well known, and my return would tend to rock the boat. I mention all this simply because either Colby had someone definitely in mind and had even made local commitments about the job, or he was playing a game with me. You might mention to Jacobson in all innocence that you had heard from me that Colby had reported having made a local commitment and what was it all about?

With respect to the priority of Chieu Hoi, I shall discuss your letter with John Arthur and others in the Viet-Nam Bureau. Perhaps a cable going out expressing anxiety about this position would add some priority to the personnel search.

With respect to your own future, I have set the wheels in motion in both State and AID to get you assigned here. In an earlier letter, I mentioned the fact that you would hold a State slot, which would render irrelevant the AID regulations which forbid rotation to Washington after only one tour. In this I was mistaken. I have talked to Don Kidston, and he says that rotation assignments of any kind must be cleared by Joe Toner, the Agency Chief of Personnel. I will contact Toner's office informally to help push this case. We have a very pleasant group here, and there is great reward in working with the students. I think you would find it possible to have again some of the sense of teamwork which you helped to create in Viet-Nam.

Finally, I agree with you that the Chieu Hoi rate should fall off now. The only issue among politicians back here, as I see it, is how fast can they get us out of Viet-Nam, and this really means that the South Vietnamese will before too long have to win or lose their own war. The responsible people are trying to withdraw gradually enough so as not to hand the entire package to Hanoi on a silver platter. The Fulbrights and McGovern's keep accusing the administration of not wanting a "compromise" solution in Viet-Nam, totally ignoring that the other side has no disposition to compromise whatsoever. This type of intellectual dishonesty in otherwise high-minded people is disheartening.

Did you get the letter I sent to you for delivery to Minister An? In that letter I also mentioned to him that South Viet-Nam would now have to be the stronger half of our partnership to an increasing degree if South Viet-Nam is to survive.

I take office here on July 14 and shortly thereafter will start exploring why State won't live up to its commitments and locate senior personnel for PSA jobs, whether the Mission would want any if they did, etc. Times are very different now from the days of the Komer buildup. This will make it more difficult for Viet-Nam to get the priorities it needs, whether in Chieu Hoi or in this school here, or in any other respect. I would be most interested in your comments as to whether the South Vietnamese officials fully appreciate their position and that before too long their survival will rest 85% in their own hands.

One final note. I suggest you discuss your personnel problems and this letter with Len Maynard who will appreciate the operational realities, whether or not he will be in a position to help. Please give my best regards to all of the gang who are still there. Tell Bing I wrote him a letter and hope he will reply with all of the gossip. Betty is still obviously typing flawless prose and consulting the dictionary when she disagrees with what her boss dictates. When are she and Ray getting married?

2.

My telephone number in Washington is 965-2139 at home, and 383-2111 at work. I do hope you will give me a ring as soon as you hit town.

As ever,

Ogden Williams
Viet-Nam Training Center

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:plg