

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

May 20, 1970

PERSONAL

Mr. Harvey Gutman  
U.S. Operations Mission  
APO San Francisco 96346

Dear Harvey:

I have waited too long to write you and thank you for your hospitality during my recent visit to Thailand. I am afraid I was not always a cheerful or charming guest, being preoccupied with several things in addition to the rather demanding requirements of our assignment there. I would also feel badly if our report displeased Fred Simmons in any way that would make him tend to reproach you for having inspired the visit to Thailand of a type who turned out to be inconvenient, if such was the case.

I tried to mend fences with Fred before leaving and assure him of the impartiality and good faith in which we all approached the difficult task of assessing the public safety program in Thailand. Even before going there, I realized that a mission of this kind, if honestly approached, could only end in displeasing some people, and probably everybody to one degree or another. In any case, I was again struck with how fortunate AID and the United States are in having men like yourself overseas, an impression I formed very solidly in Togo eight long years ago.

Upon arrival here I immediately passed your letter to Roger Tubby and asked him if I could be of any assistance in doing the needful. He said that everything was completely under control and, for your information, concurred in my estimate of your performance and value. John Manopoli has now arrived and tells me that the exit interview with the Ambassador was entirely cordial, with the latter not being unduly disappointed by our failure to recommend helicopters, once the basic reasons were explained.

Please keep in touch and let me know how things are going for you and for the program in Thailand.

As ever,

Ogden Williams  
Coordinator  
Viet-Nam Training Center