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FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

May 26, 1970

Professor John Lydgate
Department of History, Room 149
Georgetown University
35th & N Streets
Washington, D. C. 20007

Dear John:

Thank you for the copy of your memorandum to Dr. Henry Kissinger dated May 22, 1970, and the forwarding letter of the same date. We at the Viet-Nam Training Center fully support your initiative and will try to help out as best we can in whatever constructive work eventuates from your commendable proposal.

I do wish to draw your attention to a statement made on page 2 of your memorandum which might be subject to misunderstanding. Specifically, I refer to the following:

"Obviously the relevant materials at hand must be made available to the academic community at large and suited to normal student requirements. The books, articles, reprinted xerox materials, maps, charts, all forms of relevant documentation and research facilities now available in limited quantities to our public government servants must be made available to a wider student and academic community. Mr. Ogden Williams, Director of the Vietnam Training Center, has indicated his willingness to cooperate in any way with an expanded and increased program, given adequate budgetary facilities for the purpose; and his librarian, Jeanette Koch, is extremely well qualified to handle such a program."

The Viet-Nam Training Center, if provided with appropriate budget and the tools to do the job, would provide backstopping materials and data for the proposed task force. We would not be in a position to become a reference source for, or to provide materials

to, the entire academic community of the United States. For example, if a member of the task force needed several thousand copies of a document, and we had the capability to reproduce the document in the numbers needed, we would attempt to do so at the request of the task force member, but would not want to be in a position of receiving similar requests from the ultimate consumer, namely academic or student groups around the country. Again, our library and research materials would be available to support task force members, but we would not wish to throw open our library to every student or professor throughout the academic community who might wish to have access to it. Such an invitation could obviously overwhelm our facilities and divert us from our training role.

I will send a copy of this letter to Dolph Droege, and would urge you to take note of this clarification of VTC's capabilities in any conversations or planning sessions which you may conduct with interested members of the community.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

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cc: Dolph Droege
(Universities
White House