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cc: TRAINING
(General)

AID/VN Bureau

AID/VN/PER - Mr. Raymond E. Odum

March 27, 1970

O/FSI/VTC - Ogden Williams
Coordinator

Training of FSO's at VTC

Following up on our telecon of yesterday, I am forwarding this memorandum to re-state our recommendations with respect to the training of FSO's who will be coming to VTC in accordance with recent decisions taken by Department of State.

1. FSO-3 and FSO-4 - These officers will be supplied for Province Senior Advisor positions in Viet-Nam. We believe it is essential in their own interest and in the interest of CORDS/Viet-Nam that they receive the six week Basic Course plus three weeks of concentrated Province Senior Advisor Course training at VTC. The normal Province Senior Advisor program for military personnel is thirty-three weeks, consisting of six weeks Basic Course, twelve weeks District Operations Course and fifteen weeks of Province Senior Advisor Course. This normal program includes 600 hours of Vietnamese language. The new State officers will not receive the District Course at all and they will receive only thirty hours of language as part of the Basic Course. We think that our proposal is the absolute minimum, not the optimum, in terms of professional preparation of these officers for duty as Province Senior Advisors. It would represent 130 hours less operations training than military PSAs now receive here, and could only be justified by CORDS/Viet-Nam's pressing requirement for civilian personnel.
2. FSO-5 and FSO-6 - Officers at this level will in most cases be pointed towards assignment as District Senior Advisors in Viet-Nam. We recommend that they receive the regular District program, like the military District Senior Advisor candidates, which consists of six weeks Basic Course plus twelve weeks District Operations Course, and includes 300 hours of language.
3. FSO-6, FSO-7 and FSO-8 - These Junior Officers should be entered into the Viet-Nam language program unless CORDS/Viet-Nam has made a policy decision that they do not want or need additional language-qualified officers. We are unaware of any such decision. On the contrary, all evidence reaching us from the field indicates that CORDS/Viet-Nam places the highest priority upon receiving a continuing supply of language trained officers. Indeed, when the decision was made to terminate the practice of assigning FSO's to CORDS from the group of new incoming officers, and to send instead FSO's who have previously served one tour elsewhere, it was

(* Perhaps just 7s & 8s)
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specifically stipulated in conversations with Ambassador Colby, Mr. Jacobson and others that this change should in no way alter the continuing supply of language trained officers. Therefore, we recommend that these junior officers receive the regular extended language program of 49 weeks, totaling 1140 hours of language, as has been done in the past.

While VTC does not presume in any manner to have a participating right in personnel decisions, we do feel that State or AID personnel offices should conversely not reach decisions about the amount or type of training to be given to officers going to CORDS/Viet-Nam without our participation in such decisions. If you agree, the cooperation of all concerned would be much appreciated.

cc: CORDS/Viet-Nam - Mr. Jacobson
O/PSI - Mr. Sollenberger
EA/EX - Mr. Erickson
VTC - Mr. Quaid
VTC - Mrs. Grissom

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