

File

February 18, 1970

O/FSI/VTC - Ogden Williams, Coordinator

David A. Winn, FSO-7, CORDS XXI

I had received a memorandum from the Language Division that this officer was uncooperative in class and that, although he possessed considerable natural language talent, he was not putting forth his best efforts and indeed was holding back other members of his language class. I talked with Mr. Winn on February 16 and asked him what his problem seemed to be. He said that he still carried a heavy load of bitterness about the fact that he was being sent to Viet-Nam while other people who came into the Foreign Service at the same time were given other options and going to other countries. He said that this resentment made him somehow unwilling to learn Vietnamese even though he had no intellectual problems with the language. I asked him whether this was a psychological block beyond his control or whether he simply was not making the effort that he could. He said that the latter was the case. I told him that as a Foreign Service Officer he must realize that he would have a succession of foreign assignments, some of which he would be enthusiastic about in advance and vice versa, and that perhaps he should view his present assignment in that light. He agreed in principle but could not suppress his feelings of bitterness that other young officers were given the kind of assignment he would have preferred. I suggested that Winn take the initiative and discuss his problems with John Day at the earliest possible opportunity, and said that I would do the same. Mr. Winn concurred in this idea and said he would be in touch with Mr. Day right away.

When I have been able to reach John Day, I will suggest, for his consideration, that Winn be dropped from language course and sent to Viet-Nam immediately. This would enable him to get the Viet-Nam tour behind him as soon as possible and, at the same time, remove him from a situation in which he apparently is detracting from the efforts of others, as well as wasting the time of the language instructors. I was unable to reach Mr. Day on February 16 or 17 but will hope to do so in the near future in order to resolve this case.

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:pak