

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

December 22, 1970

Mr. Frank Scotton
c/o American Embassy
Saigon, Viet-Nam

Dear Frank:

As you may know, I hope to arrive in Saigon on January 10 (Cathay Pacific #601, 4:25 p.m.) for a visit of ten days. I am writing this letter to tell you the main things I will be interested in looking into in Viet-Nam, subject to the convenience of the people concerned, since perhaps some preliminary work might be done before my arrival. This letter, of course, will not be comprehensive but will mention certain highlights. I hope that I can pick your brains on a lot of things and solicit your help in locating the right people to contact on other matters.

My two general areas of interest at this stage would be:

(1) Presenting a financial package to CORDS which it might be willing to pick up. This package would presumably be the cost of language training at VTC for both civilian and military personnel. I presume Larry Marinelli would be the point of contact on this.

(2) Find out what the various plans really mean which are designed to fill the politico-administrative vacuum in the countryside in 1971. If 1971 is to be the "political year," how will this focus be expressed, and specifically what role will Americans play for which they could be trained prior to arrival in the field.

In connection with item (2), we are most interested in knowing about the Peoples Organizations part of the 1971 plan. Specifically, it might be good to get a TV video tape done by the officer who is responsible for this element of the program, in which he could bring out all the present thinking, etc. There is a TV machine in CORDS or USAID already, and an attempt was made in 1967-1968 to do video tapes of the basic CORDS programs. This failed because the power supply was non-compatible. This time the program should be done out at MACV where the electrical system is based on a U.S. generator. Then the results would be compatible.

Besides getting all valuable info on Peoples Organizations, we would like to know more about the "national security and development funds" and "province development funds." Regarding Peoples Information, has the Ministry of Education issued an implementing order regarding the use of teachers as planned? When will the national police ID card bank be operational? Any changes in the land reform laws? Regarding Veterans Affairs, what has really been done in this program so far? Plans for attacking the VC liaison and financial system? Do we gather that Third-Party Inducement will go back into the Chieu Hoi Program in 1971, etc.?

I mention all of the above not to solicit any answers from you at this time, but to ask if any people might be alerted and any materials gathered which may already exist.

I attach a list of other items in which we are particularly interested which you might be able to get coordinated before my arrival, if you had time and inclination.

As you see, Frank, I have a horror of going on a TDY and not accomplishing as much as possible within the time allotted. I hope my presence will not be an imposition or burden. Its purpose is to enable us to do a better job back here. Every day students want to know details about Viet-Nam programs, and we have to be in a position to give them accurate and current answers. The result is a much more knowledgeable and sophisticated CORDS employee a few weeks or months from now.

Finally, I am really excited at the prospect of seeing you again and catching up on all that has happened since Taichung. I remember my brief visit there with the greatest of pleasure. I asked Paul Bingham of the Chieu Hoi office to see if he could get someone to meet my airplane. If you wish, you might telephone him and make sure the letter was received.

Many thanks in advance and all the best.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

Attachment

1. Twenty copies of approved 1971 Pacification Plan.
2. 1971 Pacification Plans for the following Provinces:

MR I

Quang Nam
Quang Tri
Thua Thien

MR III

Hau Nghia
Long An

MR II

Khanh Hoa
Kontum
Tuyen Duc
Binh Dinh
Binh Thuan
Quang Duc

MR IV

Chau Doc
An Xuyen
Kien Phong
Vinh Binh
Kien Hoa

3. Get reproductions of current Colby/Jacobson briefing slides on the full range of pacification subjects. These will be useful in connection with a proposed orientation program for Generals and Colonels.

4. Latest copy of roster of CORDS civilian advisors showing their job locations (Spears, MSD Personnel).