

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

November 30, 1970

General Bruce Palmer, Jr.
Vice Chief of Staff
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear General Palmer:

As you know, the Viet-Nam Training Center trains Province Senior Advisors and District Senior Advisors for CORDS duty in Viet-Nam. We have a matter with respect to the curricula of the PSA and DSA courses which deserves attention and which we believe could result in a better balance between language training and the actual need of the advisor at each level in the field.

Both MACV and our people here have felt for some time that the present PSA language training of 600 hours and the DSA language training of 300 hours should be reversed, the point being that normally PSA's need less language than do DSA's at the lower level. Recent contact with CORDS/MACV indicates that a revision in the direction indicated would be favorably received. On the other hand, we also recognize the need for caution in tampering with programs which are already producing excellent results as MACV sees them.

We suggest that an ad hoc committee be formed and be chaired by my Deputy Coordinator, Colonel R. G. Jones, USA (Retired), with representation from the Army staff (certainly DCSOPS and DCSPER) to look into the most likely options available which will best serve to move at least part way toward an increase in language instruction for DSA's, possibly using as a trade-off a reduction in PSA language exposure.

If you agree and upon hearing from you, we will contact your designated staff representatives and proceed with the matter. Since this is largely a problem involving MACV, DA and VTC, we would prefer to avoid a more formal interagency approach. Following the development of a jointly approved solution, the committee would coordinate it

with the Agency for International Development which funds part of the cost, and then forward it to MACV/CORDS for concurrence prior to implementation.

We will await your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

Attachment

O/FSI/VTC:RGJones:d