

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

October 27, 1970

Dr. James R. Frith, Dean
School of Language Studies
Foreign Service Institute

Dear Jim:

With respect to our telephone conversation today in the case of Mr. Hols, the reason for my appearing to bridle somewhat on the telephone was simply because I think it is important to maintain clear channels. Unless I misjudge the case, administrative questions regarding Mr. Hols' assignment in Viet-Nam, and whether or not he should take operations studies in the Viet-Nam Training Center, are matters that should be, and routinely are, negotiated between VTC and the parent agency concerned. As you noted, Hols was enrolled by his parent agency as a member of CORDS Class XXXI. Within five minutes after your 'phone call, through our normal channels, it was established that Hols is supposed to take operations training, and that this would not interfere with Board action as he thought it would. Within 10-15 minutes Mr. Hols was so informed, and the case seems to be cleared up.

As I hope you have noticed, I am extremely punctilious not to become any more involved than necessary in matters concerning language instruction. I am aware that the Vietnamese Language Division is co-located with us but reports to the School of Language Studies. On the other hand, administrative matters regarding assignments to VTC and the applicability of operations training for individuals as related to their projected assignment in Viet-Nam--(the matter you specifically raised with me)--are handled by well-established direct administrative channels which should not, I believe, be confused by the creation of parallel channels between the School of Language Studies and parent agencies dealing with these questions. I am confident you would agree that this makes sense, and students who raise these kind of problems with personnel in the School of Language Studies, if they do, should be referred to our Administrative Officer for appropriate action. Of course, if the individual is not assigned to VTC at all, then we would have nothing to do with the matter.

If you feel there are unresolved questions which this letter does not deal with, I would be most desirous of discussing them with you in detail and at your convenience.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

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