

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

October 2, 1970

Honorable John N. Irwin  
Under Secretary of State

Dear John:

The last time we met was long ago in York Harbor, Maine, when you visited Highland Farm where we were living at the time. I am at present in charge of the Viet-Nam Training Center in the Foreign Service Institute. We graduate students, both military officers and civilians, who go out to Viet-Nam as key advisors in the CORDS operation. In the past, senior State Department officers have appeared as principal speakers at our graduations, including Elliot Richardson, U. Alexis Johnson, Marshall Green, Bill Sullivan, and others. Additionally, military officers such as General Walt, General Stilwell, and public figures like Senator Gale McGee have also spoken at the school.

The immediate purpose of this letter is to ask if you would honor us by being our principal graduation speaker on Friday, December 4, at a time in the morning most convenient for you, possibly 10:00 or 11:00 o'clock. The audience would number about 150. The principal speaker normally talks for about twenty minutes on a subject of his choosing in the general foreign policy area, and sometimes specifically about Viet-Nam. He may or may not accept questions thereafter, as he sees fit. He then presides over the awarding of the diplomas. These appearances are much appreciated by the students as they go forward to serve in Viet-Nam at this time.

Your appearance here would also give us a chance, if your time permits, to acquaint you briefly with what the Viet-Nam Training Center does as an interagency activity presided over by the Department of State. We will be most appreciative if you will find it possible to meet with us on December 4. If not, we will be having additional graduations at intervals of approximately six weeks thereafter and would be able to suggest more convenient dates.

Many congratulations on your distinguished new appointment, and best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams  
Coordinator  
Viet-Nam Training Center