

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

September 28, 1970

Mr. Raymond G. Jones  
MACCORDS/Chieu Hoi  
APO San Francisco 96243

Dear Guy:

Thanks for your two letters. Let me brief you on latest developments here. Our meeting with Jim Keene of AID and his people took place on September 18. I agreed to give up \$10,500 to be taken from a series of small items not including staff travel, and informed them of my conversation with General Haig and said that we would feel obliged to resist further cuts on the grounds they would conflict with what I was sure was the Administration's basic thinkings and priorities. Keene then hit on the idea of alleviating his budget by removing you and me from the State slots which are funded by AID's VTC budget, and reconverting us to AID rolls which are funded by some other part of AID. This he has power to do and there is nothing we can do about it. This, together with the \$10,500 which we gave up, would cut substantially into the \$84,000 which they are trying to reduce. The language side made no concession whatsoever (which I support, since I think they are running with a lean staff right now), but Jim Frith's firm line was not pleasing to AID, according to our later information.

Although no pressure was placed on the staff travel budget item by AID at the meeting, Howard Sollenberger is applying pressure for other reasons. He notes in passing that the matter is not dead, and AID might still raise it, but is principally concerned because State is trying to cut down on all staff travel overseas within the Department, and we are standing out as an exception to the general effort. For example, when he himself talked to Macomber about visiting FSI's overseas training establishments, which would be his first such trip in five years, Macomber reportedly glared and said he would try to square it with the Secretary, etc.

All this really has nothing to do with VTC or our mission, and I will take as hard a line as required when forced to do so, but it does oblige us to be as cooperative and helpful as possible. In short, in our last conversation on the subject, Howard agreed to unfreeze Zimmerman who will be going ahead without problems under our regular VTC budget, but wanted to hold up officially on Gardner until I had explored through you whether CORDS would pick up

Gardner and the people who will be coming after him. Your memorandum to Jacobson requests CORDS to pick up our entire travel item for the year, but of course all we are talking about is travel for the remainder of the year following Zimmerman, which amounts to \$15,200. I should also mention here that, in our AID conversations, I did yield to one area specialist, which means that CORDS would only be sending us one more after the present incumbent leaves.

Your reading of Colby's letter to Nooter was a bit off base and I enclose a copy of the actual letter. Dan Quaid tells me that there would be problems in having CORDS pick up some of our staff who are Civil Service, State people, or what not, but we can certainly explore what is feasible in due course. I want to get this in the mail right away so will terminate without further ado.

The school is getting along fine. This last weekend I went to Pennsylvania with my brother and his wife and got some trout fishing in the Poconos.

I very much appreciated your letters and hope this will clarify matters at this end.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams

Enclosure

O/FSI/VTC:OW:d

cc: Budget  
VTC