

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

September 15, 1970

Mr. Dennis J. Duncanson
26 Leinster Mews
London W.2., England

Dear Dennis:

Please excuse my delay in replying to your letter of August 24. I took a week's holiday in Montana trout fishing and generally enjoying the area. If you have never seen the American West, that is to say the Rocky Mountains, you really should do so.

As of now we are counting on you for December 9 through 11 unless otherwise advised by you. I do hope this works out because it will be particularly interesting to get your fresh insights just after you return from Viet-Nam and Thailand.

I have not attempted to publish anything about Thailand, which is somewhat awkward for us to do while on government service. I did write a short piece on the security situation which General Dick Stilwell at the Pentagon has temporarily borrowed. I shall try to get it back from him and might send it to you, fearing only that you will find it too brief and simplified for your purposes. I think the assessment was fairly accurate in the over-all, but as you know, in a month's time one can do little to check original sources and must rely excessively on what local "experienced observers" believe. I did observe with amusement Sihanouk's comments in Pacific Community, but not in Preuves.

Regarding Southeast Asia, I do hope our present policy of encouraging more self-reliance on the part of the Vietnamese — which the less misguided members of the American establishment have been trying to do all along — will pay off, because sooner or later the Southeast Asians are going to have to sort out their own affairs, and the mood in this country would indicate sooner rather than later, even though no immoderate rate of U.S. withdrawal is presently foreseen. I confess that, when I read how the Koreans are graciously agreeing to permit us to withdraw our forces provided we equip their entire army, etc., I become a little irritated, but then I must put much of the blame on ourselves for allowing others to suppose that we

would carry their burdens as well as our own eternally. In any case, you can tell us what the situation really is when we see you in December.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center