

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

August 20, 1970

Mr. George D. Jacobson
Assistant Chief of Staff for CORDS
Headquarters, MACV
APO San Francisco 96222

Dear Jake:

I now raise a matter of the greatest interest to us.

As you know, VTC is supported from the AID budget. As AID feels the budgetary squeeze, it has been considering requiring complete reimbursement from agencies which send students to VTC, particularly Defense. If this policy were pursued aggressively, our military students would possibly be withdrawn from VTC and sent elsewhere which would mean the substantial demise of this training facility which, I hope, has been of real service to CORDS/Viet-Nam.

I mentioned this problem to Bill Colby on the telephone two days ago and suggested his intervention at high levels. (In this connection, we have been trying to persuade Kissinger's office to act as a sponsor of VTC in the Washington scene, but without success to date.) Colby immediately came up with the suggestion that the VTC budget be included in the CORDS package in Viet-Nam rather than presented directly to AID in Washington. In order not to lose time, he asked that I notify you soonest so that some preliminary examination could be done at your end. Since VTC, in fact, works for no one but CORDS/Viet-Nam, it would solve many problems if we also presented our budget to CORDS and were thus fully responsive to our ultimate customer.

I enclose a copy of the budget submission presented to AID recently. Perhaps you could staff this out to your program people. Our total estimated expenses for FY 1971 are in the order of \$840,000.00, not a major figure by CORDS standards.

Obviously, Bill Colby's proposal will raise issues of an administrative, fiscal and personnel nature. After your staff has had a chance to study the proposal, we would be most pleased to get your reaction.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

Enclosure