

July 27, 1970

Mr. James R. Keene, Acting Director
Office of Personnel and Manpower
Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Mr. Keene:

I heard that the August 3 incoming class at the Viet-Nam Training Center, according to the latest data available, will consist of thirty Majors, ten Colonels, two short-term Department of State officers, two Public Safety candidates from A.I.D., and one long-term language student from USIA. Naturally, we will be in touch with the Department of State regarding its own inputs, but I did wish to explore with you what seems to us to be a very serious problem.

As you know, CORDS/Viet-Nam has consistently stated that it places the highest priority on receiving language-trained officers. The new VTC class contains only one long-term trainee from A.I.D. I have heard that there is a considerable backlog of applicants, including a substantial number of young Peace Corps veterans, who are volunteers for Viet-Nam duty. Indeed, some of these individuals have been included in virtually every VTC class since its inception in 1967. Does the total absence of any long-term candidates at the present time indicate that A.I.D. is no longer hiring for Viet-Nam? I am sure that Ambassador Colby and others will be increasingly concerned at our failure to provide language-trained young officers from either State or A.I.D., and any light you could throw on this problem would be much appreciated.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Howard E. Sollenberger
Acting Director
Foreign Service Institute

cc: Mr. Robert H. Nooter

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