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DRAFT

Mr. Robert H. Nooter  
Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Viet-Nam  
Agency for International Development  
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Mr. Nooter:

I heard today that the 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 no long-term trainees 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 alarmed 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

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:d 7/22/70

Howard,

Here's a letter for AID. I am writing Colby. You might wish to handle others by phone. I have telephoned Fred Brown, but no one else in State.

O.W.