

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

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PERSONAL

Mr. John Gunther Dean  
Assistant Deputy for CORDS  
MACV, MR 1  
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Dear John:

Jess Snyder of our office returned today, and I was most interested to hear of his conversation with you. I would be fascinated to get your views on the present situation, not only as regards the objective picture, but also as regards personnel implications of it. For example, Jess said that you felt we should really be out of the training business now because of the diminishing need for any American personnel to be sent to Viet-Nam. Do you think that the pipelines on District Senior Advisors and Province Senior Advisors could realistically be cut off at this time, or should they merely be reduced? Do people like Harvey Ames serve no professional purpose at this stage? In short, any philosophy you have on any of these matters would be absolutely fascinating to me, and I would of course treat it as personal and confidential.

Do you find your own job rewarding and interesting at this stage? How viable are the Vietnamese really getting to be, in your view? As you can see, I am full of questions and would really appreciate any thoughts you might have on these subjects.

Meanwhile, we plod along at the same old stand. The various courses are probably better than ever, and the quality of people coming into them is probably better also. Obviously, we anticipate the problem of operational obsolescence but cannot be the prime mover in any action to reflect new realities. That must be done by the personnel people, not the trainers. One other matter that is interesting to me is the question of shifting program activity from CORDS back to USAID, reflecting greater emphasis on development. What is your view on this?

Please let me know if there is anything we can do for you here in the States.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams  
Coordinator  
Viet-Nam Training Center