

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

March 12, 1971

Mr. Howard H. Lange  
Advisory Team 18, CORDS  
APO San Francisco 96258

Dear Howard:

Many thanks for sending me the copy of your March 4 letter to Fred Brown. I should like to comment on each of the points you raise.

First, we have already for sometime been giving the District Course to long-term language students near the end of language training rather than directly after the Basic Course. Second, your comments regarding changes in assignment of linguists echo those which I have received before and which I have passed along to the Language Division. I am also forwarding to them an extracted quotation from your letter, without indicating the source. Ideally, we should have at least one more outstanding linguist and the money to pay him. There is considerable doubt, however, that we can either find the qualified individual, or the necessary budget, so I am not over optimistic. We will again be having discussions with the School of Languages on this subject.

Third, Floyd Spears has on several occasions assured us that he wants to continue to receive placement preferences, but also indicates that the field cannot be bound to observe such preferences when other needs arise. The best we can do is what you suggest, namely, to emphasize to the students here that they should not take the preference sheets too seriously, and that there will be great flexibility in actual assignments. Fourth, I have asked Dan Quaid to investigate what may be the problem regarding the shipping of books by pouch, with a view to either correcting bottlenecks or investigating the possibilities of a new procedure.

I am very glad that you are apparently enjoying your assignment. Viet-Nam is perhaps less fascinating than it used to be, but I doubt that all of the old charm is gone, particularly for those who have a chance to work closely with the people and are not surrounded and overwhelmed by our own bureaucracy. Again, many thanks for your letter.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

cc: Fred Brown

Ogden Williams  
Coordinator  
Viet-Nam Training Center