

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

February 12, 1971

Mr. Franklin R. Stewart, Director
War Victims Directorate/CORDS
Headquarters, MACV
APO San Francisco 96222

Dear Frank:

Many thanks for your letter dated February 1, 1971. You were most hospitable in Saigon, and I much appreciated the chance to attend your staff meeting.

Much of your letter concerns your desire to get a number of bright and motivated people to work in your Directorate. As a practical matter, such assignments are made in Saigon, as you know. When I was running Chieu Hoi, I asked the Personnel people to let me interview all ex-Peace Corps volunteers and all Foreign Service Officers so that I could explain our program and see whether they could be motivated to join it. In such case, I would put a strong request in for a given individual and could often get him, but of course not always. I don't know what conversations you may have had with Jack Napier's people, but would strongly suggest some such arrangement in Saigon. As you know, the young civilians normally do not have fixed assignments when they leave here. Thus, there is a certain flexibility and room for maneuver for you in Saigon.

As far as our course is concerned, we present a one-hour presentation by Dr. Hoeber (see attached extract from a syllabus), and also deal with the program more generally as part of the 1971 Plan and in other general presentations. In the District Course, there is a specific problem which deals with the re-settlement of war victims in which the students play the role of District Senior Advisor, Village Chief, etc. During the exercise, they must solve all aspects of the problem of re-integrating war victims into their old hamlet. More attention could be given to the War Victims Program if you would enjoin all of your people who returned to Washington to make it a point to visit us. We could, for example, set up a special meeting between such individuals and students in

the long-term course (language officers). This kind of thing could result in many students specifically requesting duty in your Directorate and, if they did so, I could write Jake urging that such assignments be made.

In summary, we definitely do cover your program in instruction, and Dr. Hoeber gets a chance to present material on the program. For that to lead to the actual earmarking of personnel would require something more, and I think visits to VTC by your field representatives who are themselves enthusiastic would do a lot of good. In a sense you would have your own recruiter coming to our school to recruit. Finally, however, the most valuable actions of all should be taken, in my view, right in Saigon by getting Personnel to give you the chance to at least interview whatever types of people you feel you want most. In my case, they were ex-Peace Corps and young FSO's because I felt these people generally had the motivational base and natural interest which would make them good men in the Chieu Hoi program. I will call Dr. Hoeber and find out if Tom Estrada will be able to visit us. I certainly hope so.

In due course I will send you a nice picture taken of you in your apartment and also a view from your window of the garden next door. They are color slides and might make nice souvenirs.

I hope you are having a fascinating tour despite the hardships of family separation. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help at any time. Also, please give my best regards to your glamorous secretary.

Warmly,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

Attachment

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