

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

February 8, 1971

General Bruce Palmer, Jr.
Vice Chief of Staff
Office of the Chief of Staff
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear General Palmer:

You will recall our correspondence regarding the possibility of giving more language training to District Senior Advisors going to Viet-Nam. A joint Ad Hoc Committee was set up with your assistance, which met on January 18 and February 6, 1971. Its conclusions are attached.

As I read the Committee's report, it recognized that it would be highly desirable, from an operational standpoint, to provide more language training to District Senior Advisors. To do so, however, would involve added budgetary expense, hardship to the trainee officers who would lose their per diem status, and the possibility that the new 18-month program would become less attractive, among other considerations.

If this issue were arising at an earlier stage in the Viet-Nam conflict, I would strongly urge that all such objections be put aside by command decision, and that we do the job as it should be done. At this stage, however, I believe the Committee's recommendation should be accepted, particularly since the present DSA training program, while not as good as it should be in terms of producing language-trained officers for the District level, appears to be well thought of and generally meeting MACV's requirements. Thus, in the absence of advice to the contrary, we will continue the DSA training program as presently constituted, and will not attempt to provide more language training for District Senior Advisors.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams
Coordinator,
Viet-Nam Training Center

Enclosure:
Committee report

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:mlo

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