

Chron

cc: FSI
LANGUAGE

MEMORANDUM

January 4, 1971

TO: O/FSI - Dr. James R. Frith
THRU: O/FSI/VTC - Dr. Howard S. Levy
FROM: O/FSI/VTC - Ogden Williams

SUBJECT: Reinstitution of Vietnamese Language Top-Out Procedures

As you know, it was customary in the past to top out long-term language students when they were not making satisfactory progress. This was done by regular periodic testing. If a student failed, he was given several weeks notice and then sent to the field. In the past six months, top-out procedures have been considerably relaxed. Certain recent classes fell substantially below the S-3 level which the program attempts to achieve. This was undoubtedly due to low motivation on the part of those classes.

In any case, A.I.D. has formally requested, and VTC concurs, that the traditional top-out procedure be reinstituted and more rigorously applied. A.I.D. apparently does not wish to pay salary and per diem in Washington for individuals who are not making satisfactory progress beyond the S-2 level. We also feel it is highly reasonable that the time at the school not be in part wasted on such individuals. While making this request for re-application of top-out procedures, A.I.D. and VTC remain fully convinced of the great value of the attainment of an S-3, R-3 level for those students who are capable of doing so within the period of the normal long-term language course.

cc: AID/PM/MD - Mr. Creedon

Mr. Jones
Mr. Quaid
Mrs. Ozier

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:d