

Personal file

MAR 29 1972

The Honorable
John R. Mossler
Minister/Director
USA.I.D./Saigon
Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Bob,

As you know, Ogden Williams has been my staff officer on narcotics programs in the East Asia - and now SA - areas. During 1971 action programs have been established for all the involved countries of the region, and he feels that his principal contribution has largely been made. He has expressed an interest in returning to Vietnam, which is the occasion for this letter. He has very considerable A.I.D. experience in Vietnam, as you know, with demonstrated capacities for working effectively with the Vietnamese and basic interest in Vietnam and its people. He speaks fluent French and some Vietnamese, and has a wide acquaintanceship with Vietnamese, civilian and military officials who are now in key positions in the Government. He is primarily interested in working with the Ministries, understands the CVN budgetary and bureaucratic processes and, above all, the factors which tend to inhibit effective Vietnamese performance. In short, he would seem to be the kind of person who could make a real contribution in a wide variety of capacities, both in the USAID and in CORDS.

Williams' previous assignments include a tour as Special Assistant to the Director (Joseph Brent) in 1962 - 63 where he was involved with all the Divisions of the Mission, and on occasion served as Acting Director and Acting Deputy Director. In 1964 he was in charge of the Field Operations Division. In 1966 - 69 he was in charge of Chieu Hoi within USAID, OCO, and CORDS, receiving the Superior Honor Award for this service. All his efficiency reports regarding Vietnam duty are outstanding. He prefers line as opposed to staff responsibilities, and frequent contact with the Vietnamese. He is familiar with every province in Vietnam. To indicate his general philosophy about past U.S. involvement in Vietnam, I enclose a paper he wrote last year which I think you will find interesting. Since it comments frankly on certain issues, it is sent for your own personal perusal.

I would appreciate it if you could give some thought to the possibility of Williams' assignment and let me have your views.

Cordially,

~~Roderic L. O'Connor~~

Roderic L. O'Connor

Attachment: a/s

P.S. I have a high regard for Oggie Williams' ability. He is a well-trained lawyer with a good analytical mind -- and I hope that we can make good use of his talents which in my judgment are substantial. How and where is, of course, up to you.