

May 17, 1972

Mr. John F. Thomas
Director
Intergovernmental Committee For
European Migration
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear John:

Many thanks for your letter of May 12. As it happened, the day after I received your letter, I was informed that the Mission had decided to confirm Firnstahl, who had been the Deputy in the Refugee organization for many years, as the new man in charge ~~s~~ replacing Franklin Stewart. Thus I will not be going to Vietnam in that capacity, if at all. I regret putting you through the trouble of giving me your valued guidance, but I did pass it along to Rod O'Connor for the benefit of others. Rod remembered you most favorably from his State Department days.

At the moment I am casting about for other alternatives. I have had three years with A.I.D. Washington which is more than enough under any circumstances, and particularly so since this narcotics job to which I am presently assigned does not keep me fully occupied or interested. I am considering taking an early retirement from A.I.D. and possibly going to Saigon on my own with the thought of locating something useful out there. With my Government pension, I would be financially fairly independent and thus free to do something useful and interesting, the latter point presenting the only real problem.

Again many thanks and best luck in your important work.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams
Special Assistant to the Coordinator