

Except as indicated below, Mr. Williams' function and performance continued as described in the previous report (August 1, 1971 to December 31, 1971) with little to add. Whereas during the previous period it had been necessary to create from scratch a new narcotics effort, and Mr. Williams was able to play a major role in establishing operational doctrine for the program and also in setting up the control mechanisms at the Washington level (the Interagency Working Group), his role in 1972 was more concerned with the mounting, monitoring, and backstopping of field programs in response to Washington guidelines. For this purpose he visited the Philippines, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam in January - February, assisting the respective Missions in framing their programs, and then supporting their requests after his return to Washington (see attached letter from Laos Mission Director).

His duties at Headquarters included participation in the Congressional presentation process, representing the Bureau on the Interagency Working Group, expediting the issuance of allotments and providing other support functions for the field. All such specific activities have been carried out promptly and thoroughly.

Early in the year, while Mr. Williams was in the field assisting in the mounting of Mission programs, the Office of the Assistant Administrator assumed direct control of narcotics operations worldwide. Whereas East Asia had taken the lead in development of such programs, the new arrangement very largely eliminated the autonomy and initiative which East Asia (and later, the Supporting Assistance Bureau) had formerly enjoyed and exercised. In view of this reduction in function which was further restricted by the elimination of the East Asia Bureau and transfer of responsibility for certain countries to the Asia Bureau, and also because Mr. Williams had from the outset operated the narcotics programs through normal Country Desk channels, Mr. Williams felt that his position as Special Assistant for Narcotics Control Operations was no longer essential and requested reassignment in May. Pending resolution of this request, he continued to carry out narcotics responsibilities within the Bureau. These responsibilities became increasingly routine and lacking in the creative opportunities which had marked the earlier period. Since Mr. Williams' entire career in the Agency had involved extensive field action assignments (plus one Washington tour as Director of the Vietnam Training Center), the restricted scope of his narcotics assignment was for him a considerable frustration. By nature he does not tolerate easily the absence of challenge and clear action authority and responsibility. In this respect his current assignment has required of him great patience and good humor. He has had little opportunity to exercise his talents or obtain the satisfactions or recognition which would result therefrom, but has borne this difficult and frustrating situation with commendable stamina and a good spirit. He would clearly be better assigned to an action program in the field, as such opportunities may arise.