



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Nov 7 3 25 PM '68 Saigon, Vietnam

AID
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

26 October 1968

Hon. Rutherford M. Poats
Deputy Administrator
Agency for International Development
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Rud:

Delighted you asked me about Oggie Williams. His performance over the last two and a half years here has been nothing short of exceptional. He is "Mr. Chieu Hoi", providing the essential continuity through no less than five different ministers and really running the program behind the scenes. His relationships with his counterparts have been superlative -- contributing a great deal to his success.

When you think how Oggie has taken a truly penny ante program -- involving very little US money and a heterogenous handful of Filipino, Aussie and a few US advisors -- and whipped it into one of our most cost-effective programs, you have to take your hat off to him.

Of course we would dearly love to have Oggie extend again in his present role. Alternatively we thought of shifting him to Refugees, because despite his lack of refugee experience he's a proven energizer of GVN programs. Unfortunately, Oggie isn't interested. He might be willing to stay to run the PHUNG HOANG program. But he really would like a change of scene, because he fears he's becoming a Johnny one-note. I don't know about his Tunisia experience with AID, but I believe he'd make an excellent director for a small mission in LA perhaps -- he speaks some Spanish. He's best in influencing locals because he really gets into bed with them.

I dearly hope that AID can do well by him. Why not write him first, however, urging him to stay on here another year, or even six months. Incidentally, he is still a "temporary" FSR-1 after seven years in that rank. Couldn't AID make it permanent?

Thanks for your kind words about this strange melange we call pacification. The strangest thing about it is that it's working, which I attribute largely to a small group of able Americans operating a lot more vigorously on a large inert body of Vietnamese than was ever attempted in this country before. For example, we have actually gotten over 500 GVN officials fired-- no mean trick. Though our problems are still many, it is increasingly apparent that the enemy has even more. We may surprise you yet.

Warmly,



R. W. Kommer

P. S. Attached are Oggie's own views -- TOP SECRET.