

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Language and Area School

DATE: 16 July 1959

FROM : Deputy Chief, Area Training

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Our annual staff conference was held this week at [redacted] with sessions scheduled early evening of the 14th and morning of the 15th. Main emphasis was on identification of priorities, review of the current fiscal year program, and desirable OTR policies on area training. Put over till September was a discussion of the proper extent of standardization of the content of our various types of courses. Major decisions were: that we should introduce a new type course, the Area Seminar for GS 12's and above, as a replacement for certain Regional Studies in order to concentrate during class time on discussions of the problems rather than the structure of an area, and attract more middle-grade personnel; that [redacted] should prepare a two or three-year area program on the Far East for submission to DDP as a sample of the coordinated, long-term programs on world regions which we consider to be one of our major objectives; that I would prepare an analysis of the pros and cons of full-time versus part-time area training; and that our first priority staffing requirement is for a suitable assistant for [redacted] with specialization on Africa and also, if possible, on South Asia. Present were: [redacted] and myself (serving as chairman) from the Area Staff, as well as [redacted]. The last three profited especially by a discussion of combined area-language training problems, and it was agreed to explore the possibilities of adding some area training in English to full-time language courses, as FSI does.

2. Following up earlier discussion with DC/FE, [redacted] has arranged with TO/FE for a conference to be laid on with all branch chiefs the forepart of August, to discuss the division's needs in the field of area studies. The purpose of the conference will be to work toward a division commitment of support for an agreed program. Our proposed long-term area program on the Far East mentioned above should be a leading point of reference.

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The TO/FE will cooperate in scheduling the conference, in circulation of advance reference materials, and in briefing Colton on FE attitudes and problems in relation to area studies. He volunteered the view that a major need of his division today is training in "overseasmanship" in given societies, implying that FE will give firm support to our new IOE this fall. F

- 25X1 3. [redacted] deserves much credit for the promising start of the weekly lecture series on Africa south of the Sahara. First lecture, given by AF's Houck in 117 Central Building, on 9 July, was attended by 61 persons, all from the Agency. [redacted] proposed this venture to us, and we appreciate his help while [redacted] is overseas. This turn-out tends to confirm our impression that we should concentrate increasingly on highly selective forms of area training and briefings, namely, those - like this series - which pertain to "crisis" areas and problems, and those - such as AAO's, SAS's, and the IOE - which can be closely tailored to the needs of special groups of employees. F
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