

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Acting Chief, Language and Area School

DATE: 2 July 1959

FROM : Deputy Chief, Area Training

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None to report.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. First meeting of the new inter-agency roundtable on area training was satisfactory in every way. We struck "pay dirt" in the unexpectedly numerous suggestions for exchange of teaching aids and information useful in the administration of the program. A complete report has been submitted to you for DTR.

25X1 2. East Asia - RS # 1, which was handled entirely by [ ] was completed on 29 June with a three-hour examination. This course heavily emphasized contemporary problems of concern to the Agency and opened the way to a new approach in these regional courses, stressing a comparative analysis of the roles of the countries. A full report will be submitted following a series of conferences which [ ] proposes to hold with class members and various FE supervisors. The written critiques reflected the students' unanimous appreciation of the value of the course and their unusually fine spirit is indicated by one member's invitation to the group to attend a stag party in the near future. Familiar problems which, we agree with [ ] are major ones - are the uneven quality of presentations by guest lecturers and the inability of the class to find adequate time for essential outside readings - including much classified material on contemporary themes. The class overwhelmingly supports [ ] conclusion that guest specialists should be used almost exclusively as panelists joining in class discussions, rather than for formal presentations. Attrition was exceptionally heavy in this course, which was completed by only eight of the 13 who were enrolled. Of the eight, 3 were DDP and four were GS-13's or above.

25X1 3. [ ] Central Europe course, which has two weeks left to go, has reached its more sophisticated themes, such as "Stalinism and Revisionism" and "Long-term Economic Trends" in the CEP countries. On the former theme, 25X1 we were most fortunate to have as a panel leader, [ ] who is

25X1 PP Staff specialist on this subject. C/EE [redacted] has  
25X1 spoken warmly to [redacted] of his interest in the course. A "field trip"  
to the R&S Library has helped the students prepare for their own  
presentations of specific problems, with their conclusions, in the  
final sessions of the course.

25X1 4. Our first session in the AAO [redacted] devoted exclusively to  
25X1 cues for inter-personal contacts [redacted] was very well received  
25X1 by the class of eight and by TO/EE [redacted] who attended this  
25X1 session. The panelists, [redacted] have had an  
25X1 unusual depth of experience [redacted] and were admirably articulate,  
but on the next time round, in September, we shall pair one of them  
off with a recent returnee whose viewpoint is closer to that of the  
group members.

25X1 5. A disconcerting note in this course offering was the complete  
25X1 absence of dependents despite the enrollment of two wives. DC/EE  
[redacted] seems particularly anxious to have all dependents take this  
briefing and has promised to apply pressure in an early EE staff  
meeting.

25X1 6. A phone chat with C/WE [redacted] opens the way to a solution  
of another urgent problem in the AAO category, which is to find a way  
to give the inter-personal relations briefing to those going to the  
smaller posts for the first time. Our AAO's covering these posts  
have been generally limited to topics of a regional scope, in order  
to combine the small numbers involved at any time. The inter-personal  
relations briefing, however, must be tailored to a specific foreign country  
or group of closely similar countries. WE will cooperate with our effort  
to obtain a sufficiently large group to give such a briefing on each of  
25X1 the middle-size posts [redacted] once a year. This can be  
accomplished by rounding up every possible dependent, clerical and  
junior professional who is likely to be assigned to the post in question  
at a future date, regardless of whether the necessary field opening is  
in view.

25X1 7. A valuable asset for the inter-personal contacts briefings, which  
we have begun to build, is a collection of slides of foreign peoples,  
which will serve to illustrate cultural and temperamental differences.  
The Human Relations Area Files at American University are likely to be  
one of our outstanding sources for this purpose.

