

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Language and Area School

DATE: 27 May 1959

FROM : Deputy Chief, Area Training

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- DDP
1. First meeting of an informal inter-agency roundtable on area training will be held in our seminar room on 30 June. Meetings will be bi-monthly, to be hosted by each representative in turn. Purpose, as with the language roundtable, will be a useful exchange of ideas on philosophies and methods, as well as of information on each other's facilities. I have met an unexpectedly enthusiastic response to our initiative in the matter. Agencies which have thus far accepted our invitation are State (both FSI and ICA), Defense (MAI), Army (SIS), and USIA. NSA is not yet firmly committed, and neither Navy nor Air Force has an area training program.
  2. The group which took the Training Officer Orientation 19-21 May [redacted] proved to be the most responsive we have met to date. [redacted] was unable to join the group, and I shall suggest that he and perhaps also DDTR and C/PPS, might wish to have us brief them on LAS activities at their convenience. Particularly encouraging was the word from [redacted] that he has submitted to C/TSS an organizational plan for career training which includes language and area. This is in line with the growing sentiment I have previously reported in favor of coordinated planning by all components for career training.
  3. The current offering of RS - Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, in its third week, is progressing far better than we dared hope. Handicaps are that this is a first running, that the Chief Instructor [redacted] has to brief himself on a new area and immediately after his serious illness, and that our new comparative approach - involving discussions of the three countries at one time under each topic - poses the formidable task of finding single specialists or panels competent to cover all three countries. We think [redacted] repeated

25X1  
25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

contributions have amply justified the sacrifice of his time and the allocation of manpower needed to hoist him to the second floor once or twice a week. Jack's lecture on ethnic groupings in the area was richly flavored by his linguistic background, and he will join a panel later on educational systems. Highly competent outside speakers have included Eric Fischer (AMS) on strategic geography and mass migrations, Bob Delaney (VOA) on social structure, and John Karch (USIA) on population shifts and recent relations of Czechoslovakia and Poland with the USSR. The class of 16 is responsive above the average level; no withdrawals have occurred to date.

4. RS - East Asia, in its sixth week, has likewise maintained a high level of sophistication in discussion, but, in the opinion of the instructor, there is difficulty in getting a sufficient depth of treatment in a 10-week period, due to the comprehensive coverage required for a six-state area which includes such complex states as Communist China and Japan. While attendance of auditors for special lectures has been consistent, attendance of enrolled students has suffered an unusually high rate of attrition due to three absences for TDY assignments and two withdrawals. In the future, shorter courses for East Asia should be offered on selected themes or subjects now covered more briefly in the current regional course (economics, government, politics and administration, foreign relations, etc.).

25X1

