

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Language and Area School

DATE: 29 April 1959

FROM : Deputy Chief, Area Training

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. I am delighted at your concurrence in my recommendation that we include area training in the career plan which we intend to submit to DTR for proposal to DDP. My conviction has been growing that we must press soon for an official policy on area training; the PEA group has been almost unanimously in support of specific area training as a complement to the new course on principles of personal effectiveness overseas; and I consider that it will be far more practical to sell a single "package" to DDP than to make separate approaches.

In working out the area training portions of our plan, I will consider inclusion of the following proposals: an appropriate form of area training every three or four years, and particularly within one year prior to assignment overseas, for all DDP professional personnel concerned with a specific country or region, in order to deepen the understanding of their area; and an objective-type comprehensive test on a specific area, to be taken voluntarily or at the request of one's supervisor, as a check on one's knowledge of data on the area. With only a very modest increase in our present staff, we would have the capability to provide global coverage at the Regional Study and Senior Area Seminar levels. By drawing on DDI and DDP personnel for help, we could complete a few tests at a time. The tests, by the way, would be of considerable help in determining the level, direction, and amount of area training needed. A university program, or an internal study course or seminar, or merely directed readings, might be indicated.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2. RS - East Asia: A Comparative Analysis completed the first unit on the relation of geography to national policy on 27 April. Subject matter for the four class periods was presented by three area specialists from ORR, Geography Division. On 24 April seven visitors from ORR geographical and cartography sections attended the course, and five were again present on 27 April. Several of these visitors informed [redacted] that the regional treatment given in the course was useful to specialists from ORR sections either as refresher opportunities or for a comparison of their special area with the region of East Asia.

Class members appear to be responding well to demands made on them for study. Three absentees from the first unit are expected to be present upon completion of their final week of training elsewhere in the OTR program.

