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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training


SUBJECT : Area Training

REFERENCE : Memorandum to Chief, FE from Acting Chief, LAS/TR,
subject, "Long-Range Area Training Program", 1 Sept 1959

1. The receipt of the referenced memorandum with its enclosures explaining in detail the proposed "Long-Range Area Training Program" was received at a time when this Division was taking a very hard look at personnel utilization. Consequently, your proposal was most carefully examined in a climate of semi-austerity. Considering this climate, the results of our review were not surprising. Almost all concerned agree that Area Training per se is at the present time somewhat of a luxury. We must train our people in other more necessary skills, if you will, such as language, so that when added to overseas processing and the fact that we are all being called upon to do a better job with fewer personnel, Area Training must necessarily assume a low priority. With this established, we reason that the Area Training still required by our personnel must be acquired on their own time through individual research and reading or through local area programs conducted by the various country desks and branches of the Division. This admittedly is not as satisfactory as an organized pedagogical approach to Area Training as proposed in reference, but frankly it is all we can "afford" at present.

2. Specialized or detailed Area Training beyond the depth of self-study or desk orientation would still be possible through the use of local university area training programs, courses, lectures, seminars, etc., were the internal Area Training Program abolished. It is to this we would prefer to look in those rare cases where our personnel would require this type of Area Training.

3. Programs such as Americans Abroad and the Dependents Briefing which require less time and have proven beneficial in the past should be continued, particularly for employees from the DDS elements, since in many instances it is the first overseas trip for the majority of these individuals and their dependents.


Chief, Far East Division

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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