

26 September 1972

Colonel John E. Coon, USA
Director of Asian Studies
U.S. Army War College
Carlisle Barracks
Pennsylvania 17013

Dear Colonel Coon:

Since 26 October is now only a month away, I thought I would square away some detailed questions relating to the seminar session on Mainland Southeast Asia you have asked me to run on that date. I will of course be delighted to tailor my approach and manner of treatment to your needs, but at this writing I am not altogether clear just what these needs are.

Your letter of 25 August spoke of a session of sixteen students who would have a semi-final draft of a joint paper which should serve as a basis for criticism or elaboration in the seminar. It would be very helpful if you could mail me some version of this draft, or even an outline sketch of its general argument, a day or two before the session so I could have a chance to glance through it before meeting with its authors. Subject to your wishes, I thought I might open with a few general remarks, slide into some specific observations keyed to the students' work and then throw the seminar open for give and take discussion.

I will touch base by phone around mid-October to confirm last minute logistic details, travel arrangements, etc. (Incidentally, your 25 August letter was sent to my old address. Our current address is given below.) It is always an honor to be invited to the War College, doubly so to be invited back. I am looking forward to seeing you and your associates on 26 October.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Carver, Jr.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY WAR COLLEGE
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PENNSYLVANIA 17013

IN REPLY REFER TO:

25 August 1972

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Doctor George A. Carver



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Dear Dr. Carver:

Coming to the Army War College is a familiar routine for you, thus it's hardly necessary to go into the usual detail in this letter. However, because of the innovations in this year's curriculum, I should bring you up to date on new aspects.

With the compression of time in our international strategic appraisals course, I was given only four half-days for coverage of the whole Asian/Pacific area. As a consequence we're giving formal lecture coverage only to the PRC and Japan. For the rest of Asia, we're bringing in one consultant each for South Asia, Mainland Southeast Asia (and you're the expert), Insular Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the Koreas, and Asian regional relations.

Each consultant will meet with sixteen selected students, one from each committee, who are conducting research in his area of expertise. The students will have a semi-final draft of a joint paper intended ultimately for oral presentation and discussion in their respective committees. This draft paper should serve as the basis for criticism or elaboration in a seminar session with you. Since, for the most part, the individual student will have only a shallow background on mainland Southeast Asia, your insights will be invaluable in making the final paper a substantive contribution to the overall strategic evaluation of Asia which culminates this portion of the curriculum. The manner in which the session is conducted is at your discretion.

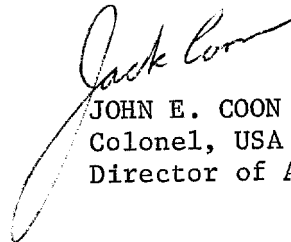
You, of course, are best qualified to decide what factors are of primary importance for consideration. The touch-stone is the question of US interests in Asia and the Pacific during the coming decade and the ways in which developments in Indochina, Thailand, and Burma will or may impact on those interests. Of natural interest will be the situation after a US military drawdown and the influence of the PRC and the USSR in the area.

As for physical facilities for the seminar session, you will be meeting in one of our committee rooms, seated with the students around the table in an extremely informal atmosphere. The room will have chalkboards and equipment for vugraph transparencies or 35mm slides should you want to use them. We can prepare the vugraphs from your drafts if you'd like--but in that case we would need the drafts by the first week of October. At any rate, simply let me know your requirements and I'll see that the proper preparations are made.

With regard to travel arrangements, I assume you'll be driving up. If you arrive the afternoon or evening preceding the 26th, we'll schedule you for a morning session. If you come up in the morning, we'll schedule you for the afternoon. In either case guest house reservations will be made for you. Let me know your plans and I'll make the appropriate arrangements with our Visitors Bureau.

If there's still anything you'd like to discuss, don't hesitate to call me collect at (717) 245-3306 or drop me a line. I'm looking forward to seeing you again this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Coon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

JOHN E. COON
Colonel, USA
Director of Asian Studies