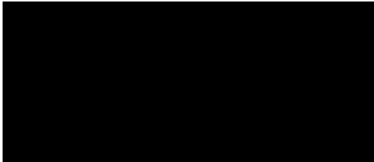


UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO :  C/OBF/IS/OTR DATE: 11 August 1966

FROM :


SUBJECT: Completion of Vietnam Orientation No. 8

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1. The 8th running of the Vietnam Orientation, August 8-10, was a shortened and, in my opinion, an unsuccessful version of the normal full week of instruction. The course was shortened to fifteen hours spread over three days because of the small registration . It was unsuccessful because it lacked unity and comprehensiveness, as far as the coverage of material was concerned; and it lacked these because I could not draw from outside the  for speakers, and that desk lacks personnel who can speak knowingly of the land, the people, the history, the culture, and the fundamental problems of Vietnam. Even Agency operations were inadequately covered because of the shortness of time.

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2. I suppose one can take consolation in the fact that "something is better than nothing." The new chief of the branch, Mr.  provided an introductory account of the Saigon station's past, present, and likely future mission. Other branch personnel spoke in more detail of the "revolutionary development cadres" which are such a large element of station activity. Support personnel gave helpful advice and information on personal matters. Films and reading material hopefully provided some insights and guidance for newcomers to Southeast Asia.

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3. I am forwarding with this memorandum one copy of the schedule of the orientation.

