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Executive Registry
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27 APR 1961

Honorable Chester Bowles
The Under Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Chet:

Since receiving your letter of 31 March concerning the Counter-Guerrilla Operations Course at Ft. Bragg, the Agency has also received a request from General Lansdale on behalf of Deputy Secretary Gilpatric for comments and suggestions for the improvement of the Course. I am, therefore, sending you herewith a copy of our reply to General Lansdale which my people have prepared and which I hope you will find of interest.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

SIGNED

William W. Helms
Director

1 Attachment

cc: DDCI

CA/CI

10 April 1961

Signed

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APR 1961

Distribution: Original +1 - Addressee

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Deputy Director

(Plans)

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Executive Registry

61-26661

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brig. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Counter-Guerrilla School, Ft. Bragg

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Brig. Gen. Edward G.
Lansdale to Mr. Richard Bissell, Same
Subject, Dated 7 April 1961

1. I have reviewed the critique of the first course at the Army's Counter-Guerrilla School at Ft. Bragg which had been prepared by Mr. Wellman of the Department of State, and I have also received the comments and suggestions of those CIA officers who either assisted in the preparation of training material for the course, or who attended and monitored the course as it was presented. I hope that the following comments and suggestions may be helpful in improving the course for future classes.

2. First, let me say that I fully agree with you that the course to be presented at Ft. Bragg should be regarded as a tactical military course, intended for U. S. and Allied military officers who must have the working knowledge to best utilize their troops in combatting violence in various forms. The course must certainly include enough of our philosophy as to the political, sociological, and economic causes and cures for such violence as to give a proper background and understanding of the problems, in order for them to intelligently employ military forces, but I would urge that the course given at Ft. Bragg, as well as the one to be given in the Canal Zone, not attempt to attain too high a level of political sophistication. I suggest, therefore, that a determination be made as to the nature, scope, and emphasis of political orientation which is required, in order that the students at the course receive balanced training for the successful handling of the tactical situations with which they may be confronted.

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3. I recognize that the above suggestion might limit the sophistication of political training which should be given to more senior American and Allied officers. I, therefore, also suggest that a review be made of the curricula at the more senior military schools such as the Command and General Staff School, the various Service colleges, and the National War College, to insure that at each level of higher military training, adequate and probably increased attention be given to the political and other non-military aspects of countering subversion and violence.

4. CIA has and will gladly continue to contribute to the development of the course by the provision of lecture and training materials. The fields in which we can make our best contribution are probably through studies of Communist exploitation and utilization of subversion and violence, case histories of experience in the past, and doctrine on intelligence, counterintelligence, and counterespionage. In addition, the Agency has had valuable experience in various positive programs, such as civic action, most of which you are well aware.

5. With regard to Mr. Wellman's critique of the course, I am advised that, in the main, his points are well taken. However, I want to assure you that I am well aware that the school did not have sufficient time for the preparation and presentation of the course to a combined U. S. and foreign student body, and that the problems posed by the unexpected language barrier were unavoidable. Despite these handicaps, my people felt that the faculty had done an outstanding job, and should be so commended.

6. I recognize that the time remaining for preparation for the second course to commence in mid-May is very short. As my last suggestion, I would therefore recommend that either the Department of the Army or yourself assemble together a small task force, representing the proper interested parties, whose major concern would be to first establish the limits within which the non-military aspects should be included in the course, and then to insure that the presentations on these matters be sound

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and accurate as to U. S. policies and intentions. CIA will be happy to participate in such an effort if you so desire.

Richard M. Bissell, Jr.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

CA/C/ [redacted]
(18 April 1961)

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4	2044 K.C. [Redacted]		
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Remarks:

For comment and preparation of a follow-up letter for the Director's signature.

2:3. Per our telecon. [Redacted]

SUSPENSE: 14 April 61

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
Asst. to the Dir. [Redacted]	4/4/61

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