

WILLIAM F. BINGEN, IOWA
WILLIAM F. LANGER, N. DAK.
WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND, CALIF.
GEORGE D. Aiken, VT.
HOMER E. CAPEHART, IND.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
C. C. O'DAY, CLERK

May 5, 1960

Lt. General Samuel T. Williams
Chief of MAAG
Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear General Williams:

During hearings on the Vietnamese Aid-Program before a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee last summer (July 30 and July 31), you were most helpful in providing the Members with clear and concise responses to questions concerning MAAG-Vietnam. We found your testimony of great value and it was a major source of information for the Subcommittee's report which, as you may be aware, drew very favorable conclusions as regards the military aid program in Viet Nam.

I do not mind telling you that I was personally very impressed with that portion of your testimony which suggested to me that you were directing the military aid program in a fashion which was, wisely, aimed at working MAAG "out of a job" and that you had about reached a point where the scaling down could begin. Therefore, it came as something of a surprise to me to learn from a U.P.I. dispatch (#31, May 5, 1960) that we intend to double the training staff of MAAG in Viet Nam by adding to it 350 men.

Assuming the general accuracy of this dispatch I would very much appreciate such responses as you may wish to supply to the following questions:

(1) As specifically as possible, what changes have occurred in the Vietnamese situation which require the addition of 350 men to the MAAG mission?

(2) If the need is for experts in guerrilla warfare, cannot such experts be substituted for those already engaged in other training pursuits in Viet Nam rather than simply adding to them?

(3) Was the need to increase the MAAG determined by you personally and did you initiate the request for additional personnel?

(4) If so, did you have the concurrence of the Ambassador in the request?