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FIELD MESSAGE

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FROM: USIS Singapore

TO: USIA WASHINGTON

REF:

SUBJECT: Program Evaluation of Volsprk
Dr. Walter La Feber

MESSAGE NO.

708
Dec 10 12 39 PM '79
U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
November 24, 1975

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SUMMARY:

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CORNELL HISTORIAN WALTER LA FEBER SPENT TWO DAYS IN SINGAPORE COGENTLY EXPLAINING - THROUGH HISTORICAL COMPARISONS - BASIS AND BACKING FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. HE STRESSED IN PRECISE, PERSUASIVE, AND CONFIDENT MANNER THAT U.S. IS BOUND TO CONTINUE INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND THAT BROAD CONSENSUS BETWEEN EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, AND PUBLIC APPLIES TO MOST MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. HIS SOMETIMES SKEPTICAL BUT ALWAYS KEENLY INTERESTED AUDIENCES-COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ACADEMICS AND MILITARY OFFICERS - RESPONDED EXTREMELY WELL TO DR. LA FEBER, WHO IS FIRST-RATE VOLUNTEER SPEAKER.

Walter La Feber, Marie Underhill Noll Professor of American History, Cornell University, was programmed for two days in Singapore in support of our objective II.

SCHEDULE:

Saturday, November 15:

Morning

- Discussion with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Officials. Topic: Current American Foreign Policy.

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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

DRAFTED BY: *TSJ*
RCD:KFolsson:ah
DATE: 11.24.75
APPROVED BY: PAO:Gstryker *ah*

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FIELD MESSAGE CONTINUATION SHEET

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ENCL. NO. _____
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 FROM USIS Singapore

Monday, November 17:

- Morning - Lecture/Discussion at History Department, University of Singapore. Topic: Historical Analogies: American Foreign Policy in the 1920's and 1970's.
- Noon - Representational Lunch hosted by PAO.
- Evening - Lecture followed by Q&A with group of career officers from the Singapore Armed Forces.
 Topic: Historical Analogies: American Foreign Policy in the 1920's and 1970's.

COMMENTS:

Few speakers have so precisely supported one of our Country Plan objectives as La Feber did during his two-day visit. He stressed that the U.S. is so involved in world affairs, including Southeast Asia, it cannot withdraw even if it wants to, which it does not. He emphasized that the Nixon doctrine of helping others to help themselves still applies and that remarkable consensus exists in the U.S. between the executive and legislative branches of government and the public on major foreign policy issues. Articulate, persuasive, and very well prepared, La Feber was equally impressive in his formal remarks and the discussions that followed. He never evaded a question and his answers were always on the mark. His audiences, varying in size from ten to sixty, appreciated La Feber's candor and honesty. At the history department it was hard to close off the lengthy question and answer period.

The speaker was extremely effective, the subject was interesting, and the audiences responded well - what more could we ask for? La Feber would be welcomed back to Singapore any time.

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Record Group 306: Records of the United States Information Agency
Office of the Associate Directorate for Programs.
Office of Program Coordination and Development
Entry P-73
VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS FILES, 1968-1981
File: LaFeber, Walter 1976