

FRED COFFEY

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Bio-Sketch

1956: Foul Up on Initial Entrance Examination.
Then Finally, Entrance Into USIA

1956: Surprise: First Assignment as Junior Officer Trainee (JOT)

Brazil's Practice of Claiming That Anyone Born in Brazil is a Brazilian Citizen Causes Coffey Family Some Difficulties

1957: Assignment to Nicaragua

Brief Historical Sketch of Somoza "Dynasty" in Nicaragua

Ambassador Whelan Censures Coffey for Giving a Party

Mainly of Members of Opposition to Somoza

The Exchange Program in Nicaragua. Dep. State Refuses to

Allow a Leader Grant to a Young Communist Leader (Thomas Borge)

Whom USIS Thought Might Be Turned Away From Communism –

Borge Later Became Power in Sandinista Regime

Coffey's Work with Labor Union Leaders Opposing Communist Takeover

Leads to Assassination Attempt by Communists, Reports of Coffey's Death

Greatly Exaggerated

Nicaragua's Guardia Nacional Kills 5 Students in Suppressing University Student Protest.

Students' Attempt to Cancel Visiting National Symphony Concert is Averted

Medical Facilities in Nicaragua Less Than Satisfactory

1959: Assignment to Branch Post in Indonesia

Assumes BPAO Job in Medan After Some Complications.

Nov. of 1960, Assigned Branch PAO in Surabaya

Sukarno Allows Indonesia's Economic and Political Condition to Lapse Into Chaos,

But Did Overcome Separatist Movements and Unified His Far-Flung Nation.

But US Ambassador Howard Jones Demeans Self Before Sukarno - Damages His

Own and US Standing

Years in Surabaya Turbulent - Much Communist Violence But Post Was Enjoyable

Wide, Profitable Contacts Established

Sukarno's Anti-US Stance Taxed USIS Abilities to be Effective.

Establishment of English Language Clubs Widely in Indonesia Helped and

Laid Groundwork for US Acceptance in Later Years

Communists mark Coffey for Assassination, But he Survives

Coffey Also Survives Witch Doctor Curse

USIS Involved in Thwarting Sukarno's Efforts to Take Over Western New Guinea

(called West Irian by Indonesians) By Military Action. Transfer finally

accomplished Diplomatically
Excellent Relations in Surabaya Between USIS and Consulate Accounted
for Much of USIS success there

- 1964: From Surabaya, Transfer to Agency in Washington and to VOA
Coffey Made Head of VOA Indonesian Service--Predicts Indonesian
Uprising Against Communism: Is Directed to Formulate VOA Contingency Plan
Blowup Occurs in Late September, 1964.
VOA Broadcasts to Indonesia Greatly Expanded; Reported Gradual Communist
Defeat, and Given Credit By Indonesians for Playing Important Role
During Crisis Government
Friction at VOA Between Civil and Foreign Service Personnel
- 1967: Thai Language Training, and 1968 Assignment to Bangkok
Principal Assignment Was to Cultivate Thai Press. End Result Quite Successful
A "Cute" Trick With Thai Press Misfires
USIS Role in Attempted Interdiction of Drug Traffic From the So-Called
"Golden Triangle"
- 1973: Transferred to Brazil as Deputy PAO Headquartered in Brasilia
USIS Plays Significant Supporting Role in Promoting US Assistance to Brazil's
Development of Nuclear Energy Plants, But Congressional Veto of Contracts
Supplying Fuel Enrages Brazil - Diverts Supply Role to Germany
USIS Work in Water Pollution Reduction Efforts and Depletion of Amazon Rain Forest
USIS Not Able to Divert Embassy's Miscue in Dealing with Brazilian Army's Arrest of
American Missionary. US Loses Face
USIS Takes Part in Building American Studies Programs in Brazilian Universities and
Bi-National Centers
Agency Held Preconceived Notion That Brazilian Program Was Too Lightweight.
Engineered Inspection That Coffey Felt Programmed Inspection Team to Ignore
Evidence to Contrary and Produce Adverse Report
- War College in 1976-1977
- 1977: Back to VOA as Chief of Far Eastern Division.
Frictions Between Foreign Service and Domestic Personnel
- 1978: Coffey Appointed Country Public Affairs in Indonesia
During American Hostage Episode in Iran, Indonesian Muslims' Initial Hostility to US
Mitigated by USIS Campaign Among Muslim Leaders
Establishment of American Studies Center at University of Indonesia
Alan Carter as East Asia Director Misdirected USIS Programs in Area
- 1982: USIA Representative on National War College Faculty
- 1987: PAO in Argentina

USIS Efforts to Expose Military to US Concepts Re: Civilian Control of the Military
USIS Promotion of Linkages Between US and Argentine Universities, Business and
Professional Organizations

1989: Retirement: Final Tributes and Observations

Fred Coffey's tribute to his wife for her contribution to his career