

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT GRANT
for study abroad under programs administered
by the Department of State

Applicant. Schneider, Peter Haviland
Field of Study. Japanese Studies
For study in Japan

October 26, 1962

I take great pleasure in recommending Peter Schneider for a United States government grant to study Japanese and Japanese literature in Japan.

Peter has an unusually deep understanding of Japanese ways and culture. His study of formal Zen Buddhism with me progressed rapidly, and he pursued the study with great sincerity. He attended my weekly lectures on various scriptures and aspects of Buddhism for over six months. Just before leaving for his teaching position at Western Michigan University, he attended our rigorous week-long sesshin training period. Sesshin consists of daily lectures, day-long meditation, and personal interviews to test depth of understanding.

His thinking is astute and sophisticated. He is analytical and yet capable of synthesis. It seems to me that his intelligence, sincerity, and will power make him peculiarly capable of a contribution to scholarship in Japanese studies.

Despite persevering study, the Westerner all too often cannot grasp the essence of Japanese studies because he does not understand the spirit which motivates Oriental thought. It is a pleasure to find young Americans like Peter who do understand this spirit devoting themselves to Japanese studies.