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3 November 1977

MEMORANDUM:

FROM : Associate Coordinator for Academic Relations and External Analytical Support

SUBJECT : Activities in Academic Relations

1. The Agency's dialogue with specialists in academia and private research has broadened and intensified during the last year or so. Even at Harvard, where restrictive guidelines governing relationships between faculty and staff and the intelligence community have been promulgated, and at other campuses long unfriendly to the Agency, there seems to be a greater willingness by faculty and students to distinguish between the myths and allegations of past CIA abuses and the current realities of our work. Improvements have resulted from changing attitudes on campus, a constricted job market for scholars, and other external factors, as well as from the expansion and enhancement of our academic relations program.

2. In December 1976 the position of Academic Coordinator, which during the preceding ten years had been the part-time responsibility of one officer, was broadened and upgraded. Two full-time officers were assigned the portfolio which was augmented to include the coordination of relationships with private research centers. Later, with the formation of the National Foreign Assessments Center, the program was additionally upgraded. Two full-time, middle management officers formed the core of the new Academic Relations staff. They conduct a number of independent programs, coordinate the expanding efforts of NFAC officers to improve their ties in academia, and are initiating new programs. In addition, the staff will act as the secretariat for the NFAC Senior Review Panel, the scholar-in-residence program, and other activities.

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3. The Academic Relations staff maintains regular contact with about 200 leading scholars at universities around the country. During the first ten months of 1977, 32 unclassified Agency publications on Soviet, Chinese, and Latin American subjects were mailed to a total of over a hundred experts in those fields. Approximately 40 other scholars, most of whom are directors of university international studies programs or private research centers, receive copies of other Agency publications. The requests of approximately 70 more scholars for copies of Agency publications or information also were filled by the Academic Relations staff between January and October 1977. In addition, some NFAC offices maintain their own mailing lists of scholars working in particular disciplines. OER, for example, sends copies of many of its unclassified publications to over 300 economists in the private sector, two thirds of whom are academics. All of these efforts help to keep prestigious scholars apprised of some of the Agency's latest research and analysis and provide our analysts with expert review of their work from outside the government.

4. Outside support for our analytical efforts is provided in other ways as well. Approximately 40 scholars from universities and private research centers visited the Agency to consult with analysts under arrangements made by the Academic Relations staff between January and October 1977. These informal, unpaid consultations were mutually rewarding in most cases. Many analysts conduct consultations like these independently of course, and on a large enough scale to prohibit reliable record keeping. Formal, paid consultations also are increasing. Research offices maintain panels of academic experts to provide continuing advice on production programs, and the Academic Relations staff is processing a number of other scholars who will be called on to consult individually or collectively on future production. Five prominent Brazil specialists in several disciplines were paid consulting fees recently to advise on a National Intelligence estimate. Arrangements like this will be a routine aspect of NFAC's expanded academic relations program. A new program of dinner symposia with the Director, interested Agency officers and academic experts is managed by the Academic Coordinator. Offices make unilateral arrangements for consultations as well. Through its academic relations committee, ORPA conducts a guest speaker program under which scholars are paid to make presentations and consult with analysts for a day.

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5. Perhaps the clearest indication of the progress that has been made recently in improving the Agency's ties with academia is in the growing participation of our specialists at academic and professional conferences. Between January and October of 1977 approximately [redacted] of our people attended 150 conferences, conventions, and symposia in their areas of interest. These gatherings included national and regional conventions of the major academic associations in about a dozen disciplines, conferences of the principal area studies associations, conferences of professional associations, conferences devoted to the affairs of a single country or topic, and symposia, colloquia, and fora. More and more of our specialists are being asked to make presentations at these affairs, and the Academic Relations staff has helped to stimulate interest both in the Agency and among conference program chairpeople. More than 30 analysts presented scholarly papers as panelists at these meetings so far this year, including an entire panel made up of CIA specialists at the national convention of the International Studies Association in March.

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6. A variety of other contacts with the academic community also are flourishing. Thirteen student and academic groups visited the Agency under NFAC (or DDI) auspices during the first ten months of 1977. Most were briefed by a senior official, toured the Operations Center, and some also heard substantive briefings from analysts. DDI or NFAC representatives accepted fourteen invitations to speak on campuses around the country during the same time period. In all instances the visits were highly successful and uncontroversial. There might be many more campus speaking engagements by our people, except for the restrictions imposed by Agency regulations that prohibit our soliciting invitations or advertising our availability. This year, one NFAC specialist is on a teaching sabbatical on campus and a tenured Cornell professor is a scholar-in-residence in ORPA. Both of these programs will be expanded.

7. Relations between the Agency and private research centers and their specialists have expanded as well. The Academic Relations staff has opened a tentative dialogue with the directors of approximately 30 think tanks, most of them affiliated with universities. Assessment memoranda have been completed on other research centers that seem to be competent in areas of interest to NFAC research managers. Contacts with other research centers, particularly several in the Washington

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area, have increased markedly during the last year or so. The experience of the last year, as efforts to increase ties with private researchers have increased, suggests that the Academic Relations staff should concentrate in the future on improving ties with area and international studies centers at universities and other institutes affiliated with higher educational institutions.

8. Other aspects of the academic relations program have been effective as well. A periodic newsletter, "Notes on Academic Relations" is circulated to all analysts in NFAC. The Academic Relations staff composes this publication with the main objective of informing analysts of developments in Agency-academic relations, analyses of research centers, participation by our people at conferences, availability of papers, and calendars of conferences and meetings. An academic relations committee, with one representative from each NFAC component, and chaired by the Academic Coordinator, has proved to be a useful means of preserving communications within NFAC about internal procedures, new Agency regulations, and relevant developments. These and other efforts now being considered are important means of keeping NFAC specialists informed of each other's outside and academic activities as well as keeping them abreast of developments in academia that may be relevant to their own research.

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