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Notes from the Director No. 11

File: 13

25 August 1977

CIA RELATIONS WITH ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

In May of this year, Harvard University published guidelines for relationships between the University and intelligence agencies. In brief, the guidelines state that:

- the existence of any CIA-university contacts must be public
- private consultation arrangements must be reported in writing to the dean and president
- CIA recruiters must be identified to dean, president, and placement office in writing
- Harvard community members may not volunteer names of other members without their permission
- Harvard community members should not undertake intelligence operations for the CIA.

In correspondence with President Bok of Harvard on this subject, I have made the following points:

> "... American scholars who have been willing to share information and interpretations of developments in the international arena often have contributed valuably to intelligence support of the U.S. foreign policy-making process. Without the continuing assistance of the academic community, our ability to provide the President and other senior officials with objective and enlightened analysis and estimates would be hampered. I believe strongly that in this increasingly complex and competitive world it remains in the best interests of both the academic and intelligence communities to expand and refine their contacts in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding."

> "... Current CIA policy covering our relations with American staff and faculty members of U.S. academic institutions is already, to a large

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degree, consistent with the Harvard guidelines. Present Agency policies may be summarized as follows:

> All of our contracts with academic institutions are entered into with the knowledge of appropriate senior management officials of the institution concerned.
>
> All recruiting for CIA staff employment on campus is overt.
>
> It is against our policy to obtain the unwitting services of American staff and faculty members of U.S. academic institutions."

"... I take exception to the provision in your guideline which requires your faculty members to report such arrangements in writing to the dean of their faculty.... I believe that attempts to regulate the private lives of our citizens in a manner discriminatory to any particular group, profession or segment of society poses serious risks. I believe that we would be far safer not to single out any group, despite what may be transient enthusiasm for so doing. In point of fact, it is our policy in these cases to suggest to individual scholars that they inform appropriate officials at their universities of their relationship with CIA. Frequently, however, scholars object to advising any third parties on the understandable grounds that to do so would violate their constitutional rights to privacy and free association and possibly expose them to harassment and damage to their professional careers.... Thus, the decision on whether to advise their institution of a relationship with CIA is left to the discretion of the individual. We intend to continue respecting the wishes of individuals in this regard."

This issue, of course, transcends the relationship with academics. All American citizens must continue to have the freedom to choose whether or not they want to cooperate with any government agency, and, if they choose to assist the CIA in its work, we must be able to ensure the confidentiality of that relationship.

PROPOSED INTERNAL REVENUE ACTION ON ALLOWANCES

I share the concern of our operating components and the employees overseas with respect to the possible repeal of Section 912 of the Internal Revenue Code, which would mean that allowances paid to employees at foreign posts would become taxable income to them. The matter of employees' entitlements has been discussed at the President's Cabinet meetings, and I assure you that the agencies and departments concerned are acutely aware of the implications and the impact it can have on morale. The Secretary of State and I have sent letters to the Secretary of the Treasury to urge that the provisions of Section 912 be retained. Copies of these letters have been

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disseminated to the overseas posts and to the Headquarters components which support them, and I assure you that the Agency will do whatever it can to preserve the entitlements of our employees overseas.

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STANSFIELD TURNER
Director

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