

Spy Agencies Held Danger to Research

By HENRY RAYMONT
Special to The New York Times
PITTSBURGH, Nov. 17 — A

leading American anthropologist warned tonight that secrecy and pressures by United States intelligence agencies were eroding the effectiveness and prestige of American scholarly research abroad.

The warning was contained in a report delivered by Dr. Ralph L. Beals at the opening session of the annual four-day meeting of the American Anthropological Association, attended by more than 2,000 anthropologists.

Dr. Beals, a professor of anthropologists at the Pittsburgh-Caldwell and former president of the association, spent the

last year studying the effect of Government-sponsored social science research in foreign countries.

In the report, he was severely critical of what he described as efforts by some Government agencies to disguise political intelligence work under the cover

of scholarly research. He said there had been instances when young scholars were offered generous Government assistance ostensibly for academic work, only to be questioned later by intelligence agents for political information.

In what sounded like a new twist to the James Bond school of international intrigue, Dr. Beals disclosed he had found reports that some intelligence agents were posing as anthropologists in foreign countries.

They were easily discovered by scholars in the countries where they operated because they lacked technical knowledge and academic references, he said with some apparent satisfaction.

'So Naive'

"In fact," he added with a smile, "in some areas like the Middle East they prefer the 'anthropological spy' because he is so naive and they can feed him all sorts of information."

Echoing a concern recently expressed by other behavioral scientists, Dr. Beals said anthropologists had been particularly hurt by the furor caused last year over Operation Camelot, an Army-financed study of social change in Chile.

The project, which was part of a far-ranging study of revolutionary processes in various parts of the world, was canceled at the request of Secretary of State Dean Rusk after the Chilean Government made a formal protest.

In Venezuela, Dr. Beals said, a number of research projects by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology almost had to be canceled after the disclosure that the institute had accepted contracts from the Central Intelligence Agency.

'Increasing Restrictions'

These examples, Dr. Beals said, gave the impression abroad that the information gathered might be used against the people being studied.

Without naming any specific countries, he said that some American scholars had already been subjected to "increasing restrictions" on their work

"Anthropology is particularly concerned with these restrictions," he said, "for they endanger the future development of the discipline and its potential contribution to national well-being and human welfare. Expansion and refinement of our knowledge of diverse peoples and cultures require international cooperation and understanding."

In an apparent allusion to some of the Government-sponsored research, he called on social scientists to make every effort to secure "free opportunity to disseminate and to discuss openly the results of research." He said this was "the necessary condition, without which the independence and integrity of anthropology cannot be maintained."

In what some observers interpreted as a forecast of remedial action expected to be recommended by the association at its final session Sunday, Dr. Beals said it was essential that scholars make a full disclosure "not only of their support and sponsorship but also of the purposes of their research."

Details of Dr. Beals's thick report will be discussed at a closed session Saturday evening by the executive board of the anthropological association. The board members are expected to make a series of recommendations that they will submit to the final plenary session Sunday.

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