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US SCIENTISTS IN THE SERVICE OF CIA

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At a meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Dr. Ralph L. Beals, chief representative of this scientific discipline in the United States, said that the use of scientists by intelligence agencies lowers the prestige, decreases the opportunities for conducting genuine scientific research abroad, and casts a shadow on the entire scientific community of the USA.

Dr. Beals gave examples of young scientists receiving lavish government scholarships, not only for their scientific work, but also for collecting information of the intelligence type. Many of these scientists are not even briefed initially of what the idea is; only later do they find out when representatives of government agencies question them on matters totally irrelevant to their scientific activity.

Dr. Beals recalled the notorious "Camelot" project in Chile, "sociological" research, financed by the United States Army, which had to be liquidated because of the indignation of the Chilean community. The speaker added that another program -- this time in Venezuela -- which was conducted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), almost met a similar fate when it was discovered that MIT was working under a contract for CIA.

These instances, Dr. Beals further added, strengthened the arguments abroad that information collected by American scientists can be used against the interests of the countries in which scientific research is being conducted.

The speech of Dr. Beals must be projected against the background of the July 1966 congressional hearings on the resolution of Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma concerning the creation of a National Foundation of Social Sciences.

This resolution was set off by the fact that many countries, being afraid of penetration by American intelligence through -- moreover, an unusual number in the USA -- groups of specialists in social sciences, refuse to admit these specialists in their territory. -- Zygmunt Broniarek