

TAB

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LANGUAGE AND AREA TRAINING (INTERNAL*)

Familiarity with the history, thought and customs of foreign peoples, and ability to use their languages are essential equipment of individuals in the business of foreign intelligence. Language and area studies are sponsored by the organization because the effectiveness of the intelligence officer or any person dealing with foreign peoples and with foreign intelligence depends as much on his possessing appropriate knowledge in these fields as on his professional or technical knowledge. Intelligence personnel of allied and enemy intelligence services are systematically trained for years in language and area studies to equip them to deal with all intelligence problems and foreign intelligence personnel.

The quantity and types of desirable knowledge vary considerably for different individuals and depend on the assignments and functions with which they are charged. The organization's programs are designed to meet all degrees of need. These range from orientation or indoctrination in languages and area to academic programs designed to provide fluency in a foreign language and the basis for ultimate qualification as area specialists. It is recognized, however, that attainment of rounded fluency in a language requires from 2,000-3,000 hours of study in the easier languages and from 6,000-8,000 hours in the more difficult languages. Development of a qualified language and area specialist requires from three to five years of graduate-level academic training and, in addition, five to ten years of experience involving systematic acquisition of knowledge about the area.

Facilities for providing required knowledge in these fields consist mainly of regular courses conducted by headquarters and at other training centers, and at universities especially equipped to provide specialized training in languages and foreign area studies.* Through careful and planned selection and use of these existing training programs, it is possible to meet all except the most unusual requirements of the organization. In addition to a great variety of part-time programs, this includes approximately [REDACTED] full-time intensive courses in nearly [REDACTED]. Headquarters is capable of meeting many needs for intensive training and most needs for part-time training.

* See EXTERNAL TRAINING: - Language and Area Training (External)

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Approved For Release 2000/08/28 : CIA-RDP78-03921A000100080005-4

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Approved For Release 2000/08/28 : CIA-RDP78-03921A000100080005-4