

A PROJECT FOR TRAINING AREA SPECIALISTS

✓ THE NATIONAL NEED

In the present crisis, the United States is faced with the urgent need of specialists with knowledge of the languages and peoples of major world areas and competent to work on economic, political or social problems of these regions. Personnel so trained is needed by the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies.

Facilities exist in a number of our major universities for training area specialists. These facilities can be enlarged and put to more intensive use. Their training capacity can be more than doubled.

Unless immediate steps are taken the staffs of existing area centers will be drawn off by governmental agencies. This personnel is far too limited to meet the existing demands and if the training staffs are dispersed we will be unable to provide the substantially larger number of trained younger men.

The problem therefore is to work out the means and procedures for building a competent group of area specialists while our universities are still in a position to provide the government with this service.

✓ PROPOSAL

1. That the Federal Government provide funds for the training of 1,000 university graduates students as area specialists over the next three years.

2. That this be arranged through a contract with the Social Science Research Council.

3. The contracting agency would establish an eight-man board composed of leading area specialists from the major participating universities in order to maintain uniform standards and coordinate activities.

4. The board would assign to the appropriate area training centers in the universities the number of specialists to be trained for each of the major world areas, as for example, of the 200 specialists to be trained on the Far East, Yale University might be responsible for 50.

5. The board, with the cooperation of the training centers, would be responsible for the selection of trainees.

6. Each area trainee would agree at the outset to make his services available to the government upon the completion of his training.

7. Since the trainees would be potential government employees, every effort should be made with the proper manpower authorities in the Federal Government to give the trainees a status that would keep them in training for a three-year period. This would call for some agreement with officials of National Selective Service for draft deferment and with the Department of Defense insofar as reserve officers are concerned.

8. In addition to the two years in residence at the university, a year of field experience is recommended.

9. The level of training needed would be equivalent to that required as preliminary for the Ph.D. degree; that is it is

expected that all work necessary for that degree except the dissertation would be completed.

✓ The above provisions have been discussed in a preliminary way with representatives from the major area training centers. From the standpoint of the universities, the program is feasible and can be started in June, 1951, if funds are provided, and if a decision is reached by March 1, 1951. The time to secure commitments from the universities for such a program is now.

AREA PRIORITIES

All major world areas should be covered, although the emphasis will be placed on immediately critical regions. A tentative breakdown for the first 1,000 would be as follows:

250	U.S.S.R.
200	Far East
100	South Asia
100	Southeast Asia
100	Middle East
150	Central and Western Europe
60	Latin America
40	Africa

SUB-AREA SPECIALTIES

National and other significant subdivisions of the gross areas will be recognized and certain students assigned to each. For example, of the 100 students for Southeast Asia, some will specialize on the language and background of units like Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, etc.

DISCIPLINE SPECIALTIES

Students will be selected also on the basis of subject

matter interests, such as sociology, political science, economics, anthropology, psychology, history, linguistics, etc. The numbers for each category can be determined by the board in the light of national needs.

AREA TRAINING

The area training will include intensive language, general background, advanced research, and specialized courses, following the patterns already in practice in area training centers.

DISCIPLINE TRAINING

Each trainee will continue study for the requirements of a doctor's degree in his own subject, be it anthropology, economics, psychology or other. This combination of area and discipline training is consistent with current practice. It will serve to meet a constant government need, namely, for an economist with knowledge of China, etc.

TIME REQUIREMENT

The training program covers three years, two at the university and one in the field. However, for the first group the time period could be cut down by selecting more advanced graduate students, and by giving priority to those who have already had certain language and background area instruction.

UNIVERSITY ASSIGNMENTS

Centers for the study of most of the major world areas are already formally organized in many universities. In the few cases where adequate facilities do not exist, they can be created.

For illustration, some of the universities with known facilities for special areas are cited:

U.S.S.R.	
Columbia, Harvard, Indiana, Washington, Yale, California	6 6
Far East	
Michigan, Washington, California, Chicago, Harvard Columbia, Yale, Stanford	8 + 3
South Asia	
Pennsylvania, California, Cornell	3 + 2
Southeast Asia	
Yale, California, Cornell, Minnesota	4 + 2
Middle East	
Pennsylvania, Princeton, Michigan, Columbia, Johns Hopkins (School of Advanced International Studies)	5 + 2
	20 15

ESTIMATED COSTS

For a three-year training period for 1,000 students, a sample cost estimate is given:

1. Instructional costs for students for 2 years, at \$2,000 per 12 month year....\$4,000,000
(This figure assumes: tuition at \$1000 per student, and \$1000 for employment of new faculty, extra pay for extra time of existing faculty, new space, etc.)
2. Maintenance of students for 2 years, at \$200 per month..... 4,800,000
(This figure would be reduced to the extent that students already at the graduate level are included.)
3. Travel and field work for 1 year, at \$5,000..... 5,000,000
4. Books, teaching materials, etc..... 400,000
5. Strengthening of instructional offerings at some centers..... 1,000,000
(A request might be made for foundation funds to cover items 4 and 5.)
6. Administration of program for 3 years..... 300,000

Total \$15,500,000