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Allen-Scott Report

New Probe of Foreign Lobbyists Quickly Hits Significant Pay Dirt

BY ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee's investigation of foreign government lobbyists is still in the preparatory stage, but already it has uncovered highly significant pay dirt.

A preliminary staff study has disclosed that six countries alone have 12 lobbyists — nearly a third of all the registered "non-diplomatic agents."

As of the first of this month, 411 lobbyists representing 108 nations were registered with the Justice Department. Most of these lobbyists are U. S. citizens in the employ of these foreign countries.

Mr. Allen says that high on the list of the group of six big-lobby nations are Russia and China.

Russia has 28 registered lobbyists, and Cuba 25, of whom at least four represent the Communist regime of dictator Castro, and the other 14 exile and refugee elements.

THE FOLLOWS OTHER NATIONS are Japan with 12 lobbyists; Dominican Republic 10, including three exile groups; France 20; West Germany 10.

Covering operations of these six countries will come prominently in the Foreign Relations Committee's probe. Detailed reports on them should be being compiled by the committee staff which has been charged for this purpose.

Walter Pincus, former Washington newsman, is directing these studies. Sen. William Fulbright, D-Ark., chairman, anticipates holding public hearings in the fall after Congress adjourns.

Nations with 10 or more registered "non-diplomatic agents" include Israel 16; Austria 10; Iran 11; Netherlands 11; Italy 10; Nicaragua 10, including four exile groups; Switzerland 10; Venezuela 10; Yugoslavia 10, including two exile groups.

OTHER COUNTRIES REPRESENTED by non-diplomatic lobbyists are: Nationalist China 5; Red China 3; Poland 9; Hungary 7, including one exile group; Brazil 6; South Korea 3.

While study mentioned in the Senate discussion of this investigation, one of the targets is the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sen. Fulbright's bill, which would require the CIA to follow up on Fulbright's probe, says with organizations in the U. S. — a number of them very active and influential.

Sen. Fulbright and Fulbright have long wanted to probe these operations.

Last February, with State Department backing, Fulbright sought to initiate such an investigation. A major purpose was to block these foreign lobbyists from affecting legislation, but the Foreign Relations Committee balked, and the probe was shelved.

HOWEVER, FULBRIGHT GOT the chance to revive it when a swarm of foreign lobbyists recently rewrote the administration's sugar bill in the House. These backstage operations aroused a furor in the Senate, when Fulbright restored the original measure.

Fulbright made the most of this opportunity. The Senate voted a foreign lobbyist probe, and gave him \$25,000 to conduct it.

Most of the anti-Communist organizations are anti-Communist. They concentrate on establishing sound congressional ties. Various anti-Communist groups also maintain these connections.

One group reported by Fulbright last CIA probe was the National Council on the Status of the American Citizen, composed of 100 members in the U. S.

Another important organization is the Assembly of Captive European Nations, consisting of anti-Communists seeking the liberation of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Rumania. This group has numerous strong supporters in and out of Congress.

ON EARLY SIDERS of Secretary Rusk, the State Department is cooperating fully with the Senate investigators.

Insights into the information turned over to them concerning the activities of Michel Struens, a Belgian national registered as lobbyist for Katanga's President Moise Tshombe, who has been running with both the central Congolese government and the United Nations.

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