

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary has asked that I reply to your letter of April 26, 1962 in which you requested a report on the status of the Department's examination of the proposed legislation "To Create a Freedom Commission and Freedom Academy."

After a study of the various thoughtful proposals in the "Freedom Academy" Bills and a lengthy and detailed look at the Department's and other agencies' programs for research, training and information programs on communism, we are able to give you our views on the proposed legislation. While the Department fully appreciates the deep concern for the security of the United States which motivates the sponsors of the proposed legislation, and recognizes that certain aspects of it have considerable merit, on balance we believe that it would not serve as a useful instrument of national policy.

The sponsors of the Freedom Academy Bills urge correctly, in the Department's view, that in our struggle with the forces of tyranny - and communism in particular - we must employ not only military strength but also all of the political, psychological, economic and other non-military means at our disposal. The President has given to the Department of State a primary role in marshalling all of our resources in these fields which cut across many broad areas of government responsibility. The integrated efforts of the foreign affairs and security agencies are as vital in developing the overall strategy and tactics of the "cold war" as in carrying them out. Expertise and operational experience are as important in the formulation of policy as they are in its execution. For this reason, the Department seriously questions whether comprehensive and realistic plans for dealing with the indefinitely complex problems of U.S. Foreign Affairs can be developed by a new, separate government agency, especially one

without

The Honorable
J. W. Fulbright, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate

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without operational responsibilities, as contemplated by S.822. Furthermore, we would be seriously deluding ourselves if we believed, as S.822 suggests, that the strategy for waging our struggle against communism could be formulated into an "operational science."

The Department agrees that intensive research into the nature and techniques of the communist movement is necessary to our cause. As you are aware, our intelligence community has built up a large reservoir of talent and material in this general area and their efforts are complemented by the large volume of excellent studies being conducted by private individuals, foundations and institutions. As the Bill correctly points out, however, more work is needed in research on the appeals, techniques and organizations of World Communism. We have submitted requests to Congress in the Department's budget for increased research in this area.

Another purpose of the bill is to instruct public officials and private citizens in the techniques and methods of communist infiltration and organization. Instruction in this area is provided government officials through the National and Service War Colleges, the Foreign Service Institute and training assignments at private institutions. For example, the Foreign Service Institute emphasizes communist methods and organization in all its substantive courses and conducts twelve special two weeks' seminars each year on communist strategy. During the last five years, 2,750 students from many departments and agencies of the Government attended these seminars. Plans are currently underway to expand significantly the Foreign Service Institute and broaden its training responsibilities to meet the needs of the changing times. For example, a special course is soon to be added to the Foreign Service Institute curriculum designed specifically for senior officers of the Department and other government agencies assigned to newly developing countries. The course at its inception will concentrate on problems peculiar to Southeast Asia and Latin America where Communist efforts at subversion and other activities have a potentially disruptive influence. Additional ways of improving the Institute, particularly with respect to the Communist threat, are under active consideration.

In addition, educational opportunities are available at any one of the excellent Russian research or international studies centers throughout the country. The number of university programs and courses on Soviet studies on "Communism" has increased greatly in the last few years. Only a few years ago Soviet and Chinese Communist specialization was available at only three or four universities, now such specialization is offered by over 25 American universities and colleges.

Another proposed purpose of the Academy is to train operational cadres in countering Soviet Communist techniques and methods for use abroad. This is not something that can properly be done by Americans alone, and by its very nature should not be a publicized operation. Publicity of the type suggested would defeat this purpose of

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the program before it had begun. Soviet training of foreign communists in the techniques of organization, subversion, etc., is conducted, for example, in the highest secrecy.

With reference to the idea of enrolling foreigners in this Academy for training as operational cadres, it is extremely doubtful if the governments of many countries or public opinion abroad would support a United States program of this nature and the reaction in these countries to a highly publicized institution of this kind would bring almost certainly a negative response. The Freedom Academy would be regarded abroad, and immediately characterized by Soviet propaganda, as a "Cold War Institute", which would be regarded as a training course for espionage and would give a completely incorrect connotation to the world of the U.S. concept of "freedom".

While existing programs and facilities for other types of training and research are impressive and are continually expanding, the Department believes that more rapid expansion and improvement of them is essential. Various steps in this direction are under consideration. One is proposed in the foreign aid legislation, which calls for a new authorization to finance an intensive program of research in the problems of economic and social development in less developed countries. Another is the previously mentioned program to expand the Foreign Service Institute.

In the Department's view, however, the best research and training for meeting our international responsibilities will not come from the establishment of a single, government institution like the proposed Freedom Academy. As with our society as a whole, the genius of American research and education lies in its pluralism, and to depart from this tested approach at a time when we face the most difficult international problems in our history would, in the Department's view, be most unwise.

Finally, we believe that positive programs aimed at furthering the cause of freedom represent the best means of fighting communism. Abroad, in a world in flux, the peoples of the less-developed areas yearn for national and individual dignity, for a better life for themselves and their children. To align ourselves with these aspirations, the Administration initiated such new programs as the Peace Corps, the Alliance for Progress and a reoriented and reinvigorated program of foreign aid that will provide economic and social development where it is most needed and will do the most good. At home, we can all join together in building a stronger United States not only by conducting ourselves at all times as responsible citizens but also by working for

improvements such as a stronger economy and a modernized and reinvigorated educational system.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick G. Dutton
Assistant Secretary

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