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CIA HASSLE A TOUR BOON?

By WALTER STOVALL

The current controversy over the National Student Association's acceptance of funds from the Central Intelligence Agency may result in an increased number of American students traveling abroad this year under the association's auspices.

Some 900 students are expected to take arranged trips abroad and another 40,000 are expected to obtain International Student Identity Cards for travel mainly in Europe, an official of Educational Travel Inc., the student association's travel department, said yesterday.

In 1966, a total of 800 students took organized tours, according to Barbara Gillam, director of Public Relations for Educational Travel Inc. Also last year, 35,000 students obtained the international identity cards, Miss Gillam said.

In an interview at Educational Travel Inc.'s offices at 265 Madison Ave., Miss Gillam explained why she believed that recent disclosures of C.I.A. funds secretly funneled — by way of real or "gummy" philanthropic foundations — into the National Student Association would not affect tour sales and might even improve them.

"We've always been considered sort of leftish," Miss Gillam said, "and now that people have heard the C.I.A. is involved they might think something else. It will certainly reassure the parents who don't want their children traveling with a bunch of Communists."

Miss Gillam also said Educational Travel Inc. will stand by all information published in its annual handbook "Work, Study, Travel Abroad." A section of the current edition, which sells for \$1.95, contains a list of organizations which provide services such as introductions, and information to Americans going abroad. Among those listed are several organizations named recently as conduits for C.I.A. funds into the National Student Association.

These organizations remain valuable sources of information, Miss Gillam said. For example, she said that American Friends of the Middle East, one of the organizations, "is still one of the best places to go for material on the Middle East."

None of Educational Travel Inc.'s current policies has been affected by the publicity arising from the C.I.A.—National Student Association controversy, Miss Gillam added.

Educational Travel Inc. is affiliated with the National Student Association and includes the association's name on all its pamphlets and

brochures. But it operates on a non-profit basis—Independently and actually subsidizes the association.

"I don't even know many of the people down there," Miss Gillam said. The National Student Association has its headquarters in Washington, D. C.

In operation since the founding of the National Student Association in 1947, Educational Travel Inc. was chartered in 1953. Not subsidized by anyone, Educational Travel depends on its travel proceeds for funds.

Principal Sources of Educational Travel Inc.'s revenue are tour sales, and International Student Identity Cards.

The tours, which range in cost from around \$300 to nearly \$2,000 and in length from three weeks to all summer, take students to Europe, England or Israel, either in groups or singly. The tours may be wide-ranging, such as the College Car Tour, or localized, such as the Italian Art Seminar.

The International Student Identity Card, which entitles holders to discounts in lodgings, restaurants, transportation, museums, galleries, theaters and stores in Europe and North America, is available for \$2 to students whose schools are National Student Association members. For students of non-member schools, the cost is \$4.