

CIA Gave Millions To 3 Additional World Youth Units

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At least one domestic youth group and two international organizations in addition to the U.S. National Student Association have received substantial support from the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA's financial aid to NSA over a 15-year period was acknowledged Monday night by officers of the country's largest student organization and confirmed yesterday by a State Department spokesman.

But CIA support of the other three groups has not previously been disclosed. They are:

The U.S. Youth Council of New York, a confederation of 36 political, religious, student and service youth groups.

The World Assembly of Youth of Brussels, Belgium, a confederation of national youth groups from 54 Western and non-aligned nations.

The International Student Conference of Leyden, the Netherlands, a similar confederation of approximately 60 national student organizations from Western and non-aligned nations.

Millions Over a Decade

The CIA funds for those organizations, totaling millions of dollars over a period of more than a decade, were channeled to them through foundations.

The principal donor to NSA and the three newly disclosed organizations is the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs in New York.

Despite the large contributions from the CIA, youth and student leaders from this country who have served in executive positions in all of the groups do not believe their independence of action was affected to any great degree by the covert government support.

In the case of the two international groups, a limited number of U.S. citizens have traditionally served in executive posts, and they have usually been the only

ones aware of the source of the funds.

As government spokesmen said yesterday in explaining the need for covert financial support for NSA, the international organizations received the CIA funds after it became apparent that they were engaged in a bitter struggle with a pair of counterpart organizations financed by Communist governments for the allegiance of youth and student leaders in the emerging an non-aligned nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Although their officers have frequently been hesitant to forced the international organizations are, to a great extent, creatures of the cold war.

The two domestic groups—NSA and the Youth Council—have sizable programs aimed at increasing the political awareness and participation of students and young persons in this country as well as extensive international programs.

Continuing Problem

But the two international groups are involved almost entirely in a continuing ideological struggle with a pair of counterpart organizations headquartered in Eastern bloc countries.

The intensity of the East-West dispute has diminished somewhat in recent years, but the concurrent development of independent youth and student groups in emerging nations has forced the international organizations involved to continue

seeking the loyalty of the non-aligned nations' students and young people.

The International Student Conference competes directly with the International Union of Students, located in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The World Assembly of Youth similarly competes with the World Federation of Democratic Youth, located in Warsaw, Poland.

NSA represents students of this country within the International Student Conference, while the Youth Council represents this nation's young persons within the World Assembly of Youth.

No U.S. organization is a member of the Eastern bloc groups, but the student and youth groups of some non-aligned nations belong to both Eastern and Western bloc international groups.

The CIA Role

It is against that background that the CIA, in the early 1950s, began to take an increasingly active role in providing financial support for those groups sympathetic to Western goals.

Because NSA is by far the nation's most politically active student or youth group, the CIA has come to rely upon it as a means of developing potential recruits.

As a result of the ties among the four principal organizations

supported by the CIA, their officers have frequently engaged in a form of organizational "musical chairs," moving from one group to another.

Although funds have been channeled through a number of foundations, the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs has been the principal donor of CIA-originated contributions.

The foundation's current director, Harry Lunn, is a former NSA president. He said yesterday his group was "not a CIA front."

Although the foundation does rely heavily on the CIA for its money, it also receives sizable contributions from a number of wealthy U.S. citizens.

Aided 20 Groups

Although its donations are made to a wide variety of nonprofit groups, much of the foundation money goes to student and youth organizations throughout the world. Those groups provided support for at least 20 such groups.

Although those Americans who served as officers of the two Western-oriented international organizations said their decisions were not influenced by the CIA, all served first as officials of the two domestic groups where their political judgment and expertise were evaluated by the CIA.

Within the two domestic organizations, somewhat lighter—although always covert and sometimes indirect—control was maintained by the CIA.

Officials at the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs and other foundations, for example, would suggest projects to be undertaken with their money.

Some Intelligence Work

Within all four organizations, the young people also carried on a limited amount of intelligence work for the CIA. Confidential reports from overseas representatives and similar reports on foreign student or youth leaders visiting this country would be forwarded to the CIA.

The policies of all the groups involved were generally liberal and sometimes considered radical by those of a conservative political inclination.

At the last International Student Conference during the last summer, delegates labeled this country an aggressor in both Vietnam and the Dominican Republic.

The last National Student Conference, sponsored by NSA last summer, endorsed resolutions critical of many of this country's domestic and international policies.

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