

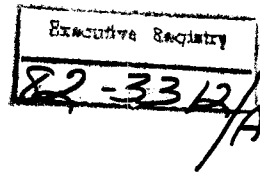
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

12 JUL 1982

OEXA 82-1505/A



Honorable Tom Hagedorn
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hagedorn:

This is in response to your letter of 9 June 1982 which forwarded correspondence from your constituent,

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On 15 July 1981, then Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Admiral Bobby Inman testified before the Postsecondary Education Subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor on the topic of national security and economic growth through foreign language improvement. Although Admiral Inman was testifying on his own behalf as a knowledgeable public servant and not as an official representative of this Administration's position on the Bill in question, his views on this nation's weakened foreign language capabilities are shared by Director of Central Intelligence William Casey.

"For some time now it has been evident to me that our nation's foreign language capability has been rapidly deteriorating. One of the most obvious results of this deterioration is the adverse impact it is having in the Intelligence Community. The importance of adequate foreign language capability in the Intelligence Community cannot be overstated. The development of technical intelligence systems in recent years has been of enormous value to us, but that has also served to increase the need to enhance our foreign language ability and area expertise. Affording our youth the opportunity to learn foreign languages is essential, for our future intelligence officers will come from this cadre."

In closing, Admiral Inman advised:

"Decisive action should be taken on the Federal level to ensure improvement in foreign language training in the U.S. so that we can cope with the problems we will face in future years as the pace of our involvement with the rest of the world becomes ever more important to our own survival and well being."

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I hope the information provided is useful in relaying to your constituent the importance the Central Intelligence Agency places on foreign language education. For more background information on this subject, you might also want to obtain a copy of the printed hearing from the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Cordially yours,

[Redacted Signature]

Director, Office of External Affairs

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LLD:S0:eb (6 July 82)

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