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LLB 81-1111/8
21 October 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Special Assistant to the DDCI


FROM: Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Foreign Language Improvement Bill

1. I spoke with Craig Wilson at the Department of Defense this morning, 21 October 1981, concerning Representative Paul Simon's (D., IL) Foreign Language Improvement Bill in order to find out where OSD stands on this whole issue.

2. As pretty much expected, with the exception of Craig, OSD has accepted the negative Administration position on the Bill as a fait accompli. Craig himself of course, is, as is Admiral Inman, staunchly supportive of Federal action in this area. Craig feels that no one outside of the Department of Education was given sufficient time to develop any kind of strategy in combatting the Department of Education's position, and consequently, Secretary Bell's position became the Administration's position.

3. As you are aware, despite the negative Administration position on the Bill, Craig Wilson drafted an internal DoD memo in favor of the Bill earlier this month which he hoped would result in a letter from Secretary Weinberger to OMB Director Stockman. A copy of this memo was passed to Captain Carden earlier this month and from what Craig told me it reads a good deal like the letter I drafted for the Admiral (attached). Although OSD components pretty much accepted Secretary Bell's position, they made practically no changes to his memo.

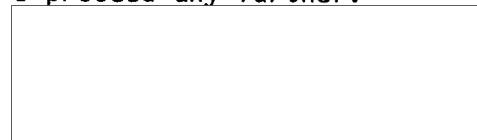
4. The House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education held its markup on the Bill earlier this month and yesterday, 20 October, the Bill was reported out of the Full Committee. The Subcommittee staff feels that the Bill will be taken to the floor of the House sometime within the next few weeks and has requested help from both the Admiral and Craig Wilson. Craig is certainly willing to be of any help that he can. He does not feel however, that he has the authority to speak up on his own and that the most effective DoD clout would come from Secretary of Defense Weinberger. Consequently, as you and I discussed this morning, it would be good if Admiral Inman and Deputy Secretary of Defense Carlucci discussed this issue at their breakfast meeting this Friday, 23 October 1981. 

5. If it is agreed among them to speak out in defense of Representative Simon's Bill, then appropriate letters can be drafted to OMB. They could, of course, send a joint letter which Craig and I could jointly draft. Apparently, Secretary Weinberger is cognizant of this issue and in late September, in discussions with Representative Simon, indicated his personal interest in the Bill.

6. Following my conversation with you this morning, I spoke with Craig. He will funnel the appropriate background materials to Mr. Carlucci in support of Friday's meeting.

7. Craig and I both feel that if it's decided that DoD and CIA are going to come out in opposition to the current Administration position on the Bill, the best plan of attack is to emphasize that, although we cannot necessarily argue against the Department of Education's position on some of the technical aspects of the Bill, the Bill is a step in the right direction, is critical to the replenishment of future language resources, and, consequently, deserves cooperation from both the Administration and Congress.

8. I will wait to hear from you before I proceed any further.



Legislative Liaison

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Attachment
As stated