

PROBERS SEEK MORE INFORMATION ON FEDERALLY FINANCED YOUTH GROUP  
By JOAN MOWER  
WASHINGTON

Congressional investigators, their interest piqued by the Tower commission report, want to learn more about a federally financed youth group that was involved in a conference for young people in Jamaica nearly two years ago. STAT

A special House committee investigating the Iran-Contra case is curious about the now-defunct U.S. International Youth Year Commission, panel spokesman Bob Havel said.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee also is seeking information about the commission and the event it helped arrange, a three-day international youth conference that attracted about 1,100 people from 100 countries to Kingston, Jamaica, in April 1985. The Reagan administration paid about half the cost of the \$2 million event.

The youth issue surfaced after a flow chart was found in the safe of Lt. Col. Oliver North, who was fired from his job at the National Security Council for his role in apparently diverting money from arms sales to Iran to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

The chart, whose author is unknown, apparently shows links between the private network helping the Contra rebels and domestic groups. One box labeled "Intl Youth Comm." is attached by a dotted line to another box labeled "FDN," the acronym for a Contra group. A cross was drawn through the FDN box.

Havel said the special House panel has no evidence tying the group that helped coordinate the Jamaica conference to the document in North's safe, but investigators have guessed there might be a link because they "can't find anything else." Meanwhile, William Treanor, director American Youth Work Center, a group that helps young people, wrote the independent counsel in the Iran-Contra affair last week asking him to look into the U.S. government's role in setting up the commission and paying for the youth conference.

Gail Alexander, a spokeswoman for Lawrence Walsh, the independent counsel in the Iran-Contra case, said Friday the office would have no comment on whether it is pursuing Treanor's request.

In his letter, Treanor, a former consultant to a Senate committee on juvenile justice, wrote, "I have reason to believe that federal funds, intended by Congress to aid in the American observance of the U.N. 1985 International Youth Year, were in fact used ... to fund various 'Contra' organizations." Treanor, who sought unsuccessfully to coordinate U.S. activities for International Youth Year, wrote that he was particularly concerned about the role of Roy Godson in the 1985 Jamaica conference.

Godson, a Georgetown University professor and a specialist on Soviet disinformation, is also director of the National Strategy Information Center Inc., a non-profit, private group founded more than 20 years ago by former CIA Director William Casey.

The NSIC receives government money to disseminate information about military and non-military threats to democratic nations, its literature says. STAT

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Some of the U.S. money that NSIC got in the early 1980s came from the U.S. Youth Council from which the U.S. International Youth Year Commission sprung. Congress later ordered the two groups to separate.

Godson, a one-time government consultant on youth issues, refused in a telephone interview to discuss what role he played at the Jamaica conference, which was arranged as a counterpoint to a Soviet youth festival in Moscow in 1985.

But he said he "didn't see any involvement" between youth activities and the Contras. Godson also declined to say whether he had served as a consultant to the NSC, as Treanor claimed in his letter.

"I don't want to get into my personal situation," Godson said.

Liz Murphy, the White House press duty officer, said Saturday a list of NSC consultants was not immediately available.

Floyd Brown, former executive director of the U.S. International Youth Year Commission, said his group had no connection with the Contras or with North.

Brown was one of the young American conservatives who walked out of the Jamaica conference, claiming the Godson helped to set up an international secretariat that excluded conservatives and promoted trade unionists.