

LEGISLATION CHRONO
REPORT Chrono

OCA 86-1812
14 May 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Briefing of Congressman Don Edwards on Agency Policy
and Use of Academics and Scholars by Contract to
Conduct Studies or Evaluate Materials

STAT 1. On 14 May 1986 representatives of the Agency met with Congressman Edwards in his office at his request to provide an unclassified briefing on the above subject. Representing the Agency were: H. Boatner (DDI), [redacted] (OCA). Accompanying Representative Edwards were Catherine LeRoy, Counsel to the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights and James Demsey, a staff member of that subcommittee. Congressman Edwards chairs the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

STAT 2. Using the answers that we provided to Edwards in his previous letter of inquiry concerning CIA contracts with academics and scholars for various studies, Ms. Boatner explained the four types of contracts we utilize and the circumstances under which each is used. One of the contract categories included the type used to employ [redacted] at Harvard University. This led to a discussion of the DDCI's speech at Harvard regarding Agency policy and practice in contracting work by academics and scholars for studies and evaluations. The subcommittee staff had thoroughly reviewed the DDCI's statement and asked two questions, both of which were answered satisfactorily.

3. Mr. Nelson was interested in the number of contracts in each of the four categories. Ms. Boatner supplied the numbers and explained the secrecy clauses and publication review requirements in connection with those contractors that had access to classified material. She also explained why we were unable to provide any exact answer to a category of contract in which written material may have reached the public because there was no way in which the Agency is able to keep track of such material. Subcommittee staff said that the purpose of this question was to determine whether such untracked materials were actually propaganda efforts inside the U.S. by the Agency. Ms. Boatner, in detail, clarified and illuminated the nature and purpose of this "suspect" category by indicating that they were nearly all scientific, engineering, technical or economic in nature. Furthermore, she noted that a number of these personal services contracts resulted in no writing at all but were merely evaluative. Mr. Edwards appreciated our dilemma and appeared satisfied with our answers in this regard.

4. Next, Edwards said that he was interested in the extent to which the CIA had published abroad with the specific design and purpose of that publication finding its way to the United States for propaganda purposes.

STAT [redacted] replied that such actions were prohibited under E.O. 12333. During the course of this conversation Edwards was extremely critical of the FBI tactic of questioning U.S. persons who had returned from Nicaragua. He continued that the frame of such questioning was intimidating and said it had a "chilling" effect on the rights of U.S. citizens. He said he hoped that the CIA was not engaged in similar activity. Ms. Boatner clarified the work and purpose of [redacted] efforts, and that this has been a practice that has been ongoing since before the formation of the Agency. She emphasized that solicitation of such information was entirely voluntary and methods used were low key and never threatening.

5. The briefing ended on a discussion of the extent to which academic and scholastic materials are pre-reviewed by the Agency before publication. Edwards said that he was satisfied with our briefing, and the meeting concluded after about an hour.

STAT [redacted]

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