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16 DEC 1979


**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Assistant Director for Central Reference  
Assistant Director for Research and Reports  
Director of Personnel  
Legislative Counsel

**SUBJECT:** Committee on Science and Astronautics of the House  
of Representatives

1. The Committee on Science and Astronautics of the House of Representatives has requested that the National Science Foundation prepare a "comprehensive report covering (A) the status of the scientific and technical manpower register and the scientific manpower studies, and (B) the projected plans for the future, short-range and long-range, in these areas." This Agency has been requested by both the House Committee and the NSF to participate in the preparation of this report. OBI was designated by the DCI to provide representation on the Committee aiding NSF in preparing this report, and a representative of this Office has had several discussions with the NSF individual in charge, Mr. Thomas J. Mills, Program Director for Scientific Manpower.

2. NSF requested, by letter of 5 October, a formal statement providing an Agency answer on an unclassified basis to a series of four questions, which are given in the attached. This Office presented a preliminary reply on 30 October on an informal basis, but NSF has now requested an official reply for inclusion in the Appendix of the final report. Our proposed reply is attached.

3. Unless objections are received prior to 28 December 1979, we will assume that the addressees have no objection to the publication of the proposed reply in the Appendix of the NSF report to the House Committee.

  
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

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Attachment: Letter  
to Dr. Watenman

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Dr. Alan F. Westman, Director  
National Science Foundation  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Thomas J. Mills  
Program Director for Scientific Manpower

Dear Alan:

Reference is made to your letter of 5 October 1979 requesting comments on four questions which have been raised in connection with the preparation of a report for the Committee on Science and Astronautics of the House of Representatives. Before attempting to comment briefly on these questions, we believe that it is important to indicate our general support for the continuation of the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel, perhaps in an expanded form, under the general supervision of the National Science Foundation.

The Foundation's scientific manpower program, as it is now operated, appears to be divisible into two components: (a) the Register, which currently maintains records on 170,000 individual scientists of Ph.D. level or equivalent in the natural sciences, and the Finder's List of 80,000 key engineers, and (b) study programs for the investigation of certain scientific manpower problems.

The present Register is maintained through the cooperation of a number of national scientific societies, and is therefore on a voluntary-response basis and is necessarily incomplete (from the standpoint of 100% registration of the nation's scientists and engineers). There seems to be general agreement that the Register, based on this type of support, should not be used by any governmental or private agency as a recruiting device. With this understanding, we have attempted to comment on the four questions asked, primarily from the needs of this Agency:

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3. In what manner can through state funds such a record system be maintained.

The answer to this question appears again, in part, to rest on a more complete study of the ultimate purposes of the Register. Assuming that a need for such coverage exists, it is quite possible that an appropriate machine-based system should be housed, staffed, and operated by NAF itself, rather than have NAF rely on a university-based system as at present. In any case we believe this approach should be considered and that it should not be ignored completely in the report to the House Committee.

4. Any other comment on these or related topics which seems pertinent to you.

We have no other general comments. Certain of our problems have already been discussed with representatives of the National Science Foundation. We are pleased to be able to participate in the preparation of the report for the House Committee on Science and Astronautics.

Sincerely,

Robert Seville, Jr.  
Assistant Director

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