

area studies, this new Program would enhance their ability to attract and train students and thus to maintain the vital national pool of foreign-area specialists. It would do this by significantly increasing the number of job opportunities in the field of higher education. Although the five-year jobs would be entry level only, the proven effectiveness of federal money in stimulating other sorts of funding would make it more than likely that some of the jobs would be taken over and fully funded by the institution in question at the end of the five-year period, thus permanently implanting a commitment to foreign area studies in a previously uncommitted institution. Because of its potential for opening up new job opportunities, this Program could be expected to find broad cooperation and encouragement within the existing area or international studies programs, or basic department structures.

The cost of this Program would not be particularly great. Eighty openings per year (that is, an average of one per area studies center) should cost less than \$1 million in the first year; this would rise in the subsequent years because of the five-year term of the appointment. A small part of the funds might be devoted to ensuring continuing contact between these dispersed foreign-area specialists and their professional colleagues in order to reduce the feeling of isolation that might otherwise develop.

It should be noted that the cost of this Program would not be substantially greater than the cost of the current Outreach Programs, but the funds would be expended directly upon well-trained specialists instead of part-time and sometimes poorly qualified coordinators and assistants, the Outreach benefits would be distributed nationally in a more equitable and controllable manner, and the established area studies faculties would be fully supportive instead of uncooperative, and even hostile, as many are toward current efforts.

To summarize the advantages of the proposed Outreach Program:

1. Increased employment opportunities would enable vital research and training programs already in place to continue to recruit and educate foreign-area specialists.
2. Foreign-area expertise would be implanted in institutions and communities where it does not currently exist, with some implantations probably becoming permanent.
3. Outreach functions would be performed locally from an abundance of new locations scattered throughout the country. They would no longer be dependent upon area studies centers. The federal salary support would guarantee earnest effort being put into these functions by the job recipients.
4. In the long run, with a quite limited financial commitment, an informed awareness of foreign areas would be disseminated throughout the country, with predictable benefits in terms of improved public understanding of the world community and our own place within it.

President's Commission on Foreign Language  
and International Studies

Statement of International and Area Studies Organizations

The President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies is requested to consider the following principles relating to

the advancement of international understanding in the United States, outlined on May 14, 1979, by persons representing African, Asian, Canadian, European, International, Latin American, and Middle Eastern learned societies:

I. The United States, as a major world power and leader in international scholarship, has an obligation to continue and to enhance the study of all world areas. To maintain its position of leadership, it is essential for this country to have a thorough and sensitive knowledge of every foreign area and of its languages. This knowledge is required, both for the advancement of scholarship and for the achievement of public goals and understanding.

An excellent base for these international studies has been constructed, especially since the Second World War. The development of this base of international understanding has been a difficult task to accomplish, but it has been a success story. The human talent, avenues for communication, and research materials now available in the United States on world affairs, constitute a major national resource.

It is essential that the quality of our international understanding be maintained and deepened, and that sound interpretations of the rest of the world be transmitted more broadly to the community.

II. Each of the organizations participating in the drafting of this statement has special concerns. These have been shared with the Commission in separate documents. We agree jointly on certain mechanisms affecting our future growth.

- A. We support the continuation of existing university and college centers for specialized area and international studies, subject to periodic reviews for quality and need, and urge the support of facilities to assure more adequate national and international linkages between major research centers, institutions stressing teaching, isolated scholars, and the community-at-large. Federal funding at levels higher than are currently provided will be needed to achieve these purposes.
- B. We endorse the extension and improvement of foreign language study, and stress the urgency of federal funding for the many languages currently supported under Title VI funding and others that would not be taught regularly or adequately without that funding.
- C. Foreign area scholarship requires specialized resources. The archival and library resources on international studies required for research, teaching and community use are too costly to be developed and maintained by private and state funds alone. Although we agree that a more rational system of sharing must be designed, it is clear that federal assistance will be required to assure the level and quality of our archives and libraries.
- D. Outreach to the colleges, schools and the community of information and interpretation on international affairs can be accomplished effectively by university-based programs, but there are others in the colleges, schools and community who ought to be linked as participants in Outreach activities. We urge that programs be funded to establish these linkages.

III. As a practical matter, the funding levels of current allocations under NDEA, Title VI, FLAS Fellowships, Fulbright-Hays oppor-

tunities, and related federal support of international studies, need to be increased to meet national needs for international understanding.

IV. We support the establishment of an agency to coordinate all federal programs relating to Foreign Language and International Studies, as proposed by the American Council of Learned Societies.

V. Academic programs in Foreign Language and International Studies are not overextended. Although there are current difficulties in placing some graduates, the national need for these skills has not declined. In some cases, programs should be redesigned, however, to tie professional, disciplinary and undergraduate training more closely to language, area and international knowledge, based on new requirements in the job market at all levels.

VI. The development of international knowledge and understanding in the United States calls for long-term, sustained efforts by many individuals, groups and institutions. The learned societies associated with this statement are among the most concerned with this development. We believe that the federal segment of financing in this field is of critical importance on its own, and also because it induces even greater support from state, university and private sources.

The President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies has an opportunity at this stage in our growth to endorse the success of developments to date, and to assure the continuation of developments over the years ahead.

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