

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Cultural Exchange and Information
Program sent to Congress

The State Department's proposal to expand its inter-American cultural exchange program to world-wide scope, and to continue its international information services, including shortwave radio broadcasting, was sent to Congress today by Acting Secretary Acheson.

The measure, prepared jointly by the Departments of State, Agriculture, Commerce, Interior and Labor, the Federal Security Agency, Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution, would authorize on a world-wide basis the four types of cultural and informational activities which have been carried on over a period of years with the American republics:

1. Educational exchanges of students and professors, books and other educational materials.
2. Assignment of government specialists abroad to advise foreign governments on problems in such fields as agriculture, public health, census taking, child welfare and civil aviation safety.
3. Joint scientific services, such as international weather stations and tidal survey work to aid American shipping and aviation.
4. International information activities such as world-wide radio broadcasting, maintenance of American libraries in some 60 of our embassies and consulates and the furnishing of documentary motion pictures for showing in public institutions abroad.

Summarizing the provisions of the bill; Acting Secretary Acheson, in identical letters of transmittal addressed to the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, described the activities as essential to the more effective carrying on of the United States' foreign relations.

"The legislation is submitted to Congress", he said, "after a world-wide inquiry in which the United States embassies and consulates have advised on the importance of these activities to their work".

In regard to the U. S. world-wide information services Mr. Acheson said that the Department "believes that misunderstandings or false reports about the United States can readily affect international negotiations in which the United States is interested. It is indispensable therefore for this Government to assert the facts about its policies and let the truthfulness of the information over a period of time demonstrate its reliability."

Text of Mr. Acheson's letter to the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, together with a copy of the proposed cultural exchange act, follow:

"I am transmitting a draft of a proposed bill 'to enable the Government of the United States more effectively to carry on its foreign relations by means of (a) promotion of the interchange of persons, knowledge and skills between the people of the United States and other countries, and (b) public dissemination abroad of information about the United States, its people and its policies."

"This draft was prepared jointly with the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior and Labor, the Federal Security Agency, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution.

"The proposed legislation would authorize four types of activities, each of which has been sponsored by this Government over a period of years. The legislation is submitted to Congress only after a world-wide inquiry in which the United States embassies and consultates have advised on the importance of these activities to their work.

"The principal activities authorized by this legislation are summarized below, in the order that they appear in the legislation.

"(1) Educational exchanges. Since 1939 the Department of State has been encouraging the exchange of students and professors, books and other educational materials with the American Republics. Through the cooperation of other federal agencies, young technicians and specialists in the other American Republics have been brought to the United States for practical training. Small grants have been made to American sponsored schools abroad, to several American libraries abroad, and to the United States community centers abroad which serve as discussion centers for citizens of the United States and other countries. The Congress has made a small appropriation each year for these activities, which are strongly supported by our embassies. The purpose of this program is not 'to educate the world' but rather to call attention openly to the merits of American educational methods, and thus to give to promising young leaders abroad an understanding of American aims and ideals.

"The proposed legislation will authorize these activities outside the Western Hemisphere.

"(2) Assignment of Government specialists abroad. Since 1938 the Department of State has been arranging for individual specialists employed by the United States Government to be assigned for periods of service with other governments. Approximately 100 persons have been sent abroad in this nine-year period to advise on problems in such fields as agriculture, public health, census taking, child welfare and civil aviation safety. The present law restricts this service to the other American Republics,

Republics, the Philippines and Liberia. Governments receiving this service now reimburse the United States for a substantial portion of the expense. American Ambassadors have expressed the opinion that the small expense incurred by the United States for these assignments is eminently justified by the closer working relationships with the other governments.

"The proposed legislation would authorize the assignment of specialists to governments outside the American Republics, the Philippines and Liberia.

"(3) Joint scientific services. Since 1939 the Department of State has entered into numerous agreements with other governments in the Western Hemisphere for the joint performance of scientific and other services that are of mutual benefit. For example, Mexico and the United States have set up a joint weather station in Mexico, for which the United States contributes technical advice and some scientific equipment. The weather data derived from this station is used by both governments and is reported to be especially valuable in preparing storm warnings for the gulf states and for United States aircraft. Similar joint operations have been established for foreign tidal surveys needed by United States ships, for research in certain tropical agricultural products sought by the United States, and for public health measures to check the international communication of diseases. The Department of State has utilized the services of other federal agencies to perform these services. Other governments have contributed approximately 60% of the cost.

"The proposed legislation would authorize the extension of this type of cooperation to governments outside the Western Hemisphere.

"(4) International information activities. The President, in an Executive Order on August 31, 1945, transferred to the Department of State the international information functions of the Office of War Information and the Office of Inter-American Affairs. In the past 18 months the Department has eliminated much of this information work, has greatly reduced the number of employees, and is now conducting only those activities which it considers essential for peace-time purposes. International radio broadcasts are transmitted in about 25 languages. Small reference libraries are attached to about 60 of the embassies and consulates. Documentary films on the United States are available in most embassies for public showings. A daily wireless bulletin on developments in the United States is sent to most embassies.

"The Department of State believes that misunderstandings or false reports about the United States can readily affect international negotiations in which the United States is interested. It is indispensable, therefore, for this Government to assert the facts about its policies and let the truthfulness of the information over a period of time demonstrate its reliability.

"The Congress has previously authorized, subject to geographical limitations, certain of the activities described in this letter. The Act of May 25, 1938, as amended, made possible the temporary detail of United States employees, possessing special qualifications, to governments of American Republics, the Philippines and Liberia. An Act of August 9, 1939, entitled 'An Act to render closer and more effective the relationships between the American Republics' has enabled the Department of State to conduct the educational exchanges and joint scientific services mentioned above, but only in the Western Hemisphere.

"There is doubt whether the Department of State requires new legislation to authorize its information activities. Most of these activities have been conducted on a less extensive basis in the Department of State for many years. I am enclosing a statement on legislative authority for the information program which was prepared for the Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee in 1946. The Department recognizes that this is a question which the Congress should decide.

" You will recall that legislation substantially similar to that which I am enclosing was considered by the last Congress, receiving the approval of the House of Representatives (H.R. 4982), 79th Congress) and a favorable report by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (S.2432, 79th Congress)but did not come to a vote in the Senate.

"The Department has been informed by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this proposal to the Congress for its consideration."

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AN ACT

To enable the Government of the United States more effectively to carry on its foreign relations by means of (a) promotion of the interchange of persons, knowledge and skills between the people of the United States and other countries, and (b) public dissemination abroad of information about the United States, its people and its policies.

TITLE I

SHORT TITLE, OBJECTIVES, AND DEFINITIONS

Part A - Short Title

Sec. 101. This Act may be cited as the "International Interchange and Information Act of 1947."

Part B - Objectives

Sec. 111. The Congress hereby declares that the objectives of this Act are to enable the Government of the United States to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries, which is one of the essential foundations of peace, and to correct misunderstandings about the United States in other countries, which constitute obstacles to peace, by means of:

- (1) The interchange of persons, knowledge and skills,
- (2) The rendering of technical and other services to other countries on the basis of mutual cooperation, and
- (3) The dissemination abroad of public information about the United States, its people and the principles and objectives of its Government.

Part C - Definitions

Sec 121. When used in this Act, the term--

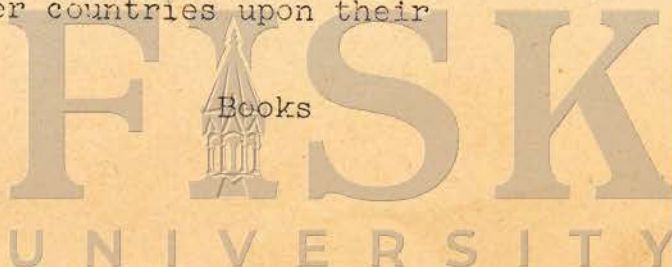
- (1) "Secretary" means the Secretary of State.
- (2) "Department" means the Department of State.
- (3) "Government agency" means any executive department, board, bureau, commission, or other agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government, or independent establishment, or any corporation wholly owned (either directly or through one or more corporations) by the United States.

TITLE II

INTERCHANGE OF PERSONS, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Persons

Sec. 201. The Secretary is authorized to provide for interchanges between the United States and other countries of students, trainees, teachers, professors, and leaders in fields of specialized knowledge or skill. The Secretary may provide for orientation courses and other appropriate services for such persons from other countries upon their arrival in the United States.



Books and Materials

Sec. 202. The Secretary is authorized to provide for interchanges between the United States and other countries of books and periodicals, including government publications, for the translation of such writings, and for the preparation, distribution, and interchange of other educational materials.

Institutions

Sec. 203. The Secretary is authorized to provide for assistance to schools, libraries and community centers abroad, founded or sponsored by citizens of the United States, or serving as demonstration centers for methods and practices employed in the United States. In assisting any such schools, however, the Secretary shall exercise no control over their educational policies.

English Language Teaching

Sec. 204. The Secretary is authorized to provide for the development and demonstration of better methods for teaching the English language abroad.

TITLE III

ASSIGNMENT OF SPECIALISTS

The Act of May 25, 1938, entitled "An Act authorizing the temporary detail of United States employees, possessing special qualifications, to governments of American Republics and the Philippines and for other purposes", as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Persons to be Assigned

"Sec. 301. The Secretary is authorized, when the government of another country is desirous of obtaining the services of a person having special scientific or other technical or professional qualifications, from time to time to assign or authorize the assignment for service, to or in cooperation with such government, any person in the employ or service of the Government of the United States who has such qualifications, with the approval of the Government agency in which such person is employed or serving. Nothing in this Act, however, shall authorize the assignment of officers or enlisted men of the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps for service relating to the organization, training, operation, development, or combat equipment of the armed forces of a foreign government.

Status and Allowances

"Sec. 302. Any person, while assigned for service to or in cooperation with another government under the authority of this Act, shall be considered, for the purpose of preserving his rights, allowances and privileges as such, an officer or employee of the Government of the United States and of the Government agency from which assigned and he shall continue to receive compensation from that agency. He may also receive, under such regulations as the President may prescribe, representation allowances similar to those allowed under Section 901 (3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1946 (63 Stat. 999). The authorization of such allowances and other benefits and the payment thereof out of any appropriations

available therefor, shall be considered as meeting all the requirements of section 1765 of the Revised Statutes.

Acceptance of Office under Another Government

"Sec. 303. Any person while assigned for service to or in cooperation with another government under authority of this Act, may, at the discretion of his Government agency, with the concurrence of the Secretary, and without additional compensation therefor, accept an office under the government to which he is assigned, if the acceptance of such an office in the opinion of such agency is necessary to permit the effective performance of duties for which he is assigned, including the making or approving on behalf of such foreign government the disbursement of funds provided by such government or of receiving from such foreign government funds for deposit and disbursement on behalf of such government, in carrying out programs undertaken pursuant to this Act."

PARTICIPATION BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Part A - General Authority

Sec. 401. The Secretary is authorized, in carrying on any activity under the authority of this Act, to utilize, with their approval, the services, facilities, and personnel of the other Government agencies. Whenever the Secretary shall use the services, facilities, or personnel of any Government agency for activities under authority of this Act, the Secretary shall pay for such performance out of funds available to the Secretary under this Act, either in advance, by reimbursement or direct transfer. In utilizing the Government agencies, it is the sense of the Congress: (1) That the best available and qualified Government services, facilities and personnel shall be sought, in order to ensure professional competence and avoid duplication; and (2) that the Secretary shall consult the appropriate technical agencies of the Government concerning any activity authorized by Titles II, III and IV of this Act which comes within the competence of such agencies.

Part B - Technical and Other Services

Sec. 411. A Government agency, at the request of the Secretary, may perform such technical or other services as such agency may be competent to render for the government of another country desirous of obtaining such services, upon terms and conditions which are satisfactory to the Secretary and to the head of the Government agency, when it is determined by the Secretary that such services will contribute to the purposes of this Act. However, nothing in this Act shall authorize the performance of services relating to the organization, training, operation, development, or combat equipment of the armed forces of a foreign government.

Policy Governing Services

Sec. 412. In authorizing the performance of technical and other services under Section 411 above, it is the sense of the Congress: (1) That the Secretary shall encourage through the Government agency with appropriate legislative authority the performance of such services to foreign governments by qualified private American individuals and agencies; (2) that if such services are rendered by a Government agency, they shall demonstrate the

technical

technical accomplishments of the United States, such services being of an advisory, investigative, or instructional nature, or a demonstration of a technical process; (3) that such services shall not include the construction of public works or the supervision of the construction of public works, except as may be accessory to such investigation, instruction or demonstration, and that under authority of this Act, a Government agency shall render engineering services related to public works only when the Secretary shall determine that the national interest demands the rendering of such services by a Government agency, but this policy shall not be interpreted to preclude the assignment of individual specialists as advisers to other governments as provided under Title III of this Act, together with such incidental assistance as may be necessary for the accomplishment of their individual assignments; (4) that such services shall not be undertaken for a foreign government if, in the opinion of the head of the Government agency, such services will impair the fulfillment of domestic responsibilities of that agency; and (5) that the Department shall invite outstanding leaders, both within and outside the Federal Government, in the various fields of engineering in the United States to review and advise on the Secretary's policies in rendering engineering services to another government pursuant to Section 411 of this Act.

Part C - Other Services by Government Agencies

Training

Sec. 421. A Government agency, at the request of the Secretary, is authorized to provide to citizens of other countries technical and other training within the fields in which such agency has competence, or to provide for such training through state and local governmental agencies or private institutions and organizations.

Interchange of Specialized Knowledge and Skills

Sec. 422. A Government agency, at the request of the Secretary is authorized to promote the interchange with other countries of scientific and specialized knowledge and skills, within the fields in which such agency has competence, through publications and other scientific and educational materials.

Part D - International Coordination

Sec. 431. In order that the activities of Government agencies authorized by Titles II, III, and IV of this Act may be effectively coordinated and interdepartmental relationships as authorized by this Act may be clearly defined, the Secretary may establish upon direction of the President an interdepartmental committee to advise the Secretary on the development and administration of these activities.

TITLE V

DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNITED STATES ABROAD

Part A - General Authorization

Sec. 501. The Secretary is authorized, when he finds it appropriate, to provide for the preparation, and dissemination
abroad,

abroad, of information about the United States, its people and its policies, through press, publications, radio, motion pictures, and other information media, and through information centers abroad.

Part B - Policies Governing Information Activities

Sec. 511. In authorizing international information activities under this Act, it is the sense of the Congress: (1) That the Secretary shall encourage and facilitate by appropriate means the dissemination abroad of information about the United States by private American individuals and agencies, shall supplement such private information dissemination where necessary, and shall reduce such Government information activities whenever corresponding private information dissemination is found to be adequate; (2) that nothing in this Act shall be construed to give the Department a monopoly in the production or sponsorship in the air of shortwave broadcasting programs, or a monopoly in any other medium of information; (3) that the Department shall invite outstanding private leaders of the United States in cultural and informational fields to review and advise on the Government's international information activities; and (4) that all printed matter, films, broadcasts, and other materials in the fields of mass media shall, when disseminated by the Government, be identified as to Government or private source.

TITLE VI

APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 601. Appropriations to carry out the purposes of this Act are hereby authorized.

Sec. 602. The Secretary may authorize the transfer to other Government agencies for expenditure in the United States and in other countries, in order to carry out the purposes of this Act, any part of any appropriations available to the Department for carrying out the purposes of this Act, for direct expenditure or as a working fund, and any such expenditures may be made under the specific authority contained in this Act or under the authority governing the activities of the Government agency to which a part of any such appropriation is transferred, provided the activities come within the scope of this Act.

TITLE VII

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE SECRETARY

Sec. 701. In carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary is authorized, in addition to and not in limitation of the authority otherwise vested in him--

(1) In carrying out Title II of this Act, within the limitation of such appropriations as the Congress may provide, to make grants of money, services, or materials to state and local governmental institutions in the United States, to governmental institutions in other countries, and to individuals and public or private non-profit organizations, both in the United States and in other countries;

(2) To furnish, sell or rent, by contract or otherwise, educational and information materials and equipment;

(3) In carrying out Title V of this Act, to purchase, rent, construct, improve, maintain, and operate facilities for radio transmission and reception, including the leasing of real property

both

within and without the continental limits of the United States for periods not to exceed ten years, or for longer periods if provided for by the Appropriation Act;

(4) To furnish official entertainment when provided for by the Appropriation Act;

(5) To establish and maintain in the United States reception centers for foreign students and for visitors representative of the fields listed in Section 201 above;

(6) To provide for printing and binding outside the continental limits of the United States, without regard to section 11 of the Act of March 1, 1919 (44 U.S.C. 111);

(7) To employ within the United States aliens, and persons on a temporary basis, without regard to the civil-service and classification laws, when such employment is provided for by the Appropriation Act; and

(8) To create such advisory committees as the Secretary may decide to be of assistance in formulating his policies for carrying out the purposes of this Act. No committee member shall be allowed any salary or other compensation for services; but he may be paid his actual transportation expenses, and not to exceed \$10 per diem in lieu of subsistence and other expenses, while away from his home in attendance upon meetings within the United States or in consultation with the Department under instructions.

TITLE VIII

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Sec. 801. In carrying on activities which further the purposes of this Act, subject to approval of such activities by the Secretary, the Department and the other Government agencies are authorized--

(1) To place orders and make purchases and rentals of materials and equipment;

(2) To make contracts, including contracts with governmental agencies, foreign or domestic, including sub-divisions thereof, and intergovernmental organizations of which the United States is a member, and, with respect to contracts entered into in foreign countries, without regard to section 3741 of the Revised Statutes (41 U. S. C. 22);

(3) Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, to pay the transportation expenses, and not to exceed \$10 per diem in lieu of subsistence and other expenses, of citizens or subjects of other countries, without regard to the Standardized Government Travel Regulations and the Subsistence Act of 1926, as amended;

(4) Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, without regard to the Standardized Government Travel Regulations and the Subsistence Act of 1926, as amended, to provide for planned travel itineraries within the United States by groups of citizens or subjects of other countries, to pay the expenses of such travel, and to detail as escorts of such groups, officers and employees of the Government, whose expenses may be paid out of funds advanced or transferred by the Secretary