

**TWENTIETH SEMIANNUAL REPORT ON
EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES**

LETTER

FROM THE

**CHAIRMAN, UNITED STATES ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL
EXCHANGE**

TRANSMITTING

**THE 20TH SEMIANNUAL REPORT ON THE EDUCATIONAL
EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE UNITED
STATES INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1948 (PUBLIC LAW 402, 80TH CONG.) FROM
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1958**



**JULY 9, 1958.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs
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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION,
ON EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE,
July 8, 1958.

The Honorable SAM RAYBURN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SIR: The United States Advisory Commission on Educational Exchange submits herewith its 20th semiannual report on the educational exchange activities conducted under the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (Public Law 402, 80th Cong.) from January 1 through June 30, 1958.

This report fulfills the requirements of section 603 of the above-mentioned act which states that this Commission shall transmit—

* * * to the Congress a semiannual report of all programs and activities carried on under authority of this Act, including appraisals, where feasible, as to the effectiveness of the programs and such recommendations as shall have been made * * * to the Secretary of State for effectuating the purpose and objectives of this Act and the action taken to carry out such recommendations.

The membership of the Commission is as follows:

Rufus H. Fitzgerald, chancellor emeritus, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa., Chairman;
Arthur H. Edens, president, Duke University, Durham, N. C., Vice Chairman;
Laird Bell, lawyer, member of the firm of Bell, Boyd, Marshall & Lloyd, Chicago, Ill.;
Arthur A. Hauck, president, University of Maine, Orono, Maine;
Anna L. Rose Hawkes, dean emeritus, Mills College, and president of the American Association of University Women, Orleans, Vt.

A duplicate copy of this report is being furnished the Senate.

Very truly yours,

R. H. FITZGERALD, *Chairman.*

(Enclosure: Advisory Commission's 20th semiannual report to the Congress.)

**TWENTIETH SEMIANNUAL REPORT
TO THE CONGRESS**

BY THE

**UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE**

(JANUARY 1-JUNE 30, 1958)

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TWENTIETH SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS BY THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON EDU- CATIONAL EXCHANGE

I. THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

On numerous occasions the Commission has used this report as a medium to inform the Congress, and the interested American public, of its strong feelings as to the inadequacy of the financial resources proposed or granted for the Government's international educational exchange program. As respects the most recent request for appropriations for this program, that for the 1959 fiscal year, the Commission as recently as January of this year expressed its deep regrets—

that it has not appeared possible for the executive branch to place stronger budgetary emphasis on a program so important to our relationships with other countries.

The action of the House of Representatives in subsequently approving the amount requested by the Department of State, which the Commission considered "the minimum required for continuing program effectiveness," was a source of some gratification. The action of the Senate in favoring an increase in this amount of some \$10 million represents, however, a more realistic appraisal in the light of current world conditions of the true value of the program and of the proper investment in "futures" for mutual understanding that the United States Government should be making. In recognition of this fact the Chairman addressed letters, in behalf of the Commission, to the Vice President and the Speaker of the House. The texts of these letters follow:

(Text of letter to the Vice President, dated June 14, 1958:)

I have just received a copy of Senate Report No. 1683 concerning the appropriations for the international educational exchange activities.

It was most gratifying to note that the Senate recommends \$30,800,000 for international educational exchange activities for fiscal year 1959. This amount, plus the nonappropriated foreign currencies which will be available to the program, is in line with the Commission's recommendation reported to the Congress in its semiannual report dated May 13, 1957. At that time the Commission strongly recommended that at least \$35 million be allocated to educational exchange activities.

I am writing the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on behalf of the Commission, urging that body to accede to the recommendations of the Senate, which we believe represents the minimum required for continuing program effectiveness, and expressing our profound hope that this sum will be appropriated by the Congress.

(Text of letter to the Speaker of the House, dated June 14, 1958:)

I have just received a copy of Senate Report No. 1683 concerning the appropriations for the international educational exchange activities.

It was most gratifying to note that the Senate recommends \$30,800,000 for international educational exchange activities for fiscal year 1959.

As reported to the Congress, in semiannual reports, it has been the unanimous opinion of the Commission that the educational exchange program and other cultural activities have come to be recognized as most effective instruments of foreign policy. We feel that the programs have been projected along sound lines and that substantially increased funds should be devoted to this important operation.

In the Commission's report to the Congress, dated May 13, 1957, the Commission strongly recommended that at least \$35 million be allocated to educational exchange activities. The \$30,800,000 recommended by the Senate, plus the non-appropriated foreign currencies which will be available to the program, is therefore in accord with our recommendation. The stirring events and grave crises in relationships of the United States with other countries, that have occurred since that time, make it obvious that this figure represents the minimum which should be allocated to the program at this time.

I, therefore, urge, on behalf of the Commission, that the House of Representatives accede to the recommendation of the Senate and that this sum be appropriated by the Congress for the international educational exchange activities for fiscal year 1959.

II. TEN-YEAR REVIEW OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The United States Information and Educational Exchange Act, through which the Congress provided permanent authority to this Government to engage in worldwide educational and cultural exchanges with the people of other countries, was passed in January of 1948. The United States Advisory Commission on Educational Exchange was established and held its first meeting in that year. The first decade of accomplishment of this important program in foreign relations—a significant decade for the United States in world affairs—is therefore history. It was considered timely to make this 10th anniversary an occasion for a thoroughgoing review of the program for the purpose of placing its achievements in proper perspective and of identifying needed improvements and new directions suggested by experience. Continuing and in some instances increasing world tensions, as well as the atmosphere of challenge and warning produced by the launching of the first sputnik, gave especial cogency to such a review.

In consideration of the fact that 1958 marks the 10th year of actual exchanges under the Fulbright Act (Public Law 584, 79th Cong.), the Commission invited the Board of Foreign Scholarships to join it in this anniversary program review. (The Board of Foreign Scholarships, consisting of 10 members appointed by the President, was established in 1947 under authority of Public Law 584. It has rendered dedicated service over the years, on a voluntary basis, in carrying out its legislative responsibilities of selecting students and educational institutions qualified to participate in the program conducted under this act and in supervising this program.) The subjects discussed and the conclusions reached are therefore a reflection of the combined thought and experience of both groups.

The lessons of the past and the needs for the future were jointly considered by the Commission and the Board in terms of four major subject areas: (1) the Quality of Participants in the Program; (2) the Quality of the Exchange Experience; (3) Cooperation Between Government and Private Agencies; and (4) Financial Resources of the Program. A brief summary of the content of the discussion respecting each of these subject areas follows:

1. The quality of participants in the program

There was general agreement that the quality of both foreign and American participants in the program had improved significantly during the last 10 years. In the case of the foreign participants it was suggested that the level could be still further improved by such measures as additional emphasis on English testing and English teaching overseas; grants of longer duration to attract better candidates from certain countries because of their need to study in the United States for more than 1 year; and provision of more adequate dollar support to supplement foreign currency travel grants.

Prospects for enhancing the quality of American participation in the program depend largely on steps that may be taken to improve the fitness of Americans generally to meet this country's international responsibilities. More emphasis should be placed on the teaching of foreign languages at all educational levels; special training in language, in area studies and in the methods of intergroup relations and intercultural contacts is needed; and American higher education should take greater advantage of the tremendous potential offered by foreign participants in exchanges, and returned American participants, to stimulate interest in and to provide training for international experience.

2. The quality of the exchange experience

The Commission and the Board agreed that although the quality of the participant is basic to the success of any exchange program it is equally important to develop projects and experiences that will result in the greatest possible benefit to both the individual participant and the program. It was clearly recognized that to this end activities must normally be planned on a country by country basis, thus recognizing differing country conditions and needs.

The conclusion was reached that there is a need for better orientation of grantees before leaving their home country so that they must gain maximum benefit from the experience of those who have gone before; for improved and continuing orientation of grantees in the host country so that grantees will be better able to adapt to extreme cross cultural contrasts; for improved advance planning of projects in the host country; and for grantee benefits that permit a more balanced exchange experience not encumbered by unnecessary personal indebtedness.

3. Cooperation between Government and private agencies

Questions were raised as to how relationships between Government and private agencies in the furtherance of the educational exchange program can be improved. Possible sources of whatever difficulties exist were found in the program's increased complexity; in a lessening in the initiative shown by American education and scholarship in realizing the potentialities, and capitalizing on the resources, of the exchange program; and in the tendency in many educational institutions toward greater reliance on specialized facilities for handling exchange matters at some expense to involvement by the institution as a whole.

The following suggestions were made for improving cooperation between Government and private organizations and institutions.

(a) Educational and scholarly associations should be encouraged to request that Government furnish, in professional publications or at professional meetings, periodic accounting with respect to the exchange program or pertinent aspects of the program

(b) Universities and professional groups should be encouraged to submit proposals for projects that will make greater use of the resources of educational exchange to benefit the interests of American education and scholarship.

(c) Educational institutions and groups should reexamine their organization and procedures with a view to insuring maximum institutional involvement in international educational activities.

(d) The respective roles of the Advisory Commission and the Board should be made clearly apparent to private institutions and agencies, to the end that these bodies may more definitely reflect the public interest in the educational exchange program.

4. Financial resources of the program

The Board and the Advisory Commission agreed that if continued and increased effectiveness is to be obtained in the program more funds for its support must be made available. While non-appropriated foreign currencies used in the program have been increasing, such currencies alone will not, for a number of reasons, suffice to meet the needs of a more adequate, better managed, and more effective program. Additional dollars will be required in certain countries to make up for the deficiencies of foreign currencies and in other countries to augment foreign currencies that by reason of their nonconvertibility are of limited use.

Existing legal limitations on program uses of both foreign currencies and dollars, and possibilities for removing these limitations, were explored. There were suggestions that changes in legislation were needed to permit payment of dependents' travel; to authorize financial support for institutions, seminars, and workshops overseas; and to provide for the use of nonappropriated foreign currencies for the payment of travel and expenses for a greater number of grantees.

The need for dollars for more adequate overall programs in countries where no foreign currencies are available was also emphasized. There are still important countries and areas of the world where no foreign currencies have accrued or where it has thus far not been possible to make use of those that are available.

It is planned that a detailed report growing out of this 10-year program review by the Commission and the Board will be published in the fall. The Commission, moreover, plans to give continuing attention to problems in educational exchange that this review has brought into focus.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS

The establishment of the Advisory Committee on the Arts as authorized by Public Law 860, 84th Congress; the composition of its membership and the nature of its legislatively assigned duties were reported in the Commission's 18th and 19th semiannual reports to the Congress. Since the submission of the latter report the Committee has held 2 meetings; 1 in January and 1 in May.

At its first meeting the Committee invited representatives of various Federal agencies concerned with international-arts activities to report to it on the character and scope of their programs. The Committee was greeted and addressed by the Secretary of State. Other officers of the Department of State reported on the President's special program for cultural presentations and on the role of the arts in the international educational exchange program. The Director of the United States Information Agency told the Committee about programs in the arts carried out under his general jurisdiction. Reports were also received on the international exhibits activities carried out by the Smithsonian Institution and on plans for United States representation in the performing and visual arts at the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition. Finally, the interest of many Members of Congress in these and other arts programs was reflected in remarks by Senators Hubert H. Humphrey and H. Alexander Smith and Congressman Frank Thompson.

In considering its proper role as an advisory body, the Committee recognized that it had specific responsibilities for (a) the cultural presentations program conducted under the International Cultural Exchange and Trade Fair Participation Act of 1956 and (b) exchanges in the arts under the international educational exchange program. It was agreed further, however, that the Committee should approach its statutory responsibilities with a broad concern for the entire sphere of Government activity in international relationships involving the arts. In this connection the inclusiveness as respects fields of the arts of section 12 of the authorizing legislation was noted. Section 12 reads as follows:

The cultural program authorized by this Act should include, to the greatest extent possible, presentations and other activities in such major art fields as: music, drama, poetry, and dance; new writing and literature; architecture, landscape architecture, city and regional planning, civic art and design, historic preservation; housing, interior design and decoration, and urban renewal and redevelopment; painting, sculpture, graphic arts, and hand arts and crafts; motion pictures and photography; and radio and television.

In order to obtain guidance as to subjects meriting priority attention by the Committee, it was decided that a special inquiry should be directed to the overseas diplomatic missions inviting constructive criticism of existing programs, recommendations for new programs, and other pertinent comments. (Such an inquiry has since been made, replies have been received from many of the missions, and their content is under current study by the Committee.)

The Committee at the conclusion of its first meeting issued the following statement:

As members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, we are glad to place such special knowledge and experience as we may have at the service of our Government in its promotion of cultural relationships with other nations and peoples.

At a time of reassessment of the Nation's scientific and technological accomplishments, the creation of this Committee furnishes gratifying evidence that our Government is also concerned with America's cultural achievements. Our maturity in the arts can win us the respect of others as surely as our progress in science.

The Committee's initial meeting has been devoted to a familiarization with the Government's interest in the arts as a means of communication with other peoples, and with the various interrelated programs through which this interest is made evident. We have been impressed by the statements made to us. In particular, the Secretary of State spoke eloquently, and with manifest sincerity, of the importance he and the Department of State attach to demonstrating America's achievement in the arts as a hallmark of our national maturity. The remarks of the Honorable George V. Allen and other officials of the executive branch were of like character. Assurances were received from Senator Hubert Humphrey, Senator H. Alexander Smith, and Representative Frank Thompson that they and many of their colleagues in the Congress share fully in this interest in the arts in our international relations.

The reports received on the scope and effectiveness of our Government's programs for artistic presentations and exchanges were equally impressive to the Committee. The fact that so much has been accomplished with limited resources is a tribute to the ingenuity and imaginativeness of the administrators of these programs and to the generosity of so many of the artists who have participated and of public-spirited citizens and groups. The success to date suggests that consideration should be given to an expansion of these activities. It will be one of our important tasks as an advisory committee to give continuing review and guidance to these programs—in particular to the President's cultural presentations program and the reciprocal visits of artists under the international exchange program. It is our desire to be of assistance to the Department of State and to the other agencies, public and private, in the realization of the objectives of these programs.

We recognize the complexities of the relationship between Government and the arts, but we see no necessary incongruity in the artist's serving the legitimate ends of Government or in Government's giving recognition to the artist. We believe that in the arts integrity and quality are important watchwords, and within the framework of our relations with other nations we are confident that these values have been, and will be, honored.

The arts illumine the mind, kindle the spirit, and move the heart. Surely there can be few better ways to serve the cause of international understanding.

At its second meeting the Advisory Committee on the Arts placed principal emphasis on the international arts activities of certain leading private organizations. The program of the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art and plans for the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City were reported on and discussed. Under the leadership of Robert W. Dowling, chairman of the board of directors of the American National Theater and Academy, the program administered by the Department of State for sending performing artists overseas was discussed by certain of the artists who have participated in the program—Blanche Thebom, William Warfield, and Jose Limon—and by representatives of panels that screen projects in the fields of music, theater, and dance. It was a Committee consensus that there should both be greater recognition of the artists who have reflected such credit on American cultural development through performances overseas, and a greater application of their experience in the selection and preparation of artists participating in the program in the future.

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled to be held in Washington in October 1958.

