

Twelfth World Congress of the International Political Science Association. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (August 9-14, 1982). The Legislative Specialists Committee invites papers on "Legislatures and Regime Support in Democratic and Authoritarian Political Systems." Send outline to: Professor Allan Kornberg, Department of Political Science, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 27706. Proposals are invited for panel papers by the Biology and Politics Research Committee. Send to: Professor Albert Somit, Department of Political Science, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, IL 62901.

Fifth National Conference on the Third World. Red Lion Inn, Omaha, Nebraska (October 27-30, 1982). Sponsor: The University of Nebraska at Omaha. Proposals for papers, panels, etc., accepted until April 1, 1982. Theme: "Changing Patterns in the Global Community." Contact: Professor H. Carl Camp or Professor Joong-Gun Chung, Department of Political Science, The University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska 68182, (402) 554-3612 or 554-3616.

CHEMRAWN II, International Conference on Chemistry and World Food Supplies —The New Frontiers. The Philippine International Convention Center, Manila, Philippines (Postponed until December 6-10, 1982). Contact: The CHEMRAWN II Coordinating Office, International Food Policy Research Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

LETTERS

African Studies and "Defense":
Major-General Richard X. Larkin
Deputy Director
Defense Intelligence Agency
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear General Larkin:

The Board of Directors of the African Studies Association has noted with particular interest a Federal Research Report, dated September 11, 1981, entitled "Academic Research for Defense." We note that individuals and institutions have been invited to apply to the Defense Intelligence Agency for academic research support. Africa is included among several regions for which such support will be provided.

The relationship between intelligence agencies and university-based research is fraught with dangers to the integrity of scholarship. Scholars have an obligation to protect the integrity of academic research and the reputations of bona fide academic researchers. Dependence upon intelligence agencies for the conduct of such research tends to obscure the crucial distinction, for a free society, between academic aims and national strategic objectives. A prudent and principled concern to maintain the credibility of American-based scholarship in the African studies field accounts for the rejection of DIA funding by the African studies programs of several leading universities.

In 1976, the African Studies Association endorsed the following resolution of the Board of Directors by mailed ballot:

The African Studies Association condemns the participation of scholars in clandestine intelligence operations. The African Studies Association condemns the clandestine use or employment of scholars by intelligence agencies and calls upon Africanist scholars to take no part in such activities.

In view of our constant resolve to safeguard the integrity and credibility of academic African studies and to counteract misrepresentations of the independent purposes of scholarly work in a free society, we express concern about the implications of your current proposal to fund academic research. We shall discuss this matter once again at the next meeting of our Board in the light of inquiries which we have initiated. We would, of course, welcome information that you might wish to contribute as background for our deliberation.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Sklar
President
African Studies Association

In the Case of Dennis Brutus:

October 29, 1981

President Robert Strotz
Rebecca Crown Center
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear President Strotz:

I write to express deep concern about the threatened deportation of Professor Dennis Brutus. The Board of Directors of the African Studies Association has followed this matter closely. We now understand that Professor Brutus may be required to leave this country for a reason that is basically technical in nature. It does seem appropriate for scholars and civil libertarians to urge the merits of a broader view. My request to you is made in that spirit.

We do believe that Northwestern University should seek to avert an occurrence which would reflect badly on African studies in the United States. With its remarkable tradition of African studies, Northwestern is high in the esteem of Africanist scholars throughout the world. For more than a decade Professor Brutus has enhanced that tradition as a tenured member of the faculty. During this time he has made a significant contribution to African Literature, one which draws particular attention to the abhorrent denial of human rights in South Africa. We do not doubt that reasonable people would wish to have his contributions weighed against an unseemly deportation on the ground that his visa is not in order.

At our meeting last week, the Board of Directors asked me to request timely action on your part. An approach to the senior and junior Senators from Illinois in order to secure a waiver of the rule was frequently mentioned. Please let me know what action you can take at this time so that I may inform the Board and our members.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Sklar