

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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Area Studies

FROM: AB

DATE: February, 1947

TO:

JHW	MAR 15 1947	JHW
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COMMENTS:

I agree strongly with AB on this, particularly on concentration on few areas, and study at graduate level.

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CSSRC fellowships

SUBJECT:

AREAL STUDIES

My thought is that SS is interested and will be continue to be interested in developing certain areal studies, such as the Russian Institute. It is working in these Institutes at the graduate level at both training advanced personnel, and broadening our basic knowledge of the country's growth, institutions and outlook.

Such an intensive unit may well be considered once RFE has reported upon what can be done within China and what needs to be developed in the U.S. to prepare American personnel to understand the needs of China.

Since these Institutes start with persons already trained in SS disciplines, they must inevitably be at the graduate level. They can start only at an Institution that has already developed a setting and leadership.

These units must be continued long enough to expand gradually and to develop experience in training personnel. Thus it might be more important once a unit has demonstrated its quality to support it adequately than it would be to start another unit.

For SS the major emphasis might well be training men at the graduate level, building a few units in such diverse economies as those of China and Russia and strengthening these, by fellowships and long-term support.

The great importance of languages and turning the attention of incoming students to foreign areas may well mean that humanities must work at the undergraduate level, at least in the initial stages. Here and there, out of this start, an institution well be found that has special fitness for building upon this start a more intensive mature training. In these cases SS may well be able to tie in either by advice in finding or selecting social scientists to staff an expansion. In these cases, SS will consider, at the suggestion of Humanities, the place at which joint work between the Divisions might be most effective.

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This suggestion would make SS free to develop intensive graduate areal institutions, necessarily as slow processes, and limited to the most important economics. It would leave Humanities free to make its own choices in starting areal studies where languages and cultures could be studies with social science a minor initial interest. If the unit evolves to the point where political science, economics and other basic social science disciplines are of major interest, SS would cooperate in advising and in limited cases would go further.

The primary emphasis in SS would have to be the training of personnel at the graduate level and the support of a few strong centers. In the hope of building these to well rounded units, the number and the rate of starting units may well seem small. These can be strengthened by a fellowship program.

It may be that SS could use a fellowship program as a means of tying into some of the units matured in the understanding of an economy in some of the areal studies started by the humanities.

Basically the two programs have different functions. Humanities can perform best in the awakening of students to certain areas as fields of study. SS will be more concerned in its program in training mature personnel whose interest has already been enlisted to the point of mastering the language of a country and attaining competence in an SS discipline.

AB

3/17/47

PF