

JUN 23 1941

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

AUG 26 1941

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ACLS

Indo-European languages

copy - 100
Friedrich
(memo)

FROM: DHS

DATE: June 5, 1941

TO:

RBF		RBT
MRB	JUN 13 41	MM

COMMENTS:

SEP 10 1941

SEP 23 1941

SUBJECT:

The attached proposal from Graves of the ACLS seems to us timely and strategic. The need for people competent in the languages that are little known in this country is increasingly urgent, as international developments bring us into contact with parts of the world we have hitherto had little to do with - the Arabic-speaking territories, the strategic points in Africa, the Polynesian areas, the Dutch East Indies, along with other countries of the Pacific.

Government agencies are already having to take steps to build up language personnel. Having to act, the Navy, perhaps wisely, has set up a training school in Japanese at Honolulu. But the government agencies include in their personnel few if any people able to grasp anything beyond the immediate requirements for such work. As a result they will act on grounds of practical wisdom rather than of a full theoretical knowledge.

The Council, by virtue of its fifteen-year study of needs of language personnel and for their training, has developed both practical and theoretical understanding of the situation. If it is in a position to act on that understanding, it can develop ways of meeting current needs which are both practically and theoretically sound. Only by being free to act itself can it give present influence to its knowledge.

If you agree, we should like at the June meeting to set up a fund under which money could be made available to the Council, to be used at the discretion of its officers for such activities which we can all agree are well calculated to meet this situation.

DHS