

Anthropologists Vote 12 to 1 to Oppose Joining in Secret Intelligence Work

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By a 12 to 1 margin, leading American anthropologists have adopted a policy statement that says scholars in their field should keep away from secret Government intelligence work.

"Academic institutions and individual members of the academic community, including students, should scrupulously avoid both involvement in clandestine intelligence activities and the use of the name of anthropology, or the title of anthropologist, as a cover for intelligence activities," according to the statement approved by the Fellows of the American Anthropological Association.

The Fellows are the ultimate source of authority of the 4400-member Association, which has members in Canada and Mexico as well as the United States. They must have a Ph.D. degree or its equivalent in professional publication or teaching experience, and they must be recommended by another Fellow.

Nearly two-thirds of the Fellows returned the ballots mailed out in January, and the margin of approval was 729 to 59.

As students of social systems, past and present, the anthropologists consider foreign field studies vital to their discipline. Their concern crystallized two years ago with the furor of Project Camelot, financed by the Army through American University to study the possibility of civil war in Chile.

The Anthropological Association named one of its members, Ralph L. Beals of the University of California at Los Angeles, to look into the problem of ethics and research. He reported the results to the Association's annual meeting last fall and the mail ballot followed.

Some of the highlights of the policy statement:

- "Constraint, deception and secrecy have no place in science."

- "The international reputation of anthropology has been damaged" by people claiming

to be carrying out anthropological studies when actually "pursuing other ends." The Beals study cites reports that CIA agents use anthropology as a cover for intelligence activity overseas.

- "There is also good reason to believe that some anthropologists have used their professional standing and the names of their academic institutions as cloaks for the collection of intelligence information and for intelligence operations."

- Scholars ought to think twice about accepting even innocent contracts from the Defense Department and "other mission-oriented branches," for fear of losing access to future research.

- Unless Congress declares war, colleges and universities should not get into studies "not related to their normal functions of teaching, research, and public service."

- The Fellows "deplore" unnecessary secrecy on reports prepared under Government contract, and excessive security rules on the scholars who carry them out.