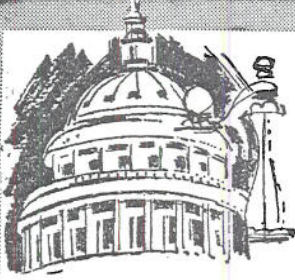


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WASHINGTON REPORT

U.S. Still Financing Communist Travelers

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

Editor's Note: The following views are those of the authors and are presented here to give readers a variety of viewpoints. The Tribune's opinions are expressed only in editorials.

The Johnson Administration is replete with contradictions when it comes to financing the activities and foreign travels of educators and students.

While President Johnson has banned the covert financing of these by the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department is increasing its underwriting of the visits of Communist educators to the U.S.

A State Department report to the House Foreign Affairs Committee disclosed that U.S. grants to Soviet bloc educators doubled in the past year as the Administration strives to "build bridges to the East."

The report, titled "Ex-

changes with Soviet Union and Eastern Europe," also reveals the State Department increased the number of grants to U.S. educators to visit and attend conferences behind the Iron Curtain.

Prepared under the supervision of Boris Klosson, director of the Soviet-Eastern European exchange staff, the document lists more than 70 Communists whose visits here in 1966 were paid for by the department, as compared to 35 in 1965.

Although U.S. authorities have evidence that many of these Iron Curtain educators are involved in the same type of activities as those financed by the CIA, there has been no review to determine whether they should be continued.

During the recent presidential review of CIA aid to private education groups, several attempts were made by the CIA to include the State Department grants to Red visitors in the inquiry.

In each instance Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach, head of the committee making the investigation, blocked the request.

The former attorney general took the position that since the State Department reports regularly to Congress on this matter, there was no need to include it in the inquiry.

Also in discussions at the White House, Katzenbach expressed the opinion that these State Department activities should be expanded "as one of the ways of merging views and increasing cooperation between U.S.-Soviet bloc educators."

Strongly supporting an increase in the number of such visits is Boris Klosson, the State Department official who

had a hand in clearing the way for Lee Harvey Oswald to return from Russia.

A career foreign service officer, Klosson now is in charge of the cultural exchange program which arranges the visits of hundreds of educators, scientists, artists, actors and students from the U.S. and Soviet bloc countries.

According to records of the Warren Commission, Klosson was counsellor for political affairs in the Moscow embassy in 1961 when Oswald sought visas for himself and his wife to return to the U.S. Oswald had defected to the Soviet in 1959.

In testimony before the commission, FBI officials stated that "the clean bill of health given Oswald by the U.S. embassy . . . was based on reports prepared by Klosson."

Klosson, who has received several promotions since returning from Moscow, was not called as a witness by the Warren Commission.

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