

# CIA Says Recruiting Still Good

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

Recruiting efforts of the Central Intelligence Agency have suffered not at all from the picketing and student protest which have greeted CIA representatives on college and university campuses across the nation.

On the contrary, CIA personnel experts believe campus demonstrations may have given a stimulus to the spy agency's recruiting program in some academic communities. Certain vacancies are being filled with applicants who are better qualified than their predecessors of a few years back.

This is the gist of information which is being supplied by CIA to the congressional committees which ride herd on the agency's operations. The data runs counter to published reports which suggest that CIA has been getting a cold shoulder on the campus.

The CIA summaries suggest, in fact, that whatever its cathartic effect on the pent-up emotions of campus militants, the much publicized wave of anti-CIA protest, has been little more than an inconvenience and annoyance for the agency.

Most importantly, CIA is telling its congressional watchdogs that it can discern no lessening of interest in intelligence careers on college and university campuses.

Its reports indicate, however, that CIA has tailored its recruiting program to avoid confrontations which might embarrass college administrators. If on-campus interviews can be conducted without incident, CIA representatives conduct them. When trouble begins to develop, CIA recruiters withdraw and do their interviewing elsewhere.

Some interviews have been

shifted to regional offices which are close to some of the nation's big academic centers. The agency's main recruiting office in nearby Arlington, Virginia, interviews job applicants during business hours without appointment.

As a result, CIA is reporting that it has been able to move up a notch in filling vacancies which require certain academic qualifications. Some jobs which were filled with holders of B.A. degrees a couple of years ago are now getting holders of graduate degrees, the agency says.

In that connection, the agency notes that its recruiting problems are made easier by the fact that the attrition rate is very low on the agency's college-like "campus" in nearby McLean, Va.

Far from the fictional cloak-and-dagger image, much of CIA's activity is scholarly research and analysis. It makes no secret of its need for job applicants qualified in a wide variety of academic disciplines.

An attractive, two-color brochure, "Intelligence Professions" is sent to college and university placement officers. It lists 25 fields of academic endeavor in which CIA has a special interest, and it stresses that the list is not all-inclusive.

The brochure includes a map accurately locating CIA's headquarters building near the Virginia shores of the Potomac River. Flouting all reports of the agency's super-secret sensitivity, the pamphlet also includes an air view of the massive headquarters.

CIA's brochure states: "The CIA needs scientists, economists, engineers, linguists, mathematicians, historians, artists, lawyers, editors, administrators, librarians, experts in communications and data processing; in short, people trained in all fields of study."

CIA's bright appraisal of its protest-plagued recruiting program is rosy enough to suggest that it might be self-serving. Government agencies have been known to stress the positive in their dealings with Congress.

The optimistic CIA view gets qualified support, however, from an assessment of campus protests against Dow Chemical, another favorite target of student militancy because of its manufacture of napalm.

H. D. Doan, Dow's president, has stated that the company can detect no adverse effect on its college recruiting program or on the calibre of students seeking employment.  
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