

PANEL PROPOSES ABOLISHING U.S.I.A.

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Stanton Unit Outlines Wide
Information-Agency Shifts

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By DAVID BINDER

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WASHINGTON, March 11—

A 21-member private panel recommended today that the United States Information Agency be abolished and most of its operations be transferred to the State Department.

The reorganization was recommended by the Panel on International Information, Education and Cultural Relations, headed by Frank Stanton, former president of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Its 63-page report, which was presented to President Ford at noon, drew strong opposition immediately from James Keogh, director of the U.S.I.A.

The panel was created on recommendation of the United States Advisory Commission on Information and the United States Advisory Commission on International Educational and Cultural Affairs. Both these bodies were set up by law to oversee respectively the U.S.I.A. and the educational and cultural activities of the State Department.

The panel was organized by Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies and its \$120,000 budget was underwritten by the Ford, Rockefeller and Ahmanson Foundations and the Lilly Endowment.

In a prepared statement, Mr. Keogh said that the Stanton panel proposals would "scatter U.S.I.A. activities among three separate agencies" and this, he charged, would "fragment rather than consolidate, weaken rather than strengthen" the U.S.I.A. functions.

Proposals Gain Support

However, the panel has already found widespread support for its recommendations in the Administration and Congress, and it seems likely that most or all will eventually be carried out.

The proposals include creating an autonomous body tentatively called the Information and Cultural Affairs Agency, which would combine the State Department's cultural program with that of the U.S.I.A.

The new agency would have its own director, responsible to the Secretary of State, much like the Agency for International Development. It would handle all cultural-exchange programs and would be staffed in the field by information-cultural attachés in the American embassies.

In addition, all State Department and U.S.I.A. programs established to disseminate information on United States foreign policy would be combined in a new Office of Policy Information headed by a deputy under secretary in the State Department.

Finally, the Voice of America would be established as a Federal agency under a board of overseers and responsible to the Secretary of State for articulation of foreign policy.