

Under section 601(b), title VI of the National Defense Education Act, Federal funds provide fellowships for advanced training in neglected language and related area studies for students preparing for college teaching, Government service, or other service of a public nature. Fellowships are awarded for the study of those languages which the Commissioner of Education has determined to be needed by individuals in the Federal Government, business and industry, and education in the United States. More than 100 languages have been so designated as critical and needed. The list includes all official national languages and languages of major regional and cultural significance, except French, German, Italian, and peninsular Spanish, which currently are widely taught in the United States.

### 3. *History*

The concept of language and area studies developed rapidly in the period after World War II. By the middle of the 1950's, there was a small but significant number of these programs on American campuses. Both their importance and the need for immediate strengthening of foreign studies were recognized by the Congress in its enactment of title VI of the National Defense Education Act.

The act provided for the support of comprehensive programs of instruction dealing with world regions in close integration with the study of the modern languages spoken in each region. As of June 30, 1965, Federal support has provided for the establishment of 98 of these National Defense Education Act language and area centers located at colleges and universities throughout the country. Instruction in nearly 100 modern foreign languages is offered by these centers. However, support has been limited, so far, to centers which concern only the so-called non-Western areas of the world (regions other than Western Europe).

The modern foreign language fellowship portion of this program is designed to help meet the critical national need for individuals equipped with knowledge and skills in modern foreign languages and related studies. Graduate fellowships constitute the major part of this program. Between 1959 and 1963 only graduate fellowships were awarded. However, since 1963 awards have also been made to undergraduates for intensive summer study, after a year of introductory study in the language; and since 1962 a limited number of post-doctoral fellowships have been awarded to faculty members of liberal arts colleges to prepare them to participate in undergraduate programs of non-Western studies. From 1959 to 1965 inclusive, 6,288 awards have been made: 5,505 for graduate fellowships, 681 for undergraduate stipends, and 102 for postdoctoral fellowships. In academic year 1965-66, 1,727 awardees will receive training at 67 institutions in 64 critical languages and related area studies.

### 4. *Level of operations.* (See table 1.)

Program: Language development.

Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Office of Education; Bureau of Higher Education.