

We submit this statement in order to express our concern that the Administration's proposed taxes on travel outside the Western Hemisphere in their present form may seriously and adversely affect valuable summer study programs conducted by AIFS, FLL and other recognized educational organizations. We also suggest possible modifications of the Administration proposals which will reduce or eliminate this harmful impact without material effect on our balance of payments.

In particular, we will show :

- (1) summer study programs abroad provide a valuable service and their continuation is in the public interest ;
- (2) the proposed travel taxes will impair the operation of such programs by sharply increasing their cost to students ;
- (3) the present exemption for students who remain abroad for 120 consecutive days or more should be amended to include students who attended bona fide summer academic programs of at least four weeks' duration ;
- (4) at a minimum, expenditures by students attending schools abroad for tuition and textbooks and for onward travel (i.e., after a 12-hour stop outside the Western Hemisphere) to places of study should be excluded from the coverage of the expenditures tax ; and
- (5) as an alternative to (3) and (4), the proposed \$7 per day exemption for expenditures should be raised to \$15 per day.

I. SUMMER ACADEMIC STUDY PROGRAMS PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE TO OUR NATION

Each summer, many educational institutions in Europe provide excellent courses of academic study for students from both the United States and other countries. A comprehensive listing of the courses prepared by the Counselling Department of the Institute of International Education describes 194 such courses at universities and schools in 22 foreign countries. These schools generally offer four-week language and civilization courses. Typically, intensive language study is conducted in small groups during the mornings, and civilization lectures and field trips are organized in the afternoons.

In 1967, AIFS summer courses were held in Britain (English Literature and History) ; Germany and Austria (German Language and Civilization) ; Spain (Spanish Language and Civilization), Italy (Art History and Italian Language) ; Greece (Greek and Roman Civilization) ; and Russia (Russian Language and Civilization). Summer programs offered by the FLL in 1967 at 20 European campuses included courses in French, German, Spanish and Italian language and civilization ; Biblical history ; art history ; ancient civilizations ; and comparative governments and civilization.

Summer study programs such as those of the AIFS and FLL are offered at surprisingly low cost. A typical AIFS summer study program, involving 40 days in Europe, costs \$740 for students leaving from New York and \$890 for those departing from San Francisco. A typical six-week FLL summer program costs only \$700 from New York. Those fees include round-trip jet air transportation, room and board, tuition, services of a chaperone, weekend trips and sightseeing.

The important benefits to be obtained from summer study programs abroad are evident :

- (a) A serious student enrolled in a summer language course in Europe will in a short period substantially increase his fluency in the language—as much as a 50 per cent increase in fluency according to tests conducted by AIFS at French and Spanish universities.
- (b) Young Americans enrolled in European summer study courses learn a great deal about the culture of the country in which they are studying and about the attitudes of other foreign students attending the courses. Increased international understanding is a direct benefit.
- (c) American teachers are able, at comparatively low cost, to upgrade their professional qualifications via study at European universities and schools.

Congress has long recognized the national interest in educational study abroad, including study of foreign languages. For example, the International Education Act passed in 1966 states "Congress declares that a knowledge of other languages is of utmost importance . . . that this and future generations of Americans should be afforded full opportunity to develop their intellectual capacities in all areas of knowledge pertaining to other countries." Other legislation intended to encourage study of foreign languages and countries includes the Fulbright Act and the National Defense Education Act.