

Center for International Studies

Office of the Director

To: W. Donald Cooke
Vice President for Research

From: Milton J. Esman 
Director

Re: Center for International Studies
Annual Report 1978-79: Highlights and Problems

Date: August 20, 1979

- A) Initiatives taken to reestablish relations between Cornell and Peoples' Republic of China.
- B) Human Ecology's new International Education Program and Southeast Asia Program address undergraduate studies.
- C) Cornellians James Perkins and Sol Linowitz Chair Presidential Commissions promising new resources for international studies.
- D) CIS attracts two (out of ten) Compton Foundation minority Fellowships but forced to cut annual Small Grants Competition due to substantial funding reductions slated for international studies.

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To: W. Donald Cooke
Vice President for Research

From: Milton J. EsmanjvH¹
Director

Re: Center for International Studies Annual Report
1978-79

Date: August 20, 1979

In response to Provost Kennedy's request for the 1978-79 annual report for the Center for International Studies, I am pleased to submit the following:

The research and teaching activities of the Center for International Studies and its associated programs during the year sustained their productivity even though fiscal retrenchment by the University had a disproportionate impact on international studies. The development of new resources for international studies were the focus of concerted efforts during the course of this year. The future direction of international studies, its well-being, and its capacity to engage the challenges of the new decade will be discussed in the course of this report .

The Center, as a university-wide structure, continued to provide an interdisciplinary facility in which faculty members and graduate students from the endowed and statutory colleges and schools are able to interact in exploring issues of international and comparative concern and in facilitating graduate and undergraduate teaching. Through the activities of the Center's associated programs a significant amount of productive research and teaching occurred. All international programs sponsored or co-sponsored, with other academic units of the university, seminar series which featured numerous visits to the campus by leading specialists in international studies and international affairs. A number of conferences international in theme and participation were organized and a substantial number of research publications and teaching texts were sponsored and produced under the auspices of international studies programs. Opportunities to further enrich the undergraduate experience at Cornell were encouraged by the Center through continuing support to a number of international studies programs with undergraduate

constituencies. For example, the Center assisted the College of Human Ecology in establishing a new program in International Education which will consciously aim at enhancing undergraduate studies in the College.

Cornell's international capabilities in the humanities, social sciences, agricultural sciences and professional fields which have been institutionalized over the past three decades continue to be highly regarded both by scholars and practitioners. One measure of this is the number and variety of external grants provided by foundations and government agencies to Cornell's international studies programs. Another is the number and quality of visitors to the campus. Scholars and public figures of international repute, and representatives of governmental agencies and private organizations with international orientation acknowledged Cornell's excellence in international and comparative studies by frequent visits during the year. One further measure of Cornell's institutionalized capacity in international studies is contained in the draft report of a joint Ford Foundation-National Endowment for the Humanities' state-of-the-art study which cites Cornell as among the handful of "ancient" institutions with distinguished, long-standing, and unswerving commitment to support of international studies.

Over the last ten years funding for general support of international studies from governmental and private foundation sources has virtually ceased, but at Cornell grant funds for specific projects have remained attainable because internal university support has kept international programs viable and thus in a position to respond to external opportunities. The ad hoc mode of this type of external support coupled with the increasing fiscal constraint on university operating budgets are hampering international studies. In 1978-79 a variety of initiatives by forces influential in American higher education drew upon Cornell's experience and expertise in international studies as efforts are underway to reinforce the national resource base for teaching and research on international and comparative topics.

As we enter the next decade, responsibilities, opportunities and challenges are signaled by the efforts of four entities which promise fresh resources for international studies. The Presidential Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies chaired by former Cornell President James Perkins; the Presidential Commission on World Hunger chaired by Cornell Trustee, Ambassador Sol Linowitz; the creation of a new International Institute for Scientific and Technological Cooperation; and the establishment of a separate Department of Education. CIS on behalf of its affiliated programs sought to influence the recommendations and policies of these bodies by submitting testimony and facilitating fact-finding visits to the campus by officials of these Commissions and organizations. While the fruit of these efforts may not be realized for a few years, the Center and its programs intensified their energies to attract support from external sources.

With awards totaling nearly 3/4 of a million dollars, the U.S. Office of Education continued its support of (1) the Southeast Asia Program's Language and Area Center, (2) the International Agriculture Program's Center for the

Analysis of World Food Issues and (3) as a result of proposals submitted by Cornell's five area studies programs, nearly fifty NDEA foreign language and area study (FLAS) Fellowships representing \$400,000 were awarded to the Graduate School for student support in 1978-79. A similar number of FLAS fellowships has been granted for 1979-80, and Office of Education support has been committed through 1980-81 to the Southeast Asia and International Agricultural Programs.

A number of the Center's more recently established programs, the Rural Development Committee, the Peace Studies Program, the Science, Technology, and Development Program attracted substantial financial support during the year. The Rural Development Committee completed its second year of a four year \$1.5 million award by the Agency for International Development for research concerned with rural development participation. This project supported substantial faculty and graduate student research both on campus and overseas. Scholars working at field sites in Nepal, Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt, Botswana, and Jamaica are examining methods of encouraging democratic participation in rural development activities. During the next two years it is expected that in-depth work will be continued in Tunisia, Yemen, Botswana, and Jamaica, while Sri Lanka, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica represent field opportunities currently under negotiation. The Peace Studies Program successfully concluded negotiations with the Ford Foundation to create an endowment providing permanent support for that program's activities. With the assistance of Cornell's Development Office the Ford Foundation contribution of \$500,000 is expected to be matched by Cornell by the end of the 1979 calendar year. These arrangements will insure that the distinguished position that Cornell has achieved in teaching and research on arms control and international security issues will be maintained. The Science, Technology, and Development Program jointly sponsored by CIS and STS was successful in obtaining two awards totaling \$250,000 from the National Science Foundation and the Department of State. These resources supported research during the past year on technology transfer to the developing world and the scientific infrastructure for development. The NSF award is a planning grant which will enable Cornell to compete for multi-year resources to be made available by NSF next spring.

The Southeast Asia Program completed its efforts to create a \$1.5 million endowment in support of Southeast Asian Studies. These resources were provided in part by the Ford Foundation's Challenge Grant of some years ago and matching components were provided with the assistance of the Development Office by the Mellon Foundation.

International Population Program faculty received \$200,000 for multi-year funding for research in Central America by NICHHH. Additional support was provided to IPP by the Agency for International Development for the continuation of research in Costa Rica as well as new research efforts to be conducted in Kenya, Panama, and Bangladesh. A \$100,000 award to that Program by the Joint North American-Hispanic Committee for Education and Cultural Affairs afforded cooperative research opportunities in Spain.

International Nutrition Program faculty obtained a \$160,000 AID award for research to be continued in Indonesia and funding in excess of \$100,000 from NSF will continue the support of research on nutritional problems in Bolivia. The Program in International Agriculture was successful in obtaining from AID a Title XII Strengthening Grant of \$100,000 per year to support overseas dissertation work in developing countries. The Jurzykowski Foundation renewed their support for the visits of Polish agricultural scientists to Cornell on a multi-year basis. Contractual support from the Agency for International Development for work in Yemen and The Gambia were negotiated by the Program in International Agriculture during the year.

The Western Societies Program received a \$25,000 initial award from the Ford Foundation to support a book writing effort on "The Industrial State at Bay." The six volume series will deal with selected European nations as well as the U.S. and address problems common to these advanced industrialized countries. Through the good offices of Professor Emeritus Mario Einaudi, the Michele Sicca Trust generously contributed to the Western Societies Program \$5,000 for the support of graduate student research on Europe. This helps to compensate in part for the termination of the CIS Small Grants program for graduate student research.

Faculty associated with the China-Japan Program were successful in obtaining a \$68,000 grant from the Toyota Foundation for Japanese language studies. The Luce Foundation's Asian-American Fund provided \$65,000 for research on Northeast Asia.

In support of the activities of its associated programs and drawing upon established strength at Cornell the Center was actively involved during the year in the re-establishment of a relationship between Cornell and the People's Republic of China. Following a series of negotiations with Chinese officials in Washington during the fall, a proposal was sent to China by President Rhodes inviting scholars to the Cornell campus and seeking reciprocal research opportunities for Cornell scholars in China. Former Secretary of State William Rogers in a November visit to Peking expressed Cornell's desire to re-establish educational contacts. During the course of the year a number of Chinese scholars arrived on campus and began studies in engineering and agricultural sciences. Additionally, a series of official Chinese delegations visited the campus for consultations with Cornell scholars and administrators. Through the cooperative efforts of the Department of Agricultural Economics, the Program in International Agriculture and the CIS Rural Development Committee, a workshop-conference on Chinese agriculture and rural development was held in the late spring. The proceedings of the workshop are expected to be published in September and a new Fall course is scheduled to be presented by the Department of Agricultural Economics. Other initiatives taken in an attempt to re-establish Cornell's capabilities in research and teaching on China include the submission of a proposal to the Luce Foundation's Asia-American Fund to support collaborative research by Agricultural Economics' faculty and efforts by the Center for International Studies to identify and integrate faculty interests on China with existing campus resources and new opportunities for research and teaching.

All the programs associated with the Center for International Studies are engaged in the support of teaching activities. The program in International Agriculture through its Center for the Analysis of World Food Issues and in cooperation with the Rural Development Committee again offered a graduate level course on the administration of agricultural and rural development. Enrolling more than fifty students in the Spring semester, this course was cross-listed in the College of Agriculture, Business and Public Administration, and Arts and Sciences. Undergraduate course offerings in many departments were enriched by conference participants and guest speakers invited to the campus and by the various film series supported by the Soviet Studies Committee, South Asia Program, China-Japan Program, Southeast Asia Program, the Latin American Studies Program and the Western Societies Program. In an analysis of the Cornell graduating class of 1978, the Southeast Asia Program determined that 28% of Arts College seniors had been enrolled in at least one Southeast Asia Studies course during their four years at Cornell.

The Masters of Professional Studies in International Development MPS-ID, is a graduate level program now in its 6th year sponsored by the CIS and intellectually supported by the Center's associated programs. The degree program provides specialized education through course work and research projects in International Development for practicing professionals from developing nations as well as for staff officers of international development and assistance agencies. The MPS-ID Program is coordinated closely with the MPS in International Agriculture and Rural Development supported by the College of Agriculture. Thirty MPS degrees in International Development have been awarded and seven new and continuing students will be in residence during the Fall.

The Center and its associated international studies programs continued to contribute to the intellectual environment of the campus by Visiting Fellows in residence at the Center. These Fellows numbering more than a dozen, in addition to pursuing research, interacted with Cornell faculty and students and contributed to courses, seminars, and student guidance.

The Center's inability to continue sponsorship of the annual CIS Small Grants Competition for graduate students was caused by budgetary reductions. \$10,000 previously allocated was awarded last year to support the thesis research of graduate students on topics of international and comparative concern. In coordination with the graduate school, research grants were provided to scholars representing 14 graduate fields in four colleges of the University. Continuation of that support in the future seems highly improbable unless external funds can be located. The Center on behalf of Cornell University was invited by the Compton Foundation to nominate students for Dorothy Danforth Compton Fellowships in International Affairs for minority students. Only a limited number of institutions were asked to participate and only ten fellowships were available. Cornell nominated three students, two of whom, from the fields of History and City and Regional Planning, were successful.

While the above-described activities of Cornell's international programs depict an array of worthwhile efforts and innovative opportunities, the financial foundation which permits Cornell its position of excellence in international studies was being weakened. During the year, pursuant to its effort to eliminate its chronic budget deficit the University administration decided to reduce by 40% the University's general budget support to international studies. While other academic units suffered reductions of 5%, international studies were singled out for draconian reductions of 40% with the further threat that direct support will be terminated entirely after three years. Meanwhile a special Sub-committee of the CIS Executive Committee was meeting to explore options on the future financing of Cornell's International Studies Programs. The two options which the Sub-committee probed in depth were, on the one hand a reduction in activity due to a reduction in financial support, and on the other hand an increase in resources available to international studies by more aggressive external fund-raising and by a modified mode of its endowment investments which would yield greater annual returns. Both options proved to hold part of the answer to the Center's immediate funding needs. Substantial resources formerly available to international studies programs to support program directorships had to be eliminated. Likewise, the Center was encouraged to draw upon its endowment earnings in anticipation of their actual accrual. The CIS will continue to search for ways to use its resources more effectively, to raise additional funds from foundations, alumni and government agencies, and to persuade the University administration to avoid further cuts in its support of international studies.

Milton J. Esman, the John S. Knight Professor of International Studies was reappointed to a third term by the Board of Trustees as Director of Cornell's Center for International Studies. In action to be taken by W. Donald Cooke, Vice President for Research and Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee, a group of faculty representing various sectors of the campus will be asked to serve as a Program Advisory Committee to provide the CIS with suggestions on how^r to safeguard, sustain and enhance international studies programs at Cornell. Not unlike other major research universities, Cornell as it enters the 1980s, faces serious financial problems which will continue to impact upon established academic activities like CIS and its associated programs. At precisely the moment when the need is greatest to sustain the capacity to train specialists in international studies who will deal with increasingly complex global issues that influence and at times dominate our domestic economy, and while various national bodies are working to develop a more secure resource base, funding for international studies at Cornell must be sustained. If reductions must be made by the University, then international studies should not suffer more than other academic activities or units.

If Cornell's Center for International Studies can be allowed to maintain its basic capability, it can then continue to live up to the reputation which it has earned over the past two decades for facilitating innovative teaching and high quality research on international and comparative subjects. Because

of substantial investments by the University administration and its faculty, Cornell has achieved an acknowledged position of leadership among the world's academic centers in international studies. While it will not be possible to continue to fund annual activities such as the Small Grants Competition for graduate students, the capacity must be preserved to permit international, interdisciplinary, innovative teaching and research to prosper and to expand on this campus.

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