

Answers to Questions of Senator Paul E. Tsongas

Mr. Pauken, recently, we have seen several statements emanating from the Reagan Administration concerning plans to develop an effective foreign policy that will best maximize the full range of our national security assets, both here and abroad.

1. As part of this effort, have you been involved in or are you aware of any considerations that would involve ACTION or the Peace Corps in a greater range of international activities, including intelligence work?

No.

2. Can you, therefore, give this Committee categorical assurances that ACTION and/or the Peace Corps will continue to remain completely separate from any and all intelligence activities that the Administration may seek to undertake in the future?

Yes, I can and will give this Committee categorical assurances that ACTION and/or the Peace Corps will continue to remain completely separate from any and all intelligence activities that the Administration may seek to undertake in the future.

Answers to Questions of Senator Dodd

1. What perception do you believe third world nations will have of your background in military intelligence? How can you avoid calling into question the distinction so strenuously made in the past between Peace Corps and intelligence activities?
 - a. I believe that the perception will and should reflect the reality of the situation -- that a long time ago I served in the United States Army, including a year of duty in Vietnam as an Army Intelligence officer and that I have no connection with military intelligence or intelligence-related activities since completing my active duty in Vietnam some twelve years ago.
 - b. I believe it is important to note that my background is military, not that of a professional intelligence careerist. I volunteered to serve my country in a military capacity during the Vietnam war.

2. Is the Peace Corps reputation of complete separation from intelligence activities a valuable reputation to the work of its volunteers? How would you recommend that a volunteer explain to host country nationals your background in military intelligence?
 - a. I support and am in full compliance with the complete separation of the Peace Corps from intelligence-related activities and believe this separation is valuable.

b. If anyone were ever asked, I believe that my answer to your first question would provide more than an adequate response.

3. Your August 1971 article in the U.S. News and World Report regarding the White House Fellows trip to the Soviet Union uses information made available to the Fellows as part of their education program. I understand that the White House Fellows have a rule and a tradition of keeping their sessions off the record, and that you broke that rule in publishing your article. Leaving aside the denunciation and subsequent correspondence between you and the program's director, why did you violate the established ground rules? Is that kind of judgement compatible with the high responsibility of directing ACTION?

Attached for the record is a letter from David Miller dated October 1, 1980. Miller is the author of the original letter you refer to in your question. He long ago verbally apologized to me for his letter. As far as I was concerned, there was no rule violated by publishing the article; and that was a point of contention between David Miller and myself at the time. It was only after the Soviets complained about the article that there developed any exchange of letters. At the time I stood by what was written in the article as well as the circumstances under which it was written and feel the same today.