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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS
EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS IN
EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND COMMUNIST CHINA

Note by the United Kingdom Delegation

The attached paper is circulated as a contribution to the Committee's exchanges of views and information on foreign students in the European Communist countries and Communist China.

2. It should be noted that as the report was prepared in July and August of this year, some of the statistics in the Annex are already out of date because a new university year has started since then.

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EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS IN
EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND COMMUNIST CHINA

S U M M A R Y

PART I

It is difficult to arrive at accurate figures for foreign nationals studying in Communist countries, but claims advanced by the host countries concerned do not exceed 33,000. This figure includes students from other Communist countries, together with short-term industrial and agricultural trainees. It is probable that the present figure for full-time students from developing countries is about 20,000, and it is with them that this paper is concerned.

Recruitment

2. The development of a comprehensive programme for educating students from the less developed countries dates only from 1955 and began to expand in 1960. Various methods of recruitment have been adopted from scholarships openly advertised in the Press to clandestine methods. Use has been made of Communist diplomatic missions to offer a limited number of scholarships to the Governments to which they are accredited, and also, particularly in Africa, to offer scholarships to left-wing politicians and political parties to be handed out among their followers. Offers of scholarships are also made through UNESCO. While the Middle and Far Eastern students have mainly been recruited through official channels, and with the agreement of their Governments, the bulk of the African and Latin American students (other than Cubans) have been recruited unofficially, for example via the Communist-dominated international front organizations whose national and international meetings are used to establish and cultivate contacts in the under-developed countries. For example between 1955 and February 1964, 906 scholarships were issued by the International Union of Students, 406 to Africa, 225 to Latin America and 210 to Asia. Students are also recruited in third countries, particularly in Cairo and in Dar-es-Salaam, where there is a large refugee camp. Finally many students, particularly from Africa, are recruited as a result of their own direct application for places.

Pattern of Training

3. The training in all countries follows the same pattern. The student usually spends a year or more learning the language of the host country and receiving Communist indoctrination. During this period those who need it also receive the basic education required to fit them for higher studies. Special schools for foreigners do not appear to exist in Albania or Rumania. In the USSR, however, the People's Friendship University in Moscow, named after Patrice Lumumba, caters predominantly for students from developing countries. In China,

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the foreign students receive language training at the Foreign Languages Institute of Peking University. In Czechoslovakia all foreign students have to matriculate at the "November 17" University in Prague. In the Soviet Zone of Germany they attend the Herder Institute of the Karl Marx University, Leipzig, and in Hungary they are placed in the University Preparatory Institute for Foreign Scholars in Budapest. In Poland a special language training centre has been established at Lodz.

Universities and Technical Colleges

4. After receiving basic language training, the students attend appropriate courses in various universities and technical colleges. The November 17 University, Prague, which was specially created for foreign students, makes use of the facilities of other institutions. The Peoples Friendship (Lumumba) University, Moscow, has Russian students also, though their main purpose is to keep an eye on the foreigners. Thus the authorities can claim that foreign and native students study together.

Other Institutions

5. In addition to offering courses at Universities and Technical Colleges for full-time students, places are made available to foreigners for courses at Trade Union, Co-operative and Youth Leadership Schools in the USSR, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Zone. Foreigners also attend Communist Party and Military training schools, but this paper will not attempt to cover these, since the information available is incomplete and therefore misleading.

The Aims of this education and Results to date

6. The provision of educational facilities for foreigners was a deliberate part of post-Stalin Soviet policy as a means of gaining influence in the newly developing countries. It has not, however, been as successful as originally hoped, for the following reasons:-

- (a) Communist countries obtain, on the whole, a lower standard of student. Few of the Africans studying there would be acceptable at Western Universities and they are not necessarily the future leaders of their countries.
- (b) Many of the students become disillusioned with the Soviet way of life and return home anti-Communist.
- (c) The overseas students bring with them a breath of fresh air from the outside world which has an effect on the local population.

7. Nevertheless, the Communists do make a number of converts among these students. Others, though not converted to Communism, return home grateful for the free education provided, and having imbibed with it the elements of Marxist-Leninist teaching. This is particularly true of East Germany which has a long established University tradition, whereas in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, students become disillusioned with the standards of education offered and with being forced to learn a useless language. A student who stays his course may well spend up to six years in Eastern Europe, a longer period than he would have spent in the West. In Russia at any rate, during the whole of this time he will have been under constant study by Committee for State Security (KGB) not only for security purposes but as a potential recruit for intelligence work outside the USSR.

Causes of Disillusionment

8. Students from the Middle and Far East and Latin America seem to have less difficulty than Africans in reconciling themselves to living under a Communist régime. This is partly because many of the Africans are not university material and some of them are no more than political nominees. The main grievances about which the students who have returned from Communist centres of education complain are restrictions on personal movement, expression and association, interference with mail and high-handed and bureaucratic behaviour. These are taken by Russians and East Europeans as normal parts of the Communist way of life, but they are resented by students who have had a different upbringing. The students also object to having to learn difficult languages such as Bulgarian and Hungarian which will be of little use to them in after life. They object to being indoctrinated and exploited for propaganda purposes and they are shocked to find that racial discrimination is just as rife in the East as in the West. The cold of a winter spent in Moscow or Prague can reduce an African to a state of nervous paralysis, and another cause of friction with the local population is that foreign students often have more spending money. In China, the foreign students are kept completely isolated from the local population, and their activities are very closely regulated.

9. To sum up experience to date, a typical successful case from the Communist viewpoint would be an Asian who studied in the Soviet Zone; at the other end of the scale would be an African in Bulgaria or China.

PART II : DETAILS OF TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS IN SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES AND COMMUNIST CHINA

ALBANIA

The total number of foreign students in Albania is probably less than 100. In January 1963 the Albanian Press claimed that for some years Algerians, Iraqis and Yemenis had been studying in Albania. In February 1964, students from China, North Korea, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, the Congo and Argentina were enrolled at Tirana State University. The Albanian Government has provided 5 scholarships for Algerians there in 1964/65.

BULGARIA

Shortly before the exodus of some 70 African students in February 1963, the Bulgarian authorities claimed that 1,150 foreigners from 54 countries, including 400 Africans were studying in Bulgaria. By April 1964 the figures included 200 Algerians (at Technical University) 150 Cubans, 100 Kenyans, 88 Sudanese, 100 Iraqis and 200 Syrians.

Universities

In November 1963 the Institute for Foreign Students was opened at Sofia on the lines of the Lumumba University in Moscow. It is intended to cater for 1,300 foreign students, 850 of whom will come from the underdeveloped countries. Only after the successful completion of their first year of studies at the Institute will foreign students be allowed to register at other educational establishments.

CHINA

It is difficult to estimate the number of foreign students in China but it probably does not exceed 3,000 of which 2,000 are Overseas Chinese. In January 1964 the Chinese claim that students from some 40 countries were studying in 28 institutions of higher education in Peking.

Universities and Technical Colleges

The majority of foreign students go to Peking University after language training at the Foreign Languages Institute. Others attend Peking Medical College, Peking Agricultural University, Tsinghua University, and Tungchi University. Their presence has also been reported in Chengchow, Wuhan, Tientsin and Shanghai.

Other Institutes

Foreign students have been reported at the Institute for Fine Arts, Peking Iron and Steel Institute, the East China Textile Engineering Institute and the Institute for Foreign Trade.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

According to Czechoslovak claims 3,000 foreigners were studying there in March 1963. 800 of these were Africans, 860 from the Middle East (including 250 Iraqis and 40 Lebanese), 223 from the Far East (including 175 Indonesians) and 446 from Latin America (including 200 Cubans).

Universities and Technical Colleges

Most foreign students have to matriculate at the "November 17" University which was established in Prague in 1961 as the sole centre for training foreign students in Czechoslovakia. Nominally it has three Faculties, those of Language and Specialised Preparation, Natural and Technical Sciences, and Social Sciences. In fact it has as yet no buildings other than an administrative office and students are, therefore, normally attached to other educational establishments. The students pass through a year's preparatory study of Czech and Slovak. Those among them who lack the necessary secondary education to qualify for University entrance undergo a preparatory course lasting two or three years. On 18th November, 1963, 570 students from 86 countries enrolled.

Following this preparatory stage the students may study any subject selected by themselves or their Government at one or other of the Czech or Slovak Universities or Colleges such as Charles University in Prague, Brno, Olomouc or Bratislava, while remaining under the administrative control of the "November 17" University. Preparatory schools have been reported at Marianske Lazne, and Teplice and a "study centre" in Senec.

Trade Unions and Co-operative Movement Schools

Apart from university and college students, numbers of young people from the undeveloped countries go to Czechoslovakia for courses at special trade union and co-operative movement schools. Seminars have been held for Cuban and African trade unionists and the Central School of the Revolutionary Trade Movement since February 1962. Co-operative courses and seminars for Africans and Latin Americans have been organized since 1959.

Subjects studied

The Czech press claimed in March 1963 that 200 foreign students were studying nuclear physics, a similar number engineering, while many took up medicine or agriculture. On the other hand the Faculty of Social Sciences at the "November 17" University is considered highly important since it offers full-scale education to teachers of elementary and secondary schools and extensive training in social sciences. Other subjects include public works, factory training, banking and finance.

SOVIET OCCUPIED ZONE OF GERMANY

According to the Soviet Zone Press over 4,000 students, post-graduate students and specialist workers from 98 countries were studying in 70 East German towns in April 1964. This figure is said to include 600 Africans, 673 from the Middle East, 437 from Asia, and 262 from Latin America.

Universities and Technical Colleges

- (a) The Herder Institute (formerly known as the Institute for Foreign Students) is part of the Karl Marx University, Leipzig. Soviet Zone press reports usually claim 600 foreign students there at any one time. Foreign students normally undergo a course in German language and Communist ideology lasting one academic year at the end of which they take an examination in German. Those who on arrival have completed a college or university course are permitted to leave the Institute after 3 or 4 month's study of German but take an advanced level examination later. The Institute also caters for students whose standard of education is not sufficiently advanced to permit them to enter university or technical colleges.
- (b) Karl Marx University, Leipzig. No official figures for foreign students have been published and those reported may well include figures for the Herder Institute.
- (c) Technical University, Dresden. Federal German newspapers stated in March 1962 that 455 foreign students, including 34 Indians, were studying at Dresden. 22 Indonesians were reported there in July 1962.
- (d) Humboldt University, East Berlin. 100 foreign students were reported to be studying there in the academic year 1963.
- (e) Wilhelm Pieck University, Rostock. According to the East German Press in November 1962, 88 foreign students had matriculated at Rostock.
- (f) Ernest Moritze Arndt University, Greifswald. 18 Africans were reported to be studying German there in 1962.
- (g) Medical Schools. African girls have been reported as studying at the Quedlingberg Medical School and Cottbus Medical College.

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Other Institutions

Foreign students have been reported at the German Academy of Sports and Physical Training, Leipzig, the Academy of Architecture and Building, Weimar, the Academy of Mining, Freiberg, the College for Electrical Engineering at Ilmenau, the "Heinz Kapelle" Industrial College at Posneck and the College of Economics at Berlin/Karlshorst. There is also a Central School for foreigners at Radebeul and a Foreign Language Institute at Magdeburg.

Specialised Establishments

- (a) Fritz Heckert College of German Trade Unions, Bernau. Special courses for African and Asian trade unionists have been attended since 1959 by about 300 students. There is a branch also at Leipzig.
- (b) Wilhelm Pieck Youth College, Bernau am Bogernsee Training courses for youth officials from Africa and Latin America have been held since 1961. The 4th African study course lasting 8 months is due to end in December 1964.
- (c) A School of Solidarity for African journalists was opened at Buckow near Berlin on 25th November, 1963, where 22 journalists were to be given basic training.
- (d) Co-operative School, Blankenburg. An annual training course for Africans started in 1964, and a course for Indonesians was held in 1962. Ghanaians have also been trained near Berlin.
- (e) Academy for Architecture and Building, Weimar. 45 foreign students in November 1963.

HUNGARY

In early 1964 there were probably 400-600 overseas students in Hungary including 43 Ghanaians, 26 Indonesians and 200 Egyptians.

Universities

On first arrival foreign students are placed in the "University Preparatory Institute for Foreign Scholars" in Budapest where they spend a year learning Hungarian and other subjects before proceeding to Universities.

Other Institutes

Under a cultural agreement 200 Egyptians come to Hungary annually to train in agriculture and industry. In January 1964 14 Algerians arrived to study agriculture, petro-chemistry and electronics. Some Ghanaians who were studying pharmacy were withdrawn in 1963.

In February 1964 the International Organization of Journalists opened a school the "International Centre" in Budapest for training young journalists from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Subjects studied

As a rule foreign undergraduates study electronics, philosophy and economics at Budapest University, medicine at Budapest and Pecs, engineering at the Technical University for Heavy Engineering in Miskole and agriculture at Budapest and Szeged.

POLAND

In November 1962 the Polish Government decided to allocate 500 scholarships a year to give foreigners specialist training. 40% of these scholarships were to be reserved for Africans, and in February 1964 the Polish Press claimed that 300 Africans were studying in Poland. It is unlikely that the total of students from the developing countries exceeds 1,400.

Universities and Technical Colleges

A special language training centre was established at Lodz in 1959 where foreign students take a one year course in Polish. In October 1963, Warsaw Radio claimed that 300 students from Africa, Asia and Latin America had entered for a preliminary course there.

After leaving Lodz the students are spread among various educational establishments. The majority are probably in Warsaw but others have been reported at Lodz, Wroclaw, Krakow, Gdansk, Szczecin and Gliwice (where students held a hunger strike in January 1962).

In addition a special 8-month course in higher economics began at the main school of Planning and Statistics, Warsaw in October 1962. English was used for this course (thereby by-passing Lodz) and 25 students from India, Burma, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mexico were said to be attending it. A second 6-month course was held from October 1963 to February 1964, when 25 students received diplomas.

RUMANIA

The Rumanian Press claimed over 1,100 foreign students in February 1963. A reliable breakdown of these figures is not available, but 300 Cubans, 19 Indians, 23 Indonesians, 53 Iraqis and 30 N. Vietnamese were reported to be there in December 1962.

The main centres of study, besides Bucharest at Cluj, Mitisoara and Iasi. A new University centre for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Philology is to be opened in Pitesti in the 1962-63 academic year.

In addition to normal university studies, a number of Indian specialists were being trained in 1962 at the Bucharest Institute of Petroleum to man the Galati [Galatz] oil refinery. An annual summer course for foreigners in Rumanian language history and art is held in Sinaia. In 1962, 120 foreigners attended.

USSR

There are, according to recent Soviet claims, some 24,000 foreign students in the USSR. This number includes students from Eastern Europe and 4,000 Africans, 1,100 South East Asians, 2,500 Cubans and 2,500 from the Middle East.

Facilities in Moscow

- (a) Peoples' Friendship University. The only single establishment catering predominantly for students from developing countries is the Peoples' Friendship University named after Patrice Lumumba which was founded in 1960. It has a Preparatory Faculty where new entrants learn Russian and receive a general education, and seven other facilities. 2,600 students from 82 countries including 650 Africans were claimed by the Russians in August 1963. On graduating from the University students receive a "Diploma" which the Russians say is equal to a Master's Degree.
- (b) Moscow State University. In July 1964 Moscow University claimed over 2,000 students from over 90 countries. As at the Friendship University there is a Preparatory Department where foreign students learn Russian or are brought up to standard in general education subjects.

Other Institutes

A number of higher educational institutes also admit students from developing countries. In early 1963 there were over 200 students from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Arab East at the Preparatory Faculty of the Moscow Road Engineering Institute. Others include Agricultural, Aeronautical, Chemical, Scientific and Veterinary Institutes, the Gorky Literary Institute, the First Medical Institute, the Bauman Higher Technical School, the Power Engineering Institute, Atomic Energy and Nuclear Research Institutes and the Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages. On a somewhat lower level, students attend courses at the Moscow Trade Union Institute and the Moscow Co-operative Institute.

Facilities in the Republics

Foreign students are admitted to educational institutes in Leningrad, Tashkent, Kharkov, Kiev, Minsk, Erevan, Alma Ata, Kizhiuev, Dushanbe, Groznyy, Odessa, Baku, Volgograd (Stalingrad) and Tbilisi (Tiflis). In early 1963 250 foreign students were attending Leningrad University Preparatory Faculty and in June 1963 Moscow claimed that some 3,000 foreigners from 44 countries were studying at higher educational institutes in the Ukraine.

Students from Moslem countries frequently attend the educational institutes in the non-European Republics of the USSR. For instance, 100 Indonesian and Yemeni students were reported to be in Baku in 1961-62 and 25 Somalis there in 1963. In 1962, 100 Iraqis concluded a year's course at the Preparatory College for Foreign Citizens attached to Tashkent University before going on to other institutes in the USSR. Students from the Middle East are also attending higher educational establishment in Erevan (Armenia) while Nigerian, Ghanaian and Somali students attended the Preparatory Department of Tbilisi (Tiflis) Polytechnic in Georgia.

Cuban Students

Figures for Cuban students are conflicting, particularly as the majority are not students in the accepted sense but are sent to the USSR to learn various trades. Moscow Radio claimed in May 1963 that some 2,000 Cubans were training in Soviet higher educational establishments and technical colleges, while in July 1963 Moscow Radio claimed that 600 Cubans were studying at Universities and institutes and that 2,500 were receiving technical and professional training. In December 1963, 137 Cubans were at Moscow University, according to the Soviet First Deputy Minister of Higher Education.

Communist Party Schools

Foreign students attend the Central Komsomol School about 21 miles outside Moscow. A number of African countries were represented among the 400 foreign students who attended in 1963, and about 38 Ghanaians were reported to be attending a ten month Junior Leadership Course there in 1964. Courses for students from non-Communist countries aim to point the way to the achievement of political power, while those for students from Communist countries emphasise the consolidation of socialism. Students are also given instruction in unarmed combat, the use of firearms, explosive, incendiary devices and in various aspects of fieldcraft and guerrilla tactics.

YUGOSLAVIA

There are up to 1,000 foreign students in Yugoslavia, mainly in Belgrade and Zagreb Universities. The Yugoslav Press claimed in January 1964 that there were 650 students from 51 countries registered as holding scholarships from the Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the Central Trade Union Council, the Youth Federation, the Students Federation or the Union of the Association of War Veterans. According to data available to the Commission these students came from the Sudan, (66), Algeria (62), Iraq, (33), Ghana, (23), Ethiopia (32), and Indonesia (36). In May 1964 some 100 Malians were in Yugoslavia and 81 students for the UAR were due to go there in March 1964.

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Universities and Technical Colleges

Foreign students spend one year studying the Yugoslav language and basic subjects required at any faculty such as mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology.

Foreign students study medicine, economics, electrical engineering, architecture, technology mining, geology, ship building, building, agriculture, machine-engineering, natural mathematical sciences and pharmaceuticals.

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FIGURES FOR STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
IN SOVIET BLOC AND COMMUNIST CHINA
 Based on information up to July, 1964

A F R I C A

COUNTRY	SOVIET UNION	E. EUROPE	CHINA	TOTAL
Algeria	1,000	675	70	1,745
Angola	15	20		35
Basutoland	25	5	5	35
Bechuanaland	5	5		10
Burundi		10		10
Cameroons	10	80	80	170
Central African Republic	5	10		15
Chad	5	5		10
Congo	50	110	50	210
Dahomey	15			15
Ethiopia	60	30		90
Ghana	900	370	20	1,290
Guinea	250	340	10	600
Kenya	100	365	5	470
Liberia	5	5		10
Libya	5	5		10
Malagasy Republic	20	5		25
Mali	100	110	5	215
Mauritania	20	10		30
Mauritius	30	15	5	50
Morocco	15	90		105
Niger	50	15		65
Nigeria	200	150	15	365
Nyasaland (Malawi)	5	10		15
North Rhodesia	30	75	5	110
South Rhodesia	15	45		60
Senegal	5	45		50
Sierre Leone	50	10		60
Somali Republic	300	100	40	440
South Africa	165	5		170
Sudan	200	170		370
Tanganyika	200	20		220
Togo	15	15		30
Tunisia	20	15		35
Uganda	100	40	5	145
Zanzibar	90	30	30	150
TOTALS	4,080	3,010	345	7,435

NOTE:- (1) Figures are given to the nearest 5.
 (2) Where no figures are shown, the numbers are not known.

A S I A

Based on information up to July 1964

COUNTRY	SOVIET UNION	E. EUROPE	CHINA	TOTAL
Afghanistan	120	30	5	155
Burma	70	45	5	120
Cambodia	10	5	10	25
Ceylon	115	20	10	145
India	310	545	5	860
Indonesia	300	450	40	790
Laos	100	15	20	135
Nepal	80	5	75	160
TOTALS	1,105	1,115	170	2,390

L A T I N A M E R I C A

Based on information up to July 1964

COUNTRY	SOVIET UNION	E. EUROPE	CHINA	TOTAL
Argentina	10	5	5	20
Bolivia	55	75		130
Brazil	65	10	5	80
British Guiana	40	40		80
Chile	25	5	5	35
Colombia	20	15	5	40
Costa Rica	25			25
Cuba	2,500	3,000	70	5,570
Ecuador	20	5	5	30
Guatemala	5			5
Haiti	15	5		20
Honduras	15	10	5	30
Mexico	20	30	5	55
Nicaragua	5	5		10
Panama	10		5	15
Peru	20			20
Uruguay	5	5		10
Venezuela	15	5		20
TOTAL	2,870	3,215	110	6,195

NOTE: (1) Figures are given to nearest 5.

(2) Where no figures are shown the numbers are not known.

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M I D D L E E A S T

Based on information up to July 1964

COUNTRY	SOVIET UNION	E. EUROPE	CHINA	TOTAL
Bahrain	15	5		20
Cyprus	30	75	5	110
Iran		5		5
Iraq	1,335	650	25	2,010
Jordan	5			5
Lebanon	80			80
Saudi Arabia	5			5
Syria	30	40		70
Turkey	100	5		105
United Arab Republic	380	615		995
Yemen	500	220		720
TOTAL	2,480	1,615	30	4,125

- NOTE: (1) Figures are given to the nearest 5.
(2) Where no figures are given the numbers are not known.