Africa. Be assured that our Board of Directors will take your cogent explanation of the program fully into account when we discuss it at our Spring meeting. Our members will note with satisfaction your disavowal of any intent to enlist or employ scholars in “clandestine intelligence operations.” I wish to commend your affirmation of that very important principle.

However, the dangers that we perceive in your new program produce grave concern despite its open, public, and unclassified nature. The dangers arise from the very fact that university-based research in the African studies field will be funded by the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The basic issues which have been identified in our exchange of letters relate to the credibility and integrity of American-based scholarship in the African studies field. I do appreciate your disavowal of intention to “compromise” or “jeopardize” either the credibility or the integrity of American university-based scholarship in Africa. Yet it is likely that each of these values will be undermined by the acceptance of support from your agency by university-based scholars.

Let me put the matter plainly. The Defense Intelligence Agency is primarily concerned with military applications of information and analysis. Its ultimate objective is the effective deployment of military force to accomplish American national purposes. For this reason, I view your agency’s proposal to fund university-based research as an unwise action which would compromise the credibility and integrity of Africanist scholarship. These qualities have largely been the product of a process which ensures the independence of academic research and publication from national political aims.

American-based scholarship on all regions of the world is a great national resource. The national intelligence community is perfectly free to make use of scholarly resources by normal means. But my colleagues and I are deeply concerned that a direct patron-client relationship between an intelligence agency and segments of the academic community might erode the value of scholarly research as a national and international resource by compromising its independence.

I will report our correspondence to the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association for its consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Sklar
President

In the Case of Professor Wamba-dia-Wamba Kazu:

Ed. note: The following was sent in response to the Professor’s arrest in Zaire. See Special Announcements in this issue.

1 February, 1982

His Excellency Mobutu Sese Seko
President of the Republic of Zaire
Kinshasa, Zaire

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express deep concern on the part of many members of the academic community about recent reports of the detention and maltreatment of Professor Wamba-dia-Wamba Kazu, a historian at the University of Dar es Salaam.

It has been widely reported that Professor Wamba is being held in prison, without trial, in Zaire. His colleagues in many countries are anxious to ensure the protection of his
human and civil rights. In that spirit, I respectfully request your personal attention to his welfare.

With great respect, I am

Sincerely yours,
Richard L. Sklar
President

In the Case of “Bantustans”, (continued):

18 December, 1981

Dear Mr. Sklar:

We agree that only South Africa recognizes the “Homelands” as independent nations. Insofar as we can tell, no Defense Mapping Agency product depicts these “Homelands” as independent nations. However, the National Geographic Map titled “The Political World”, dated 1980, shows the “Homelands” separately, but the map carries a note stating that only South Africa recognizes them as independent countries. It is possible that if one did not see the note, one might think the “homelands” were separate countries. Suggest you contact the National Geographic Society and discuss this with them.

At the present time, the Defense Mapping Agency requires and shows an international boundary between Morocco and Western Sahara on our maps. Prior to 1980, however, Western Sahara was considered a dependent political entity and was not shown as an independent country. If you are looking at maps older than 1980, you may very well see the Western Sahara portrayed as an integral part of Morocco. It should be noted that the National Geographic map titled “The Political World”, 1980 shows both Morocco and Western Sahara in yellow tint with no international boundary between, thereby implying both countries are governed by Morocco. Again may we suggest you contact the National Geographic Society and discuss this with them.

Sincerely,

PENMAN R. GILLIAM
Deputy Director
Programs, Production and Operations
DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY
HYDROGRAPHIC/TOPOGRAPHIC CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Re: ICA AND FULBRIGHT GRANTS FOR AFRICA

Dear Mr. Cosentino,

Thank you for your letter expressing your support for the International Communication Agency’s (ICA) cultural and academic programs, including the Fulbright scholarship program.

I share your concern that the Reagan Administration’s budget request for ICA’s academic programs would cut these exchanges by more than 50%. I have long supported these exchange programs as important vehicles to promote better understanding and to improve U.S. relations with foreign countries.

The Senate has proposed that the ICA exchange programs be allocated $101.6 million. But final action on the State, Justice and Commerce Departments appropriations bill for FY ’82 was not completed due to delay caused by debate on a school prayer amendment. Thus the programs will proceed under the continuing budget resolution at the FY ’81 level of $100 million. It is expected that the appropriations bill will come up