

LETTERS

Dear Dr. Bay:

This letter is in response to that of Professor Sklar that appeared in your Oct/Dec issue of 1990.

I feel that for whatever reasons, participation of intelligence agencies in academia is not only unethical but also suspect. Yes, we do know that given the technology available to intelligence agencies, the academic field cannot keep any "secrets" from them. However, in a free and democratic environment, it is not the intention of any academic community to withhold any of its material from the public. The intention of all academic communities, given the chance, is to publish their findings and views in their respective fields. The intelligence agencies also know this.

While interaction between scholars and intelligence officials does not turn the former into the latter, the intention of intelligence agencies is to influence the decision-making process of any organization, like an academic association. Money for some academic research provided by intelligence agencies, however well intentioned, is to try to influence the agenda of the individual and/or his/her academic organization.

Sklar also points out that information gathered by these agencies could also be available to academicians and yet in several instances, such information has turned out to be misleading and distorted. The primary function of this information in several instances has been for propaganda purposes.

Therefore, members of the ASA should be aware of "sugar coated bullets" coming from such agencies and therefore should refrain as much as possible from collaborating with them in any capacity.

Stephen B. Isabirye
Northern Arizona University

Dear Edna:

The New York African Studies Association (NYASA) has responded to the letter from Professor Elena Vela of the Universidad Nacional de Lujan in Argentina, published in the *ASA News* (XXII, 3, Jul/Sep 1989), requesting books that would help them to build up their library on African materials.

At that time NYASA had in its possession some 66 works on Africa that had been left over from a larger collection that Peter Garlick of SUNY

New Paltz had several years ago donated to that college's library. We offered these to Professor Vela and we shipped them as eleven pound packages which we sent by parcel post.

Recently we received a letter from her thanking NYASA for its efforts in arranging this shipment, and Professor Garlick for his generosity. Most satisfying of all, however, she indicated to us that her department was currently improving its program in African studies. They were adding new courses, and attracting new students. Already a number of students had done MA theses on Africa and the books that we had sent had been useful to them.

NYASA intends to continue sending materials (like back issues of periodicals that various libraries in our area have discarded) to the University of Lujan, as well as to other recipients in Africa. Those who might have material of this nature we would like to suggest that they also think of entering into such arrangements.

Roger Gocking
President, NYASA
Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY

In Memoriam: Victor A. Olorunsola

Victor A. Olorunsola, a member of the ASA Board from 1978-1981, died in Boulder, Colorado on September 29, 1990, after a long battle with cancer. He was 50. At the time of his death he was Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisville, a post he had held since 1987. Before going to Louisville, he had been for many years a member of the faculty and Chair of the Political Science Department at Iowa State University.

A native of Nigeria and specialist in Nigerian politics, he wrote four books, and contributed a large number of articles and papers on this subject. His most recent book, published

in 1983, was *State Versus Ethnic Claims: An African Policy Dilemma*. Although he devoted significant energy and left a substantial professional legacy through his research and writing, he also contributed to the furtherance of African studies in the United States through his university teaching, his administrative positions, and his work for professional organizations.

He is remembered at the University of Louisville particularly for his support of students and younger faculty. During his tenure as Dean he strengthened the College Honors Program; restructured and improved the student advising; and instituted grant programs for faculty who included

undergraduates in research projects. He introduced the "Dean's research initiative" program for younger faculty. Funds from this source supported research efforts by nearly half of the assistant professors in the College under the deanship of Olorunsola.

During his time as Dean he also provided personal support to the Pan African Studies faculty, and increased College support to the PAS Department, which had suffered from years of fiscal neglect.

Dean Olorunsola is survived by his wife, Carol, and three children.

Susan Broadhead
University of Louisville