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WASHINGTON

June 11, 1965

## NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 332

TO: Secretary of State  
Secretary of Defense  
Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare  
Director, U.S. Information Agency  
Administrator, Agency for International Development  
Director, Peace Corps

SUBJECT: U.S. Government Policy on English Language Teaching Abroad

1. In response to the Secretary of State's memorandum of April 1, 1965, the following unclassified statement of policy on English language teaching abroad has been approved:

"English has become one of the most important world languages. The rapidly growing interest in English cuts across political and ideological lines because of the convenience of a lingua franca increasingly used as a second language in important areas of the world. Demands for help in learning English are, therefore, widespread. The United States ought to respond to these demands. English is a key which opens doors to scientific and technical knowledge indispensable to the economic and political development of vast areas of the world. An increase in the knowledge of English can contribute directly to greater understanding among nations. It can also be the means of assuring access to a treasure house of man's knowledge about himself -- about his political experiments, his philosophies, and his inner human needs.

"The U.S. Government is prepared, as a major policy, to be of active and friendly assistance to countries that desire such help in the teaching and utilization of English. Each agency providing assistance to the teaching of English abroad under existing authorities will assign a high priority to activities in this area, within the framework of its own resources and programs. If new legislation or special

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funds are needed to effect this policy, agencies will make appropriate requests to the Congress. The Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs has responsibility for coordinating U. S. Government efforts in this field."

2. In carrying out the above policy, the Department of State, in consultation with appropriate agencies, is requested to ensure that specific courses of action are developed for the attainment of U. S. objectives in English language teaching abroad. The Department, in consultation with appropriate agencies, is also requested to ensure:

- (a) That activities and research among U. S. Government agencies are coordinated in such a way that Government resources will be used with the greatest efficiency and economy.
- (b) That the actions of the U. S. Government take into account (1) the activities of private organizations and individuals active in English language training abroad and (2) the activities of other countries that pursue policies of assisting the teaching and use of the English language in other countries.
- (c) That specific actions are tailored to conditions in specific countries or regions. In this regard, consideration should be given to the desirability of developing indigenous English teaching capabilities.

3. In seeking any new legislation or additional funds, agencies, in consultation with the Department of State, should make appropriate proposals to the President through normal legislative clearances and budgetary channels.

4. The Department of State, in coordination with appropriate agencies, is requested to report, by September 1, (a) on the present scope of U. S. Government English language teaching programs abroad and (b) on future specific courses of action, taking into account the guidelines set forth in Paragraph 2 above.

*McGeorge Bundy*  
McGeorge Bundy

cc: Director, Bureau of the Budget

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bcc: Mr. Bundy  
Mr. Chase  
Mr. Johnson

NSC Files

Mr. Ed Strait (BOB)

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