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Subcommittee Report on Discriminatory Practices in International Education

Commission for Blacks

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Subcommittee Report on Discriminatory Practices in International Education

International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)

The principle focus of ISEP is to provide increased access for the non-affluent to study abroad. ISEP is approximately four years old and consists of a consortial arrangement with several U.S. and foreign institutions. UTK also has a bilateral ISEP which is an agreement existing between UTK and several foreign institutions. The agreement provides for direct exchange of students between UTK and participating foreign institutions. The bilateral ISEP agreement is a separate entity and not a part of the ISEP consortial arrangement.

Allegations were made to the commission regarding possible discriminatory practices of the office of International Education. The allegations were voiced before the commission March 30, 1983 by Mr. Jay Bailey as a result of discussions with Mr. Krishnamorrthy Muthaly.

The allegations of discriminatory practices by the Office of International Education were aimed principally at the administration of ISEP. Mrs. Nancy McCormack, Associate Director, Office of International Education is the person that coordinates ISEP. The issue of discriminatory practices regarding ISEP were initially revealed in "Text of Speech" by Krishnamorrthy Muthaly. (See attached letter of response to allegations by Mrs. Nancy McCormack)

The allegations involved perceptions by other foreign students (non-ISEP foreign students) that ISEP students were receiving preferential treatment from the Office of International Education. The allegations are as follows:

1. The Office of International Education appears to recruit ISEP students from European countries at the expense of potential ISEP students from Third World countries.
2. European ISEP students received special tickets to attend the 1982 Worlds Fair.
3. Special parties are held for ISEP students.
4. ISEP students receive two advisors.

As previously noted Mrs. Nancy McCormack responded to the allegations in a letter to Mr. Krishnamorrthy Muthaly. This response apparently cleared up the above mentioned allegations to Mr. Muthaly's satisfaction.

The subcommittee met with Mrs. Nancy McCormack and discussed ISEP in detail as well as the allegations which resulted in this inquiry. As a result of these discussions, Mr. Jay Bailey raised the issue of the lack of minority participation in ISEP and other International Education Office programs. Since Mrs. McCormack is primarily responsible for ISEP, the subcommittee arranged a meeting with Mr. Dixon Johnson, Director of International Education.

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The meeting with Dr. Johnson was held April 22, 1983 in the Black Studies Conference Room. The discussion focused on why minorities are not participating in programs sponsored by the International Education Office. Listed below are some barriers to minority participation in programs of the International Education office.

Barriers to Participation

1. Finances
2. Education considerations
 - (a) Delay in the pursuit of educational programs
 - (b) Courses that must be taken in sequence
3. Communication and knowledge of programs
 - (a) Lack of knowledge and perception of the Office of International Education and its programs
 - (b) Feelings of possible rejection

Recommendations

1. Publicizing International Education Office Programs among minority students
2. Identifying potential participants among minority students who may be interested in International Education Office programs