

## LETTERS

August 20, 1990

Dear Dr. Bay:

I write in response to the CIA resolution adopted by the Board of Directors on 28 April 1990 and published in the July/September 1990 issue of *ASA News*.

Paragraphs two and three of this four-paragraph resolution reproduce verbatim the Board's Defense Intelligence Agency resolution of 2-3 April 1982 except that two crucial words are omitted, one word is added and Defense Intelligence Agency is changed to Central Intelligence Agency.

As president of the ASA in 1982, I was the principal author of the DIA resolution. However, I do not support this year's CIA resolution, and my own actions will not be guided by it. I feel that I owe it to my colleagues, and to myself, to explain my position publicly and for the record.

The DIA research support program of the early 1980s provided funding for university-based research and publication. It created direct "patron-client" relationships between DIA and the Africanist community. The two words quoted here do not appear in the 1990 CIA resolution which proscribes participation of Africanist scholars in all activities sponsored by the CIA.

In 1976, a resolution adopted by the ASA Board condemned the participation of scholars in clandestine intelligence operations and called upon Africanist scholars to refrain from participation in clandestine intelligence activities. That resolution and the DIA resolution of 1982 were carefully worded to identify specific relationships

which were deemed by the Board to compromise the credibility and integrity of Africanist academic scholarship. Neither resolution proscribed all relationships with intelligence agencies. As a member of the Board in 1976 and president of the Association in 1982, I feel able to state with complete certainty that in neither case did the Board intend to oppose all such relationships.

I have long believed that an open intellectual intercourse between this country's academic and intelligence communities is desirable and not detrimental to the credibility or integrity of scholarship. Attempts to insulate the intelligence community from academic thinking serve no useful purpose. Nor would it make sense to deprive academics of information and analyses produced by members of the intelligence community. For several years I have participated in seminars on African politics, sponsored by the Defense Intelligence Agency and attended by both invited scholars and members of the intelligence community. Such meetings are mutually beneficial and do not turn the scholars who attend into clients of an intelligence agency.

I do appreciate that many members of our association, in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Board's 1990 resolution, would not participate in meetings sponsored by an intelligence agency of the United States. I respect their views and would be happy to discuss them and amplify my own when occasions arise.

Sincerely,  
Richard L. Sklar  
Professor of Political Science  
UCLA

## OBITUARIES

JOHN ALFRED NOON, a retired Foreign Service Officer, died 13 July 1990 at Arlington, VA. He was 80.

In 1949 Dr. Noon left the chairmanship of the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA, to join the US Department of State as coordinator of the National Intelligence Survey of the Office of Intelligence Research, after which he spent five years as director of the US Information Service for British East Africa. He served in a similar post in Nigeria, followed by appointments first as public guidance officer for Africa at the Voice of America in

Washington, and then as director of the VOA African Program Center in Liberia. He ended his career at the Department of State as associate dean of the Foreign Service Institute, leaving in 1970 to teach anthropology and African studies at Rhode Island College.

He earned a doctorate in anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania in 1942. He served briefly on the international staff of the International Labor Office in Montreal, Canada, and was an adjunct lecturer on African studies at Johns Hopkins University. During World War II he gave extensive

orientation in African studies at the University of Pennsylvania to officers destined for the North African campaign. During his lifetime, he also wrote extensively on Africa and participated in numerous conferences and seminars.

Dr. Noon was treasurer of the American Anthropological Association in 1945-46. He was a founding fellow of the African Studies Association.

Contributions may be made to the Arlington Hospital Foundation Heart Unit, Arlington, VA 22205.

Claire S. Noon  
Arlington, VA