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Read
United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

May 29, 1961

Mrs. Jane Tolmach
Oxnard, California

Dear Jane:

I think you will be interested in the enclosed copy of a letter and statement which I have received from the Department of Defense in response to my inquiry in your behalf concerning the films "Operation Abolition" and "Communism on the Map."

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Clair Engle
CLAIR ENGLE
U. S. Senator

Enclosures



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAY 23 1961

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dear Senator Engle:

This is in further reference to your recent inquiry to the Office of Armed Forces Information and Education on behalf of the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee concerning certain anti-communist film presentations and related matters.

We are inclosing for your information a statement of the Department of Defense position with respect to the two films in question, as given in official memoranda issued to the Service Secretaries on March 10 and April 21. The evaluation group mentioned in the statement is entirely composed of Department of Defense authorities directly concerned.

The controversy which has developed poses questions for which there are no easy answers. Defense authorities are well aware of the pros and cons, and are studying the over-all situation with a view toward full clarification of the responsibilities of members of the Armed Forces in such areas. It is expected that the results of this study will become available in the near future.

The concern which you and the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee have expressed is appreciated. You may be assured that all aspects of this matter are being most carefully considered in the light of Department requirements, and that decisions will be made objectively in the national interest.

Regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

JAMES G. DUNTON
Director, Special Activities

Inclosures

Honorable Clair Engle

United States Senate



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

15 May 1961

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POSITION REGARDING COMMERCIALLY
PRODUCED FILM PRESENTATIONS ON COMMUNISM

On 10 March 1961, the Deputy Secretary of Defense by memorandum for the Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, stated:

"(1) There is presently being established within the Office of the Secretary of Defense centralized procedures for evaluating materials designed for indoctrination of personnel of the Defense Department in the general area of international affairs and related fields. The evaluation will apply to all materials, written, pictorial or audio, used in training programs and troop information programs, and will be in conformance with the security and policy review regulations of the Defense Department."

"(2) The film "Operation Abolition" will be retained in the film libraries on an "on-call" basis for those requesting to view it, but will not be prescribed in the training of personnel. A memorandum of January 31, 1961 from the Office of Armed Forces Information and Education stated the "on-call" policy for information programs and described the production of an OAFIE film covering the tactics employed by communists seeking to manipulate youth. This film is being produced within the framework of material set forth in the House Committee on Un-American Activities print entitled "Communist Target - Youth," a report by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

"(3) Another film coming within the scope of paragraph (1), which recently has been brought to our attention is entitled, "Communism on the Map." Determination as to the use of this film will be deferred pending its evaluation pursuant to the procedures prescribed in paragraph (1)."

(over)



On 21 April 1961, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) by memorandum for the Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, stated:

"SUBJECT: Narrated Film-Strip "Communism on the Map"

"The commercial, narrated film-strip "Communism on the Map" has been determined, by official review under DoD evaluation procedures, as not required for Armed Forces training or troop information or public information programs and that it should not be purchased by the Department or used by Department of Defense personnel. "

"Attention is invited to the many materials in the area of anti-communism including pamphlets and motion pictures produced by the Office of Armed Forces Information and Education, which are available for troop information programs. "