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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

April 13, 1961

Mrs. Jane Tolmach

Oxnard, California

Dear Jane:

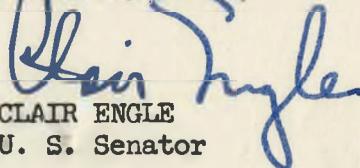
Thank you for writing me concerning the films "Operation Abolition" and "Communism on the Map."

You may be interested in the attached copy of a report which I received from the Department of Defense in answer to a previous inquiry I made on the film "Operation Abolition." In the meantime, I shall check on "Communism on the Map."

I look forward to hearing from you again when the entire Committee has had a chance to view the latter film. Thank you for writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

  
CLAIR ENGLE  
U. S. Senator

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
COMMITTEE ON SECURITY INFORMATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WITNESS STATEMENT

Dear Senator Engle:

In response to your request of February 14 for information for ~~you~~ in reply to Mr. Douglas Ireland concerning the film "Operation Abolition", I trust the following will clarify the position of the Department of Defense.

The copies of the film purchased by this Office and the Military Departments are not being distributed within the military as a part of any regular training program. Since, however, there is substantial interest in this official film of the House Un-American Activities Committee, copies are being retained in our film libraries on an "on-call" basis.

This Office first viewed the film on July 9, 1960, and at that time determined that footage from the film would be useful, but that the film in its entirety did not fit the long-range requirements for this Office. "Abolition" deals with a particular incident; our concept was to illustrate the use of parallel techniques by Communists in many areas, to drive home both the point of the techniques and the fact that these techniques are not new and not confined to any one particular episode.

We have been well aware that a major effort was under way by the Communists to penetrate and utilize youth organizations and activities to further Communist aims. You are, of course, well aware of these techniques as demonstrated in Venezuela, Japan, Uruguay and Cuba. Since one responsibility of this Office is to provide films to the U. S. military on the Communist threat, it was decided to use J. Edgar Hoover's report, "Communist Target--Youth: Communist Infiltration and Agitation Tactics", as a basis for an objective film on this subject. Film clips supporting this report would be used, including some of the footage shot of the San Francisco incident by the local TV newsmen. Specific action to produce this film was undertaken by this Office on September 22, 1960, when a writer was assigned to the project.

No doubt you have read Mr. Hoover's report in which he states that "The successful Communist exploitation and manipulation of youth and student groups throughout the world today are a major challenge which free world forces must meet and defeat... It has long been a basic tenet of Communist strategy to control for its own evil purposes the explosive force which youth represents... Particularly unfortunate is the fact that many youth and student groups in our Nation today are totally unaware of the extent to which they can be victimized and exploited by Communists."

In view of the known approach of the Communists toward youth, there is a need for material which will alert young Americans in the military service to the Communist techniques to which they may be exposed. At the same time we are constantly seeking to provide them with equally clear materials on the ideals and fundamental rights and freedoms which must characterize the truly free and democratic nation.

I trust this information will assist you in understanding our viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Incl.

JOHN C. BROGER  
Deputy Director

Honorable Clair Engle

United States Senate