

UNITED STATES  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
ON  
INFORMATION



EIGHTH SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

AUGUST 1953

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## FOREWORD

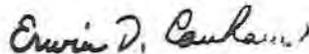
The United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (Public Law 402) was approved by the Eightieth Congress on January 27, 1948, an act to promote the better understanding of the United States among the peoples of the world and to strengthen cooperative international relations. Reorganization Plan No. 8 of 1953 provides for the transfer of information program functions from the Department of State to an independent agency. The U. S. Information Agency came into being on August 1, 1953.

Public Law 402 created the United States Advisory Commission on Information to formulate and recommend to the Secretary of State\* policies and programs for the carrying out of this act. It required the Commission to transmit to the Congress a semiannual report of all programs and activities carried on under the authority of the act, including appraisals, where feasible, as to the effectiveness of the several programs, and such recommendations as shall have been made by the Commission to the Secretary\* for effectuating the purposes and objectives of the act and action taken to carry out such recommendations.

This is the eighth semiannual report by the United States Advisory Commission on Information to the Congress. The seventh report was transmitted in February 1953.



Mark A. May, Chairman



Erwin D. Canham



Philip D. Reed



Ben Hibbs



Justin Miller

\* Functions transferred to the Director of the U. S. Information Agency under Reorganization Plan No. 8.

## EIGHTH SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

According to P. L. 402, this Commission is required to report semiannually to Congress. Our report for the first half of fiscal year 1953 was filed in February. This, our second report for 1953, is very brief because it comes at a time of transition of the International Information Administration from the Department of State to the new agency, the U. S. Information Agency, and at a time when the new director, Mr. Theodore C. Streibert, has been in office for only three weeks.

The separation of the International Information Administration from the Department of State and the merging of it with the information services of the Mutual Security Agency and other agencies into the U. S. Information Agency was achieved very smoothly and with less than anticipated difficulties thanks to the efforts of many individuals who worked for long hours. Officers in the Department of State and in the Mutual Security Agency were very cooperative. The Bureau of the Budget was helpful. Arrangements with the Department of State concerning the transfer of personnel, the assignment of U. S. Information Agency field staffs to embassies, line of policy guidance to the new agency, and budgetary adjustments were worked out in a satisfactory manner.

The Commission feels that Dr. Robert L. Johnson deserves a word of commendation for his service as captain of the ship during the most stormy weather in its history. The task of revamping any government agency to the policies of the new administration was difficult enough, but his task was made doubly trying by the fact that the agency was under fire and was on its way out of the Department of State.

Despite the storms of criticism that raged over the International Information Administration for five months, some of it in our view intemperate and unhelpful, we are pleased that the 83rd Congress and the President have adopted our recommendation for the creation of a new agency and have given its new Director and his associates an opportunity to demonstrate further the importance and necessity of a soundly conceived and operated overseas information program.

The Commission is pleased with the appointment of Mr. Theodore C. Streibert as the first director of the newly created U. S. Information Agency. He is an able administrator who brings to the post a background of professional training and experience in mass communications. He has requested our advice on a number of urgent problems. Among them are: recruitment of a team of associates for the top administrative posts; the elimination of incompetent or unnecessary personnel; cutting back operations to the limits of the new budget without damage to the most

