

## AFRICAN STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Draft of Report for Dr. Paul Miller of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

African studies in the United States have developed partly under the spur of government need and financial support but even more in response to the interest and concern of scholars supported by universities and foundations. Their very rapid expansion in the past decade is reflected in the founding and growth of the African Studies Association, the substantial increase in the number of formally organized African Studies programs at the graduate and, more recently, undergraduate levels, and the steadily growing number of American scholars engaged in field work in Africa.

The perimeters of African studies have tended to be more limited, however, than this growth suggests. Beginning with anthropology and geography, as far as disciplinary fields are concerned, scholarly concern for study and research on various aspects of African life and conditions spread to political science (particularly after the drive for African independence accelerated in the mid-1950's) and still more recently to history, linguistics, sociology, and economics. Although the humanities have commonly been less culture bound than other disciplines, the systematic study of African art, music, literature, philosophy, drama, and even religion has not yet progressed far. The particular stimulus provided to the learning of African languages came first from crash programs during World War II, such as the Army Specialist Training Program and the Civil Affairs Training Service, and subsequently from NDEA sponsored language and area programs, and NDFL fellowships. The unevenness of this progression has commonly meant that African specialists have had to win acceptance discipline by discipline and that genuinely interdisciplinary teaching and research is only evolving slowly.

### A. RESEARCH

It is noticeable that more research work, both in quantity and intensity, has been done in West Africa and particularly in its English-speaking areas - Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Gambia - than in East or Central Africa, the French- or Portuguese-