



Foreign Service Institute

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A-300 THE SENIOR SEMINAR IN FOREIGN POLICY

1961-62 Session

6 September 1961 to 8 June 1962

DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE

Objective and Scope

The Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy is the most advanced training program in the field of foreign affairs and foreign policy offered by the Department of State.

The Senior Seminar is limited to a selected group of 21 persons drawn from the principal branches of the Government concerned with the conduct of our foreign relations. The majority is usually made up of a dozen Foreign Service officers drawn from Classes 1, 2 and 3. The remainder normally includes one civil servant from the Department of State, one representative of the rank of full Colonel or the equivalent from each of the four armed services, and four senior officers from such civilian agencies of the Government as: The International Cooperation Administration, the United States Information Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, Treasury and Labor.

The Seminar prepares officers for the highest positions of responsibility in policy recommendation and execution, coordination, planning and administration at home and abroad, and in inter-agency and international organizations.

Owing to their academic and professional attainments and to the prospect that many of the participants will ultimately assume positions of highest importance in the policy-making organism of the U.S. Government, the Seminar seeks mainly to provide the intellectual framework for a free and vigorous inquiry into the complexities of foreign policy; it aims to broaden and deepen their thinking about the domestic and foreign affairs of the United States and to stimulate these officers in the direction of creative thought.

Plan of Study

Methods

The Seminar relies heavily on reading and research by the participants, stimulated by discussions with outstanding authorities in the various fields of inquiry. Seminar speakers include judges, members of Congress, past and present officials of the Federal and local

governments, university professors, military leaders and experts in the fields of business, industry, labor, religion, arts, sciences, cultural and public affairs.

Seminars, readings, documentary films, oral and written reports and book analyses are supplemented by individual and group attendance at meetings of professional associations and research organizations, by visits to the U. N. and to military and industrial installations, and by other purposeful domestic and foreign travel. Field trips in the U. S. give the participants first-hand acquaintance with the political, economic and social problems of various regions of the U. S.

Each officer engages in the preparation of a major policy study during the last six weeks of the course. A series of meetings on conference leadership and public speaking provides a forum for presentations by participants of topics on which they have specialized.

Course Content

The first segment of approximately eight weeks begins with contemporary views on the arts, philosophy and the physical and social sciences. This part continues with a study of the basic concepts and practices of international relations, and terminates with a consideration of the United Nations, and the national security of the United States.

In the second segment of the Seminar, which runs for about six weeks, studies of life in the United States are undertaken, including social, political and economic changes, and the work of groups whose influences affect U.S. foreign policy. The segment concludes with surveys of recent American political and cultural ideas and of American diplomacy.

The third segment devotes nearly three weeks to selected geographic and area studies, in which the participants will specialize, in small committees, on such areas as the U.S.S.R., Communist China, Latin America or Africa south of the Sahara.

The fourth segment, lasting about two weeks, will undertake an examination of the major outside forces (as distinguished from the domestic forces reviewed in the second segment) affecting U.S. policy. This will include discussions on Communist theory and strategy, on the interests and problems of U.S. allies, and on the nature of neutralism and the role of neutral and "neutralist" states.

The fifth segment, which extends over a period of nearly two months, is devoted to analyzing the processes of policy formulation and execution. The early part of this segment is given to the study of management and the consideration of some of the fundamental ideas and concepts bearing on executive responsibilities in the context of foreign affairs. This is followed by an examination of policy-making procedures, policy planning, inter-agency coordination in Washington and abroad, and the implementation of policy by various agencies of the Government.

The sixth segment of the Seminar, approximately two months in length, is given over to the study of actual and pending policy problems. The determination of the issues confronting the United States, and the preparation of alternative and optimum suggestions for solutions of these problems will entail individual research, travel, consultation with government officials, group discussion amongst the participants, and the preparation of written policy reports.

The final week of the Seminar will be devoted to a special program concerned with current problems and forward planning.