

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## FOREIGN TRAVEL BRIEFING - SENSITIVE COUNTRIES

### INTRODUCTION

All UC cleared employees, regardless of position or assignment, are likely to be of interest to intelligence services of sensitive countries. Foreign intelligence networks make it their business to learn the identities of Americans, and frequently attempt to target them for intelligence approaches when they travel abroad. The approach may be direct or indirect, highly sophisticated, or crudely obvious. In any case, UC cleared personnel traveling to sensitive countries should be constantly alert to the problems that can befall them. The purpose of this briefing is to make employees aware of the pitfalls associated with such travel, and to advise them on defensive measures against possible foreign intelligence exploitation.

### PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

1. The U.S. Department of State's Consular Affairs Office frequently publishes advisory material on current travel conditions throughout the world. This material will be made available to the traveler if there is anything of significant note pertaining to the sensitive country or countries you will be traveling to or through. It is especially important that you are aware of the items that may or may not be taken into any country you will be visiting.
2. Visa applications are routinely scrutinized by intelligence services of sensitive countries. To avoid possible difficulties in this area, it is important that you fill out the forms truthfully and accurately. It is especially important that you name any relatives you intend to visit in the host country.
3. When obtaining visas, travelers should ask the appropriate Consular Officer how much foreign currency (United States or other) and what valuables may be taken into and out of the sensitive country or countries to be visited. Make sure you have enough money for the trip, and strictly follow the approved itinerary.
4. If you are a naturalized American citizen of East European origin, note carefully: There have been cases where East European countries have not recognized the U.S. citizenship of "former" nationals. They have taken the position that such persons retain their original nationality and are subject to treatment as citizens of that country upon reentry into its jurisdiction. If you have a problem for this reason, consult with the U.S. Department of State for advice and clarification of your status.

5. You may wish to carry gifts for friends or relatives. Items to be carried, as gifts should not be controversial or prohibited. Do not take pornography, narcotics, or political material. Sensitive country pornography laws are stricter than those in the United States, and you should avoid taking magazines or materials that might be considered pornographic. Any patent medicines or prescription drugs should be clearly for your own use and in reasonable quantities to convince authorities the drugs are for your personal medical consumption.

6. Do not transport items on behalf of a third party, e.g., letters, messages, or packages for individuals in sensitive countries? If you do, you may be guilty of circumventing normal channels of communication, or regarded as a courier for illegal or subversive purposes.

7. Carry only essential forms of identification. Leave government badges, building passes, etc., at home. Write down your passport number and keep it separate from your passport. Do the same with the address and telephone number of the American Embassy.

## ACTIVITIES WHILE IN SENSITIVE COUNTRIES

1. Assume your hotel room is equipped with electronic surveillance devices to overhear or record your conversations. There may also be optical devices installed so you can be physically observed, even while your room is in darkness. In addition to the usual microphones, telephone taps, miniature recording devices, etc., intelligence operatives today use infrared cameras, infrared "snooper-scopes" and optical lenses, closed circuit TV, and other highly advanced equipment. Do not search for such devices, and do not make an issue of it if you should find one by accident. The presence of such equipment may not necessarily be significant; as it may not be purposely set-up for you exclusively. The device may or may not be monitored during your visit, or it may be monitored only on a "spot check" basis. Do not try to neutralize such devices by running tap water, playing your radio, etc. Some modern devices are so sophisticated that they cannot be neutralized. Overt efforts on your part to combat such penetration will only make you more suspicious to the intelligence services. The best defense against such devices is the abstinence from other than light, uninformative discussions.

IMPORTANT: Should you discover any devices as mentioned above or anything of a similar nature, take no overt action against it. Continue your normal conversation giving no indication you have discovered it, and then report your findings to the U.S. Embassy and/or Consulate while still in country. Upon your return you should immediately report this verbally to the University Security Officer who will inform appropriate DOE officials. You will later receive guidance for a scheduled debriefing.

2. Beyond your hotel room, you should assume that conversations in vehicles (including embassy vehicles), train compartments, restaurants, conference rooms and other public places, might be monitored. Miniature microphones with transmitters or recorders can easily be secreted on the person of an individual in your group. It is even technically possible to record your conversations in open, out-door areas; however, those areas are normally more secure than indoor locations.

3. Avoid unnecessary discussions concerning your job, your work place and other official matters. Also, avoid discussing other U.S. employees' habits, character, or other matters that reveal weaknesses or idiosyncrasies. Likewise, avoid discussion of any of your own or family problems, i.e., relationships, money problems, etc.

4. Assume that your personal luggage will be searched at some time in your hotel room. If you discover evidence of this, do not make an issue of it. Evidence of such activity, however, should be reported to the U.S. Embassy and/or Consulate while still in the country. Upon your return you should immediately report this the University Research Security Officer. It is just as well not to bother locking your luggage, as most locks will be readily picked. If the lock cannot be picked, this will only increase the curiosity of the intelligence agent and the lock may be broken. Never leave your luggage unattended containing valuable papers or documents you do not wish anyone else to read. If you surprise someone searching your possessions, don't take any violent or physical action, but report the incident to local and U.S. authorities.

## UPON ARRIVAL

1. Rules governing declarations of valuables and currency and those relating to transactions are strictly enforced. An accurate declaration should be made at entry of all money and valuables, including travelers' checks. Some countries give the traveler a copy of the declaration that must be surrendered upon leaving. It is important to keep receipts of all money changes, as these are frequently requested upon departure. Undeclared sums of U.S. or other currency is likely to cause difficulty with authorities and may be confiscated upon departure.
2. You will generally be permitted to take in such items as cameras, transistor radios, etc. It is wise to declare such items as you enter in order to preclude possible explanations, customs charges or confiscation when you leave. Baggage inspections may be extremely thorough or only perfunctory. On occasion, your baggage may not even be opened at entry.
3. As soon as possible after arrival, it is recommended that you contact the American Embassy or Consulate, either by telephone or in person, and provide your local address and the probably length of your visit.
4. It is unwise for you to drive yourself in a sensitive country. Try to use public transportation or hire a driver, as local traffic regulations may be confusing. There have been incidents where traffic accidents were deliberately provoked to incriminate or embarrass a visitor.
5. You may receive a "wrong number" or otherwise mysterious telephone calls in the hotel room at any hour of the day or in the middle of the night. Do not let this unduly upset you. It may be a crude but effective method of determining whether or not you are in your room. It may be only a result of poor telephone service.
6. Do not rely on hotel employees for protection service. In these countries, you should always assume that chambermaids, elevator operators and hotel employees, as well as waiters or the maitre d' in restaurants are in the employ of the intelligence services. Be particularly circumspect in your relations with guides, interpreters, and sensitive country travel agency personnel, as these people are invariably used by intelligence agencies.
7. You may be placed under physical surveillance as you travel on foot or by vehicle. You may suspect you are being observed when actually you are not. In either event, the best tactic is to ignore it. Sensitive country intelligence agents at various times observe visitors on a spot-check basis for no apparent reason. On the other hand, they may be collecting detailed data concerning your activities in preparation for a more direct intelligence approach. Do not attempt to lose the surveillance.

If you are actually being followed for intelligence objectives, a team of several agents will cover you, and your evasion attempts will only make you more subject to suspicion.

8. You will usually be permitted to take photographs with your personal camera, but be careful not to photograph restricted areas. Travelers should refrain from taking photographs from aircraft, photographing military and police installations and personnel, industrial structure, harbor, rail and airport facilities, and border areas. Sensitive countries also resent your photographing items that put them in a bad light, e.g., slum areas, public drunks, scenes of civil disorder or other public disturbances. If you do take such photographs, your film may be confiscated.

9. Be particularly circumspect in approaches offering social companionship, especially of sexual nature. Many of these persons are "plants" of sensitive country intelligence agencies and will offer themselves attractively for the purpose of getting you in a compromising situation that will be followed by a blackmail threat to force your cooperation in intelligence activities. Under no circumstances should you seek or accept this kind of social companionship in a sensitive country. The intelligence services are fully aware of the possibilities inherent in human frailties, and will capitalize immediately upon any indication of immoral or indiscreet behavior of American travelers. Even when failing to detect vulnerability, sensitive country agents have attempted entrapment of innocent travelers. For this reason, you should maintain the highest level of personal behavior at all times, avoid long walks at night alone, and endeavor to always be in the company of someone you can trust. Be especially careful to stay well within your capacity for alcohol so as not to weaken your defense or lose your self-control.

10. Do not accept from anyone (including friends, relatives or professional contacts) letters, photographs, packages or other material to be smuggled out of the country or carried in your effects when you depart. Be firm in your denials in these matters as such requests may be acts of intelligence provocation to entrap you.

11. Bear in mind that there are many political, cultural and legal differences between the U.S. and sensitive countries. Actions that are innocent or, at worst, carry wrist-slapping penalties in the U.S., are often considered serious offenses in sensitive country societies. Persons violating the law, even unknowingly, run the risk of arrest or expulsion. Do not, for instance, take "souvenirs" from hotels or institutions, however insignificant in value they may appear.

12. Do not engage in currency transactions with individual citizens. Do not try to sell or trade personal items, including clothing, you take into the country, or purchase bargains from street peddlers or other questionable vendors. Do not engage in black-market activities. Many sensitive countries have laws governing exportation of artwork and historic relics. Be familiar with these laws if you intend to purchase such items, and make purchases only at official establishment.

13. Should you be detained or arrested for any reason by police or other officials of these countries, be cooperative, but insist promptly, politely, and repeatedly, if necessary, that the U.S. Embassy or Consulate be notified. Do not make any statements or sign any documents until you have had an opportunity to confer with an embassy representative. You may possibly be accused of having some connection with an American intelligence service, or of having accepted an assignment by such service to be carried out in the host country. You should make no admission whatever indicating you have ever had any dealings, under any circumstances, with any U.S. intelligence agency.

14. Mail you receive or send is subject to censorship in a sensitive country. In all mail you write prior to, during, or after your visit to a sensitive country, make no reference to classified information nor reveal information of possible value to a foreign intelligence service. Be careful in writing to or about relatives or friends in these countries, as they may become targets for investigation or exploitation.

15. There have been incidents in sensitive countries when speech-inducing drugs have been used under the guise of medical treatment for the purpose of aiding in interrogation. In non-emergency situations, every effort should be made to avoid sensitive country hospitals or medical facilities without first having notified the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

16. Report immediately any action which might form the basis of pressure or compromise, or any attempt to pressure or compromise you, to the American Embassy (security officer) in the country being visited, and to your foreign travel coordinator and/or counterintelligence program manager immediately upon your return to your job. Also report any unusual subsequent contacts with sensitive country nationals.

We have discussed above many, but not necessarily all, pitfalls that may befall an American traveler. New espionage techniques and tactics are constantly being developed, and the highest degree of alertness is necessary at all times. While the techniques employed by sensitive countries' intelligence services seem far-fetched, illicit, or taken from "spy novels", they are in fact used in day-to-day activities and operations. Although these techniques are revolting to an American, one must nevertheless recognize them as a part of the sensitive country system, in order that he or she may successfully counter such practices.

NOTE: While the above information/advice/requirements contained in this briefing paper deal with nations considered to be "sensitive countries", two things should be remembered as well:

1. It is not only those on the DOE sensitive country list who are out to get American technology or know-how at our expense. Some of our "friends" operate the same way too.
  2. You do not have to be in only a sensitive country to be the subject or target of scrutiny by foreign intelligence agents.
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I hereby certify that I have read and acknowledge this security briefing on \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE)

SIGNATURE OF  
TRAVELER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(EMPLOYEE)

SIGNATURE  
OF BRIEFER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(FOREIGN TRAVEL COORDINATOR)

**Return to:**

**University of California  
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**Attn: Willie Archie**