

April 28, 1966

Dear Mr. Hechinger:

I found your column in the New York Times of April 24 most interesting, and appreciated your effort to put "the M.S.U. Affair" in proper perspective. Few commentators, I am sorry to say, made the effort to do more than give further circulation to some flamboyant accusations.

You probably had not seen the statement I made on behalf of the University on April 22, so I send you this copy for your information. It reflects our belief that Dr. Gardner's warning was not tailor-made for this University, as you say, because our international programs are not separate and apart from the university, but very much of the warp and woof. As I point out, Michigan State University was invited to carry out the police-training aspects of the broader public administration project because of its reputation and ability in the academic field of police administration.

I will take specific issue with you on one point only, but that is a vital point: This University did not know at the time, and does not know for sure this very day, that CIA agents were indeed on its payroll. None of those employed as police training specialists has been positively identified as a CIA agent; we have supposition and surmise, but no evidence. It pains us that so much publicity has been to accusations which were based, not on personal knowledge, experience, or observation, but on second-hand accounts only.

We are grateful to you for your generous statement that M.S.U. is engaged in some highly creditable foreign ventures, and it will help us bear up under our current tribulations to reflect that lessons we have learned may help others avoid similar trials in the future.

Sincerely,

President

Mr. Fred M. Hechinger
Education Editor
The New York Times
New York, N.Y.

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Enclosure