

# Education — the new U.S. export

THE recent violent protests in Beverly Hills by Iranian students angered at the arrival of some members of the Shah's family have focused much attention in the U.S. on the ever-rising numbers of foreigners enrolled in American universities.

Nearly 250,000 foreign students are currently attending U.S. colleges, double the figure of 10 years ago according to a recent report in *U.S. News & World Report*. "The total may exceed a million within 10 years," according to the magazine's projections.

Several well-known American universities — including The American University in Washington where Joseph Sisco, Kissinger's Mid-east troubleshooter at the State Department, is now president — have foreign students making up more than 10 per cent of their student bodies.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), 17 per cent of the enrollment comes from abroad. At other Washington universities the figures are also significant: 20 per cent at Howard and 10 per cent at George Washington.

Since most foreign students either pay their own way or are subsidized by their governments, many U.S. colleges actively recruit foreign nationals.

This is doubly true now that the late 1940's "baby-boom" generation has worked its way through the college system and enrollment of U.S. students has been in decline for some years.

According to the *U.S. News & World Report* study, about 4,600 Saudi students are being educated in the U.S. The Kingdom ranks 12th in the number of foreign students it sends to America — but all the countries higher on the list have much greater populations.

Iranian students by far are the largest national contingent in the U.S.

More than 23,000 Iranians are already studying throughout the country and thousands more are now attempting to obtain the coveted 1-20 visas. An estimated 10,000 additional Iranians are

**Mark A. BRUZONSKY**  
Reporting from Washington

thought to have completed their schooling here but have not returned to their country.

Taiwanese students are the next largest national contingent at more than 12,000; with Nigeria, Canada and Hong Kong not far behind with more than 10,000 each.

India has more than 9,000 students in the U.S. and Vietnam nearly 8,000, while Japan, Mexico and Thailand all have more than 5,000.

The foreign student influx "has become of major importance to our financial health" because of the infusion of foreign tuition money — this is an attitude increasingly prevalent on campuses all over the country.

In some cases university curricula may even be oriented to capture the children of the foreign rich. "Many schools emphasize studies that appeal to foreign scholars — such as sons of wealthy Arabs — who come to this country with pocketfuls of cash and are looking for expertise in petroleum engineering, business management and economics." *U.S. News & World Report* emphasizes.

In fact, more than a quarter of the foreign students now studying

## Where Students Come From

Nations With Most Foreign Students in U.S.

Iran	23,310
Taiwan	12,100
Nigeria	11,870
Canada	11,120
Hong Kong	10,970
India	9,410
Vietnam	7,890
Japan	7,160
Mexico	6,450
Thailand	6,070
Venezuela	5,750
Saudi Arabia	4,590
Cuba	4,130
South Korea	3,630
Great Britain	3,580

## ...and Where They Study

Institutions With Most Foreign Students

		Share of Enrollment
Miami-Dade Community College	3,808	10.0%
Southern California	2,750	9.8%
Houston	2,380	6.9%
Wisconsin	2,267	6.0%
Michigan	2,048	5.6%
Howard	1,948	19.8%
Texas	1,843	4.5%
George Washington	1,836	9.4%
Harvard	1,745	8.6%
New York University	1,691	5.7%
Minnesota	1,600	2.5%
California, Berkeley	1,572	4.4%
UCLA	1,519	3.1%
Louisiana State	1,513	6.0%
MIT	1,488	17.3%

Source: Institute of International Education, U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.

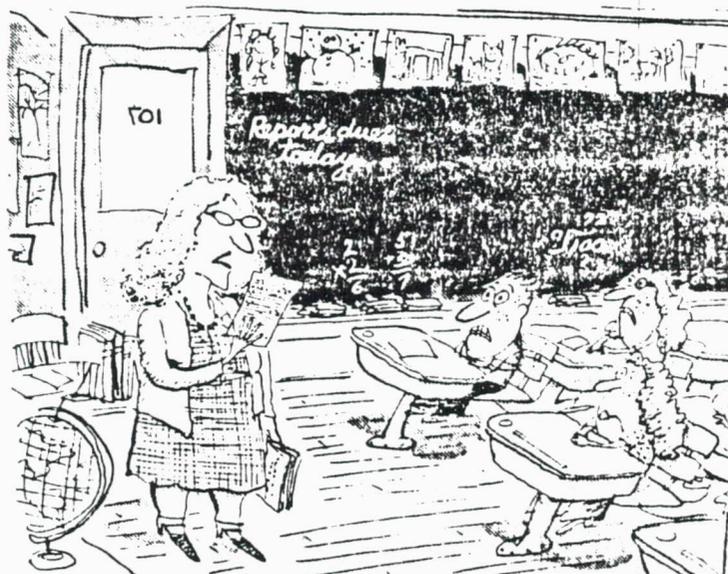
in America are from oil-exporting countries.

As for what the foreign students study once they get to the states, technical and managerial skills are mostly pursued. About 25 per cent of foreign students major in engineering. Another 17 per cent study business and management while 15 per cent major in the sciences and mathematics.

With diplomatic relations now restored, a trickle of students from Red China is also aiming for

American shores. Seventy-five acamadecians are now enrolling in U.S. institutions and many thousands are expected in coming years.

According to the U.S. International Communications Agency which now manages the exchange programme with Peking, Chinese scholars — 700 of whom will be at U.S. colleges this year — will mostly study engineering, mathematics, medicine, chemistry and physics in this country.



"WHO FORGOT TO SIGN THEIR SCIENCE REPORT ON THE ASBESTOS CEILING IN SCHOOL ROOM?"