

# INS to Monitor Students From 'Unfriendly' Nations

By KOEN DE VRIES  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service will launch a new system this year aimed at managing the flow of information regarding international students and scholars.

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program monitors international students for INS and universities by constructing an extensive database on their backgrounds and personal information.

The system would also allow the monitoring of students from "rogue states" — nations unfriendly to the United States — to prevent possible terrorist acts.

"It's a customer service program," said INS spokeswoman Ayleen Schmidt, adding that she expects the system to be used nationwide in 2003.

Under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996, a program for tracking and recording information on international students was introduced at 21 institutions, including Duke University.

A report by the National Commission on Terrorism last June stated that a small minority of international students might exploit their student status to support terrorist activity and should be monitored. The commission testified before the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence last year.

The report states that the government lacks the ability to monitor the immigration status of the thousands of students from rogue nations who are studying in the United States.

"The commission's main concern was that a lot of information and technical training would become available to people studying in the U.S.," said Stephen Aftergood, a senior research analyst at the Federation of American Scientists, a Washington, D.C.-based independent think tank.

"The government should think twice about students such as Libyans and Iraqis studying nuclear energy," he said. "Someone may get a visa to study art history and then change their major to aeronautical engineering, and the U.S. government may not know about it."

There has been only one case where a former international student was

linked to terrorism.

Investigators discovered that one of the terrorists involved in bombing the World Trade Center in 1993 entered the U.S. on a student visa, dropped out and remained in the country illegally.

But educators at universities across the nation said although the program has its benefits, it places an unfair stigma on international students.

Catherine Cotton, director of the International Office at Duke University, said she did not know of any terrorists identified by the INS.

"But that's not the point," she said. "Educational institutions object to the concept that international scholars and students are latent terrorists."

David Bryan, director of the International Office at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, said the program has its pros. "It's an accurate system that gives us real time data on the internationals we deal with," he said.

He added that Johns Hopkins frequently gets requests for information from the FBI and INS. "If required by law we'll provide the information," he said.

But Aftergood was not persuaded of the threat. "The report was not particularly endorsed by the federation," he said. "We think that there is a positive value to be gained through academic exchange."

There are 1,118 international students enrolled at UNC, many coming from

China, India and South Korea.

Robert Locke, director of the University International Center, said the report did not apply to UNC.

"It doesn't make sense," he said. "Why take a route that requires lots of documentation and be situated at an institution where everyone knows who they are?"

Locke said international students are often used as scapegoats.

"They are the least likely group for terrorists," he said. "International students have identified themselves in so many ways that they are the most regulated group of all people entering the United States."

Hui Ling Wong, president of the Chinese Undergraduate Association at UNC, said she does not think

monitoring is just. "I don't think it's fair unless they have evidence," she said. "Otherwise, I think it's discrimination."

She added she had never experienced any monitoring herself.

And Locke said while authorities have the legitimate right to monitor international students, it is largely a waste of time. "There has been no hard evidence, with the exception of one person involved in the World Trade Center bombing who was a one-time college student," he said.

"That's the only connection they have been able to make."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

*"Why take a route that requires lots of documentation and be situated at an institution where everyone knows who they are?"*

ROBERT LOCKE  
University International Center

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By Philip J. Anderson

ACROSS

1 Gator's kin  
5 Expands a pit  
9 Funeral piece  
14 British Open winner Tony  
15 Light tan  
16 To no  
17 Prayer wind-up  
18 Bandy and Howard  
19 Polish spots  
20 Really taking a chance  
23 Lets live  
24 Social climber  
25 Gumshoe  
27 Hold in esteem  
32 Bewildered  
36 City on the Truckee  
39 French girlfriend  
40 Really taking a chance  
43 Therefore: Lat.  
44 Hind part  
45 Loads cargo  
46 More lightly packed  
48 Auto economy fig.  
50 Whoppers  
53 Second showing  
58 Really taking a chance  
68 For all to hear

64 Seed protector  
65 Ecclesiastical court  
66 Unchallenged  
67 Mrs. Copperfield  
68 Dilatory  
69 Highway subdivisions  
70 Gush forth  
71 Jug handles

lion  
6 Screen image  
7 Maddox and Norman  
8 Saint James or Sarandon  
9 Vienna's river  
10 Terrible ruler?  
11 Surprise attack  
12 Four fluid ounces  
13 Ultimatum word  
21 Mark sale items  
22 Element number five  
26 Motley  
28 Joyous celebration  
29 Surrounded by

30 Coating of ice  
31 Labor leader Eugene  
32 Elderly  
33 Ripped  
34 Indication  
35 Son of Seth  
37 Zeta follower  
38 Statistical average  
41 Senator Hatch

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51 Zounds!  
52 Razor sharpener  
54 Diagram, as a sentence  
55 "\_\_\_ Gay"  
56 Thespian

57 Defrosts  
58 Fertility god  
59 Scat singer  
60 "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" feature  
61 Melody  
62 Increase staff

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MULL BASH  
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ALICE TORO RENE  
LANK THORN EASE  
TIDE RATE SCRUM  
STAYWITH SCALES  
MANS SWAT  
BILOXI ETAL BAS  
ESAU DONALDDUCK  
LESS ANDRE ANNE  
TETE DOSES STEW

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