

Issue 1. Involvement of Foreign Governments with **U.S. public education** agencies fully supported by public funds.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) ARAB WORLD CONFERENCE raised very critical issues in public education today. One is the involvement of Foreign Governments with **U.S. public** education agencies.

While this involvement can take many forms, in the particular case of the February 6, 1992, ARAB WORLD CONFERENCE, it took the form of "gifts" from the following embassies, which were listed as **CO-SPONSORS** of this **PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL MEETING**.

Embassy of Bahrain, Embassy of Dubai, Embassy of the State of Kuwait, Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, The Royal Consulate General of Saudi Arabia, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Honorary Consulate of Jordan.

In the Conference brochure, attached, the following information is provided: "\$40 registration fee(s) have been subsidized by gifts from the Arab community." And in the enclosed copy of page 10 of the Conference Program, the same embassies listed above appear under "Co-Sponsor Groups and Group Gifts."

It is doubtful that the LACOE would have allowed the GOVERNMENT of Turkey to Co-Sponsor, provide "gifts", or subsidize registration fees for a conference on THE TURKISH WORLD--Armenian-Americans, beginning with former governor George Dukemejian, and Greek-Americans would have found much **wrong** with this kind of involvement of this foreign government with the LACOE. It is doubtful that the LACOE would have allowed a co-sponsorship of the GOVERNMENT of Mainland China for a conference on THE CHINESE WORLD. Similarly for the co-sponsorship of the GOVERNMENT of South Africa for a LACOE's conference on THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE. Or for the GOVERNMENT of Great Britain to co-sponsor a conference on THE IRISH CULTURE.

As a Scholar in the fields of Cultural Diversity--See enclosed Resume of my background and experience--, Multicultural Education, and Hispanic Culture, I fully understand the difference between

a people and their culture,

and

their GOVERNMENT.