



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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9 September 1983

Mr. Zaghoul Morsy
Editor, PROSPECTS
United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
7, place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris, France

Dear Mr. Morsy:

I am pleased to send you two copies of my article, "An Analysis of Bilingual Education Policy in the United States" for publication in PROSPECTS. As you suggested, I have revised and updated the article originally published in the Harvard Educational Review and have condensed the section on U. S. federal policy in bilingual education. The following summarizes the most important new information included in the article:

- o updated counts of total numbers of language-minority children, and of the numbers from Spanish-language backgrounds, taken from the 1980 Census.
- o a description of the American system of education, the federal role in education, and the goals of federally-funded programs.
- o the results of a recent survey conducted by the U. S. Department of Education which describes bilingual education programs throughout the United States. The survey provides useful information about programs for Spanish-speaking and for other language-minority students.
- o updated information about policy changes and recommendations under the Reagan Administration.
- o descriptions of several recent evaluations of the impact of instruction in Spanish.

As you suggested, I have reviewed the research completed since the Harvard Educational Review article was published, with emphasis on results for students from Spanish-speaking backgrounds. I have selected

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for inclusion in the article those findings that provide useful additional information. Some of this information was referred to in the correspondence I commented on in the Harvard Educational Review of February, 1983. In this connection, I have included the updated counts of language-minority children, updated information about the Reagan Administration's bilingual education policies, and results of the recent Education Department survey, one of the major studies in the Department's bilingual education research agenda. (The other studies currently being conducted by the Education Department are either not completed or address subjects that are different from the issues addressed in my article.)

In response to your question about relevant evaluations of the impact of instruction in Spanish, I have added several recent studies on pp. 14-15 of the article. In addition, I describe on pp. 11-12 the 1978 study of Title VII programs, which is the major national evaluation of Spanish-English bilingual education programs conducted in the United States. More recently, the Education Department survey, summarized on pp. 5-6, provides descriptive information about Title VII programs and participants, but does not compare the impact of instruction in Spanish with other instructional approaches.

Please let me know if there are any further additions or revisions you would suggest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Iris C. Rotberg

Iris C. Rotberg
Assistant Director