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Excerpt from diary of August 20, 1956

by MCBalfour

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Administration

Next MCB referred to his two letters addressed to Rajkumari about her personal communication to DR - her requests to the RF and the matter of keeping the Ministry better informed of our actions. The Secretary had read MCB's letters and his reaction seemed satisfactory. He understands, I hope, the method and detailed requirements for working up any specific project or proposal. Secondly, his promised memo about keeping the Ministry informed by all international agencies is forthcoming, though not yet in hand. According to Mr. P. he had drafted a memo for general use which he has submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs for their concurrence. Whether the External Affairs Ministry will issue the memo or whether it will be handled by individual ministries remains to be seen. If such a memo is issued by External Affairs, or other ministries, it will presumably involve fellowships or other grants by Humanities, Social Sciences, Agric., and BMR as well as MEPH.

Confidentially, the Secretary then disclosed what is troubling him and others. They are getting an increasing number of offers from the USSR, China, etc. for aid in different fields. The Secretary stated, for example, if Travancore-Cochin should come under a local communist regime (not improbable) would the USSR be permitted to flood that state with fellowship offers or Russian technicians without the concurrence of the Central government? Recently the Chinese offered to send a team of 250 gymnasts and acrobats to India; China has also offered to send Bengali students having TB to China for a cure. These were cited as examples of why Central Government wishes to control, where necessary, the many forms of foreign assistance. Whether this is a fair and full statement of the problem or whether it is more of a red herring to bring the RF under the Ministry's machinery, MCB is still uncertain. The Secretary assured me, however, the Ministry does not question the soundness or the value of RF grants, fellowships, or projects but wishes to be informed before they are submitted to New York and thus given the chance to say, "no objection or to advise otherwise."