

JAN 3 1950

Note by MCB re:

Meeting of the RF staff Sept. 27, 1949 -- 2-4 p.m.

On I.H.D. invitation representatives of all divisions met to discuss general thinking on population and the I.H.D. plans to date.

Present - Pres. Barnard
Vice Pres. Kimball
SS - Evans and DeVinney
MS - Morison
NS - Pomerat
Humanities - Fahs and D'Arms
IHD - Strode, Warren, Bates, Balfour, Payne, Tennant and Hackett

GKS opened the meeting by referring to IHD developments and our staff conference of Sept. 20 including the agenda and features of our discussions and conclusions at that time.

There was a lengthy exchange of views on the general theme and objectives of the RF population interests. The main issue was whether the title of "Population" or "Human Ecology" was preferred. This seemed to concern both purpose and strategy. MCB, Evans and DeVinney spoke in favor of "Population" as representing the real need and fundamental problem. The others, MS, NS and Humanities favored Human Ecology. Pres. Barnard supported the latter view. He warned that, if and when, population work leads to birth control or fertility change the RF would probably divorce itself from any action program. Our association with a birth control movement might be interpreted as propaganda or an effort to influence public opinion, which is contrary to our policy and possibly dangerous to our charter. The majority were obviously in favor of broad studies on human ecology.

In discussing objectives, Fahs emphasized that population

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with GKS memo
to WJ dated
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POP
Population

900
POP
Population

decisions and development of local programs should be indigenous and not urged or imposed on any country to which all agreed. This is certainly the spirit of the Far East mission's conclusions and recommendations, and also the traditional IHD policy.

Field Project.

MCB reviewed the features of his memo on a Field Project -- objectives; study and local development; and personnel. Details were not pursued but no objections or critical comments arose.

Regarding the location of a field study the Caribbean area received no vocal support. Evans and DeVinney questioned the suitability of Puerto Rico as a field area, but local obstacles, particularly religion, discouraged such a choice.

Pomerat questioned whether records and general developments in Japan would favor its choice for a field study. The complications of three party (RF--SCAP--Japan) relationships were mentioned. The Far East seemed to receive most support as a location, and Ceylon was favored as far as opinion was expressed.

Serious consideration was given to the method of operation of a field project and inter-divisional relations. CIB emphasized that the IHD is an operating division and that the others are not. The consensus seemed to be that a field project, if engaged upon, should be under the IHD.

During the meeting the need for physiological and medical research regarding sex and contraception was touched upon. Appraisal of the situation and a decision whether to support and to coordinate

such planning appear desirable. CIB recalled the Far East survey statement that no satisfactory contraceptive method exists or is in sight. He questioned "if you had a perfect contraceptive could you use it or promote its use". This query startled or confused some of us. General opinion seemed to be that if knowledge and means of contraception were available, they should not be restricted.