

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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P+P

FROM: RFE

DATE: January 14, 1954

TO:

LCD		RCD
JHW		JHW

COMMENTS:

Agriculture

MAY 10 1955

SUBJECT:

E. C. Stakman Memo - 12/22/53

I am heartened by DR's initiative, and find much easy to agree with in ECS' memo. With you, however, I regret that the matter comes up for discussion in the absence of JHW who has given so much thought to the problem and has arranged upon his return to discuss at length with DR many of the issues - of policy, organization, procedure, and staffing - here involved. As I told you, JHW on the day before leaving, left my own skeleton memo of November 10 with DR and suggested he talk directly with me, but I told JHW that because of the interdivisional aspects alone, I felt that the first conversations should be held with him.

Under these circumstances, I feel I could best and most appropriately help by handing you the attached two memos (please return):

RSM - 6/18/52 - on the Mexican Project

RFE - 11/10/53 - on some Policy Questions

not need.
to file - 5/12/55

and limit my comment on ECS' memo to two points against the background they provide:

1. Granting that DNSA's operational program makes a logical place to start, I would hope that consideration soon might be oriented more in terms of balanced modernization appropriate to the total situation than in terms of food alone. For example, in many countries of dense or potentially dense population - just as unilaterally health and sanitation work may tend to worsen the population-land-resources ratio by cutting death rates while birth rates hang high - emphasis on increase in food production might postpone and exacerbate the essential problem without meeting the aspirations of the people for such industrial development as their resources permit. In some Asian countries, this attains political significance, fanned by communist propaganda, in a feeling that the West really wishes to preserve its industrial and trade advantage and keep the people of the backward areas in a state of continuing "agricultural peonage." Note also the sentence underlined by DR in The Eastern Economist's editorial of November 13 criticizing the recent report of the Indian Census Commissioner stressing agricultural development: "Food self-sufficiency for a country bent on rapid industrialisation is both political and economic folly." DaCosta's reasoning in the case of India is that she could more advantageously purchase from

other countries certain major food supplies with the proceeds of industrial expansion.

2. Such considerations would make me feel that the inclusion in the proposed survey group of an "anthropologist with knowledge of demography" should be given at least coordinate rank with those first named - both because of the population aspect and because of the basic problem of cultural adjustment and transition involved in any sound development.

(In this connection Irene Taeuber's vita is coming, ^{attached} but I can confirm that her training does include an M.A. in anthropology under Herskovits, a Ph.D. in sociology and economics under Willey at Minnesota, and that she is "recognized" by anthropologists to the extent that Herskovits for years has had her come out to lecture to his graduate seminar on the relation of anthropology to population problems, that she has been drawn in as a consultant on Okinawa problems, also by Spoehr and Midkiff on similar problems of the Trust Territories with which the Hawaii-Yale group is concerned. I thought of IBT mainly for the type and quality of the representation I feel is important.)

I hope this will suffice at this stage; and again that the matter will be substantially held open till after JHW returns.

RH

RFE:EBW