

59.01

February 16, 1946.

SEA - Mr. Henderson
Mr. Allen

State Department conference on international food problem

Yesterday afternoon at 2:30 Mr. Kennedy, Chief of the Division of International Resources, called a meeting of Department officers interested in the international food problem. A representative of IRE was not present. The meeting was held in a room on the 5th floor of the State Department. In this room Mr. Matthews said that IRE did not want any further restriction in the food quotas for the liberated countries of Europe.

Mr. Penfield attended the meeting on behalf of FE and the only position taken by him was that there should be no further increase in food quotas and signs in favor of the former policy.

On behalf of IRE I gave a brief account of the food problem in Europe and the need for an increase in the food quotas. I stated that IRE was willing to discuss any food quota which would be in line with the policy.

After some discussion it was decided that the position of the Department should be as follows:

The Department should continue to support the liberalized food quotas for the liberated countries of Europe.

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DIVISION OF SOUTH
ASIAN AFFAIRS
FEB 18 1946
STATE DEPARTMENT

The Department's position as described above was transmitted to the Department of Agriculture in a meeting this morning with Mr. Dennis Fitzgerald, the working United States member of the combined food board. I am informed by Mr. [Name] who was present at this meeting, that the Indian case was presented strongly and that although Mr. Fitzgerald did not commit himself, it was believed that arrangements might be made for the shipment to India of an additional (that is above present allocations) 250,000 tons of wheat before next June. This is only a tentative and possible allocation and should not be considered as anything but a preliminary endeavor to give India at least some indication of U.S. interest in her grave food problem.

For ready reference I am attaching herewith certain statistical tables on the world food picture. These tables form the basis of the discussions mentioned in this memorandum.

Harold B. Minor

Attachments:
Statistical Tables

Enclosure

Copy to be
sent to
[Name]