

CONFIDENTIAL

3,100

Memo to L.S. Tyson - PSA from Henry Bardach - PSA

9/11/51
Subject: Exchange of Information Between Our Missions and STEM in Southeast Asia.

The first airgram on the above subject dated April 12, 1951 spelled out the framework ^{for} coordination of American ^{economic} activities abroad. The airgram in effect quoted in full a letter dated April 5, 1951 from the President to the Secretary of State and the ECA ^{Administrator} mission. On June 28, 1951 a joint State, ECA airgram was sent to Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila, Rangoon, Saigon, and Taipei. This airgram requested joint reports from the diplomatic missions and STEM at each post indicating the degree of informal exchange achieved and the means used to assure compliance with the intent of the ECA act and the President's letter of April 5.

There follows below in brief the essence of answers received from the field so far:

Burma (STEM Chief Moffatt)

Staff meetings are held weekly with the Chief of STEM;

- a) Staff meetings:
- b) Joint briefing: Embassy assists newly arrived STEM personnel by a briefing on background basic political information. Individual officers of STEM and the Embassy have willingly made available to each ^{other} upon inquiry information regarding their work and observations on local conditions made in the course of their work.
- c) Field trips: Embassy personnel has been limited by pressure of duty to make any such trips. However, reports of field trips by STEM officers have been supplied to the Embassy.

CONFIDENTIAL

d) **Telegrams:** Field copies of incoming and outgoing telegrams of both the Embassy and STEM are made available by the file clerk in the ^(Embassy) reading room. The executive officer of the Embassy tries to route to STEM all incoming telegrams addressed to the Embassy which have contents that might interest them. STEM follows the same system with our incoming telegrams.

In general the Embassy personnel do not attend the meeting of the BEAC (Burma Economic Aid Committee). However, a representative of STEM is usually present at these meetings.

Philippines

As far as I have been able to find out at this point no formal answer has been received from Manila to the circular airgram of June 28. However, the following comments by Mr. Stanley Allen of ECA may be pertinent: It seems from Mr. Allen's personal observation that the exchange of information between the Embassy and STEM is not too good. Mr. Allen indicates that the physical location of the ECA mission, which is housed in the Manila Hotel, may have a great deal to do with this situation. The Manila Hotel is apparently some distance away from the Embassy and for security reasons both Embassy and STEM are hesitant to have a lively intercourse of written material received by them. (Mr. Renne, STEM chief)

Thailand (Mr. Fligel, STEM chief)

a) **Staff meetings:** held weekly; regularly attended by Chief of mission, STEM Chief of mission, Deputy Chief of Stem mission, Chief of MAGC, Commercial Attache, Embassy executive officer, an officer from the Embassy political section.

b) **Briefings:** Bi-weekly for all STEM officers on political, economic and agricultural development. Individual political and economic briefings are all newly arrived STEM officers.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

- c) Field trips: STEM forwards to ^{Embassy} ~~accompany~~ political section copies of all travel orders issued by STEM for travel ~~within~~ within Thailand. Political section gives briefings to each STEM officer before he goes on his trip. Mutual exchange of information gathered on field trips is carried on.
- d) American Information Committee: The permanent members of this committee are the Chief of USIS, Public Relations officer of MAGG, the information officer of STEM, and an officer of the Embassy Political section.
- * Main purpose ^{of Committee:} To coordinate the information policies of all United States Government agencies in Thailand and to present a common front to the people of Thailand.
- e) Telegrams, incoming and outgoing messages of mutual interest are exchanged by Embassy and STEM in [usually hand carried folders.]

Indonesia

- a) Staff meetings: Held weekly, presided over by the Ambassador attended by Acting Chief of Staff STEM and the main Embassy officers and the director of the US Information Service. Weekly staff meetings also were attended by two or more officers of the Economic section of the Embassy, the director of the US Information Service and principal officers of STEM. These meetings are presided over by the Acting Chief of STEM.
- b) Briefings: Newly arrived STEM personnel meet the Ambassador shortly after arrival. Newly arrived Embassy officers are brought to the STEM office to meet the STEM Chief.

CONFIDENTIAL

c) Telegrams: All STEM cables are passed over the *desks* of the Ambassador and the Counselor of the Embassy.

Mutual exchange of pertinent messages and dispatches on the working level also takes place between Embassy and STEM. Informal liason on a working level between members of the Economic section of the Embassy and personnel of STEM occurs regularly ^{plus} exchange facilitated by the fact that the STEM plans are currently being shared with personnel of the Economic section.

Econ

Indochina

- a) Staff meetings representatives of STEM and Legation will attend each others staff meetings.
- b) Briefings: There shall be joint or parallel briefings of newly arrived personnel assigned to either diplomatic mission or STEM. Reports of general interest will be exchanged.
- c) Field trips: Many of these will be made jointly as in the past with full briefings before the trip and mutual reports after the trip.
- d) Telegrams: In accordance with recommendations of security inspectors of Legation makes only two copies/incoming and outgoing messages which are available for consultation on legation premises. STEM currently prepares one copy of its messages for submission to legation.