

STUDY OF DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL ECONOMY
 Directorate of Foreign Trade

Interview with: Nguyễn-van-Thai, Chief of Bureau of Imports
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The Bureau of Imports processes applications from importers for a license to import commodities outside the American Economic Aid Program. Personnel consists of the interviewee as chief and four clerks. In theory one of the clerks is concerned with imports pursuant to trade agreements; but agreements were concluded with only four countries, and they have all expired. In this sector the work is limited to a closing-out operation. Again in theory one of the clerks is concerned with imports under a supply and reconstruction program; but this program was financed by credits granted by ~~the~~ France, and new funds are no longer available. A third clerk is concerned with imports from the Franco Zone, but in this sector the Office National des Changes plays a policy-making role. Note that the Office National des Changes has no control over imports from the Franco Zone which are financed by the American Economic Aid Program through "triangular francs". The fourth clerk is concerned with imports financed by EFAC accounts, with imports from Cambodia and Laos, and with granting licenses for imports that do not involve a payment in foreign exchange. Examples of these free imports would be business samples or religious literature.

Interviewee recommends:

1. assignment of two additional clerks to the unit (including a potential Deputy Chief), who would relieve him of much of the routine paperwork and give him the opportunity to train his staff.
 - a.- Mr. Thai held three economic posts simultaneously in North Vietnam : Director of Foreign Trade, Delegate at Haiphong for Director of Domestic Trade, and Delegate at Haiphong for the Director of AEA (Aide Economique Americaine). He has held his present post since August 1955.
 2. consolidation of licensing function for imports under one roof, in one agency, instead of three as is now the case:
 - a.- National Committee for Imports in sector of American-financed commodities;
 - ✓ b.- National Exchange Office in sector of imports from Franc Zone. This control overlaps the work of **c**;
 - c.- Directorate of Foreign Trade, and more specifically the Bureau of Imports, in sectors described above.
 3. Consolidate and standardize regulations controlling foreign trade.
 4. Reorganize **S**ervice of Program and give it a strong technical staff so that it can plan a rational and effective program in foreign trade.

Directorate of Foreign Trade

I.- Bureau of Importation.

a.- Organization

- Managed by a chief of service
- Four secretaries respectively in charge of:
 - 1.- Importation under the account of E.F.A.C.,
?? importation which requires no foreign currency, transactions with Cambodia and Laos.
 - 2.- Importation from France zone and bid-calling.
 - 3.- Importation under trade agreements
 - ?? 4.- Importation under the supply and reconstruction program.

b.- Functions

- Importation outside of American Aid Program
- Organization of bid
- Relations with agencies concerned to prepare supply program

II.- Long-Range Objectives.

- To standardize all importation regulations
- To collect the documents, informations needed for the commercial negotiations with foreign countries.

III.- By the End of 1956, we hope

- To set up an agency to manage funds in foreign currency provided by triangular commercial agreements.
- To complete certain commercial agreements with foreign countries (such as Cambodia, Laos and France if possible)

IV.- Problems.

- Foreign trade regulations are not standardized yet.
- !! - Many services are doing similar work.
- Lack of an organism to coordinate and guide all activities of the department according to an uniform policy based on the country possibilities in foreign currency and on the true needs of the public.
- Lack of personnel, offices, facilities.

*Need for
our Plan*

V.- (see answer 4)

VI.- At present the importation work is carried on by three agencies:

- 1) - The national committee for importation (importation under American Aid program)
- 2) - The national office de change (importation from France Zone)
- 3) - Directorate of Foreign Trade (importation mentioned above)

VII.- Suggestions for improvement.

- Standardization of Foreign trade regulations
- Centralization of all importation work into one organism.
- More personnel, spacious office work adequate facilities.
- The program service should be reorganized with adequate technicians so as to realize a proper import-export program.

Right!

Planning