

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA  
AND THE FAR EAST

Third session

SURVEY OF THE ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION OF THE SPECIAL  
COMMISSIONER IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

The Commission at its SECOND SESSION at BAGUIO (24 November to  
6 December 1947) passed the following resolutions:

"HAVING CONSIDERED Paper E/CN.11/36 concerning relations  
between ECAFE and the Economic Organization of the Special  
Commissioner in South East Asia and

APPROVING the recommendations contained therein

RESOLVES that the Executive Secretary be instructed to put  
into effect the recommendations contained in that Paper".

(E/606, page 34).

One of the recommendations contained in Paper E/CN.11/36 reads:

"What appears to be required in the first place is a detailed  
survey of the work done by the Special Commissioner's Economic  
Organization in order to ensure that duplication between the two  
organizations is avoided".

To implement this recommendation a survey of the Special Commissioner's  
Economic Organization was carried out between 28 January and 1 February.  
As a result of that survey the following paper has been prepared.

1. The Economic Organization of the Special Commissioner in South East  
Asia consists of:

(a) The Monthly Liaison Officers' Meetings attended by  
representatives of neighbouring territories, viz. Burma, Ceylon,  
Federation of Malaya, French Indo-China, Hong Kong, India, Netherlands  
East Indies, North Borneo, Sarawak, Siam and Singapore. Unofficial

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/observers.

observers representing the Governments of China, the Philippines and the United States also attend.

(b) The Economic Department of the Special Commissioner's Office.

2. The Economic Department consists of a Head of the Department, an Economic Secretary, Advisers on Agriculture, Fisheries, Food, Nutrition and Statistics (the Fisheries Adviser has been seconded to the Department from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), three Assistants dealing with cereals and rice, edible oils and coal, and shipping respectively, and the head of the Economic Intelligence Section. These officers are assisted by the usual clerical staff. The Food Adviser is at present also acting as Head of the Department.

3. The function of the Advisers is to advise:

(a) the Special Commissioner and;

(b) when invited to do so, territories represented at the Liaison Officers' meetings.

They have also played a large part in organizing the various conferences convened by the Special Commissioner after previous discussion at the Liaison Officers' Meetings: Preliminary Food Conference (26 to 28 March 1946), Food (15 to 17 April 1946), Nutrition (13 to 18 May 1946), Fisheries (6 to 8 January 1947), Social Welfare (23 to 26 August 1947) and Statistics (27 to 30 January 1948).

4. The Rice and Cereals Assistant is mainly concerned with the preparation and supervision of monthly shipping programmes from South East Asia sources to implement the rice allocations made twice a year in Washington by the International Emergency Food Committee of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. This involves determining how far the availabilities of rice from South-East Asia sources in any given month will permit the fulfilling of the allocations from these sources. The result is expressed as a percentage entitlement which is distributed among claimant territories in proportion to their allocations. Temporary switches from one territory to another to meet "spot critical conditions" are arranged by common agreement at the Monthly Liaison Officers' Meetings which consider the draft shipping programmes. These are then submitted to the I.E.F.C. Rice Sub-Committee of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the Sub-Committee meeting in Singapore usually two days after the Liaison Officers, and its Secretary being the Rice and Cereals Assistant of the Special Commissioner.

5. After approval by the I.E.F.C. Rice Sub-Committee, shipping arrangements for the fulfillment of these programmes are made by the Shipping Assistant, who prepares for circulation to all concerned weekly situation reports showing progress made in fulfillment, and arrangements in hand.

6. The import requirements of South-East Asia are collated by the Coal and Edible Oils Assistant who arranges for the allocation of coal:

- (a) by direct negotiation with the Government of India;
- (b) by negotiation through His Majesty's Government with Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in Japan;
- (c) by liaison with the London Coal Committee.

Recommendations for allocation of edible oils within this area are also discussed and agreed at these meetings.

7. Other subjects discussed at the Liaison Officers' Meetings include the supply, from one territory to another within the area, of other foodstuffs and of inducement goods, agricultural equipment and supplies, rolling stocks, etc., the state of nutrition in territories represented, the progress of the food drive to increase acreages under cultivation and yields, disinfection measures to prevent the deterioration of supplies and so on..

8. The work of the Economic Intelligence Section includes editing the Monthly Economic Bulletin of the Special Commissioner. This Bulletin largely consists of statistics relevant to the work of the Economic Department. The Section is further concerned with the compilation of statistical tables and charts required for internal purposes by the Department as Secretariat of the Liaison Officers' Meeting, and the collation of economic intelligence with a view to answering requests for information from other branches of the department or from territories.

9. Between the date on which this survey was carried out and the date on which the third session of ECAFE will assemble, what was previously the Economic Department of the Special Commissioner's Economic Organization will have become known as the Economic Department of the Commissioner General's Economic Organization. Its Head has been given the title of Director of Economic Activities. The composition of the Department and the titles of its other officials remain unchanged and are as shown in the preceding paragraphs of this survey.

10. The Organization with which the ECAFE is in working relations is therefore now called the Commissioner-General's Economic Organization which consists of:

- (a) The Monthly Liaison Officers' Meetings (vide paragraph 1 (a) above);
- (b) The Commissioner-General's Economic Department.

11. From the preceding paragraphs it is clear that save possibly in the collection and dissemination of statistics and in the organizing of regional conferences there is no risk of duplication as between ECAFE and the Special Commissioner's (now the Commissioner-General's) Economic Organization.

Other functions of the organization are either executive or ones which the organization is particularly well equipped to perform with its highly specialized advisory staff. In neither case do these functions duplicate ECAFE's much wider co-ordinating ones to which they are complementary.

12. When the ECAFE Secretariat is in a position to implement fully the "Resolution on Statistical and Economic Documentation Work" (E/CN.11/63) adopted at the Commission's second session it should be possible for most of the statistical work at present undertaken by the Commissioner-General's Economic Organization to be taken over by ECAFE.

#### Recommendations

13. It is therefore recommended that the existing working relations between ECAFE and the Commissioner-General's Economic Organization should be maintained, that is to say:

- (a) There should continue to be a liaison officer of ECAFE appointed to the Office of the Commissioner-General and vice versa.
- (b) Both organizations should continue to exchange the fullest documentation on their respective activities.
- (c) Each organization should continue to be represented at important meetings convened by the other.
- (d) The Commissioner-General's Economic Organization will consult with ECAFE before convening regional conferences on any particular subjects.

14. It is further recommended that the Executive Secretary be instructed to consult with the Director of Economic Activities of the Commissioner-General's Economic Organization with a view to transferring as soon as practicable from the latter organization such statistical work as may be more conveniently undertaken by ECAFE.

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