

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Office Correspondence

Date October 29, 1946

To Chairman Eccles

Subject: _____

From Mr. Knapp 

The Executive Committee on Economic Foreign Policy, which was established under authority of a letter from the President in 1944, consists of representatives from the State Department (Chairman), Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture and Labor Departments, and the Tariff Commission. Mr. Clayton is nominally chairman, but his place is regularly taken by Willard Thorp, his Special Assistant. Most of the other agencies are represented by top level staff members, e.g. Harold Glasser from the Treasury, James McCamy, Deputy Director for Policy in the Commerce Department, and Leslie Wheeler, Director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations in the Agriculture Department.

I think that we have been negligent in failing to keep in closer contact with this organization. I doubt if we have a valid claim to become a full member of the Committee, but certainly we should have a well-defined liaison arrangement as suggested in the attached letter.* Among the matters on which this Committee has passed resolutions in recent months are (1) industrialization and economic development abroad; (2) guidance to the U. S. representative on the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (including guidance on trade policy with Latin America and problems of inflation and deflation arising therefrom); (3) formulation of the full employment program with reference to foreign economic policy; (4) trade expansion proposals involving problems of financing (this resolution covered questions of financing American exporters through export credit insurance and otherwise). Of course the Committee's resolutions constitute only recommendations, but in view of its official status these are bound to carry considerable weight with the agencies involved.

* Such arrangements presently exist with other agencies, e.g. War, Navy, Interior, and the Export-Import Bank.

Attachment