

July 8, 1947

Chairman Eccles
Woodlief Thomas

Participation by Board's staff
in studies relating to the "Marshall
Plan"

This memorandum is in response to your request for information as to the extent to which the Board's staff has been drawn into studies related to the "Marshall Plan".

Of course, a great deal of the regular work of the international sections (especially of the European group under Mr. Gerschenkron) is directly related to the development of this program. However, the program has not yet been put into the National Advisory Council machinery, and the only specific demand made upon the Board's staff for work of this character has come from the Department of State in the form described in Mr. Knapp's memorandum to you of June 26. One memorandum has so far been produced and transmitted to the State Department in response to this request (copy sent to you by Mr. Knapp on July 7). This work is continuing and is absorbing much of the time of the Economists in the European group.

Meanwhile, in response to the request received by you from Secretary Krug, Mr. Morse is serving on a special interdepartmental committee established by the Department of the Interior to cooperate in studies of United States resources which the President requested from Secretary Krug on June 22. The first meeting of this committee was held on July 3 under the chairmanship of Assistant Secretary Warne and was devoted mainly to procedural problems. Mr. Morse was named to serve on an ad hoc subcommittee to draft a proposed statement of purposes and procedures, and also to serve on an Editorial Committee which will assemble, organize, and edit materials prepared by working parties in the different commodity fields. This work is expected to take a substantial portion of Mr. Morse's time. He will call on members of the Division's staff for assistance in the work of the Editorial Committee if necessary, but members of the Division's staff are not expected to participate in the individual working parties.

You may also recall that the President appointed a special non-partisan committee of nineteen prominent persons under the chairmanship of Secretary Harriman to prepare a report on the general question of this country's capacity to extend economic assistance to foreign countries. This committee, the first meeting of which will take place toward the end of this month after Secretary Harriman returns from Europe, includes Chester Davis, and it is possible that he will solicit technical assistance from members of the Board's staff.

(Signed) WOODLIEF THOMAS

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