

Assistant Director, Research and Reports

13 June 58

Chief, Geographic Research

Comments on the FFP Recommendations for Africa South of the Sahara, dated 5 June 58.

A. Every facet of these suggestions inaugurates a change in the lives of the people and thus opens Pandora's Box to Russian penetration. Any imbalance, growth, economic development or new idea is an invitation to Russian participation. Planning to forestall or combat this must pervade all US activity in Africa.

B. The following comments are numbered to correspond with the recommendations.

1. Agriculture

An apparent discrepancy exists between the second and last sentences of the paragraph. The existence of small scale subsistence farming certainly recognizes the right to crop the land if not ownership itself. Furthermore the possible interpretations of the last sentence make comment difficult.

d. Whatever is meant by modernization we do not believe it is wise in all cases to change the present system of land tenure. For instance in the hot wet tropics it is not profitable, without capital for fertilizer, to cultivate the same piece of land for several years.

2. Education

No comment

3. Health

A warning should be included of the danger of improving health conditions without also providing birth control information or providing food for the increasing population.

b. The sentence should read " - - - for equipping and staffing modern clinics." Provision should be made for the training of local health officers, or semi-doctors, as is now being done in Ethiopia.

4. Trade

e. We feel it is impossible to discuss commodity problems without involvement in international commodity agreements or without being inconsistent with section "a".

5. Private Foreign Investment

No comment

6. Economic Assistance

Next to last sentence of second paragraph: The facts here are in error. The establishment of the Foundation for Mutual Assistance in Africa South of the Sahara (FAMASA) in early 1958 under CCTA provides financial assistance.

7. Transportation and Communications

No comment

8. Minerals

Second paragraph: The making of surveys should be pushed rather than "if they so desire" because this step is basic to the development of the area.

9. Power

No comment

10. Tourism

No comment

11. Economic Discrimination

No comment

12. Soviet Economic Penetration

The placing of this subject last may have no significance in the mind of the author but we feel it should receive the major attention.

Other

A major omission of the recommendations lies in the restriction of surveys to the field of geology. Maps at a scale adequate for economic planning are basic to all development and should be initiated at an early date.

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