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U.S. ECONOMIC POLICIES
JAN., FEB. 1945

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U.S. ECONOMIC POLICIES

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MINISTERO DELLE CORPORAZIONI

DIVISIONE INDUSTRIA

Soc. An. Italiana per l'Industria dell'acido
citrico ed Affini "Arenella",

Palermo

Documenti di capitale

Soc. An. Italiana per l'Industria dell'acido
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Palermo

Documento di capitale

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AND 394
ECONOMIC SECTION

RC:now



Ref: EW/3.20

14 Feb 45

TO: Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission

FROM: Economic Section

1. Attached for your information are two summaries which indicate the trend of foreign economic policy in the United States.

Encls.

*Start a new file
U.S. Economic Policies
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Excerpt from Economic Digest, published in Washington. Jan 45.

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"Basic Commercial Policy and Maritime Trade Controls Approved by ECEP"

The paper outlining our commercial policy in relation to trade controls cleared the Executive Committee on Economic Foreign Policy and has been approved by the Secretary of State.

In brief, the paper states that the basic elements of U.S. commercial policy include, with the collaboration of other countries:

- (1) the general reduction of tariffs and reduction or elimination of other restrictions on foreign trade;
- (2) the prevention of the imposition of any new restrictions;
- (3) the elimination of discriminatory practices in foreign trade.

The shipping shortage, scarcity of necessary supplies, the inadequacies of commercial procurement and political and economic warfare objectives necessitated the imposition of certain maritime trade controls which are prima facie incompatible with these policy objectives and if continued beyond a necessary period would be inconsistent with the purposes of the Atlantic Charter, Article XIX of the mutual aid agreements and, in some cases, the commitments in our commercial treaties and agreements. Although there may be valid reasons in some cases for the continuance of certain controls after the original reasons for their imposition no longer exist, the burden of proof for any such action will have to rest with those who advocate them.

Irrespective of shortages, some controls may be needed to implement policy with respect to national security, to fulfil existing commitments, or to implement the policy approved by the U.S. with respect to neutrals and ex-enemy countries."

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Jan 45.

Future Area Programming

" The policy document on future area programming was approved recently by the Executive Committee on Economic Foreign Policy and by the Secretary of State.

The document advocates relaxation of joint area programming as soon as possible but recognizes that the procedure cannot be abrupt or uniform because each area involved presents specific and individual problems. European neutrals and liberated areas are specifically excluded from the following recommendations contained in the document:

1. That the procedure of joint programming by U.S.-U.K. be continued for items in short supply, including the joint designation of sources of supply wherever necessary;

2. That joint programming of items in long supply be discontinued. In certain circumstances and for a limited time, of which the following are the principal examples, a simplified type of joint reporting may be necessary:

(a) A shortage of shipping:

So long as this continues, the shipping authorities will need to secure information for Washington and London as to the probable tonnage requirements for shipping purposes, and to record desired priorities, in order to insure an equity of treatment in the assignment of shipping tonnage as among the various territories.

(b) Temporary governmental disorganizations:

In a few instances the importing governments, because of conditions arising out of the war emergency, may be unable to establish satisfactory import arrangements. Temporarily, data may have to continue to be collected jointly by officers of the U.S. and U.K. governments in some areas for the transition period.

3. That shortages of dollars should not be made a basis for joint programming since this is essentially a separate problem that should be dealt with on its own terms.

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