



THE FAS LETTER

TO AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES AND OFFICERS

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FAS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS; TAKES ON NEW WORK

"Welcome aboard," was the prevailing sentiment when Administrator Robert C. Tetro and new members of his FAS family met recently with a group of trade representatives as co-workers on a Barter Task Force to develop recommendations for the barter program. (The FAS "newcomers" were officials of the former Barter and Stockpiling Division of CSS). Assistant Secretary John P. Duncan, Jr. opened the meeting.

Under the barter program, set up by Congress in 1949, the Commodity Credit Corporation exchanges surplus food and fiber for certain foreign materials, goods, and equipment--thus moving into world markets U. S. farm products which cannot be exported for dollars.

In recent years, the value of barter contracts has averaged nearly \$160 million annually; and since the beginning of the program the value has been over \$1.4 billion.

Grains, cotton, and tobacco are the major commodities we usually barter; but the foreign-produced materials we seek through barter vary widely. Over the years they have included hog bristles, feathers and down, silk noils, rutile, fertilizer, tantalum, bismuth, industrial diamonds, beryl, bauxite, cadmium, mica, and mercury. More recently, such bulk ores as metallurgical chrome and manganese have figured prominently in barter contracts. (Barter contracts are negotiated only with U. S. private firms.)



BARTER TASK FORCE meets in USDA conference room (the mural, incidentally, is Holland Lake, Flathead National Forest, Montana). Unless otherwise designated, the Force members pictured here are on the staff of the Barter and Stockpiling Manager.

Left to right: Robert C. Tetro, FAS Administrator; R. O. Link, Chief of Program Analysis, Barter & Stockpiling;

John P. Duncan, Jr., Asst. Secretary; F. A. Woodling (back of Duncan), Deputy Manager, B & S; T. R. Rawlings, Manager, B & S; H. Dunkleberger; Dorothy Dutch, J. C. Moroso, Union Carbide Corp; Dewey D. Fisher; Victor L. Hakim, Continental Grain Co.; F. F. Smith; and George Curth, Bunge Corp.

About 30 other FAS and industry representatives attended.

ED BELL TAKES EUROPEAN DESK

New European Area Officer is Edward J. Bell, ex-Athens attache. He took over Hugh Robinson's desk June 26. (Hugh is now attending the Foreign Service Institute, preparatory to early-fall departure for Bonn as asst. attache.)

Before taking on his new assignment, Ed had some vacation. He attended his son's graduation from Oregon State University in Corvallis, visited in Pendleton (where he was once administrator of the Oregon Wheat Commission), and returned to Washington by way of Montana.

SKINNER REPORTS

"The Ivory Coast's economy is really booming," says Snider W. Skinner, recently returned from a 2-1/2 month survey of 6 West African countries--British Cameroons, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Senegal. (He was with FAS when he planned his itinerary, but is now with ERS.)

Snider says that his tour of the Ivory Coast with Attache Jim Gehr, Monrovia, was probably one of the most comprehensive ever made by USDA. He was particularly impressed with the highly diversified agriculture of the country and with its 1st-class port of Abidjan.

Attache John Wenmohs, Lagos, made the arrangements for extensive travel through his three areas.

Incidentally, Snider settled one point that's been bothering a few of us. The "niebes" that often appear in West African production statistics are nothing more exotic than *vigna sinensis* (cowpeas).

Skinner's prop above is a rubber tree in the British Southern Cameroons.



125 FRENCHMEN WEREN'T WRONG

French agricultural leaders--125 strong--are returning home convinced they did the right thing in coming to the United States to observe American farming. The group, whose visit was arranged by Attache Paul Minneman (Paris) was one of the largest of its kind ever to come to this country.

Conservation, silage, and 4-H work in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois--and a visit to Secretary Freeman's family-type farm--commanded much of the visitors' interest.

Headed by R. B. Marechal, vice-pres. of the Horticultural Association of France, the group also visited the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, and conferred with officials in USDA.

FAS AIDS IN CHILEAN DAIRY PROJECT

Lou (L. H.) Burgwald, Dairy & Poultry Div. marketing specialist, is spending July in Antofagasta, Chile, where he is sharing his technical knowledge with operators of a new recombining plant. Chile has only one other such plant--at Arica.

U. S. nonfat dry milk and anhydrous butterfat will be used by the new installation to make a wide variety of dairy products, including ice cream. FAS is cooperating with Dairy Society International in this market development project.



THE FAS LETTER

To U. S. Agricultural Attache Posts

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ESKY, TOO, CAN PLANT A TREE

An American northern red oak, planted in Cologne by Attache Clarence Eskildsen, Bonn, on behalf of President Kennedy, will long provide shade and beauty for German industrial workers as a transplanted bit of the U. S. on the banks of the Rhine. (Esky was a stand-in for Ambassador Dowling.)

Planting of the tree, held by Stadtdirektor Berge, conservationist and Cologne city official, was part of a Tree Day program conducted by the Society for the Protection of German Forests (Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald). The program includes planting trees in industrial areas for the benefit of predominantly urban dwellers.

The ceremony attracted many leading citizens, school children, and others, and received extensive press and television coverage. Esky made his first speech in German. (He didn't know it was being televised).



HE PLAYED IT SAFE--AND WON

THE QUALITY OF MERCY....

The American Women's Club of Lisbon offers a prime example of the philanthropic work done by many U. S. women abroad. Mrs. Ruth Ehman, wife of our attache, is president of the Lisbon group.

Ruth reports that a recent style show netted 18,000 escudos (about \$630) for Portuguese charities, and that the group's gifts to the needy total about \$1,540 since the beginning of this year.

Watch This Page Next Month

For Photos of

Overseas Award-Winners

Rafael Mendoza, FAS chauffeur for Attache Henry Hopp and his staff in Bogota, was recently honored at a unique ceremony where U. S. Charge d'Affaires, Milton K. Wells, presented him with a certificate and cash award for 3 long years of safe driving.

Mendoza has not only wound through the Andes mountains without an accident, but has performed the more arduous feat of safely navigating himself and his passengers through the streets of Bogota.

A THANK YOU!

Arrangements for attaches on leave to visit spot markets to familiarize themselves with the cotton situation have brought Bob Tetro a "thank you" letter from Sam Loring, American Cotton Shippers' Association executive vice-president and secretary, saying that the visits should be encouraged.

He reports there was ...
that the U. S. feed grain program ...
direction."

Rose ...
is back from a 2-week vacation ...
Spain. She sniffed roses in the ...
wines,

Ra M B Li N g a R o U N d

FAS'ers are showing devotion to beauty as well as duty these days. Lovely young college girls--"summer help"--grace the South Building halls, and hope is strong that some FAS Miss will win USDA's annual beauty contest.

The load of our area officers has been made a bit more bearable by the summer addition of a "Girl Friday" to their staff. She's Lynne Zirkle, a pert sophomore at Madison College (Harrisonburg, Va.). We wager Lynne will be missed at summer's end.

Dalton L. Wilson, Livestock & Meat Products Div., left June 17 on a 6-week market development trip that is taking him to 8 South American countries. A 4-man market study team composed of American Brahman Breeders Association officials traveled with him to Venezuela and Colombia, first stops on his itinerary.

Bill Starkey, Grain Div., is back from Rome, where he was U. S. delegate to a May session of the FAO Group on Grains. He reports there was fairly general agreement that the U. S. feed grain program is "a step in the right direction."

Eleanore Burford, Paris secretary, is enjoying home leave in Colorado. She'll be back at her post in late August.

Art Rollefson, ex-Rangoon, took the "long way home" (on annual leave, of course) to do some sightseeing on the Continent before returning to Washington for reassignment.

Administrator Bob Tetro was U. S. delegate to the 35th Session of the FAO Council in Rome (June 19-30). Alternate was Ralph W. Phillips, director of Int'l Organization Affairs; advisers were John H. Richter, Economic Research Service (ERS) and Clayton E. Whipple, attache in Rome. Tetro and Phillips also served as delegate and alternate, respectively, to the FAO Freedom-From-Hunger Committee Meeting in Rome (June 16-17).



THE 1961 Maid of Cotton--Linda Lackey, 19-year-old speech major at the University of Mississippi--was honor guest at a reception given in Dublin by Attache Bill Hatch.

John Kross is back on the job as director, Program Development Div., after a 9-months absence as USDA's member of the Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy, sponsored by the State Dept.

Elson Needles, asst. attache in New Delhi, will be returning to his post about August 1, after home leave.

Rose Mary Bland, adm. asst. in Madrid, is back from a 2-week vacation through and around Spain. She sniffed roses in the Alhambra gardens, sipped Jerez wines, chatted with the gypsies of Granada, dined on the famed Aranjuez strawberries and asparagus, and otherwise made the most of her time.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

News from Mexico City is all good; April Arkus, adm. asst., is back at her desk after a pleasant fortnight's vacation in Chicago. Burl Stugard is again hard at work after home leave. And asst. attache John Ray's new daughter has been christened Claudia-Elizabeth Lamirault Ray; she seems to be bearing up under the load.

Chopsticks offer no problem to this cosmopolitan trio enjoying a Chinese meal at a restaurant on Cheng Chau Island, off Hong Kong.

Left to right: Mrs. Price Meeker, wife of agricultural officer; Ruth Bertovich, secretary; and Paul Miller, commercial officer.



Ruth Bertovich, Hong Kong, makes a meaningful Tai-chi Chuan gesture.

SECRETARIAL PROFILE

Sword dancing, shadow boxing, conversing in Cantonese, and trail blazing are among the talents of Ruth Bertovich --secretary to agricultural officer Brice Meeker, Hong Kong. (She is also an excellent secretary!)

Now on home leave, Ruth plans to relax until fall on the family farm near Masontown, Pa. During consultations in FAS/Wash, she convinced everyone that she's a secretary who improves each shining hour--not only for herself but also for FAS.

At a recent exhibition of Tai-chi Chuan (a sort of Taoist form of Yoga, anglicized to "shadow boxing"), Ruth had the honor of being the only Caucasian invited to perform. Her fluency in Cantonese makes her welcome in Chinese circles and also serves her in good stead when she's hiking over the many islands near Hong Kong.

MORE RAMBLERS--

Brice Meeker, agricultural officer in Hong Kong, is now enjoying home leave after consultations in FAS/Wash, where he was much in demand as a speaker. Among his audiences were thousands of radio-listeners, nationwide, who tuned into a taped interview.

Gordon Loveless, Rabat, has returned to his Moroccan base after a 1,500-mile, rough-road tour of drought-stricken sections in North Africa. He reports that a few parts of his area have better-than-average crop prospects, but that many sections face complete crop failures--which mean abnormally large grain imports.

John P. Duncan, Jr., Asst. Secretary, was guest speaker at the June luncheon of the FAS Club. Among his comments: "I am impressed with the fine job our agricultural attaches are doing."



A SOYBEAN COUNCIL TRAINING CONFERENCE held recently in Stockholm, Sweden, gave FAS an opportunity to further its cooperative market development work with members of the Soybean Council of America (SBCA). Pictured under the mounted antlers in the Foresta Hotel:

Seated (left to right): Dominic J. Marcellio (Iran); Jake L. Krider, vice-pres. SBCA; Clarence Eskildsen, agricultural attache, Bonn; Howard L. Roach, pres. SBCA; Fred R. Marti, int'l office, Rome; W. A. Minor, FAS asst. adm.; George

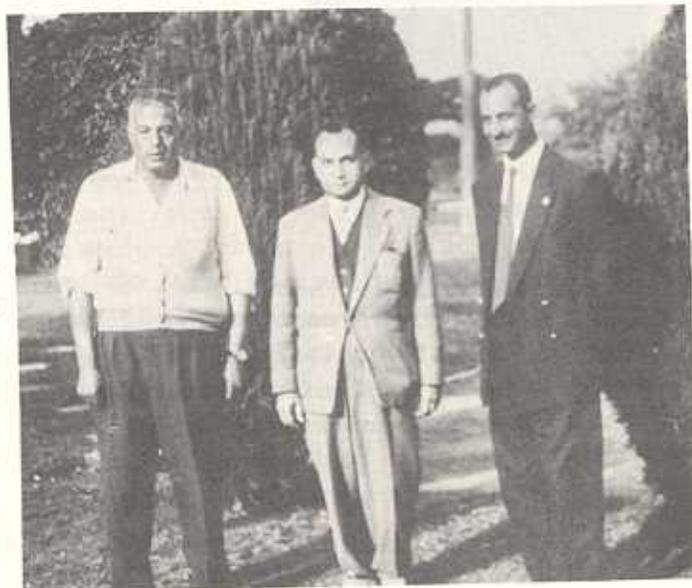
M. Strayer, ex-director SBCA; and V. Hakman (Turkey).

Standing: Juan de Madariga (France); Karl W. Fangauf (Germany); Eivind Sondergaard (Denmark); Shizuka Hayashi (Japan); William Luykx (Benelux); Atta Hasan (Pakistan); R. W. Fischer, asst. to SBCA president; B. Sepahpur (Iran); Volorus Hougen, FAS Fats & Oils Div; Rex Wood (U. K.); Franco Oddone (Rome); Javier de Salas (Spain); W. O. Ivanissevich (Peru); Andre Tawa (Egypt); Gonzalo Rivera (Spain); and Jose Muntefering (Rome).

GATHERING "INTELLIGENCE"

Clarence M. Purves, director of statistics, has words of praise for members of the Cairo staff who assisted him in his recent on-the-spot survey of the sources and reliability of Egyptian agricultural statistics.

The accompanying photo shows local assistant El-Sayed Ahmed Ehsan (center) and chauffeur Lutfi M. Mikhail, on the 50-acre tract of an Egyptian farmer (left). Among the farmer's crops are citrus, cotton, wheat, grapes, clover, and cattle. He also has dovecots that house 6,000 squabs for the commercial market.



"DISTINGUISHED" ATTACHE RETURNS FROM CONGO

"Steve" (Charalambos S.) Stephanides, Distinguished Service Awardee, is now on home leave after 2 years as attache in Leopoldville. His next post is Tel Aviv.

"The Congolese are really a wonderful people," reports Steve. He says political and economic conditions in the Congo were rapidly improving when he left; that the U. N. was cooperating fully with the Congolese; and that U. S. foodstuffs are now entering the country in sizable volume.

COOKING UP A COLUMN

The 400,000 visitors to the U.S. exhibit at the Paris Food Fair (May 18-29) included Art Buchwald, N. Y. Herald Tribune syndicated columnist for over 100 newspapers.

The columnist is pictured here sipping reconstituted dry milk. That forelocked man acting as a guide is Harry Henderson, FAS, information officer for the Fair. Buchwald was so impressed that he wrote two columns about the U.S. display.



THE GREEKS HAVE A WORD FOR IT

Henry Baehr, our new agricultural attache in Athens, arrived at his post in early June; Mrs. Baehr will be joining him late in the summer.

Before leaving Washington, grain specialist Baehr paid a protocol call at the Greek Embassy and learned that the Greeks, too, have a word for "market development"; Henry came away with a packet of a well-known Greek cigarette brand.

FOOD FOR PEACE

Secretary Freeman spoke on "Food for Peace and U. S. Farm Policy" June 28 at the First National Conference of the American Food for Peace Council.

The Council is composed of nationally known citizens who are providing leadership for the U.S. Food for Peace program and the FAO Freedom from Hunger campaign.

ANOTHER P. L. 480 AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN SIGNED



SIGNING of recent P. L. 480 Wheat agreement with Pakistan was attended by (left to right): T. C. M. Robinson, Counselor for Economic Affairs; D. L. Mac Donald, Agricultural Attache; William M.

Rountree, U.S. Ambassador; M. Y. Khan, Section Officer, Indian Ministry of Finance; M. A. Mozaffar and A. M. Salimullah, Joint Secretaries, Ministry of Finance.



ART ROLLEFSON looks over a Burmese tractor station at Pyinmana, while chatting with U. Aung Khin (center), Burmese agricultural official and U. Hla Myint,

station manager. Art was attache in Rangoon when the above picture was taken; he returned to FAS/Wash in June. (Lloyd Williams took over in Burma.)



PRESENTATION of trophies for the 1961 Quito Dairy Show was the occasion for a get-together by Cristobal Ponce, Secretary of the Ecuadoran Holstein-

Friesian Association; Fred M. Lege III, FAS marketing specialist; and Francis Jack, agricultural attache in Quito (left to right).