

HENDERSON, Hon. Charles B.  
Chm. Board of Directors,  
Reconstruction Finance Corporation,  
Feb. 1, 1948.

83-2

The President wrote that the U.S. Commercial Company has since early in the Pacific war operated a program for the production of foodstuffs, the distribution of trade goods and the development of the local economy in certain captured and occupied areas of the Pacific Ocean under the jurisdiction of the Navy Department. The Program for the production of vegetables, meat, milk and fish was originally undertaken with the object of saving shipping space for such foods. These products have been furnished to the military for-  
free in the areas as they have become available, and the Navy has already received with-  
out charge approximately 25 million pounds of food grown under the program. The Presi-  
dent understands that the program for the distribution of trade goods originally in-  
tended as an incentive for native workers has been expanded to supply the needs of the  
natives; that the Navy Dept. desires the U.S. Commercial Company to extend its activi-  
ties in this connection to the Carolines, Marianas and other island groups and, further,  
that the Navy Dept. desires the U.S. Commercial Company to conduct an economic survey  
of the Pacific Ocean area and to assist in working out a program to promote the self-  
sufficiency of the area. The President said altho it is the objective of this Govern-  
ment to return commercial activities to private channels at the earliest time consistent  
with orderly procedure and the reconversion requirements and international commitments of  
the United States he deems it necessary and desirable that the above program be contin-  
ued and that the requested expansion go forward as rapidly as possible. The President  
said he had requested the U.S. Commercial Company to continue and expand the programs in  
the areas above mentioned in accordance with recommendations of the Navy Department. The  
President said where appropriate, assistance and advice should be obtained from the Dept.  
of State, Dept. of Agric., the Dept. of Interior and Dept. of Commerce. The President  
said this letter was not to be construed as affecting in any way the functions of the  
Inter-Departmental Committee he established on Oct. 20, 1945, to consider administrative  
arrangements for the areas in which these programs operate, or as prejudging its con-  
clusions.--Attached is memo. for the President from John W. Snyder, not dated, in re the  
above letter. --Mr. Henderson, Feb. 1st, replied to the President's letter of that date  
and advised that the President could expect their full cooperation.--Mr. Hassetz, Feb.  
4th, sent memo. to Dir. Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion transmitting copy of  
letter and memo. Original retained in our files.

SNE 210-2-U.S. Commercial Company