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Effects of New Phases of South-east Asia on Economic Development of North Vietnam

by Noboru Yamamoto

The establishment of the neutral government in Laos should be understood as a temporary stabilization of political conditions of this area.

But it doesn't give any security for bringing real stability in this region. On the contrary, it is said that this new phases would give some new impetus to conflicts between East and West blocs in this area.

From this standpoint, we can point out three routes of Communist's movement penetrating into South-east Asian region. The first is the route through North Vietnam. Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam where the East bloc has been most offensive. The second course is through the national boundary between Burma and Communist China. But the situation has been rather calm after the formation of treaty between both countries in December, 1960.

The third one is concerned to boundary disputes between China and India, around where they fought a battle last autumn.

And it is noteworthy to mention that the East bloc makes use of these three routes quite elastically. Namely, in some cases, he lays stress on the first line, and in other cases, upon the third line and so on.

From this point of view, the present political situation of South Vietnam seems to be very acute, suffering from the guerilla activity of Viet-Con who has crept into the South from North Vietnam.

In this connection, North Vietnam is said to be one of the most powerful and useful bases for Communist's movements in South-east Asia. And for that purpose, North Vietnam itself has striven to foster its economic development after its declaration of independence in 1945 and especially after the conclusion of agreement of truce at Geneva in July, 1954.

In this article, the author explained the process of establishment of North Vietnam Government at first, and after scrutinizing its economic development plans and its real results, he tries to make clear the effects of new phases of South-east Asia upon the economic conditions of North Vietnam. Through this analysis, his conclusion concerning with the problem of uniting

both South and North Vietnams is rather pessimistic for the near future.

On the System of the Theory of Economic Integration

by Hiroaki Fukami

This paper is based on the fundamental conception in the writer's last paper ("Economic Integration: Theory and Its Present Aspects," this Journal, Nov. 1962), making a further investigation into how the theory of economic integration should be constructed as well as what system this theory should have.

It is the crux of this investigation to establish a more consistent and efficient system through the analysis of the theoretical necessity of economic integration (factor analysis) in connection with the analysis of the effects of integration (gain analysis). The establishment of this system enables us to elucidate fully the two specialities or characteristics of integration, namely; (1) why integration has to be restricted to the regional basis instead of the world as a whole (the restriction of the size of integration) and (2) why integration involves not merely a realization of free trade in the integrated areas but other factors. Conversely speaking, these specialities are the main causes for the writer to analyze economic integration distinctively both from conventional world-wide free trade and from economic nationalism marked by giving priority to domestic equilibrium and thus to establish this new theory of integration.

It is worthy of note, however, that this theory is not necessarily the completely new one but can be established basically on the same lines of the classical theory of trade (especially the principles of free trade), by reexamining its fundamental characteristics, pursuing its theoretical development (dynamic consideration), and also weighing it with the present status of the world economy.

In essentials, economic integration can be grasped as an international economic structure or measures, setting up the institution for the efficient operation of free trade and maximizing gains of members of this structure in the present state of world economy in which the mere realization of world-wide free trade does not guarantee the optimum economic conditions

to every country. Thus integration is a procedure to make the most of free competition and market mechanism even in the framework of certain policies or plannings in the integrated areas.

This system of the theory of economic integration may be divided broadly into the factor analysis and the effect analysis. In the effect analysis, followings are studied; firstly, economic gains and losses of integration, secondly, the conditions of maximizing economic gains of integration, thirdly, ex-post effects of integration (integration effects), and lastly, the problems of setting up the criteria for the specialization of industries and of intra-regional co-ordination of economic policies.

Throughout these analyses, the writer pays his attention to the fact that integration brings about both gains and losses and thus concentrates his thought on the conditions for maximization of its gains as well as minimization of its losses, in other words, maximization of net gains (=the dynamic efficiency taking into account both changes in efficiency of resource allocation and an increase in the rate of economic growth). The most of its gains and losses are, in substance, identical with those from free trade.

In conclusion, economic integration comes from the consideration in what regions and under what international institution its net gains or dynamic efficiency can be maximized to each member country. This consideration shows that the dynamic efficiency can be maximized in the integration of homogeneous equally-developed countries and this horizontal integration is theoretically most desirable. Here, the classical theme that free trade operates most efficiently among equally-developed countries must be re-perceived. The economic integration is selected as a means to catch up with more developed countries by acceleration of economic growth of lagging countries in some respects.

So far, the investigations are restricted to the economic theorizing of integration of somewhat developed countries. Making the prospect of the world economy from these analyses, regional economic integration can not be considered as a process to the world-wide liberalization but it is a process of struggle between these integrated regions which try to develop themselves.

Problems of Primary Commodity Exports in South East Asia

by *Yoko Kawashima*

The importance of primary commodity problems in international economics increased in postwar period with the emergence of the problems of economic development of under-developed areas. The slower growth of primary commodity exports retard the scope of economic progress in these areas that depend heavily on the production of these commodities, by limiting their foreign exchange earnings that can be spent for the imports of capital goods required for industrialization. Also, instability of international markets for primary commodities causes fluctuations in their export proceeds, often leads to balance of payment difficulties that make it impossible for them to have stable development program where imported capital goods play the crucial role.

The purpose of the present study is to illustrate the particular features of primary commodity problems in South East Asia, its instability of export proceeds and its relative decline in export share in the world market, and to point out the difference between the problems involved in primary commodities mainly exported from South East Asia and those exported from other under developed regions.

The export share of each country in the international market depends on the price and quality competitiveness of its exports, geographical distribution of demand for its exports and commodity structure of its exports. The price and quality competition between synthetics and primary products is increasing its importance in postwar period. For example improvement of quality of synthetic rubber and fibers are inducing more synthetics to be substituted for natural rubber and cotton, both very important exports from South East Asia. Stronger internal demand for food caused by recent rapid growth in population leaves less to be exported to the international markets. Such tendency is more apparent in case of South East Asia, where major food exports consist of tea, rice and vegetable oilseeds that are the important food items consumed in domestic markets. On the other hand, sugar, coffee or cocoa, major exports from Africa or Latin America are produced primarily to supply international markets, thus increase in population or the rise in

standard of livings do not reflect on decline in export availabilities of these commodities. Progress of industrialization in South East Asia which is often based on the fabrication of primary commodities that are produced internally may temporary decrease their export proceeds. Manufacturing industries at the early stages of industrialization are often inefficient and inferior quality of goods produced may not be able to compete in the international market, Thus the fall in exports of raw materials may not be fully compensated by the rise in exports of fabricated goods.

The factors mentioned above seem to have been responsible for the fall in export share of South East Asia in the world market. The slower rate of growth of export proceeds in South East Asia and the subsequent loss in its share was mainly caused by the smaller increase in quantum of exports, while secular fall in export unit values was the prime reason for the fall in shares in case of other underdeveloped areas, in the main, Africa and Latin America.

The shortrun fluctuations in export proceeds were larger in South East Asia compared to other underdeveloped regions. Commodity compositions of exports from South East Asia which depend heavily on exports of industrial raw materials seem to explain such difference.

The above findings seem to suggest that primary commodity problems in South East Asia must be solved taking account of their special features which are quite different from the problems that confront Africa or Latin America.