

The Editors of the Foreign Service Journal, understanding of the interest which the officers in the Foreign Services of State, Commerce and Agriculture will have in all matters pertaining to the consolidation of the Foreign Services of Commerce and Agriculture into that of State, have informed themselves in responsible quarters and are able to give in this issue the following information which it is believed will be of interest. This will supplement the information on consolidation appearing in the Department's weekly Press Releases, No. 502, of May 13, 1939.

Through a Joint Resolution which has now been approved by both Houses of the Congress, the Reorganization Plans Nos. 1 and 2 become effective on July 1, 1939. The consolidation of the Foreign Services of Commerce and Agriculture into that of State, as provided for in Reorganization Plan No. 2, will become effective on that date. The Congress found it desirable for administrative and fiscal reasons to have the reorganization plans become effective at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

As the consolidation of the Foreign Services of the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture into that of the Department of State involves numerous administrative
problems

problems with respect to personnel and organization in Washington as well as in field establishments, it is obvious that frequent and constant consultation between the officers of the three Departments concerned in Washington is essential in order that the appropriate executive orders, instructions and regulations may be prepared. It is obvious that the time intervening between the approval of the Joint Resolution by the Congress and July 1, 1939 will not be sufficient to enable the Departments to work out all of these instructions so that they can become effective on July 1. It is therefore the intention to have the Foreign Service officers of Commerce and of Agriculture who will be transferred to the Department of State Foreign Service confirmed by the Senate prior to July 1, 1939 so as from that date they will have the status of Foreign Service officers of the Department of State. Instructions with respect to such transfer will be issued to the field offices and to the respective officers in due course.

As there will have to be many adjustments in the field establishments, more particularly in those capitals or cities where there are now maintained establishments of the Departments of Commerce and of Agriculture, it is intended that until the appropriate instructions for field organization have been worked out and received in the field the present organization and practice in the field shall be continued --

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in other words, that a status quo in the field establishments shall exist in every respect except as to the status of the officers themselves who, as above indicated, from July 1, 1939 it is hoped will have full status as Foreign Service officers of the Department of State.

The appropriate officers of the Departments of State, Commerce and Agriculture are giving constant attention to these matters and so far as fiscal procedure is concerned it is hoped that the appropriate instructions will be received in the field before the end of July. The complete instructions with regard to the field organization and practice will follow shortly thereafter.