

Research and Budget



By Lieut. Col. Arturo de los Reyes, Inf

NY RESEARCH institution, of whatever level, cannot be expected to attain a reasonable degree of success without a progressive budget that increases in direct proportion to its sound program of activities, adequate competent personnel, up-to-date essential and precision equipment, good shops and laboratories, as well as a sufficient stock of materials and/or supplies. Again, devoid of adequate personnel, essential and precision equipment, good shops and laboratories and sufficient stock of materials and supplies, no significant headway can be achieved in spite of a sound program of activities even if coupled with a determination to seriously implement such a program.

The Research and Development Division, situated in Libis, Santolan, Quezon City, is the only created research unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. It is almost nine (9) years in existence now but

is not receiving the backing it rightly deserves. A computation of its money allocations shows that during the three (3) fiscal years between 1948 and 1951, P30,000.00, P40,000.00 and P60,000.00 were actually made available and a yearly allocation of P100,000.00 was given during the next four (4) fiscal years between 1951 and 1955. The first three (3) allocations were made at a time when the Division was not yet operating, since start of operations was only in 1951. Attention is invited to the fact that there was no increase of fund whatsoever from the F/Y 1951-1956 to the present. Yet, the increase in activities was so fast that some projects had to be put off for lack of money to support them.

To make matters worse than what they were, the performance budget which was adopted in the AFP last FY, affected the Research and Development Division in no small de-



Every time President Magsaysay submits his annual budget to Congress, the powerful 17-man Appropriations Committee of the Senate and Lower House scrutinizes it carefully for excessive and unnecessary requests for proposed expenditures.

gree. This is so because the logistical support coming from other technical services before the adoption of the performance budget was cut and is now to be assumed by this unit. While it is true that RDD was given P225,000.00 for its 1956-57 operations, in effect that is only P125,000.00 more since P100,000.00 of it was the old item of RDD in the Appropriation Act. The apparent increase of P125,000.00 will take care of the pay and allowance of officers and enlisted men, POL supplies, stationeries, travel expenses, postage, per diems, etc. There is in effect no increase in the RDD budget for the incoming fiscal year.

Unless a progressively increasing budget is programmed for the RDD, there seems to be no justification for continuing a research entity in the AFP. But is it wise and proper to adopt this course of action? The answer is definitely NO. For all progressive countries in both contending ideological camps, without exception, maintain a modern, up-to-date research unit, backed-up by a budget that will put to insignificance the fund allocation for the Research and Development Division. Abolition or junking of the RDD, is nothing more nor less than retrogression.