

(S. B. 449)

(No. 39)

(Approved May 27, 1954)

AN ACT

To transfer to the Department of State all the functions now performed by the Planning Board with regard to the Program of Technical Aid to Economically Underdeveloped Areas (Point IV); and to repeal Act No. 378 of May 8, 1951.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- All the functions now performed by the Planning Board with regard to the Program of Technical Aid to Economically Underdeveloped Areas (Point IV), pursuant to Act No. 378 of May 8, 1951, are hereby transferred to the Department of State. Said program shall henceforth be known as Technical Cooperation Program.

Section 2.- The Secretary of State may contract for and appoint the necessary personnel to carry out the functions transferred by this Act, without subjection to the Personnel Act, Act No. 345 of May 12, 1947.

Section 3.- It is ordained by this Act that all applications and arrangements with reference to future training of scholarship grantees in Puerto Rico shall be processed

through the Technical Cooperation Office. Likewise, all applications for federal or international funds, or for personnel to carry out the purposes of the Technical Cooperation Program, as well as all international technical cooperation projects that may be worked out or suggested, must be approved by the Secretary of State or his official representative and submitted by his office to the pertinent federal or international agency through the usual channels.

Section 4.- It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of State or his official representative to approve all technical - aid contracts and to supervise and coordinate, all programs in operation. Such responsibility embraces all bilateral and multilateral programs of the Foreign Operations Administration (FOA), of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, of the American States Organization, of the Caribbean Commission, and of any other new agency or agencies that may be hereafter created to take care of this activity, as well as any agreement with a foreign government or institution.

Section 5.- The Secretary of State is hereby authorized to use the funds available for the Technical Cooperation Program in the operating budget of his department for defraying the expenses of representation and public relations incurred in the performance of the function entrusted to him by this Act, for the granting of scholarship and aid to

foreign students, and for other expenses incurred in the exchanging of technicians and officers.

Section 6.- The Secretary of State is hereby authorized to create an advisory committee for counseling on the executing of the program and for performing such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Secretary.

Section 7.- There are hereby transferred to the Department of State, to be used, employed or expended in connection with the functions transferred by the provisions of this Act, the records and property now being used in connection with such functions, the personnel now employed in connection with such functions, and items of appropriation or other funds (available or to be available) for use in connection with such functions.

Section 8.- Act No. 378 of May 8, 1951 is hereby repealed.

Section 9.- This Act shall take effect July 1, 1954.