

AMERICAN WAR PRODUCTION MISSION IN CHINA  
1944-1945

NOTE TO RESEARCHERS:

This Collection was rehoused in July 2006, and box numbers have changed slightly. If you have used a previous version of this finding aid, please cross-check against this new finding aid to ensure that you are ordering the correct box.

Bob Clave, Supervisory Archivist

Records of the  
AMERICAN WAR PRODUCTION MISSION IN CHINA  
1944-1945

Accession Number: 60-2

The records of the American War Production Mission in China were accessioned by the National Archives and placed in Record Group 220, Records of Presidential Committees, Commissions and Boards. On July 22, 1959, they were transferred to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. These records are in public domain.

Quantity: 17 feet, 9 rolls of microfilm

Restrictions: These records contain documents restricted in accordance with Executive Order 12065.

Related Materials:

President's Official File  
President's Secretary File  
Map Room Papers  
Harry Hopkins Papers  
Henry Morgenthau, Jr. "Diaries"

## INTRODUCTION

President Roosevelt, on August 18, 1944, asked Donald M. Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board, to go to China as the President's personal representative to see what could be done to help China get on her feet economically. He was to concern himself both with China's ability to continue in the war with Japan and with her postwar future. Mr. Nelson, heading what was first known as the Nelson Mission to China, left Washington for Chungking on August 25, 1944, taking with him as his assistants two War Production officials--Edwin A. Locke, Jr., Assistant Deputy Director, Priorities Division, and James A. Jacobson, Special Assistant in the Executive Office of the Chairman. The Mission was to investigate and make recommendations. Mr. Nelson was to assemble facts, listen to the Chinese estimate of the current situation, and then draw his own conclusions.

Mr. Nelson and his assistants held many meetings with Chinese Government officials, Chinese businessmen, and Ambassador Gauss and other American representatives in China. The Mission was provided by the Chinese with such statistics as were available on resources, expenditures, production, imports and exports, transportation, prices, and requirements. Mr. Nelson recommended the creation of a Chinese War Production Board, along the lines of an American War Production Board. The agency should have as its goal the full and effective utilization of Chinese production facilities and should have sufficient authority to bring this about. With a feeling of mutual understanding established, the Nelson party returned to Washington on September 24, 1944.

On October 4, 1944, Mr. Nelson reported to President Roosevelt on his visit to China and recommended a number of steps the United States should take to strengthen China's war economy. They were that the Foreign Economic Administration's Economic Mission then at Chungking should be substantially strengthened; that a Joint China-United States Production Committee should be established to coordinate the supply and production problems of the two countries; and that aircraft should be allocated to the China National Aviation Corporation for the India-China service. These recommendations and a request to President Roosevelt from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek that Mr. Nelson be sent back to China as soon as possible to assist him with a plan for China's reconstruction both during and after the war prompted the President to ask Mr. Nelson to make another trip to China.

On November 9, 1944, the American War Production Mission in China, as it was known until V-J Day, left from Washington for Chungking and arrived there on November 16, 1944. On the staff were Donald M. Nelson, Personal Representative of the President; Edwin A. Locke, Jr., his assistant; Howard Coonely, deputy in charge of the Mission in Chungking, formerly Director of Conversation, War Production Board; James A. Jacobson, assistant deputy in Chungking; five iron and steel specialties; and one alcohol production specialist. Other specialists joined the Mission later. The Mission deputies and technical experts attended meetings of the Chinese War Production Board, of its staff and technical committees, and of the appropriate industry advisory committees and subcommittees. The Mission also correlated its activities with those of representatives from the American Embassy, the Foreign Economic Administration, the Office of Strategic Services, the Office of War Information, and the United States China Theater Command. The industry programs that were carried on began with iron and steel and industrial alcohol and grew to include all the important war production industries of Free China. Through the technical programs, the Mission came into close contact with Free China's industrial structure and built up a body of information that made possible a realistic industrial understanding of the Chinese economy. By means of these programs, the Mission provided definitive, tangible assistance to the Chinese industry both for war purposes and for the postwar economy. Donald M. Nelson resigned on May 15, 1945 and was terminated in November 1945. Mr. Locke submitted his report to the President on December 18, 1945.

The records described in this preliminary inventory are those created or accumulated by the American War Production Mission in China. They are a part of Record Group 220, Records of Presidential Committees, Commissions and Boards, and amount to 11 cubic feet.

## RECORDS OF THE AMERICAN WAR PRODUCTION MISSION IN CHINA

GENERAL RECORDS. Aug. 1944-Dec. 1945 8 ft.

Correspondence, memoranda, cables, reports, and related materials documenting the organization, administration, and operations of the Mission. The records relate to the establishment of a Chinese War Production Board; program planning and reporting for Free China's factories, mines, arsenals, and other producing units; the stepping up of production of coal and coke, iron and steel, nonferrous metals, chemicals, liquid fuels, munitions, and other items essential to the war effort; and the forming of various Chinese War Production Board Committees. Included in the file are correspondence between Edwin A. Locke, Jr., and James A. Jacobson, and between Mr. Locke and other Mission members, correspondence concerning the termination of the American Production Mission, the diary and log of the Hurley-Nelson Mission, at the American Embassy in Chungking. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type. A list of folder headings for this series appears as appendix I of this inventory.

REPORTS FROM CHUNGKING. Nov. 1944-Oct. 1945 2 ft.

Weekly statements prepared by Mission deputies in Chungking, reporting developments and activities of the Mission. Each report is accompanied by enclosures, such as memoranda between Chinese officials and representatives of the United States Government agencies in China; reviews of progress by activity groups; Chinese statistics on resources, expenditures, production and requirements, and copies of reports from United States manufacturers concerning the availability of materials. Arranged numerically, 1-62.

MEMORANDA RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS. Jan.-June 1945 1 in.

Carbon copies of memoranda from E. A. Locke, Jr., to officials of the State and War Departments and Foreign Economic Administration transmitting documents with reference to China's war production effort, for their confidential information and guidance. Arranged chronologically.

CONFERENCE NOTES. Aug. 1944-Oct. 1945. 4 in.

Copies of notes on conferences of Mission deputies and staff members with Chinese committees and officials and United States officials concerning the establishing of the Chinese War Production Board and means of increasing Chinese production of essential war materials. Arranged chronologically.

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WAR PRODUCTION MISSION IN CHINA, COPY NO. 7.  
1944-45 1 vol. 2 in.

The history was compiled by Mrs. Mabel Taylor Gregg, consulting research analyst to Edwin A. Locke, Jr. It is divided into four parts as follows: Part 1, Background, Organization, and General Operations; Part 2, Summaries of Individual Industry and Special Programs; Part 3, Climax and Curtain, Climax and Curtain; Part 4, Copies of Documents.

MICROFILM COPIES OF RECORDS OF THE MISSION SPECIALITIES. 1944-45. 9 Rolls.

Correspondence between the specialists and the Chinese War Production Board and its advisory committee and subcommittee members; reports on trips to inspect Chinese factories, mines, and arsenals; reports on progress, Production Board; and minutes of the Board. The paper records from which these copies were made appear to be duplicated in the general records of the Mission (entry 1). A few of them predate the American War Production Mission in China. The whereabouts of the paper records is not known. The series is neither arranged nor indexed, and as many as four duplicates of the document may be found in it.

PUBLICATIONS. 1941-1945. 6 in.

Copies of publications collected by the Mission for use in the overall study of China. A list of them appears as appendix II of the inventory. Arranged in accordance with the list.

AMERICAN WAR PRODUCTION MISSION IN CHINA

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
1	Agriculture and Forestry (2 Folders) Air Cargo Priorities - W.P.B Airports Alcohol (Divider) Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - General (2 Folders) Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - Itineraries Liquid Fuels, Control Commission Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - Meetings and Conferences (2 Folders) Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - Miscellaneous Reports (Folder 1 of 2)
2	Alcohol Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - Miscellaneous Reports (Folder 2 of 2) Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - "A Plan Proposed for Improving Alcohol Industry in China" Liquid Fuels, Alcohol Plants Liquid Fuels, Brief Statement on ... Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - Production - Consumption Requirements Facts and Figures (2 Folders) Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - Raw Materials Control Liquid Fuels, Alcohol - Storage Facilities American Embassy Reports (Folder 1 & 2 of 5)
3	American Embassy Reports (Folder 3-5 of 5) Cables (Divider) Incoming Cables Outgoing Cables Cement China - Cables (WARX and CFB/ Folder 1 of 3)
4	China Cables (WARX and CFB/ Folders 2 & 3 of 3) Chemicals (Divider) Chemicals (2 Folders) China Trade News (By China America Council of Commerce and Ind.) (2 folders) Chinese Institute of Engineers

- 5 Coal and Coke (Divider)  
 Coal and Coke Advisory Committee  
 Coal Coking and Coke Oven Construction  
 Coal Mines - Physical Outlay and Related Subjects  
 Coal Production and Consumption (4 Folders)
- 6 Coal Washing  
 China Mission: Coal and Coke (2 Folders)  
 Cooperatives  
 Correspondence: E.A. Locke, Jr. to J.A. Jacobson (3 Folders)  
 Correspondence: From J.A. Jacobson to E.A. Locke, Jr.  
 September 1944 - July 1945 (Folder 1 of 2)
- 7 Correspondence: From J.A. Jacobson to E.A. Locke, Jr.  
 September 1944 - July 1945 (Folder 2 of 2)  
 Correspondence: From J.A. Jacobson to E.A. Locke, Jr.  
 August to November 1945 (2 Folders)  
 Correspondence: From E.A. Locke, Jr. to Mission Members  
 Correspondence: From Mission Members to E.A. Locke, Jr.  
 (2 Folders)  
 Correspondence: Between D.M. Nelson and Mission Members  
 Correspondence: Between Mission Members  
 Correspondence: Termination of American Production Mission
- 8 Crucibles  
 Dehydration  
 Diary First Nelson Mission to China  
 Diary Log and Travel Orders (Second Trip)  
 -China  
 Diary and log of the Hurley-Nelson Mission  
 - China  
 Current Economic Situation - China  
 (2 Folders)  
 Economic Conditions - China (2 Folders)
- Electrical Equipment  
 Equipment - Inventories  
 Executive Committee on Economic Foreign Policy (2 Folders)
- 9 Expediting  
 Finance (Divider)  
 Finance and Foreign Trade - China (6 Folders)  
 Flour Milling

- 10 Foreign Economic Administration, "Report on Lend Lease Aid to  
China"  
Foreign Economic Administration (Divider/Report/2 Folders)  
Formosa  
Henderson Mission  
Imports-Civilian Commodities  
Industry, General Reports on China (3 Folders)  
Industrial Management Association  
Industrial and Mining Adjustment Administration  
Industrialization of China
- 11 Inspections (Divider/Boxes 1-9 of 16)
- 12 Inspections (Boxes 10-16 of 16)
- 13 Interdepartmental Committee on Economic Policy toward China  
(2 Folders)  
International Training Administration, Inc. - China  
Investment Subcommittee - China  
Iron and Steel Production  
    Blast Furnaces and Pig Iron  
    Steel Production (3 Folders)
- 14 Iron and Steel Production  
Foundry Practice  
Iron Ore, Conference on Demand and  
    Supply of  
Iron Ore  
Iron and Steel Advisory Committee  
Steel Production - Production Figures on  
Rolling Mills  
Wire Drawing and Tinning  
Itineraries  
Leather Tanning
- Laws  
Lend Lease (4 Folders)
- 15 Lend Lease (Reports)  
Literature (Divider/1 Folder)  
Lumber  
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    Machine Works  
    Machine Industry Tool Advisory Committee

- 15 (Cont.)      Machine Industry  
                   Medicines  
                   Metals - Non-Ferrous (Cooper, Zinc, Lead, Etc.)  
   (Divider/1 Folder)  
   Salvage of Aluminum  
                   Miscellaneous (Folders 1 & 2 of 4)
- 16                Miscellaneous (Folders 3 & 4 of 4)  
                   Munitions Production (Divider/2 Folders)  
   Ordnance (4 Folders)  
   Shells and Munitions
- 17                Nails  
                   National Bureau of Industrial Research  
                   National Bureau of Mining and Metallurgical Research  
                   Newspaper Clippings (Divider/ Folders)  
   September 1944-March 1945  
                   Nelson Trip to China (August-October 1944) (Folders 1 & 2 of 4)
- 18                Nelson Trip to China (August-October 1944) (Folders 3 & 4 of 4)  
                   News Digests (3 Folders)  
                   Personnel (Divider)  
   Reports, Lists and Miscellaneous (2 Folders)  
   Employment Applications in China  
   Transportation for, in China
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   Liquid Fuels - Petroleum (2 Folders)  
   Port Program  
                   Post War Planning (Divider)  
                   Post War Industrialization, Planning and Reconstruction  
   (3 Folders)
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   Power Advisory Committee, Electric  
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- 21                    Power Units (2 Folders)  
                       Power Units and Equipment (3 Folders)  
                       Power Plant Equipment  
                       Power Supply - "China's Immediate Power Supply Problem"
- 22                    Production Programs  
                       Production Statistics (Divider)  
                                   Production, General Data on  
                                   Production, Indices on Industrial  
                                   Production Figures on Industry in Occupied  
     China, Formosa and Manchuria  
                                   CWPB Production Statistics, November 1944 to  
     February 1945  
                       Progress Reports - 2<sup>nd</sup> Mission  
                       Progress Reports - September 25, 1944 (by J.A. Jacobson)  
                       Projects - Report of First Mission  
                       Public Procurement  
                       Publicity - Nelson Mission and Chinese War Production Board  
                                   (Folder 1 of 2)
- 23                    Publicity - Nelson Mission and Chinese War Production Board  
                                   (Folder 2 of 2)  
                       References - Authorities  
                       Reports  
                                   Mission Data Report, Summary of the Facts  
     Obtained by the First Mission Sept. 1944  
                                   Iron and Steel - First Mission's Report  
                                   Memorandum on Japan's Industrial  
     Development (2 Reports)  
                                   Report of the First Steel Group of the Nelson  
     Mission to China (3 Reports)  
                                   Memoirs of Mineral resources of the Geological  
                                   Survey of Szechwan  
                                   Report; Gavin, M.J., Kansu  
                                   Report; China - Excerpts from China's Destiny
- 24                    Reports  
                                   Report on the Kansu Petroleum Production and Refining  
     administration. (Report)  
                                   China Reports; Rich, Dr. John on the Szechwan  
     Basin Personal Report (5 Reports)  
                                   Personal Report; H.H Fowler to Donald Nelson;

- 24 (Cont.) Correspondence on China Mission  
Data Report  
Nelson Mission (Coonley Report)  
China Mission Data Report: A Summary of facts  
Obtained by the first Nelson Mission,  
September 1944  
Bosch report (Shanghai)
- 25 Requirements - SOS  
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                         Debt Reports, Semi-Annual (June 30, 1945)  
                         Finance Committee  
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