

30 APR 1975

## INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE U. S. COORDINATOR

FROM: LA/DR, John R. Breen

SUBJECT: ISSUES PAPER: Dominican Republic -  
Non-Formal Supervised Home Study Education PROP ✓

The subject PROP will be reviewed by the DAEC on Wednesday, April 30, 1975, at 9:30 AM in the LA/DR Conference Room (2252). The project was originally developed in response to AID/W requests for Accelerated Program Development (APD) initiatives. Essentially the project will assist the present Instituto Dominicano de Educacion Integral (IDEI), a non-profit semi-autonomous institution, in its endeavors to provide innovative, supervised home study secondary educational opportunities to those low income, disadvantaged, rural and urban Dominicans not able to attend regular secondary schools. This will be accomplished through:

1. The continuing development of indigenous teaching materials;
2. The use of community facilities for review centers, with supervision from secondary teachers; and
3. The utilization of radio programs to supplement written instruction.

Funding is requested on a two-year basis in the amount of \$200,000.

The PROP was originally reviewed by the DAEC in December, 1974, and the Mission was requested to revise the PROP to incorporate DAEC concerns as to the economic and financial status of IDEI as well as its overall management and administrative needs. The revised PROP now contemplates expanded short-term technical assistance to IDEI in financial planning, administrative analysis, educational testing, broadcast technology, correspondence education techniques, textbook technology, and educational materials preparation.

The proposed project was described in the FY 75 Congressional Presentation (pg. 68) and was estimated to cost approximately \$200,000.

The GODR provides IDEI an annual subsidy of \$60,000; however, the 25% counterpart contribution is not specifically referred to in the PROP (see issue below):

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1. IDEI Long-term Viability - IDEI currently incurs a \$12. loss per student (\$36. tuition vs. \$48. per student cost). This difference will increase as costs rise and as new techniques and materials are incorporated. The PROP assumes that economies may be experienced as the result of the management efforts to be undertaken, thereby allowing IDEI to balance its books. The DAEC had proposed a system of matching grants from the DR private sector to fill this gap. The DAEC will discuss whether such a system was seriously considered and why was it discarded? The DAEC will also wish to discuss the overall financial prospects of IDEI to enable it to carry out the programs resulting from the technical assistance to be provided under the program.

2. Scholarships - The DAEC requested the Mission to investigate the use of scholarships to enable students, mostly rural, who now drop out of the program to remain students and take the final exam. The DAEC will wish to discuss what consideration was given to a scholarship plan, why it was not included in the program, and what constraints the lack of such a program will have upon the success of the project.

3. Enrollment - IDEI has stated its intention not to increase its program beyond the present 4,000 students without first resolving the current operational difficulties. The DAEC will discuss what the projected enrollment figures are after such resolution and whether IDEI's financial status will allow major expansion.

4. GODR Contribution - The PROP does not specify any cooperating country contribution on the face sheet. The DAEC will determine the extent and nature of the required contribution.

5. GODR Support - The DAEC will discuss the assumption on page 9 that a change in government might eliminate the IDEI program. What is inherent in the program which would cause it to suffer from a different GODR?