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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 FB-07 IGA-02 /041 W

P 261632Z FEB 76 ---------- 020674
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 2/76
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9271

UNCLAS MANAGUA 0943

AIDAC

FO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: PVO/OPG PROPOSAL - FUNDE RURAL EDUCATION

REF: STATE 042810

1. FUNDE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED SUGGESTION TO INTEGRATE MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMPONENT INTO PROJECT, TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON IMPACT OF THIS EXPERIMENTAL ACTIVITY. FUNDS PROPOSES USE OF LOCAL CONTRACT WITH NICARAGUAN FIRM (FOR WHICH PRECEDENT EXISTS) RATHER THAN USE DIRECT-HIRE FUNDE RURAL SOCIOLOGIST, WHO MAY NOT BE AS OBJECTIVE. MISSION AGREES, NOTING THAT IN-COUNTRY RESOURCES IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC EVALUATION DO EXIST. TAB-FUNDED EXPERTISE WOULD STILL BE REQUESTED SHORTLY AFTER PROJECT BEGINS, TO WORK WITH FUNDE AND SELECTED LOCAL FIRM IN DEFINING METHODOLOGY AND INDICATORS. ADDITION TO PROJECT FUNDING OF $5,000 IN FIRST YEAR, AND $2,000 IN SECOND YEAR IS REQUESTED BY FUNDE, AND ENDORSED BY USAID TO COVER COST OF LOCAL CONTRACT. IN ADDITION TO THIS ANNUAL OUTSIDE EVALUATION, FUNDE WILL INCREASE MONITORING OF CENTERS THROUGH NEW SUPERVISOR POSITIONS, MEASURING IMPROVED PRACTICES AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

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C. FUNDE HAS WRITTEN IAF ASKING THEM TO SUSPEND REQUEST FOR $32,177 MADE IN NOVEMBER, SINCE IAF HAS NOT RESPONDED TO DATE. JONES WILL HAND CARRY COPY OF FUNDE LETTER. FYI: THE REQUEST TO IAF INCLUDED FIRST YEAR PERSONNEL COSTS, EXCEPT DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY, AS PRESENTED TO AID, AND SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT EQUIPMENT REQUEST (NO COTS OR INSECTICIDES BUT SEWING MACHINES AND MORE MULES). USAID AND FUNDE STAND BY ORIGINAL FY 76 REQUEST OF $72,700 ($60,000 OF WHICH USAID ADDED) PLUS $5,000 FOR EVALUATION.

D. PROJECT PURPOSE REVISED TO READ: PROVIDE CONTROLLED EXPERIMENT IN EFFECTING IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL AND HOME ECONOMICS PRACTICES AMONG RURAL POOR THROUGH OPER RURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM OF NINE CENTERS, ON EQUAL INFRASTRUCTURE BASIS AND WITH APPROPRIATE SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION.

4. FOUR OF SEVEN PROPOSED INDICATORS IN PARA. 2C REFTEL WERE IN FACT IN ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. THEY ARE STILL INCLUDED, IN FOLLOWING FORM IN FOPS:
A. 450 ENROLLERS AND 180 GRADUATES PER YEAR
B. DROP-OUT RATE BELOW 20 PCT OF FIRST YEAR STUDENTS
C. MOE ASSUMES ALL TEACHER SALARIES BY END OF SECOND YEAR
D. MOE ADOPTS, ON TRIAL BASIS IN LIMITED NUMBER OF NONPROJECT SCHOOLS, ALTERNATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION CONCEPTS.
[illegible] THREE SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL INDICATORS [illegible] INTERESTING TO FUNDE, AND SHOULD BE [illegible] TO FOPS:
[illegible] OF PARENTS ATTENDING 4 MEETINGS [illegible] YEAR AND EACH CENTER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS [illegible] FOURTEEN DURRUM MEETINGS.

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F. IN EACH OF NINE CENTERS, OVER HALF OF STUDENTS, OR THEIR PARENTS, ARE IMPLEMENTING IMPROVED PRACTICES IN EACH OF FIVE GOAL AREAS DEFINED BY FUNDE AND CENTERS' DIRECTORS AT BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR. FIRST OF THESE TWO IS BEST MEASURE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, SINCE OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS FOOD DONATION ARE AFFECTED BY EXTRANEOUS FACTORS. SECOND IS EXPRESSION OF PILOT ATTEMPT TO MEASURE APPLICATION OF LEARNING, FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO CONFORM TO VARIABLE CURRICULUMS YET SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO PERMIT MEASUREMENT. "GOAL AREA" FOR INSTANCE IN JALAPA CENTER MAY BE EROSION CONTROL WHILE IN YOLAINA, ANNUAL GOAL MAY BE SET IN AREA OF GRAIN STORAGE AND MARKETING PRACTICES.

5. IF A10/H SATISFIED WITH FUNDE RESPONSE, MISSION URGES EXPEDITIOUS APPROVAL DUE TO REQUIRED START UP TIME FOR SELECTION OF SUPERVISORS AND NEW TEACHERS.
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