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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR (LA)

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FROM: LA/DR, John R. Breen

Good paper

SUBJECT: Issues Paper - Paraguay Rural Non-Formal Education PROP

PD AAB-346-A1

A DAEC meeting has been scheduled for March 13, 1975, at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the \$485,000 Paraguay Rural Non-Formal Education PROP.

The project will focus on providing the rural population with technology related to agriculture, construction, nutrition and sanitation. The project goal is the definition of practical, effective methods of technology transfer in rural areas. The purpose of the project is to test various approaches which offer low-cost training to rural Paraguayans.

The grant proposes to provide funding for the following technical assistance personnel: (1) a project coordinator for 36 months to provide the expertise to plan and implement the project; (2) an instructional materials production advisor for six months to work with the National Service for Professional Promotion (SNPP); (3) a communications expert for three months to develop audio-visual materials applicable to the project; (4) an evaluation expert for nine months to assist in the development of instruments to collect base line data for evaluating this project and other ongoing non-formal education projects; and (5) a cost-benefit expert for two months to work with the project team in establishing criteria for including cost/benefit analyses in the project.

The GOP contribution is estimated at 25% of the total project cost, thus exceeding the host country contribution requirement of Section 110(a) of the FAA. The project was included in the FY 1975 Congressional Presentation.

The DAEC will consider the following issues:

1. GOP Policy

A. The PROP states that in addition to the National Service for Professional Promotion and the National Council for Social Progress, four ministries (the MOH, MAG, MOE and MOJL) have active non-formal education programs but that these activities are not thought of as non-formal instruction by the GOP. Is the GOP committed to the concept of non-formal education? Has the GOP identified what it deems an appropriate

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relationship between formal and non-formal methods of instruction? If so, does this strategy reflect a rational blend of formal and non-formal education? Does this project complement such a strategy?

B. The Inter-American Development Bank has recently withdrawn its support of the Paraguayan education sector assessment. The DAEC should discuss the extent of GOP commitment to an educational strategy and the impact of this commitment on the effective implementation of the proposed project.

2. Project Coordination

A. The institutional arrangement to insure the coordination of the Ministries to be involved during project implementation is not specific. Is the Ministry of Justice to serve as the project's principal coordinator? If so, how can we be assured that the Ministry has the capacity to coordinate the work of the organizations involved (e.g. the Ministries of Agriculture and Education) and that these organizations will cooperate effectively?

3. Project Evaluation

The goal of the project is described in the PROP as the definition of practical, effective methods of technology transfer in the rural areas of the country. The DAEC should address the issue of whether an adequate evaluation plan can be designed for such a goal.

4. Project Effectiveness

A. The project will focus on two control and five experimental communities in the areas of agriculture, construction, home economics, nutrition, and environmental sanitation. Given that each experimental community will have different levels of credit, health, and marketing facilities (etc.) available to its population, how will a research design be employed to effectively test such a wide range of variables?

B. Aside from noting the need for training, audio-visual material, course materials, etc., the project does not discuss the methodology to be utilized. The DAEC should discuss whether a more precise methodological plan should be drawn up prior to project implementation.

C. The project purpose addresses the low cost of training but does not mention training effectiveness. The DAEC should discuss external benefits arising from effective training.

D. The PROP does not discuss the benefits arising from the inclusion of a mobile training unit. The DAEC should discuss this issue.

E. The DAEC should discuss how the project is complementary to and/o. coordinated with other A.I.D. supported projects. For example, how would the educational experiments envisioned aid in the dissemination of livestock development techniques?

5. Data Collection

The DAEC should discuss the required dimensions of the baseline survey to be conducted in light of the information which may be available from previous surveys.

6. Salary Supplements

The DAEC should consider the necessity of salary supplements for Paraguayan personnel and the dimensions of such supplements.