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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE U.S. DEPUTY COORDINATOR

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SUBJECT: PROP Issues - Experimentation to Lower Education Unit Cost

Background: The project is designed to provide Missions with resources for technical assistance to the host governments in, (1) the design and evaluation of experimental activities that have potential to reduce unit costs of education and (2) the design and implementation of information management systems. The assistance can be training of involved nationals in the United States, follow-up thereof in country, and workshops and TA in country.

To date workshops have been held in Panama, Peru, and Brazil. Ten nationals have been trained at Florida State University and seven are working on innovative projects in their countries. Finally, information management services have been provided in Panama, Brazil, Peru, and Colombia, in all cases very well received.

This project has been without an approved PROP for one year based on a waiver you signed on March 1, 1973. The new PROP proposes a program similar to the on-going program in size. The major changes are an increase of information-management services and a shift of evaluation and project design services from the campus to the field.

Issues: The number of nationals trained to develop and/or evaluate experimental projects has been only a small fraction of the target. Do the changes in the program make the chances of achieving the potential benefits worth the fixed costs?

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