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FROM - ASUNCION

SUBJECT - General Statistics Improvement - PROP  
Project N° 526-11-790-018.2

REFERENCE -

Attached is **PROP** for subject project. All aspects of the PROP were worked out jointly by the USAID General Statistics Advisor and the GOP National Statistics and Census Office.

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Attachment: a/s

Non-Capital Project Paper

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DRAFTED BY Muller/CDodson	OFFICE Program	PHONE NO.	DATE 6/17/70	APPROVED BY: Actg. DIR. Milton J. Labell
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NONCAPITAL PROJECT PAPER

Country: PARAGUAY

Project N° 526-11-790-016.2

Submission Date: August 27, 1970

Project Title: GENERAL STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT

U.S. Obligation Span: FY 1969 through FY 1974

Physical Implementation Span: FY 1970 through FY 1974

Gross Life-of-project Financial Requirements:

U.S. Dollars	\$248,000
GOP Contributions:	15,000 equiv. GOP-owned PL 480 funds
	102,000 equiv. other cash contribution
	<u>20,000</u> in kind
Total	<u>\$385,000</u>

A. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

1. Project Justification: The need for improvement of statistics in Paraguay and some conditions for achieving it were set forth in detail in TOAID A-598 of 7/2/68. TOAID A-16, of 1/23/69, describes the changes that brought about some of those conditions, thus creating a favorable climate for improvement that justifies foreign assistance for the GOP efforts in this field.

There is a generally recognized need for more reliable and more timely statistics for planning and evaluating the social and economic development of the country. The two principal users of statistics for these purposes, the Central Bank (which prepares the national accounts tables) and the Technical Secretariat for Planning, have to make many estimates based on very scanty and sometimes contradictory information regarding many sectors of the national economy.

Moreover, there is great need for coordination of the statistical activities of the various ministries and autonomous agencies that produce (or should produce) the basic information. The Dirección General de Estadística y Censos (DCEC), which, by law, is the supreme authority in this field and should exercise technical direction and control of the statistical work of all other government agencies, has for many years lacked the resources needed for carrying out these functions.

Late in 1968, a new attempt to strengthen the DGEC was begun. A new Director General was appointed; since then, the DGEC has gradually been obtaining more adequate furniture, printing and tabulating equipment, a new building, the upgrading of some technical positions, and training abroad for the professional staff. Its parent agency, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) has promised increasing support in the future. The principal specialized statistical offices (Agriculture, Industry, Health) already have foreign technical advisers and are engaged in efforts to improve their programs; they and some of the other statistical units, as well as the Planning Secretariat, have expressed their interest and willingness to cooperate in a coordinated effort to improve the national statistical system. The MOF has entered into a Project Agreement with USAID for beginning the preparations for a population census for which the MOF has pledged to contribute all local costs; the U.N. is recruiting a technical adviser for the census.

Given this evidence of high-level interest and support and of energetic leadership, the outlook for effective utilization of a technical assistance project for the DGEC, and for national coordination of statistical activities, is promising.

2. Project Goals and Targets: Over the projected five-year implementation period of the project, the following major goals and targets are identified:

a. Establishment of a workable coordinating mechanism for all official statistics, i.e. a policy-making National Council and a number of Technical Sector Committees which (by the end of FY 1972) will prepare realistic short and long-range plans for the development of the national statistical system, and thereafter will implement the plans. Specific targets to be established by the Council and the Sector Committees will include:

- (1) Organization and implementation of a coordinated training program;
- (2) Establishment of coordinated data processing and printing facilities;
- (3) Establishment of a central data file;
- (4) Preparation of a set of economic and social indicator series.

b. DGEC: Implementation of the Statistics Law, i.e. (1) Direction of the national statistical system; (2) Collection of statistics not assigned to the specialized units; (3) Assistance to the other units in carrying out their responsibilities; (4) Coordination and publication of all statistics of national interest, including annual, quarterly and monthly releases.

c. Development of a capability in the other component units of the national statistical system that do not have the benefit of separate assistance projects, to carry out their share of the national program as defined by the Council and the Sector Committees.

3. Major Resource Inputs: Proposed inputs by the US and GOP are summarized in Table 1, pp. 4 and 5.

a. USAID Inputs. Over the five-year implementation period, FY 1970-74, the major USAID input (\$202 thousand) will be technical assistance through a PASA with the U.S. Census Bureau providing for a full-time General Statistics Adviser and short-term specialized consultation as needed. Other US inputs are proposed for various forms of training (local, U.S. and 3rd country) and a limited amount of commodities (office and training equipment and supplies).

b. GOP Inputs. The principal GOP input consists of increments of the budget for the DGEC, (except the part allocated to the population census which is an input for a separate project); it is proposed that the budget will be increased gradually in line with the implementation of the project. The GOP also will assume the local costs of special activities included in the project, such as in-country training, one-time surveys, etc.; GOP-owned PL 480 funds or regular budget funds may be used for this purpose.

c. Inputs related to but not part of this project

(1) The GOP finances various statistical activities outside the DGEC that are essential parts of the national statistical system, mainly in the Ministries of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, and Public Health.

(2) U.S. and international agencies are providing full-time specialized technical assistance, training, and some equipment to the other major statistical offices: Agriculture (USAID), Industry (U.N.), Public Health (WHO-PAHO).

(3) CELADE (U.N.) and IASI (OAS) have in the past and probably will in the future give occasional short-term assistance. IASI may be requested eventually to assist in setting up a "focal point" for statistical information, which they have done in several other countries.

(4) CIENES (OAS) and CELADE (OAS) have provided, and are expected to continue to provide, annual scholarships for their courses in statistical methods and in demography, in Chile.

(5) USAID's "Census and Household Survey" Project (526-11-580-085.2) provides for a sizeable input of equipment for the DGEC for mapping, printing, transportation, and office work; though likely to be fully occupied at first for census work, these facilities will eventually be available for other activities and will greatly increase the DGEC's capabilities.

NONCAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING (OBLIGATIONS IN \$000)

Table 1  
Page 1 of 2  
Country: PARAGUAY

PROP DATE 8/17/70  
Original  
Project No. 526-11-790-018.2

Project Title: GENERAL STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT

Fiscal Years	L/G	Total	Cont	Personnel Serv.			Participants		Commodities		Other Costs	
				AID	PASA a/	CONT	U.S. Agencies	CONT	Dir U.S.Ag	CONT	Dir & U.S.Ag b/	CONT
Oper. FY 69-70 <sup>g/</sup>	G	32	-	-	27	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Budg. FY 71	G	47	-	-	40	-	2	-	3	-	2	-
B + 1 FY 72	G	50	-	-	44	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
B + 2 FY 73	G	59	-	-	45	-	9	-	3	-	2	-
B + 3 FY 74	G	60	-	-	46	-	9	-	3	-	2	-
Total Life	G	248	-	-	202	-	26	-	14	-	6	-

a/ Includes salary, international travel, per diem, and allowances.

b/ Miscellaneous expenses, including local travel for PASA personnel and invitational travel for ODP personnel.

g/ Only the commodity element was obligated in FY-69.

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All Value Figures in \$000 equivalent

Table 1

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Project N° 526-11-790-018.2

Fiscal Years	AID-controlled Local Currency		Other Cash Contribution Cooperating Country e/	In Kind Contribution Cooperating Country
	U.S. owned	Country owned d/		
Oper. FY 70	-	-	4	3
Budg. FY 71	-	3	16	4
Budg. FY 72	-	4	23	5
Budg. FY 73	-	4	27	4
Budg. FY 74	-	4	32	4
Total Life	-	15	102	20

d/ GOP-owned PL 480 funds.

e/ Increases in the ordinary budget of the DGEC above the 1969 level of \$77,000 (not including the budget for the Census Division which is counted as input into another project).

## B. SETTING

The statistical system of Paraguay is decentralized. Its principal producing components are the Dirección General de Estadística y Censos (DGEC) which is part of the Ministry of Finance (MOP), the statistics divisions of the Ministries of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, and Public Health, and the Central Bank. There are a number of other government offices that collect and process statistical information. This decentralization was recognized as an established fact and legalized in the Statistics Law (Decreto Ley 11,126 of 1942) which is still in force. That law designated the DGEC as the supreme authority in government statistics and gave it very strong authority not only for obtaining in general the cooperation of all public and private institutions, but specifically for the technical direction and control of the work of the other producers of statistics.

In practice, however, it appears that the DGEC was never given the resources - budgetary, technical, etc. - needed for exercising its authority; the various statistical units kept going their own way, in accordance with the resources they were able to obtain, and with little or no coordination. This tendency was supported by other laws and decrees which included provisions authorizing some government agencies to undertake specific statistical activities (mainly but not exclusively censuses) in their fields of work, without any mention of technical review by the DGEC; at the most, the Director General was designated as a member of the respective census committee, with merely advisory functions.

Consequently, the disorganized situation that the Law was supposed to end, has become worse over the years. As a result, there are conflicting statistics on some subjects being issued by as many as three different government agencies, leaving grave doubts about the accuracy of any of the data. On the other hand, there are great gaps in the statistical information on many subjects. In some cases, unpublished tabulations exist and can be obtained if one knows where to ask; in other cases, the basic data are collected as part of administrative procedures but are not tabulated; some important data are not collected at all. The principal consumers of statistics within the government, the Planning Secretariat and the Central Bank, have to make special studies where possible, or rely on estimates for a large part of their work on national accounts and development plans; so do international bodies such as BID and IMF.

A number of attempts to improve the situation have been made in the course of the last two decades. Consultants from the U.S. Census Bureau, the United Nations, the Interamerican Statistical Institute, the OAS, and an OAS-BID-ECLA Planning Consultation Group made recommendations aimed at achieving one coordinated statistical system as well as improving the quality of the data. However, with one exception, the consultants left before any action was taken on their recommendations, or the improvements they did achieve were not continued after they left; few lasting improvements resulted.

In general, most of those recommendations agreed on the need for strengthening the DGEC as the hub of the national statistical system, for creating a coordinating

mechanism for the system, and for upgrading the resources of the system - personnel, equipment, etc. The OAS consultant who spent two 3-month terms in Paraguay in 1966 and 1967 succeeded in carrying out a 4-weeks training course at the section chief level and in getting a coordinating mechanism set up. The latter consisted of a national general statistics committee and 9 sector working groups, and was formalized in May 1967 by a decree that assigned it the task of preparing a national statistical program. The committee adopted a work plan, including some general outlines of such a program, a very ambitious list of desired tabulations, and a rather detailed training plan; the sector groups were organized. But after a promising start the committee and the working groups failed to carry their tasks through. The most successful one was the foreign trade group which drafted a scheme for dividing the work between Customs, DGEC, and the Central Bank, but the scheme was never put into effect. Some members of the working groups (specifically: Public Health Ministry and Civil Register, Ministry of Industry and Central Bank) did eventually coordinate some projects, but without any reference to the national program. The training program did not go beyond the first course. The national committee stopped meeting.

The principal reason for the failure of the committee and the working groups to achieve any principal results seems to have been the lack of continuous strong leadership. It appears that the major statistical offices (outside the DGEC) may have been willing but not very eager to go along with an effort at coordination; somebody else would have had to maintain the initiative. Also, the smaller offices had (and still have) few resources and need material help and technical guidance to implement their part in any national program. Under the law, these responsibilities belong to the DGEC, but at the time that office was unable to exercise the necessary leadership.

Since the fall of 1968 this situation has improved slowly. The DGEC has been strengthened by new, energetic leadership and increased support from the MOP. There have been great improvements in physical plant and equipment, and some upgrading of the staff; publication of yearly data (suspended since 1960) was resumed, and publication of a half-yearly bulletin was begun; staff members were sent abroad for training, and a local training course on census planning was carried out with the help of CFLADE. The DGEC wants to assume its leadership role in the improvement of national statistics; the Planning Secretariat has pledged its support and has cooperated in outlining the steps to be taken. The DGEC has asked for assistance from USAID and international agencies.

Meanwhile there have been efforts at improvement in some of the other statistical offices. The statistics sections of the Ministries of Public Health and of Industry and Commerce have had foreign advisers (from PAHO and U.N.) for several years, have planned and in part carried out some improvements, and have coordinated some of their programs with other offices, as mentioned above. The Ministry of Agriculture has the services of a statistics adviser furnished by USAID and is starting a program of annual surveys. The heads of these and some of the other statistical offices (including the Central Bank) have expressed their willingness to cooperate in a new effort at coordinating and improving the whole of government statistics.

The weakness of the statistical system of Paraguay, some proposals for its improvement, and the opportunity offered by the subsequent change of leadership and show of renewed interest on the part of the MOP, are described in more detail in USAID Airgrams TOAID A-598 of 7/2/68 ("Statistical Improvement and the Alliance", especially pages 8-11) and TOAID A-16 of 1/23/69 ("Statistical Improvement"). Given the more promising outlook described in the latter, and following a specific request from the new Director General of Statistics, USAID obtained in May 1969 the TDI services of U.S. consultants on population census and general statistics, for an expert appraisal of the situation. This resulted in recommendations for a long-range statistical improvement program and for USAID assistance, consisting mainly of a General Adviser to help carry out that program. That position was set up for FY-1970, and was filled in October 1969 through a PASA with the U.S. Census Bureau. The present Project Proposal is largely based on the earlier documents mentioned, in addition to the initial observations and experience of the General Statistics Adviser.

### C. STRATEGY

Theoretically, a well designed system of government statistics could be either centralized in one agency that administers all statistical programs, or decentralized in a number of government agencies that administer statistics programs in their respective fields of competence, under some form of coordination that ensures compatibility, uniform standards of quality, optimum utilization of the available resources, adherence to an overall program, etc. Both systems have more or less obvious advantages and disadvantages.

In practice, it is the overwhelming opinion of former and present national and foreign advisers that the centralized solution is not feasible in Paraguay at this time. On the one hand, the decentralized system has become strongly established over many years, and it is working, though imperfectly; there would be strong resistance, both from the statistical offices and from the agencies to which they belong, to any attempt to take them away from those agencies and make them part of one centralized statistics office. On the other hand, the DGEC (or any new office created for the purpose) would not be capable, now or for some years to come, to absorb efficiently all statistics programs and the necessary personnel: there is just not enough personnel with the necessary training and experience, nor even the beginning of a field organizations.

The overall strategy envisaged for this project is to encourage and assist the GOP in their current attempt to make the decentralized system work. The principal aspects of this strategy are:

1. Coordination: Setting up and maintaining an effective mechanism that will coordinate the work of all statistical units, with the ultimate aim of serving the informational needs of the country.

2. Leadership: Improving the plant, personnel and organization of the DGEC so that it can exercise the leadership that is its function according to the law and that is a prime requisite for making the coordination effective.

3. Services: Providing certain services for the system that cannot (or not as efficiently) be obtained separately by each unit, e.g. data processing, publication, training.

D. PLANNED TARGETS, RESULTS AND OUTPUTS

The principal targets and outputs identifiable at the outset of the project are:

1. A workable mechanism for the coordination of all official statistics, and realistic short and long range programs for the development of the national statistical system. The coordinating mechanism will probably consist of a small national council representing the users of statistics and a number of sector working groups or committees made up of the producers of statistics in each field of application; the two together should prepare the programs. This organizational and planning phase should be finished by the end of FY-72.
2. Improvements in the DGEC to the point where it will be capable of exercising effective leadership of the national statistical system, carry out its share of the program, and provide the needed technical services to other units, without needing more than occasional specialized assistance. The target date for this and the following targets is the end of FY-74.
3. Improvement of the capability of the other components of the statistical system to carry out their shares of the overall program. This refers mostly to those offices that do not receive direct assistance from other projects of USAID or international agencies. By the end of the Project all units should have at least the capability needed for the short-range program adopted by the council and committees.
4. A training program providing instruction in general statistical methods and techniques for employees of the statistical offices, at various levels, as well as specialized instruction, through a combination of local courses and workshops and of scholarships for study abroad.
5. Centralized or pooled facilities for data processing and printing, to serve the needs of the statistical system most efficiently (making use of computers available outside the system, as far as possible).
6. A national statistical "focal point", i.e. a central data file incorporating all statistics of general interest, references to specialized data available elsewhere, and the information needed for interpreting the data (method of collection, coverage, etc.).
7. A coordinated publication program, combining frequent, quick release of key data in preliminary form with annual publication of detailed, final data, and combining specialized publications by the various statistical units (or in their name by the DGEC) and general publications compiled by the DGEC.

8. The specific content and timetable of the short-range program mentioned in par. 1 to 3 will be determined in the course of the next two years, but some important parts of it can already be identified now. By the end of FY 1974, the following new or improved activities should be operating or ready to be put into operation:

a. A unified foreign trade statistics program, involving the DGEC, the Customs Administration, and the Central Bank.

b. A unified vital statistics program, involving the DGEC, the Civil Register, and the Ministry of Health. (This does not mean that vital statistics can be expected to be complete by that time; that would require not only the kind of administrative improvement that this Project can provide, but primarily a change of attitude on the part of the public which will take many years. Meanwhile, vital registration data must be supplemented by survey data).

c. Basic coordinated programs for statistics on agriculture, industry, transportation, trade, education, health, housing, public services, colonization, etc.

d. A set of representative statistical series that can serve as economic and social indicators.

e. A family income and expenditures survey, to serve as the basis for updating the cost-of-living index (consumer price index).

f. A program of periodic (annual or more frequent) sample surveys for collecting much of the information needed: household surveys, establishment surveys, agricultural surveys.

(This Project does not include the organization of the periodic surveys; household and agricultural surveys are the subject of other USAID projects; establishment surveys are assisted by a U.N. adviser. But the operation of the surveys and their coordination with other statistics are within the scope of this Project).

g. Not included in this General Statistics Project but essential to its success are the censuses that are planned for the same period; they are covered by the same assistance projects as the periodic surveys.

#### E. COURSE OF ACTION

##### 1. Coordination: National Council and Sector Committees

##### a. National Council and Sector Committees Coordination

It is proposed to set up a coordinating mechanism consisting of a National Statistics Council and ten Technical Committees for various subject matter sectors. A decree defining their composition and functions was drafted by the DGEC

and the Planning Secretariat, approved by the other prospective members of the Council, and submitted to the MOP. The Council is defined as a policy making and coordinating arm of the DGEC which itself is, by law, the highest authority in statistics. The Council will consist of the Director General of Statistics and representatives of the principal users of statistics: Planning Secretariat, Central Bank, Development Bank, National University (School of Administration). The Technical Committees will bring together the producers and users of statistical information in each sector; they are mostly government agencies, though the private sector will be invited to participate. Each Committee is to be chaired by the head of the principal statistical unit in the respective sector. The DGEC will serve as secretariat for Council and Committees, and will specifically provide a staff member as secretary for each Technical Committee; this, together with a requirement for regular (at least monthly) meetings, is intended to provide the continuity that was lacking in the previous committees. Another difference is that the old National Committee was set up as a "Working group for the preparation of a national statistics program", while the proposed new one has permanent character and will also have the task of overseeing the execution of the program.

b. General Work Plan

The Council is expected to draw the broad outlines for the initial work of the Committees, request special studies when needed, review the Committee conclusions, coordinate the work of several Committees where that is indicated, and recommend priorities for the implementation of the resulting program. The following topics are proposed for early consideration by the Council and Committees:

- (1) Inventories of statistics now being gathered in each sector, and of the available resources (personnel, equipment, funding).
- (2) Need for additional statistical series, and possibilities of obtaining them.
- (3) Standardization of concepts and definitions within and between sectors.
- (4) Coordination of the work of all statistical units, making the best use of the available resources, avoiding duplication of effort, and obtaining consistent results.
- (5) Need for training of employees and upgrading of technical positions; joint training programs.
- (6) Data processing requirements; coordinated use of the data processing facilities available in the DGEC and elsewhere.
- (7) Joint publication program, using the DGEC press.
- (8) Need for specialized technical assistance.
- (9) Financing.

The work of the Council and Committees should result in short and long range plans for the national statistical system and its components. The short range plans should not be just lists of what needs to be done but should include the basic decisions on how it is to be done and who will be responsible for the various stages of each job.

## 2. Dirección General de Estadística

### a. Plant and Equipment

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the law and the new coordination plan, the DGEC must improve its human and physical resources. A beginning was made in 1969 with new quarters and furniture and, most importantly, some tabulating and printing equipment that made it possible to publish the backlog of data accumulated since 1960 and to mechanize the largest tabulating job, i.e. foreign trade statistics. Both activities are approaching the point where future data can be prepared and released with much less delay than the customary one year or more. (The printing shop is a USAID contribution through transfer of equipment no longer needed by the Mission).

Plant and equipment will be improved further through the Census and Household Survey project; though the facilities provided for that project will at first be needed mostly for census work, after the census they will be available for other work. This will greatly enhance the DGEC's capacity for improving and expanding its output and for performing services for the other statistical units. The General Statistics Project itself includes only a limited commodity element for supplementary office equipment, training materials etc. urgently needed for non-census work.

### b. Personnel

In order to enable the DGEC to attract and hold the kind of staff it needs, it must break out of the traditional pattern (typical for statistical offices in many countries) of being one of the agencies with the lowest paid jobs in government. Some professional positions were upgraded in 1969/70, and a small "studies and analysis" section was started which will form a nucleus of technicians who can concentrate on development and improvement of statistics without being tied down by operating responsibilities. More upgrading (at all levels) and more professional and subprofessional positions have been included in the budget request for 1971, and more will be requested in succeeding years. The exact number and type needed cannot be determined at this time; it will depend largely on the program to be developed by the Council and Committees.

### c. Training

(1) The unending need for training is fully recognized in the DGEC. The Project provides funding for training and observation trips abroad and for local training activities. On-the-job instruction will be given by the foreign advisers. In addition, training opportunities offered elsewhere (CIENES; CRLADE, etc.) will be utilized to the fullest extent.

(2) A plan is being developed for general statistical training at the National University's School of Administration, at 3 levels; these courses will be designed especially for employees of statistical offices and are meant to be tied in with their employment, by considering the completion of each course as qualification for certain levels of positions in the statistical system.

(3) Specialized training needs will be determined on the basis of the program developed by the Council and Committees; as a minimum, the DGEC should have at least 1, preferably 2 technicians with special knowledge in each of the Committee's subject matter fields, to serve as Committee secretaries (it being understood that in some cases one technician may serve 2 or 3 Committees).

(4) One special need for specialized training is already obvious: there is no sampling expert in the country. Solving this need will depend on finding qualified, interested and available candidates. One specialist could serve the needs of the country for sampling expertise for some years to come, with the help of TDY assistance from this Project; he need not be a DGEC employee, but might well be a University teacher.

d. Organization and Services

(1) Once the Council and Committees have proposed programs for at least some of the subject matter fields, the possible need for reorganization of the DGEC to comply with its increasing tasks will be determined. Without waiting for this, minor changes within the existing organization will be made as the need arises. Eventually, the Statistics Law itself will be reviewed and brought up to date, incorporating the coordinating mechanism.

(2) A field organization is needed for better communication with the sources of data in the interior of the country. It is proposed to use, at least in the beginning, part-time field employees of other government agencies (agriculture, health, etc.); later on, the DGEC may have its own regional delegates, but this phase is not expected to be reached within the lifetime of this Project.

(3) The feasibility of enlarging the data processing capacity of the DGEC and other possible ways of providing more complete service for the entire statistical system (e.g. through the use of some of the computers now being installed in Paraguay) will be explored with the help of a TDY adviser and the cooperation of the National Computing Center (a part of the National University).

(4) An efficient data storage and retrieval system must be set up to meet the requirements of the national program, including the data produced by the other units as well as by the DGEC. The volume of data may not require or justify a mechanized system for the next few years; the Project will provide a short-term data processing adviser to instruct the local staff in carrying out a feasibility study to determine this. (This may be combined with the data processing study mentioned in par. 3).

(5) A continuous effort will be made to improve not only the quantity but, more importantly, the quality of the publications, through edit programs, analysis of tables for internal and external consistency, source indications, footnoting of irregular data, description of concepts, coverage, special procedures, etc.

### 3. Other Statistical Offices

Since one of the purposes of this Project is to enable the DGEC to assist the other component units of the national statistical system more efficiently, help to such other offices is within the scope of the Project. This may take the form of technical advice, training, services provided by the DGEC, and in exceptional cases equipment (e.g. calculating machines, files) and supplies (e.g. forms).

Even though the statistics law gives the DGEC full authority for technical control of the other statistical units, it is generally recognized that this is not enforceable. In practice, the voluntary cooperation of the various units must be obtained on the basis of common interest in the improvement of all parts of the system. The DGEC plans to offer inducements in the form of services that most other units, especially the smaller ones, cannot provide themselves, mainly tabulating and printing.

For programs that warrant machine processing, the DGEC will propose that other offices prepare punched cards from their source data, for tabulation on the DGEC equipment. This will be especially easy in the case of some offices that have their own key punches and verifiers. For some others, the rental of one keypunch machine and one verifier may be feasible and would take care of their needs; for others, it may be possible to arrange for sharing machines, or for extra shifts on existing equipment in the DGEC.

The DGEC also offers the services of its printing section. Arrangements are being made already for printing, on the DGEC offset press, forms for the Civil Register and industrial survey data for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The capacity of the press will be enlarged for the population census, so that eventually the DGEC will be able to offer a wider range of printing services, including periodical publications in the framework of a joint publications program.

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**TO - ASUNCION AIDTO A TT**

**FROM - AID/Washington**

**SUBJECT - General Statistics Improvement PROP,  
Dated 8/14/70**

**REFERENCE - 526-11-790-018.2**

DATE SENT

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1. This PROP was reviewed by the AID/W Evaluation Panel on October 16, 1970. It is approved for the life of the project (through FY 1974).
2. In the opinion of the Panel, this PROP is an outstanding example of thoughtful preparation. The section covering planned targets, results and outputs is particularly noteworthy for its clarity and meaningful sense of direction. If the Mission has not already done so, it should now take the next step and develop the project's implementation plan.
3. Some concern was raised by the Panel over what would appear to be insufficient funding for participant training. The Mission might find it useful to consider a review of the allocation.
4. The Panel would also like to suggest that the Mission look into the possibility of developing an interested body of data consumers from the general public patterned after the U.S. Federal Statistics Users Conference. It is felt that the information gleaned from the body would be of considerable worth to the GOP's planning apparatus.

**ROGERS**

PAGE **1** OF **1**

DRAFTED BY <b>Anthony Funicello</b>	OFFICE <b>LA/OPNS</b>	PHONE NO. <b>29882</b>	DATE <b>10/21/70</b>	APPROVED BY <b>LA/DP: Jack E. ...</b>
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AID AND OTHER CLEARANCES

**LA/DP: BGoldstein**

**KXKEN LA/APU: HJacobson**

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