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REPORT OF A CONSULTATION TO EGYPT

May 11 to 16 , 1981

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Report of a Consultation to Egypt  
May 1, to 16, 1981  
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Objectives of the Consultation:

- 1- Advise Egyptian Home Economists on Project new directions and objectives, and help them rewrite Workshop proposal.
- 2- Discuss the budget and readjust it to actual needs.
- 3- Choose members and form a local planning committee.
- 4- Discuss possibility of printing arabic materials in Egypt.

May 11

On arrival day telephone contacts were made and appointments were arranged with Mrs. El Gedaily, lecturer, College of Home Economics, Helwan University; and with Mrs. Khalifa, Director of Youth Leaders Training Program.

Later in the evening, an overview and workplan of the program in Egypt were discussed with Miss Helen Strow, AHEA-IFPP co-Director.

May 12

In the morning the Project Director and the Regional Assistant Director went to the USAID Office and met with Ms. Laura Slobey, Population Officer. The Egyptian Proposal was discussed and ideas exchanged over the budget. Ms. Slobey reviewed other AID workshop budgets and concluded that an honorarium of 10 to 20 Egyptian pounds per lecture was allowed for the speaker.

A brief courtesy meeting took place with Mr. Tom Rees, Head of the Population Mission, and Mrs. Stino, Population Officer.

While at the AID Office, the Project Director and the R.A.D. met two representatives of the MacMillan Publishing Co. who showed a new magnetic board and a set of lessons. They gave a demonstration on "Rural Health Environment".

In the afternoon a meeting was arranged with Mrs. El Gedaily who is coordinating the Egyptian Workshop. The following points were discussed with her:

- . new direction of the Project;
- . details on rewriting the proposal;
- . revised budget (pocket money, speaker honorarium, secretary honorarium);
- . the R.A.D. asked Mrs. El Gedaily to inquire about the Sirs Ellayan Training Center, the available equipments, the room and board cost per person, and the transportation cost.

P.S. The next day Mrs. El Gedaily reported to the Project Director and the R.A.D. that the Sirs Ellayan Training Center ~~can~~ be available in September. The room and board cost 2 Egyptian pounds per day and per person, the transportation both ways to the Center will cost 1 pound per person.

In the evening the Project Director and the R.A.D. met with Mrs. Khalifa and discussed with her the Rural Youth Club Project and the direction for developing a program for young women. It was suggested to develop a set of home economics lessons with the integration of family planning subjects.

The R.A.D. gave Mrs. Khalifa a slides set on youth experience in Sri Lanka and the Philippines to get an idea of what could be done and how to present it.

The Project Director and the R.A.D. asked Mrs. Khalifa to arrange a visit in a village to see the functioning of a rural club.

Mrs. Khalifa was updated on the AHEA-IFPP new directions and was asked by the R.A.D. if she would like to be a member of the local planning committee. Mrs. Khalifa replied positively.

### May 13

In the morning the Project Director and the R.A.D. met with Mr. Robert Higgins, External Advisor at the Egyptian State Information Service. Mr. Higgins said that they are conducting a very large scale campaign to promote the use of family planning. Both mass media and person-to-person communication are being employed in an effort to increase the prevalence of contraceptive use among couples of reproductive age.

Mr. Higgins gave to the AHEA Project staff a sample of all the materials being distributed to the local population, including:

- . pens, keyholders and stickers distributed to taxi and bus drivers;
- . trays distributed to cafés and restaurants;
- . dishes and schoolbook identification tag distributed to school students;
- . pins with family planning symbol for selective distribution;
- . several booklets on family planning information;
- . training guide for employees of family planning centres.

Mr. Higgins mentioned that several films have been <sup>Director</sup> developed on the subject. Unfortunately, the Project/and R.A.D. did not have the time to review them.

At the Project staff request, Mr. Higgins replied that he is willing to provide materials and presentation to the AHEA-IFPP Workshop in Egypt.

In the mid-morning the Project Director and the R.A.D. met Dr. Haifaa Shanawany, Director of the research office of the Egyptian Population and Family Planning Board. Present at the meeting were Dr. El Gedaily and Dr. Soad Emara. The main points of the discussion concerning the Workshop were:

- Dr. Shanawany confirmed that the Egyptian Family Planning Board is willing to collaborate with AHEA-IFPP and contribute 2,000 Egyptian pounds to the Workshop.
- Dr. Shanawany mentioned that the speakers who would contribute to the Workshop should receive 20 pounds honorarium.
- Dr. El Gedaily reported that the Sirs Ellayan Training Center costs 2 Egyptian pounds per day and per person for room and board. Dr. Shanawany replied that the quality of food might be of low standard at that rate. All present <sup>persons</sup> agreed that the daily rate could be raised up to 5 pounds to guarantee better <sup>food</sup> quality. Dr. Shanawany mentioned the names of two other training centers where the Workshop could also be held.
- It was reported by Dr. Shanawany that 3,000 rural workers are engaged under their program, and she suggested that couple of those workers could attend the Workshop.
- A date was settled for the first local <sup>Planning</sup> committee meeting.

In the afternoon of May 13, a meeting with Dr. M. Tayel, Under Secretary of Agriculture, was held at the Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Tayel was updated on the AHEA-IFPP activities and new orientations and was informed on the planning of a workshop for home economists in Egypt. He was requested to select a person from the Ministry of Agriculture to represent the home economist extension workers. After recognizing that there is an internal conflict with authorities at the Home Economics Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, he named Mrs. Fatma Ahmed Kheir Eldin, Head, Department of Rural Development Extension Administration, under the reservation that she could be replaced if no progress is made through her.

#### May 14

In the morning the Project Director and the R.A.D. went to visit the Department of Rural Home Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University. There they met Dr. Shafika Abdel Hamid, Assistant Professor, teaching nutrition. Dr. Abdel Hamid was updated by the AHEA-IFPP staff on the Project activities and the planning of the Workshop. She mentioned that their third and fourth year students are trained to

work with rural people, and it would be a good experience for them to receive a training in family planning integrated into home economics.

Dr. Abdel Hamid agreed to be a member of the local planning committee, and received from the staff the PR booklet and an English set of "Working with Villagers".

During the afternoon a visit was made to the USAID Office to brief Ms. Sloby on the different issues discussed up to that point. Ms. Sloby seemed to agree with the developments.

In the evening the staff met with the Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Egyptian Home Economics Association. It was mentioned that an election of a new President for the Association will take place in the near future. The Vice-President gave copies of the journal of the Egyptian Association to the AHEA staff. The Secretary explained that they have difficulties with their budget to sponsor the printing of the journal, and expressed her desire to raise money for the Association. She also mentioned that they are planning to have a separate office from the College of Home Economics, Helwan University.

#### May 15

Friday is the official week-end in Egypt and all offices are closed.

#### May 16

In the morning a short meeting was held with Dr. Ensaf Nasr, Dean of Home Economics, Helwan University. She was informed by the AHEA staff on the modification concerning the planning of the Workshop. Dr. Nasr said that she is closely following the progress of the planning since the organizers are from her staff, and that she will personally contribute by a speech at the opening session.

In the afternoon the Project Director and the R.A.D. went with Mrs. Khalifa, Director of Youth Leader Training Program, and Mr. Mohamed Asala, Deputy Director of Youth Centers at Giza Governorate, to visit a village near Cairo.

The visited village is called "Manial Shiha" and located 8 Kms south of Giza. The Youth Center is a new, three floor building in which the two upper floors are still under construction. The finished first floor has a sewing room, a meeting room and a television hall where a ping-pong table is installed.

Mr. Abdel Fatah, Supervisor of the Cultural Committee described the activities of the Center as follow:

- the center has a religious, a cultural, a sport, and an art supervisor, each supervisor is responsible for the activities in his area;

- there are 4 women trainers who take turn in training the girls in activities like sewing, ironing, making artistic posters with wheat strow, making jam and perfume, and learning about environmental services;
- there are 350 youth members at the Center including 80 girls. Only 15 of the girls aged 15 to 18 attend regularly the sewing lessons. The Center has only one sewing machine and provides the necessary materials for the sewing. The end product is sold to one of the girls at the cost price;
- membership fee is symbolic at 5 piasters per person (1 dollar equals 69 piasters). The Center raises money through several festivals a year and receives an annual government help. The contribution of the supervisors is on a voluntary base. The women trainers are employees at the Giza Governorate and receive an extra 8 pounds per month as a compensation for the village training program. There are 30 of those trainers at the Governorate level and they work in 15 different villages;
- the Center helps young boys and girls raising rabbits by providing one male and one female rabbit in a special box designed for that purpose. The set costs 10 pounds and a contract is signed between the youth and the Center. The first rabbit's product is to be given to another youth in the family. The AHEA-IFPP staff visited one family in the village carrying this project.

Late in the afternoon the Project Director and the R.A.D. headed the first local planning committee meeting which included Dr. Shanawany, Dr. El Gedaily, Dr. Emar, Dr. Abdel Hamid, Mrs. Khalifa, and Mrs. Kheir El Din. The discussion covered the following points:

- The Project Director summarized the objectives of forming the local committee and the directions concerning the workshop;
- The R.A.D. added that the proposal should be adapted, with emphasis on rural training, and submitted as soon as possible with a revised budget;
- Dr. El Gedaily raised the point concerning the Project Director's earlier comment that Home Economists in the States usually volunteer their contribution to conferences or workshops. Dr. Shanawany (who is not a home economist) replied that in Egypt they should receive 20 pounds per speech. She also indicated that the members of the Planning Committee should receive 10 pounds for each meeting;
- The R.A.D. asked if they had any new information on the training center where the workshop will be held. Mrs. Kheir El Din replied that there is a good training center located in Maryout near

Alexandria, ... where she had previous training. She added that the cost will be around 5 to 6 pounds per person per day, but she will bring more precise information the following day;

The R.A.D. asked that Dr. Nawar, Head of Home Economics at Alexandria University, be invited to join the Planning Committee in order to have representation of Home Economists from all regions of Egypt. She also added that each member of the Committee should be responsible to select from her sector, one or more responsible and active women who could benefit from the workshop and afterwards help in training other people serving the rural area.

### Conclusion and Comments

1. Progress has been made during the consultation visit:
  - . a local planning committee was set up with selected members representing different sectors of Home Economics in Egypt
  - . a first planning committee meeting was held under the direction of the Project Director and the Regional Assistant Director
  - . Egyptian home economists have been informed on new Project directions: Rural Training
  - . further actions concerning the workshop have been discussed
  - . rural youth club, village situation, and training programs have been examined
  
2. Several important elements of the workshop still have to be developed:
  - . schedule of workshop activities
  - . list of speakers and subjects presented
  - . list of participants
  - . place of workshop
  - . date of workshop

If the workshop is to be held during the month of September, action has to be taken by the Planning Committee without delay.

List of Contacts

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