

PURDUE UNIVERSITY PROJECT AID NE-C-1701

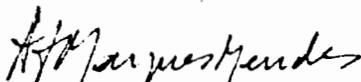
Quarterly Report

June, 30, 1981

1. Status of work. This has been a quarter much activity, including the following:
 - a. A short visit and seminar by Dr. Robert Thompson, on his way from Évora to Vila Real. The seminar was open to both staff and the public and provoked considerable discussion.
 - b. Termination of Dr. La Roche's consultantship. The small number of persons who attended his course regularly was disappointing. In addition to the language, a major reason for this low attendance was the fact that no one in Management had been designated by IUBI as prospective bolsistas. Dr. La Roche worked effectively on an individual basis with several staff members, one of whom translated into portuguese the material presented in the two week short course. This material is now available for interested staff members to use in presenting another such seminar, especially for industry people.
 - c. The arrival of Dr. Behery, coordinator of the Clemson part of the project and specialist in Non-Wovens and Fiber Physics. Dr Behery completed 3 weekly 2-day seminars for staff and industry. He skillfully involved various staff members and industry people in these programs and developed new industry contacts. He is still teaching a 3 credit equivalent course in Non-Wovens. In addition, Dr. Behery has provided first-hand information about availability of Clemosn staff members in various specialities, thus helping greatly in the planning of these consultants.
 - d. The joint Institutes Extension Workshop was held June 15-26. Drs. Frist and Pricer provided outstanding leadership for the workshop and came well prepared and equipped with visual aids, publications, notebooks, etc. The group, consisting of about 20 persons, worked effectively together and already have follow-up plans. The project should assist in these activities.
 - e. Prospective bolsistas Lisboa and Marques Mendes took English exams and the GRE, both with reasonably good results. Both have been accepted by one or more of the Universities to which they applied. But no definitive action has yet been taken on availability of bolsas. As a result, one of these men has given up hope of an AID bolsa and plans to go to England. Our efforts were wasted and the credibility of the project damaged.

2. Analysis of progress and problem areas. Progress this quarter has been gratifying, at least on the surface. Proof of program effectiveness will be changes induced by the program. No doubt some of the new material being taught will quickly find its way into the classroom. Yet these seems to be little organized effort in curriculum development or improving course content and teaching methods. There is considerable talk about research and some is underway, but one wonders whether there is any direction, in terms of a research program, or whether random bits and pieces of research are being done. Interest in actually conducting extension work is hampered due to the lack of a clear-cut mandate to engage in this activity. The question young staff ask is "How will this help me advance professionally?" The answer in at least some cases is "If you aren't doing anything else to gain professional advancement, conducting extension work may be better than nothing!" But the problem of recognition of the extension role does exist. Overshadowing these problems, and contributing to them, is the lack of structure, organization and academic leadership. This Institute, and perhaps the other two as well, must come to grips with the question of how to obtain structure, organization and academic leadership while, at the same time, maintaining the catedrático system. The problem of English Language training still exists. Until some solution is found, there will not be much in the way of participant training.
3. Plans for next quarter. A follow-up meeting will be held of the Extension Workshop Planning Committee for the purpose of drafting a report on the Workshop. It is expected that a Purdue representative will come to Portugal for the periodic project review. During that time it is hoped that there will be a meeting of the three Institutions, only one such meeting having been held in the quarter just ended. After the departure of Dr. Behery in Mid-July, no other short term advisors are expected until fall or winter. Prof. Atkinson plans to take vacation sometime during August and in September would like to spend some time at both Évora and Vila Real.

If appropriate financing can be arranged, long term participant trainees Marques Mendes and João Lisboa are expected to begin their training in the U.S. José Mendes Lucas is expected to go to Clemson as a short term participant.


Marques Mendes


J. H. Atkinson