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"L. Allen, G. Pelto, and P. Pelto's Report to Mexico
January 29 - February 4, 1982"

Functional Implications of Malnutrition (CRSP),
931-1309

Trip Report

Trip Report 1/29-2/4/82

RECEIVED APR - 3 1982

Persons travelling: L.H. Allen, G.A. Pelto and P.J. Pelto

Purpose of the trip:

- 1) to discuss subcontract terms with Dr. A. Chavez of INN, sue co-principle investigation.
- 2) to visit field site, tentatively selected a- potential field site.

Persons contacted:

- 1) Dr. Adolfo Chavez, director-Nutrition Division, I.N.N.
- 2) Dr. Alphouso Mata, INN; who may be the field director of the project.
- 3) other staff members of INN who are potential project staff.
- 4) The staff at the health center in The Solis Valley, which is being considered for the research headquarters.

Results and Activities:

- 1) Preliminary assessment of the Solis Valley is encouraging, providing early indications that the conditions required to carry out the project exist in the valley. The social worker, nurses and laboratory technician in the hospital clinic at Solis confirm the presence of seasonal variation in food availability, low birth weight, and malnutrition as a factor complicatory other medical problems, especially in children.
- 2) A tour of communities in the valley, accompanied by the social worker, indicates a range of communities, from which to choose. Although the communities on the valley floor have access to irrigation, there was no evidence that it was being utilized to grow a winter crop-further substantiation that we can expect to find wide seasonal fluctuation in food intake.
- 3) Facilities for research and staff housing are excellent, if satisfactory arrangements can be made to use these facilities. Access to the center is excellent, by paved road. However, many of the potential research communities are accessed only by dirt roads and a 4-wheel drive vehicle will be necessary for the rainy season.
- 4) It is clear that the project in Mexico must have operating funds, and cannot function on a reimbursement basis. Steps must be taken to ensure an appropriate funding plan.