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Trip Report

NICARAGUA

October 20 through October 28, 1980

by

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The research reported herein was performed pursuant to Cooperative Agreement #AID/DSAN-CA-0199 between the University of California and the United States Agency for International Development. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and should not be construed as representing the opinion or policy of the Project on Manging Decentralization, the Institute of International Studies, the University of California, or any agency of the United States Government.

Basic Reference:

At the invitation of INCAE and with the approval of USAID Managua, the UCB Project on Managing Decentralization sent Dr. Richard Harris and Professor Fernando Kusnetzoff to Nicaragua to explore the possibilities of collaboration with INCAE in carrying out applied research and consulting activities on behalf of the Nicaraguan government. Dr. Harris and Professor Kusnetzoff arrived on Sunday, October 19 and carried out a series of interviews and meetings with the staff of INCAE and officials of numerous below-mentioned Nicaraguan institutions. Professor Kusnetzoff returned to California on Saturday, October 25, and Dr. Harris departed on Tuesday, October 28.

Consequences of Visit:

Unanimous consensus was reached between the UCB representative and the staff of INCAE that the two organizations should cooperate in providing assistance to the Nicaraguan government through a series of applied research and consulting activities. In addition, all the government officials interviewed expressed great interest in having INCAE and the UCB project assist their agencies through applied research and consulting. Finally, contact was made with the local representatives of the Interamerican Development Bank to request additional funds in support of certain proposed research and consulting activities. The response was very encouraging, resulting in a proposal to the IDB for $100,000.

Proposed Areas of Applied Research and Consulting:

Based on conversations between the representatives of INCAE and the UCB Project, and the favorable response of the government officials interviewed, the following areas of applied research and consulting were selected as the focal points for collaboration:

1) Municipal Development (Secretaría de Asuntos Municipales)
2) Agricultural Credit--Organization of programs, decision-making, and Impact on Rural Producers (Banco Nacional de Desarrollo and PROCAMPO)
3) Commercialization of Agricultural Products--Information, Decision-making and Impact on Rural Development (Ministerio de Comercio Exterior)
4) State Enterprises and Rural Development--Organization, Coordination and Impact on Rural Population (Corporación Forestal del Pueblo, Corporación de Industrias del Pueblo and AGRO-INRA).
5) Planning of Human Settlements and Rural Development (Ministerio de Vivienda y Asentamientos Humanos).
6) Forms of Rural Organization and their contribution to Rural Development in terms of Productivity, Equity and Participation (to be carried out on comparative basis in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and probably Honduras).

Meetings and Interviews:

The following meetings and interviews were carried out jointly by Dr. Richard Harris, Professor Fernando Kusnetzoff and Dr. Manuel Olave of INCAE.

Monday, October 20:

1. Eduardo Montiel, Director of INCAE's Program in Finance and Banking
2. Silvio de Franco, Director of INCAE's Program in Rural Development
3. John Ickis, Academic Director, INCAE
4. Mario DeFranco, Advisor to the Junta de Gobierno
5. Larry Harrison, Director, USAID

Tuesday, October 21:

1. Ernesto Cruz, Rector, INCAE
2. Andres Perez, Fromer Director de Instituto Nicaragüense de Administración Publica and advisor to Ministerio de Planificacion
3. Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, Ministro de Comercio Exterior
4. Group meeting with INCE staff--Eduardo Montiel, Silvio de Franco, Maria de Lanuza, Javier Morales and John Ickis.

Wednesday, October 22:

1. Eduardo Montiel, INCAE
2. Andrés Pérez, Ministerio de Planificación (MIPLAN)
3. Rodrgo Cantaredo, Ministerio de Vivienda y Asentamientos Humanos (MINVAH)
4. Oscar Mejivar, advisor to MIPLAN
5. John Ickis, INCAE

Thursday, October 23:

1. Paul Oquist, Director de Información y Gestion Estatal, Secretaría General, Junta de Gobierno.
2. Mario DeFranco, Advisor to the Junta de Gobierno
3. Jacinto Mena, Director de Vivienda, MINVAH
4. William Montealegre, Director, Corporacion Forestal del Pueblo (CORFOP)

Friday, October 24:

1. Pablo Linares, Representative Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, Nicaragua (BID)
2. Carlos Pratto, BID, Nicaragua
3. Andres Bajuk, BID, Nicaragua
4. Alejandro Rodriguez, Director, Coordinación de Asistencia Técnica, MIPLAN
5. Group meeting with INCAE staff--John Ickis, Eduardo Montiel, Silvio de Franco, Javier Morales and María de Lanuza.

Saturday, October 25:

1. Lisette Zuñiga, MINVAH
2. Rodrigo Cantaredo, MINVAH

Monday, October 27:

1. Manuel Coronel, Vice-Ministro de MIDA and Director of AGRO-INRA

2. Ernesto Leal, Vice-Ministro de Industria and Director of Corporacion de Industria and Director of Corporacion de Industrias del Pueblo (COIP)
3. Larry Harrison, Director, USAID, Nicaragua

Tuesday, October 27:

1. Carlos Pratto, Bid
2. Rogelio Ramírez, Secretario de Asuntos Municipales (SAMU)
3. Mario DeFranco, Advisor to the Junta de Gobierno
4. Andrés Perez, Advisor to MIPLAN

Funding:

In addition to the core funds contributed by the UCB Project, it is hoped that an additional 100,000 U.S. dollars can be obtained from BID and the equivalent of 50,000 U.S. dollars will be provided by USAID

Follow-up Activities:

It is hoped that both Manuel Olave and John Ickis will be invited by the UCB Project to visit Berkeley in late November in order to finalize the plans for collaboration between INCAE and the UCB Project. A tentative date of January 2, 1981 has been set for the return of Richard Harris, Fernando Kusnetzoff and other members of the UCB Project in order to coordinate work activities with their INCAE couterparts. It is hoped that Richard Harris, Fernando Kusnetzoff and Manuel Olave will also be able to visit Costa Rica in January in order to lay the basis for carrying out of comparative activities in Costa Rica.