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International Plant Protection Center
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331 / USA

Trip Report - January 20, 1980 - February 1, 1980
Travelers: Stanley F. Miller and Frank Conklin (Jan 24-Feb 1, 1980)
Countries Visited: Philippines and Thailand
Schedule:

SA.1

- 1/20 - 1/22: Corvallis to Los Banos
- 1/23: Los Banos
- 1/24: Los Banos, Manila, Los Banos
- 1/25: Los Banos
- 1/26: Los Banos, Manila, Bangkok
- 1/27: Bangkok
- 1/28: Bangkok
- 1/29: Bangkok
- 1/30: Bangkok
- 1/31-2/1: Bangkok to Corvallis

Report:

Tuesday, January 22, 1980 (Miller)

Arrived in Manila January 22 at 9:00 a.m. Met by Dr. Joe Gingrich, Chief of Party. Went to AID/Manila. Visited with Dr. Lane Holcroft, Chief Agricultural Officer. Discussed project and personnel. Dr. Holcroft stated Tony Babb DSB/Washington had recently been to Los Banos and was impressed with training course. "This is what we like to see" he reportedly stated. Reminded Dr. Holcroft of the pending arrival of Dennis O'Brien and family. He stated that he was willing to expedite if problems arose. Showed a copy of proposed Memorandum of Understanding with AID/IPPC/NCPC. He indicated that he approved it if Bill McCluskey, Agricultural Adviser, AID/Manila, did. Since McCluskey had already approved it, we considered it approved.

Additional information gathered:

1. Dr. Holcroft will be leaving the Philippines this summer, possibly into Washington as head of DSB/Agriculture.
2. Bill McCluskey is to remain an additional year.
3. ISTC is to become part of AID without separate funding. Nyle Brady, IRRI head, who was offered headship of ISTC will not accept it unless it is an autonomous unit.
4. The Philippines has responded favorably to visit of ICM task force from Purdue University.

Travelled to Los Banos in afternoon, arriving in time to meet 34 participants of NCPC/IPPC weed control training course. Also spoke with Dr. F.F. Sanchez, head NCPC. He expressed satisfaction with the course and new IPPC personnel. He appreciates Joe Gingrich's leadership (IPPC, Chief of Party); also is pleased to have Cliff Munroe, IPPC agronomist, and is anxiously awaiting the arrival of Dennis O'Brien, IPPC economist. Indicated that a typewriter has been ordered for project and thanked him for his help in obtaining a surplus Navy vehicle for the project. (A pickup has been awarded by the U.S. Navy and will be available February 4.)



Dr. Sanchez indicated support for further training courses, but would like IPPC to consider holding them later in the year. Fiscal problems are more onerous at the first of the year making it difficult for project managers to support staff desiring to attend workshops.

Discussed the memorandum of understanding with Sanchez. Since all parties were in agreement, Sanchez indicated that he would have it retyped and made available for signatures. This was done and later signed by me and left for the appropriate GOP signatures.

Wednesday, January 23, 1980 (Miller)

In the morning lectured to the short course participants, covering the topic of "Economic evaluation of Agronomic Experiments." Fifty one pages of material were distributed to all students. The students seemed genuinely interested in the topic.

In the afternoon, Joe Gingrich and I looked at several potential homes for the O'Briens. Housing has been extremely tight in Los Banos for a number of years. However, recently several homes have come on the market. Specifications of the available homes were taken and given to Larry Burrill to discuss upon his arrival in Corvallis with Dennis.

Visited very briefly with Eddie Sabio who had come in from IIRR for discussion with Dr. Sanchez about possible employment. Dr. Sanchez had offered him a position of research associate working as a counterpart with our personnel. Eddie was considering it, but also had two offers of employment to remain at IIRR. Set up an appointment the following day to visit with Tom Olson, Eddie's superior at IIRR.

Thursday, January 24, 1980

Left Los Banos for Manila. Stopped at IIRR en route. Visited with Eddie and Tom. Told them of our decision to terminate our relations at the end of March as scheduled. By then, Eddie will have harvested the last corn trials. (They appear to be very good.) Thanked Tom for previous consideration and reminded him that Joe in March would close out remaining financial balances.

In Manila, visited with Bill McCluskey. Made final arrangements for surplus pickup. Bill expressed pleasure with project. He is concerned that the AID loan with National Crop Protection Center, NCPC, is not progressing as it should. NCPC needs to finalize recruitment for vacant positions. He asked OSU to help, if possible. Bill stated that new AID director wanted less centrally financed projects. So AID/Agriculture prioritized existing c.f.p. as to which should be maintained. OSU weed control project was at the top of the list.

Friday, January 21, 1980

Again visited with Sanchez. He informed me, as had McCluskey, that NCPC needs help in filling pest management advisor positions (two available). Asked that we relay information to CICP. A request for contractor has been published in Commerce Daily. Sanchez would like CICP to favorably respond if at all possible. (Sent material, position description, etc. with Larry.)

Talked about lack of counterparts. Sanchez stated that should Ed'ie accept the position offered to him he would be assigned to work with the team. Thus there would be two counterparts weed scientists, and one technician (Felix). No counterparts are immediately available for Dennis. Dennis will need to search for them through UPLB.

Saturday, January 26 (Miller & Conklin)

Travelled from Los Banos to Manila where I was met by Dr. Frank Conklin who had departed Corvallis Thursday, January 24, travelling continuously so that we might fly together to Thailand. Departed 12:00 pm for Thailand.

Monday, January 28 (Miller, Conklin, Allen)

George Allen, Stan Miller and Frank Conklin met at the Ford Foundation office with Peter Geitner, program officer, and Sam Johnson, agricultural representative. A change in program thrust for aquatic weed assessment from water hyacinth to Mimosa pigra was discussed. The Ford personnel responded positively to the change and to the possible location of Lamar Robert, proposed IPPC agronomist, in the Chiang Mai area where infestation of M. pigra is most severe. They suggested linkage with Chiang Mai University which has 8-12 Ford sponsored researchers who have been working on multiple cropping systems for more than 10 years. Socio-economic work data had been obtained from at least three villages. Ford personnel also spoke positively about availability of housing and provisions of local support: transportation, secretary, materials and supplies. Finally, they suggested that one of our team go to Chiang Mai to assess the situation and determine potential responsiveness of Chiang Mai University serving as sponsor for Lamar Robert.

Names of contact people at Chiang Mai University and their function provided by Ford include:

Dr. Manu - Dean of Agric.; Ag Economist with MS-OSU; PhD-Ohio State
Dr. Rapapan - ADC Fellow, Ag Economist, PhD-Michigan State
Dr. Kanok - Weed Scientist; PhD from Australia under Wally Sterns
Dr. Tawachai - Weed Scientist
Dr. Vichian - Weed Scientist in Horticulture
Dr. Benjamin (wife of Kanok)-PhD from Michigan State, nitrogen fixation
Dr. Phrek - Plant Breeder; MS from Davis

Mr. Ajan Pipol - MS from Davis in Soils
Dr. Manee - tomato breeder; MS from OSU; PhD Cornell
Dr. Paiboal (husband of Manee) - working on soil nutrient tie up in rice
Dr. Sanit - PhD Oklahoma; Chairman of Dept. of Plant Protection; friend
of Banpot
Mr. E.N. Craig - graduate student from London

Ford commented that Dennis O'Brien should contact in Manila Sam Hsieh, representative for ADB (Asian Development Bank) which is funding weed research in S.E. Asia especially in Cambodia and Laos.

Also people with the Mekong Committee which could be contacted include:

Mr. Van Lieve (Dutch) - Executive Secretary of the Committee
Mr. Pan Tulu - Fisheries

A good, it was suggested, contact at AIT (Asian Institute of Technology) in Bangkok is Dr. Arnot, Vice President.

At a later meeting IPPC team discussed the appropriate course of action to follow in discussions with Ministry of Agriculture, Ford and others in developing the total program. The following items were tentatively accepted:

1. Separate the economic assessment component from M. Pigra research control component.
2. The control phase will a) identify alternative control mechanisms (mechanical, physical, biological, technical) and b) screen the alternatives for preliminary technical and economic feasibility.
3. Limit IPPC's direct research to the economic phase. IPPC will serve a coordinating and consultative role on the control phase. Personnel and research funds for the control phase must be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture or other appropriate Thai government agencies.
4. Suggest NRC (National Research Council) aquatic weed sub-committee serve the principal research coordinating role for the control phase.
5. Contact Bob Ralston, advisor to Deputy Under-secretary of Agriculture, Kangwan Dhebbasadin, concerning the Ministry's commitment to control of M. pigra and administrative feasibility of its taking the leadership on the control research phase.
6. Determine the amount of technical information on M. pigra which might be provided by recent re-activation of the Mekong Committee.
7. Determine Thai capability for linking to the Landsat systems for providing photo coverage and identification of spread of M. pigra.
8. Suggest Banpot Napompeth continue serving as primary IPPC contact in Thailand and principal leadership direction on the control research phase.

Tuesday, January 29 (Miller, Conklin, Allen)

IPPC team met with Bob Queener, Director of the Office of Rural Development, AID/Bangkok. Administrative and legal requirements for locating Lamar Robert into Thailand were treated. The requirements are:

1. Clearance process takes about 3 weeks and is initiated through Queener's office.
2. Clearance is transmitted through DTEC/Ministry of Agriculture - Thailand as the host agency.
3. The sponsoring agency be Chiang Mai University, Ministry of Agriculture, etc. A specific contact person must be identified.

IPPC team later met with Bob Rulston. A summary of his comments to the IPPC team are:

1. Deputy Under-secretary Kangwarn Dhebhasadin is keenly interested in the M. pigra problem and was responsible for preparation of the 18-20 minute film on M. pigra seen by IPPC staff.
2. M. pigra, as a problem, apparently was identified by NEC (National Environmental Council). It perceived M. pigra to be largely an impediment to transportation along roads and waterways in Norther Thailand.
3. Kangwarn and the DTEC Director are close friends. Endorsement by Kangwarn would expedite the clearance process for Lamar.

Wednesday, January 30 (Miller and Allen)

Met with M. pigra Central Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture Cooperatives and Deputy Under-secretary Kangwarn Dhebhasadin Na Ayudhya. We were informed that the Ministry supported the M. pigra report and work plan (Appendix 1). However, the committee asked IPPC to consider funding, in addition, the control research to be conducted by the Ministry. We informed the Committee that IPPC did not have funds for the requested support, but countered that IPPC would be willing to recommend a Thai request if made to AID/Bangkok.

The Committee then asked if the economic portion of the proposal could be eliminated or delayed, thus allowing those funds to be released for support of the Ministries control effort. Again, the Committee was informed that it was impossible since by contract an economic evaluation of an aquatic weed problem must be conducted by IPPC.

After discussion it was agreed:

1. The Ministry would support both the economic and the control proposal presented by IPPC.
2. IPPC would support a Ministry request for funding of control research of M. pigra to be made to AID/Bangkok.
3. IPPC/University of Florida would develop and send to the Ministry a research plan for control procedures of M. pigra.

4. Ford Foundation - Chiang Mai University would sponsor the economic work, while the Ministry would sponsor the control activities.

Visited the Agriculture Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of the United Nations. Discussed proposed project with:

Phiptal Tongpatanakul, marketing economist
John Wilson, economist
Gerard Neyzen, economist

All stated willingness to support IPPC economist through use of library and direct consultation. Suggested that Chiang Mai area, in their opinion, would be the preferred location for the economist. Not only air, but good railroad connections exist between Chiang Mai and Bangkok.

Wednesday, January 30 (Conklin)

1115 am travelled to Chiang Mai University. Contacted Dr. Manu, Dean of Agriculture, Dr. Rapapan, Dr. Kanok and Dr. Tawachai. It was concluded:

1. All spoke positively about adding Lamar Robert to the multiple cropping systems research team to conduct an economic assessment of *M. pigra*.
2. Dean Manu did not offer a vehicle, but offered office space and clerical support. A memorandum of agreement must be drafted and sent to Manu for approval. The issue of sponsorship for Lamar was not raised, but I believe he would be favorable.
3. Manu suggested that a motorcycle would provide greatest transportation flexibility.
4. Kanok showed several soybean trials in which herbicides were used: farmers however use few herbicides.
5. They stated that *M. pigra* was:
 - a. not a problem in intensive crops;
 - b. recognized as encroaching in waterways and along roadways;
 - c. too costly to cut and burn in flood plains of Bhumiphol Dam since land is being left idle.

Returned to Bangkok.

Thursday, January 31 (Miller, Allen, Conklin)

Showed the *M. pigra* movie prepared by the Ministry to:

Mr. Robert Queener, AID, Bangkok
Dr. Robert Ralston, AID-Ministry
Dr. Sam Johnson, Ford Foundation

The purpose of the movie and subsequent meeting was to visually educate the participants of the problem of *M. pigra* and to prepare an action plan. Movie was well received. Plan included:

1. Ford Foundation is willing to provide local support for Lamar Robert working on *M. pigra* (conditional on the final agreement of Mr.

Peter Geitner). He would be stationed in Chiang Mai and work with the multiple cropping effort. Ford would like to have Lamar travel to Thailand to be interviewed and review the Ford method of operation. After the visit a memorandum of agreement between IPPC and Ford could be drawn. Ford will contact IPPC to arrange travel for Lamar.

2. Robert Queener, speaking for AID/Bangkok, doubted that funds could be found to support a Ministry request for research assistance on *M. pigra*. Nevertheless, AID/Bangkok supported the project and was willing to provide its good auspices to see that proposed objectives were realized. Mr. Queener promised to contact and directly discuss the project with the Deputy Under-secretary.

In company of Dr. Banpat Napompeth, visited Kasetsart University and discussed project with:

Dr. Sopin Tongpan, Dean Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Dr. Chamnien Boonma, Department of Marketing
Dr. Jerachone Sriswasdilek, Department of Agricultural Economics
Dr. Kamphol Adulyavidhaya, Director, Research and Development Institute

All expressed willingness to assist Lamar. Without additional outside funding, however, Kasetsart University could not directly participate in the *M. pigra* project. IPPC suggested that a proposal to the National Research Council, NRC, Thailand, on the economics of aquatic weeds in general, would be supported by the Committee on Aquatic Weeds and IPPC if developed by the University. Limited time, probably, will prohibit the immediate working of the proposal, we were told.

A courtesy visit was made to the National Center of Biological Control. Dr. Napompeth serves as director of this very impressive center. Reviewed the research activities, staff and facilities.

Departed Thailand at 6:45 p.m.

Friday, February 1

Arrived in Eugene at 11:30 a.m. Returned to Corvallis.