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END OF TOUR REPORT

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Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria,
N I G E R I A.

Kansas State University Agency for International Development
Project 620-11-110-743
Contract AID/afr-707

Tour of Duty began November 28, 1972
Tour of Duty ended December 1, 1974

AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY

ZARIA, NIGERIA:

END OF TOUR REPORT

Name: Graham E. Wilcox
Job Title: Associate Professor,
Veterinary Microbiology
**Country of
Assignment:** Nigeria
Contract Employer: Kansas State University
Project Activity: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - 620-11-110-743
Tour of duty began: 28 November 1972
Tour of duty ended: 1 December 1974

1. Goals and Objectives of Tour

Prior to coming to Nigeria I was instructed that my function at Ahmadu Bello University would be:

- a) Teaching microbiology courses to veterinary students
- b) Supervision of the main pathology laboratory in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- c) Establishment of a virology laboratory within the existing Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology structure.

2. Activities and Accomplishments

a) Administrative Responsibilities

For various short periods I have been acting head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology. Because our department head was also Dean of the Faculty and Deputy Chief of the KUF party, he did not have the time to organize the day-to-day running of the department and much of the minor administrative duties, e.g. ordering of supplies, were my responsibility.

b) Teaching Responsibilities

In 1972-73 and 1973-74 academic years I have been responsible for and have taught the majority of the course in Veterinary Microbiology, including immunology, bacteriology, mycology and virology. In the first few weeks of the 1974-75 academic year I have completed the section in immunology and leave the remainder of the course to the two Nigerian microbiologists (Dr. Addo and Dr. Eze) to complete.

c) Research Activities

I have not considered my role here to actively develop a personal research program, but have attempted to develop the facilities and improve the conditions for research for my Nigerian colleagues in microbiology and clinical pathology. The main pathology laboratory comprising microbiology and clinical pathology was, when I arrived, in a poor condition and had obviously been neglected by those that had been before me; there was a severe shortage of chemicals, media, glassware and equipment. During the time I have been here I have attempted to remedy this and the pathology area is now adequately equipped and supplied.

The laboratory was re-organized to allow utilization of one of the rooms for virology. Equipment and supplies were obtained; Dr. E. Eze was recruited from Germany as a virologist, and we now have a functioning basic virology unit. It is planned that Dr. Eze will work principally with avian virus diseases of which little is known in Nigeria.

3. Nigerian Staff Development

- a) One of the main problems encountered here is the difficulty in getting Nigerian staff members to plan and order supplies for teaching and research in advance. Procedures are available for ordering supplies from the U.K. at reasonable cost, but it takes about four months to receive the ordered items. The Nigerians must be encouraged to plan in advance, to order equipment and not rely upon local suppliers who charge 300% to 400% more for the same items.
- b) Dr. Eze, virologist, has commenced a Ph.D. program in veterinary virology and is to spend twelve months in the U.S. receiving training in virology. During this period it is not necessary for him to receive a degree (e.g. an M.S.) neither does he seem interested in obtaining one. He does require training in a diverse range of virology techniques that are feasible on his return to Nigeria. It would be best if he could spend twelve months in a virus diagnostic laboratory, preferably one with an emphasis on avian virology. It would be to his disadvantage if he were required to spend twelve months doing course work and not receive the practical training. Ideally he should spend his time actively participating in the routine work of such a laboratory and be permitted time to attend a minimum of directly applied courses in virology.

It would be a mistake to send Dr. Eze to Kansas State University as they do not have the facilities or the type of laboratory for Dr. Eze to gain the experience he needs. An effort should be made to place Dr. Eze in another suitable institution.

It is a pity that Drs. Trotter and Larson in their most recent visit did not have the time to make themselves available to discuss this and other problems.