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END OF TOUR REPORT

Name: Donald E. Weinman

Job Title: Head, Department of Anatomy - one year
Head, Department of Physiology - two years
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Ahmadu Bello University

Country of Assignment: Nigeria

Contract Employer: Kansas State University

Project No.: 620-11-110-817

Contract No.: AID/afr-707

Tour Began: June 17, 1970

Tour Ended: July 25, 1973

END OF TOUR REPORT

By: Donald E. Weinman
Head, Department of Physiology

June 1970 - July 1973

1. LENGTH AND OBJECTIVES OF TOUR:

In the period from 17 June, 1970 until 25 July, 1973 I served as Professor and Department Head in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. During the first year I was responsible for the Anatomy Department and then for the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology throughout the remainder of the period. In my opinion the goals of the KSU/AID personnel who served in this Faculty were:

- A. To establish an undergraduate teaching program relevant to the needs of veterinary medicine and animal production in West Africa.
- B. To assist in the training of Nigerian veterinarians as teachers, researchers, and administrators in order that they may ultimately assume responsibility of the Faculty.
- C. To develop facilities which will provide staff and students with the means for teaching, research, and support services.
- D. To plan and initiate a research program which will provide a firm foundation for future development.
- E. To provide advice to government agencies and their representatives relative to the future of this and other programs and thereby increase the probability of success in establishment and conduct of technical aid programs.

2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

(a) Teaching Assignments -

The principal accomplishments made during the tour have been in meeting and carrying out the teaching responsibilities. This involved not only meeting the classes but also preparation and maintenance of laboratory facilities, supplies and programs. Because of the small size of our experienced teaching staff, a high degree of cooperation between members of the Faculty has been helpful in carrying out the various activities. For example, during the past year, I taught coursework to each of the five Veterinary student classes, as well as to two Agriculture student classes. The greatest problems connected with this phase of the program have been related to the maintenance of equipment and supplies for the laboratories. This phase has been complicated by the fact that we have mostly American made equipment for which repair parts are extremely difficult to acquire as well as the supplies they consume. Since the equipment has become the property of A.B.U., A.I.D. is no longer responsible for supplies etc. Therefore orders must be processed through A.B.U., which has better developed foreign exchange agreements, and means of conducting them, with European countries than with the U.S.A. As a result orders from U.S.A. take in excess of one year to arrive.

2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)

(b) Administrative Responsibilities -

My administrative responsibilities were principally related to being a department head. The greatest problems here again were connected with the long-range planning needed for acquisition of supplies. This is especially difficult with slightly perishable materials, being ordered a year or two in advance, using an annual budget allocation.

(c) Research Activities -

During my tour several research projects were established under my guidance. Dr. Lamorde and I conducted a survey relative to the reproductive efficiency of privately owned cattle in the North of Nigeria as compared to similar cattle on the better managed state-owned farms in the same areas. This work resulted in a paper presented at a livestock production conference and a publication in the first issue of the Nigerian Veterinary Journal. Furthermore, it formed the basis for Dr. Lamorde's post graduate studies. Dr. Aliyu and I prepared a chapter on Veterinary Medicine to be published in the proposed Nigerian National Formulary, following a request by the Federal Ministry of Health. Dr. Aliyu also pursued research and submitted a manuscript for publication in the area of trypanocidal chemotherapy and related drug resistance. Dr. Molokwu has received a research grant from A.B.U. to continue his studies on endocrine changes during normal gestation and with trypanosome-induced abortion in cattle. Dr. Parsons has aggressively pursued research in indigenous poisonous plants and intends to catalogue those species which are important to animal production. Mr. Imeh, a senior technician, is pursuing research on extraction and detection of gossypol (a poisonous principle in cottonseed) in order to attain an advanced technical degree and also to advance the state of knowledge relative to the subject. Such information is important because of the role cottonseed plays here in dry-season nutrition. Low levels of gossypol are reported to be destroyed in the rumen, however the larger amounts fed in A.B.U. trials and by local herdsmen appear to have caused toxicity, particularly in sheep. Also our staff is doing analyses on bone from cattle which were on cottonseed feeding trials. This is in cooperation with the Department of Surgery and Medicine as a result of an observed increase in fracture incidence associated with the higher concentrate levels.

(d) Nigerian Staff Development -

Considerable progress has been made in the development and acquisition of indigenous staff members. Dr. Molokwu, D.V.M., M.S. (reproduction physiology) joined our staff as a lecturer in physiology in October of 1972. Dr. Nwude will join the staff in August 1973 as a lecturer in Pharmacology. He has several good publications and received honors (Magna cum Laude) for his post graduate work in Germany. Two other lecturers are pursuing advanced degrees through the AID-participant program. They are scheduled to return to A.B.U. during the next year. We also have acquired a very competent senior technician, Mr. Imeh who is trained both as a chemist and in electronics. Thus he fills a most critical position which is essential to the conduct and maintenance of our laboratory facilities. At the intermediate and junior staff level we have one person who has just completed A.I.S.T. in biochemistry and physiology after eighteen months study in U.K. Another member has made the highest score in the

2. (d) Nigerian Staff Development (continued)

history of A.B.U. on the London City and Guilds examination. As a result he was awarded the honor of "distinction" and will proceed on a two year study program in U.K. beginning this fall. We also have a very competent secretary who has been successful in directing office activities and teaching the newly arrived A.I.D. personnel how to adapt to a different administrative environment. Presently there are four Nigerian lecturers in the department who could qualify for the Ph.D. degree in two to four years, plus a technician who could qualify for a diploma, which would be equivalent to a masters degree. It would appear that the department is well endowed to cope with its future academic needs.

3. Suggestions of further Development -

(a) Length of Contract:

The phase 3 buildings are scheduled for construction this fall and probable completion after three years. This phase provides for a great deal of equipment in support of teaching, research and service functions. Because this is basically American equipment provision should be made to have an A.I.D. technician remain on in each department for at least three years subsequent to completion of phase 3, in order that the fullest efforts can be directed to installation and use of new equipment. Returning participants can not be expected to spend their time at solving equipment problems while they have teaching and research responsibilities to perform. Besides it is quite baffling to institute the use of a new equipment if you have had little or no prior experience with setting it up.

(b) A.B.D. Technical Personnel -

With the return of increased numbers of staff members who have completed their post graduate course work, it is very important to have highly qualified A.I.D. personnel at A.B.U. to direct their graduate research programs. Every effort should be made to recruit experienced educators in graduate studies to direct these programs. Such people should have strong leadership qualities (and previous overseas experience would be helpful) in order to start the graduate students in the correct manner .

(c) Extension -

Priority should be given to the establishment of a veterinary extension function within the framework of A.B.U., which would promote lines of communication between A.B.U. and field veterinary officers. There appears to be much need for this type of activity in order to keep field personnel abreast of new developments and to encourage self-improvement. Both of which are extremely important to maintenance of efficient veterinary service anywhere, but especially in Nigeria, where communications are so poor. Part of the program should include documentation of disease outbreaks and a monthly newsletter which would serve to inform field officers of the current state of affairs.

3. Suggestions of Further Development (continued)

(d) A.B.U. Support -

During my tour of duty I have been highly impressed by the top administrative officials of A.B.U. because of the support they have given the veterinary faculty and their concern with protecting academic standards. Contacts with such people have engendered respect for them and promoted an increased level of confidence in the future of A.B.U. However, there are some very weak links in the chain of function which tend to negate the hard work of these dedicated officials and do cause serious problems of frustration within the rest of the staff. I think the weakest link is represented by the lower echelons within the Bursar's office where original invoices, requests, letters, etc. are routinely lost and where copies of originals are frowned upon. The second weakest link appears to be in the working levels of the Registrar's office where, for example, several months are lost before a secretary decides to inform a prospective new staff member that he has been approved for appointment. In the meantime most worthwhile candidates have accepted alternate offers of appointment.

(e) Conclusion -

In the final analysis my tour at A.B.U. has been a rich and rewarding experience through which I have learned a great deal. I hope that A.B.U. has also profited by my presence. I further feel that the undergraduate teaching program in veterinary medicine is now well established and that the post graduate and research phases are making satisfactory progress.

