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ISA 22611

END OF TOUR REPORT

Name: Jay H. Sautter  
Title: Professor & Head, Department of  
Pathology and Microbiology  
Country of  
assignment: Nigeria  
Contract  
Employer: Kansas State University  
Project  
Activity: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Ahmadu Bello University  
Project No: 620-11-110-817  
Contract No: AID/Afr./707  
Tour Began: August 30th, 1974  
Tour Ended: August 23rd, 1976

ISA 22611

I. Objectives

- A. To assume the duties as Head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology.
- B. Assist in the teaching of courses taught in the Department. Also assist in service work associated with the Diagnosis laboratory including clinical teaching.
- C. Develop departmental functions with adequate staff & future activity which will serve the purpose of teach service work and research.
- D. Assist graduate students in their research work associated with their thesis problem.

II. Activities

A. Undergraduate professional training:

The revised curriculum was an improvement with fewer hours but with sufficient time allotted to lecture and laboratory in both General and Special Pathology. The

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laboratory portion of both areas however was hampered by lack of sufficient laboratory equipment and material thus allowing the students to pass on to the senior year without adequate practical experience in gross and microscopic pathology. This deficiency is recognized and steps are being taken to correct the problem; also with the anticipated move into the new building space problems will be alleviated. Teaching of General Pathology was done by Dr. Stan Dennis. Special pathology was shared by all staff with each assigned certain systems. Likewise duties in the necropsy laboratory was shared by the pathology staff.

Teaching activities in the area of Microbiology was shared by the three senior staff; Dr. Addo, Dr. Adekeye and Dr. Adegboye. All teaching went smoothly however, space and equipment problems did handicap the activity.

The staff in both Microbiology and Pathology made numerous field trips investigating disease problems and co-operated with governmental agencies in health and regulatory problems.

#### B. Senior Staff Development

A major improvement was made by the addition of a senior lecturer in nutritional pathology. This helps round out the department and fills a needed gap in the area of nutritional research and diagnostic pathology.

It appears that the filling of the Wilcox position will finally be achieved. After two attempts it now seems certain the department will have a mature, experienced virologist which is so badly needed for the development of research programs and diagnostic problems. With the returning of trainees the area

of clinical pathology and virology will have a satisfactory basic staff.

Dr. M.A. Salako who just completed his NYSC duty will join the staff July 1st, 1976.

Dr. M. Gadzama, a June 1976 graduate, has been assigned to the Department of Pathology & Microbiology for her NYSC duty. She is interested in poultry and will work with Dr. Bello.

#### C. Graduate Training

There has been considerable activity in the graduate area with four staff members completing their work and obtaining the Ph.D. degree. They were as follows:

Dr. H. John Barnes, Poultry Pathology, Ph.D. ABU.

Dr. D.I. Saror, Clinical Pathology, Ph.D. ABU.

Dr. D.S. Adegbeye, Microbiology, Ph.D. Cambridge.

Dr. Paul Addo, Microbiology, Ph.D. ABU.

Those who are in the process of completing their degrees are as follows:

Dr. J.O. Adekeye is completing his Ph.D. in Microbiology.

Dr. S.I. Bello is completing his Ph.D. in poultry pathology.

Dr. E.U. Eze is presently at Minnesota completing his course work for his Ph.D. in virology.

Dr. K.A.N. Esievo is at Kansas State completing work on a Masters degree in clinical pathology.

In addition to giving individual and departmental assistance to the several graduate students, the author of this report served on the examining committee of Dr. Paul Addo and as temporary advisor to Dr. Bello while Dr. Bida was on a 9 month study leave in England. He also served as unofficial advisor in helping Dr. Ema to organise and examine

slides and data for his Ph.D. thesis.

#### D. Research

Research work in the department is moving along extremely well considering the age and inexperience of the staff, the lack of space and equipment, and the very great problem in obtaining supplies.

It is most pleasing to report that individuals who have finished their degree research are continuing with an even broader and greater intensity. Every senior staff member has a funded active research project.

#### E. Administrative

Effective July 1st, 1976 Dr. Shehu Bida was appointed Head of the Department of Pathology & Microbiology. This is another step in the Nigerianization of the staff which is hoped will soon be complete.

F. Served as external assessor for Dr. T. Isoun now Head of Pathology at the University of Ibadan.

#### G. Miscellaneous

An unplanned activity of an emergency nature developed in April, 1975.

In the extensive planning of the building program an incinerator for disposing of animal carcasses and wastes was overlooked. The problem arose suddenly when building began to occur in the burial grounds next to the present postmortem facility. In answer to complaints from nearby dining halls and contractors themselves, an incinerator was designed, emergency funds obtained from the Bursar and the structure was completed in six weeks. The incinerator will completely ash the carcass of an adult cow or horse in three hours. At present it is wood fired but if its use is continued it should be gas fired

as originally intended. Wood is expensive, difficult to obtain and satisfactory help for firing is not readily available.

Additional plans of the incinerator were made at the request of the University of Ibadan who plans on erecting three on campus at strategic areas and for special uses.

III. A. Department of Pathology & Microbiology:

The department has a good basic staff of young, well-trained men. In another two years when present participant trainees return it will be even stronger. The administration of the department is grappling with plans for the future recognizing the obvious need for finding people who will function as leaders in the several areas such as teaching, service and research. This problem of growth also involves assembling a trained group of technicians known as junior and intermediate staff. Because of the system used at Ahmadu Bello University of managing this group of people regarding promotions and incentives considerable trouble is encountered thus thwarting and blunting senior staff effort.

B. In my two-year term there has been considerable and continual pressure to establish a Department of Pathology; Department of Microbiology, and Public Health. In view of the understaffed Department of Public Health combination with Microbiology would furnish leadership and size sufficient to warrant a separate unit. Further, pathology embracing, clinical pathology, pathology, diagnostic laboratory and poultry pathology is of sufficient size to warrant a separate unit. It seems an ideal time to accomplish this split would be when the new buildings are ready for occupation.

### C. Budget

1. The budget provided by Ahmadu Bello University is insufficient to provide the necessities of teaching, research and service. The situation became especially critical after the Udoji Commission Report. Prices of supplies and equipment doubled and tripled while budgets increased very little. It is perhaps quite possible monies was not made available to the University to compensate for this marked increase in costs.
2. The lack of laboratory teaching equipment for pathology was noticeable in my two years as a staff member and teacher. The effect of a lack of teaching slides both kodachrome and glass as well as gross specimen was obvious and the external examiner was very critical about the deficiency. The cause of this deficiency appears to be primarily neglect and secondarily financial. This deficiency is glaring and must be corrected for the reasons mentioned above.

### IV. Comments on the KSU/AID Project

- A. The project considered as an operational unit can take credit for the formation of a veterinary school and the training of an excellent faculty which appears to have the capability to continue and develop into an outstanding teaching and research unit provided they have the necessary financial and administrative support. It is regrettable though that the project must be terminated with a skeleton KSU/AID staff because with the new inexperienced Nigerians, the problems of expanding into

the new facilities will be large and the development is at a critical stage thus placing the school at a disadvantage.

- B. A rather disturbing finding after working in the school and project for awhile was the realization that there was a sort of a pre-arranged superstructure or overall plan with the major emphasis on the training program with teaching, service work and day to day chores a secondary matter. This situation became more obvious as time went on because one was asked nothing, told nothing and one then operated in a vacuum, furthermore decisions were made unilaterally with little or no consultation of KSU/AID staff. This impression was shared by other KSU staff and at least some Nigerian staff. The reason for this situation was a matter of communication at least with the department heads.
2. Another disappointing situation was the fact that all graduate matters regarding the thesis was pre-arranged and the departments had very little or nothing to do with the activities of its own staff. This situation interfered with the process of specialization necessary and was recognized by the Nigerians and will be changed as the Nigerian staff matures.
- C. The length of tour should be lengthened to a minimum of three years and preferably to five years. This would accomplish several things: (i) separate the tourist from those who wish to go to a country and do a service; (ii) one barely gets acquainted and effective in two years which is neither fair to the participant nor to the recipient. (iii) this relatively short term contributes to lack of continuity, planning and execution of plans. This applies not only to this project but other similar ones as well.

D. It is believed it would be helpful if one were furnished with a copy of the project contract previous to embarking on the assignment. This would serve to set one straight with regards to objectives and procedures, establish uniformity and help to get away from the double standards and favoritism one frequently encounters.

#### V. Recommendations

- a. It becomes apparent after a short experience in classroom teaching that the lack of textbooks and their use is very obvious. Every effort should be made to correct this glaringly serious deficiency.
- b. Closely associated with the lack of text-books and their use is the inability of the student to know how to study, take notes and make efficient use of his time. Preparing for an examination is an occasion for fright and panic; all resulting from improper study habits. Therefore a required course should be offered in the first year on how to study with emphasis on the psychology of the learning experience.
- c. It has been found that the recent change in the curriculum solved some problems but created others among which is a light rather easy study load in DVM I & II resulting in an over-loading of important courses in the III, IV & V years. This problem has come to the attention of the faculty and doubtless will be changed. A serious feature about this problem is that students pass on to the DVM III, IV & V year and then it is discovered that there are some students who do not measure up to the required professional standards. At this late date it is difficult to turn the student out and not prudent to let him continue.

d. As pointed out earlier, (III C) it is imperative that the departmental budget be increased very soon. There is now an active, industrious young staff who are wanting to produce and unless funds are provided there will be a loss of moral and consequently staff which the school cannot afford.

e. I recommend the establishment of a Department of Pathology which would include, clinical pathology, pathology, diagnostic pathology (postmortem) and poultry pathology. Then a Department of Microbiology & Public Health which would include general bacteriology, virology, immunology and the various necessary functions of the present department of Public Health.

#### VI. Acknowledgements

The bright part of this assignment was the excellent co-operation received from our Nigerian colleagues, not only in the Department of Pathology & Microbiology but throughout the school and University. Frequent and frank dialogues were the rule with no problems whatsoever in reaching an agreement about departmental matters. I also wish to thank the other department heads for their co-operation and help on the many matters arising in the function of the school.

Certainly it must be readily recognised that the school hopefully will soon be completely in control of an excellent group of well trained men.