

PUBLIC SAFETY EVALUATION

- GUYANA -

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**Office of Public Safety
Agency for International Development
Department of State**

PUBLIC SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT

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I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the study was to determine the effectiveness of the past and presently planned Public Safety program in Guyana and its appropriateness as an instrument for assisting the Government of Guyana to strengthen its internal security.

An examination of the objectives of the Public Safety program since its inception was done and a measurement of the degree to which objectives have been reached to date was made. An evaluation was made of the utilization of project resources such as technical assistance, commodity input and participant training.

The evaluating team consisted of:

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The evaluation team arrived in Guyana on October 12 and remained until October 24, when it returned to Washington. While in Guyana, the team consulted with Guyanese officials concerned with problems of internal security and police administration. The team also travelled outside of Georgetown to several areas, some of which have been scenes of insurgent activity.

II. CONCLUSIONS

1. After inspection of some of the border outposts (Lethem, Kamarang, Paurima), the Team finds such installations to be a logical means of discouraging border forays and of beginning a more intensive settlement and development of the vast Guyana interior. These activities should be encouraged.

2. Although the training and experience derived from U.S. courses has had a favourable impact in improving the quality of the Police Force, too much attention has been paid to the out-of-country training of top and middle level police officers and not enough to the training selection of junior grade officers. The Team also finds that the system for screening out-of-country training nominees needs to be simplified. Three agencies of the Government must approve all nominations (Ministry of Home Affairs – Public Service Commission – Police Service Commission).

3. Maintenance of all types of equipment involving mobility is poor: parts back-up, particularly for U.S. equipment is insufficient; procurement procedures are cumbersome; technical expertise in maintenance procedures is lacking; funding for spare parts is insufficient; and the practice of dealing through Crown Agents for the procurement of spare parts for U.S. - supplied equipment is unwieldy.

4. Conditioned on improved maintenance, storage, and parts supply capabilities, the Team finds that the U.S. should assist the Guyana Police force to strengthen its traditional function of maintaining internal security through technical assistance, training, and commodity support.

5. The current stage of development of the police indicate the need of the Guyana Police Force to have a crime laboratory supplied with modern equipment and additional trained technicians.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Subject to the concurrence of the Government of Guyana, the Team recommends:

Advisors

1. That the Public Safety program continue at the former personnel level of two advisors.

a. that the primary function of the Chief Public Safety Advisor be to provide assistance through the Commissioner of Police.

b. that the major function of the Public Safety Advisor – Generalist, should be to, in concurrence with the police, devise means to insure the adequate maintenance of U.S. equipment whether vehicular, airborne, or communicative in nature. That for this purpose he propose readily available sources of procurement of spare parts for U.S. equipment and assist as necessary to provide mobility, equipment effectiveness, and improved communications capability within and between the security forces of Guyana.

Participant Training

2. that U.S. courses in basic training continue to be provided when requested with a streamlined inter-Ministry clearance procedure for proposed participants, but that emphasis be placed on specialized training and on the training of more younger officers of junior grade.

Communications

3. that efforts be continued to expand the police and Guyana Defence Force communications and communication maintenance systems.

4. that the close cooperation now in existence between USAID and the GOG in the progressive development of the latter's telecommunications capabilities to be continued to assure maximum utilization and proper application of all security communications equipment furnished under the Public Safety program.

Vehicles and Boats

5. that the USAID assist in the acquisition on the most appropriate basis of the following police equipment: a) large 4-wheel drive personnel carriers for use in time of national disaster or for the facilitation of emergency police deployment; b) preventive patrol vehicles (police cruisers) in Georgetown and other major concentrations of population; c) river boats with adequate speed and size to transport police and GDF personnel to perform conventional and emergency police work.

6. As a prerequisite for USAID assistance in the vehicle and boat field there should be (a) an indepth study of the need for specific types and numbers of transport and patrol vehicles and craft; (b) agreement by the Government of Guyana that spare parts be procured through direct purchase and not through the Crown Agents; (c) establishment of adequate inventory controls; (d) adequate budgetary support to insure an effective system of replacement of spare parts.

Other

7. that efforts be continued to improve the capabilities of the newly reorganized traffic department to improve traffic flow within urban centers, safety in the use of rural roads, and to diminish the rate of traffic injuries and fatalities.

8. that the USAID assist in the development of a meaningful criminalistics laboratory capable of adequately responding to the requirements of the Police Force.

9. that a more effective planning unit should be established within the Police Force and each unit should give special attention to manpower needs, assignments, logistics and maintenance improvement.

IV. THE AID PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

The Project Agreement dated March 18, 1966, provided for cooperation between the then Government of British Guiana and the Government of the United States of America.

At the request of the Government of British Guiana, technicians of AID (OPS) surveyed the functions and operations of the British Guiana Police Force in July 1965. Recommendations were made for improvement of overall administration and operation, equipment requirements and public relations needs. In order to increase significantly the capability of the police force to protect life and property, support internal stability, repress crime and violence, and control civil disturbances of a violent nature, the Public Safety program has as its main objective the strengthening of the Police Force's capacity to maintain effective law and order.

V. PROGRAM PROGRESS

In support of the objectives as listed in the Project Agreement one of the sub-projects with good impact has been the U.S. participant training program. A variety of specialties were chosen to complement the targets.

1. Team members interviewed 15 of the 36 returned police participants and without exception all agreed that their attendance at courses in the United States has been of benefit to the Force. The Team also found that, with very few exceptions, the participant trainees occupied key police administrative and line positions and most had been promoted. Measurable and demonstrable skills have been achieved, particularly by the "technical" trainees in the automotive and communications field. These are positive indications of the long-term benefits accruing from this training.

2. Progress has been made in the establishment of a Joint Operations Center, an integrated command structure for coordination of the two internal security forces during emergency operations.

3. The Team learned that 100 helmets donated by the USAID for riot control personnel were not being used because they would not fit over British-made gas masks. The police commissioner assured the Team that the helmets would be returned to the USAID for use in another Mission.

4. A Highway Patrol was established and trained in the various aspects of extended road patrol which included among other subjects first-aid, vehicle control, pursuit driving, pullover approach and occupant control. The Highway Patrol was recently provided a modern communications system through the USAID Public Safety program.

5. Numerous vehicles, motorcycles, boats, and one airplane were provided the Guyana police (see Tab A) to improve and enhance their patrol capabilities. However, due to lack of an adequate logistics system and insufficient budgetary support for spare parts, these efforts have not effected a permanent qualitative improvement of equipment. The Team found that the six passenger STOL aircraft had been taken over by the Guyana Defense Force at the time of the Rupununi uprising. Of the police vehicles donated,

approximately 80% were out of service -- some deadlined temporarily, others permanently disabled due to cannibalizing of parts. The boats donated were suffering from similar defective maintenance. Lack of spare parts and technical expertise had deadlined the great majority of the required river patrol craft.

Though efforts at police maintenance have fallen considerably short of their goal, the Team believes that the USAID should continue efforts to improve the patrol capability of the police.

6. Through the direct efforts of an IPA graduate, the criminal section of the Guyana Police has been changed from a system of nominal index filing to the Soundex system. The new system has proven its effectiveness. The Commissioner of Police is presently considering the expansion of the Soundex system to the Headquarters registry, C.I.D. registry, Traffic Department, Immigration and Commissioner's Office. The limited photographic and dark room equipment provided by USAID was instrumental in establishing the photographic identification unit as it is today.

7. Measurable progress has been made in the field of telecommunications, in providing technical training to police communications personnel, generally upgrading and expanding the telecommunications network in the interior of the country. The civil disturbances by dissident elements in the interior regions of Guyana in January, 1969 focused the need for additional communications equipment to establish and maintain dependable communications on a 24 hour basis, not only from established police outposts, but between newly established stations and between field operational units of the Guyana Defense Force and the Guyana Police. The recent Project Agreement No. 504-11-710037 provided for the equipment to meet the specific communications requirements as necessary to support the Police Force and Defense Force capabilities and provide joint, interservice communication.

Additional telecommunications assistance will be required, particularly when the Police and Defense Force establish additional posts at strategic frontier sites to detect and prevent the infiltration of subversives.

Efforts should continue to be directed toward the establishment of a joint telecommunications repair center utilizing resources from both forces.

8. One program goal was to improve police effectiveness through increased mobility, using land vehicles, boats and aircraft, where required. Progress toward improvement of police mobility has been unsatisfactory because of the deficiencies previously mentioned. Host government efforts in establishing an effective logistics system, improved purchasing practices are required if the USAID's efforts are to be effective.

TAB A - GUYANA COMMODITY PROFILE

FY 64	\$ 40,000	4	Chevy II sedans; spare parts
		1	Bus, 40-passenger
		12	Jeeps; spare parts
FY 65	\$ 12,000	20	Transceivers; spare parts
		40	Batteries
FY 66	\$528,000	24	Shotguns, 12 gauge
		317	Shells, shotgun
		250	Revolvers, .38 cal.
		10,000	Cartridges, .38 cal.
		20,000	Primers for .38 cal.
		10	Gas guns
		200	lbs. Bullet metal
		33	Jeeps; spare parts
		9	Cameras, still
		2	Tape recorders
		1	Camera, 16 mm.
			Office equipment: 20 adding machines, 5 duplicators, 40 typewriters, 60 cabinets, electronic stencil cutter and misc. other equipment.
		5	Tentboats and riverboats
		4	Patrol boats
		2	Boat trailers
		20	Motorcycles and spare parts
		20	Trucks, Dodge (excess)
		500	Carbines, M-1, Cal. .30
			50,000 cartridges, Cal. .30
		100	Helmets
		12	Gas masks
		10	Lanterns, sealed beam
			Lab equipment
			Darkroom equipment
			1 Lot lamps and sirens
		1	Plane - STOL, 6 passenger
			Flares, fire extinguishers
			Books, textbooks, film
			1 Lot small arms & general supplies
FY 67	\$ 6,000	12	Police auto sirens and lights
			Miscellaneous photographic laboratory equipment
FY 68	\$ 0		
FY 69	\$115,000		(provided to both GDF and GPF)
		3	HF Single sideband base station transceivers
		3	Antenna Tuners, automatic
		40	HF-SSB man pack portable transceivers
		1	VHF-FM repeater base station and remote control console
		3	VHF base stations
		1	Lot of spare parts to support the above