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REPORT OF CONSULTATION TO GUADELOUPE

August 28 thru October 2, 1980

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OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

1. To update and improve the information on the Family Planning program in Guadeloupe.
2. To identify home economists in the country and determine whether they wish to become involved in the population effort.
3. To discuss the home economists needs in relation to population/family planning areas and explore the possibilities for AHEA/IFPP support such as:
 - a. Attendance at regional meetings
 - b. Consultation and educational materials
 - c. Assistance through IFHE
4. To visit the "Women's Training Center", a pilot program to help women enter the mainstream of economic activity.

BACKGROUND

Basse-Terre and Grande-Terre are the two main islands connected by a bridge and better known as Guadeloupe. The principal city in Grande-Terre is Pointe-a-Pitre and in Basse-Terre the administrative capitol is Basse-Terre city. Together with the other islands of la Desirade, Marie Galante, les Saintes, Saint Barthelemy and Saint Martin, they form the overseas department of Guadeloupe which is one of the 95 geo-political units of France.

In 1974, the population was 324,530. Between 1967 and 1974, there was an annual population decrease of 0.53% due to the intensive migration movement to France in search of employment. Between 1966 and 1976, the average number of children per woman decreased from 6.5 to 4.8.

In 1964, a young Guadeloup-en couple, Jacqueline Letourneur, a midwife, and her husband created the first Family Planning Association in Guadeloupe and named it "La Maternite Consciente." They based their idea on the pro-natalist Newirth Bill passed in France in 1920. In 1967 the French government passed a pro-natalist law, ensuring the right of the French citizens the access to sex education, contraceptive information and fertility regulations. The government supplied the Guadeloupeen Association with funds. The money helped in 1968 to open the first two family planning consultation centers (clinics). They gradually increased to 12 consultation centers and ten information centers. The name of the association was changed to "Agence Guadeloupienne du Planning Familial" (AGPF).

Actually there are only four operating clinics and nine information centers running under AGPF. Mme Simet-Lutin is the president. In 1973 Mme Simet-Lutin created a private association "Centre Guadeloupeen d'Information ed d'Education Familiales" (CGIEF) providing family planning information and training in different areas of home economics subject matters.

VISIT OF THE CGIEF

On September 29th, the PLO had a meeting at CGIEF with Mme Simet-Lutin and some of her staff:

Cecilia Mateos	Psychologist
Patricia Dahome-Zamia	Psychologist
Monique Benjamin	AGPF
Danielle Lubeth	Psychologist
Suzy Namus	Psychologist

Mme Simet-Lutin is a very dynamic and energetic woman whose interests are as comprehensive as they are critical to educational, social and economic development in the French Antilles. While her current "official" duties within the Directorate of Education focus on planning and overseeing sex education programs in the school system, she has many related interests and activities outside her job which are largely voluntary. Mme Simet-Lutin also supervises and administers four clinics and ten information centers related to her involvement with the Family Planning Council. Her work in communities throughout the French Antilles is concerned with the importance of educating young and old on the social, medical and psychological aspects of sexual development as well as problems of population growth in relation to economic welfare. Of special and growing concern to Mme Simet-Lutin is the role of women not only in family planning but in problems of increasing unemployment and poverty. Thus she is interested in cottage industries for women, specifically examples of handicraft guilds, ceramics, batique, and other efforts of unemployed or low-income women to generate income for their families.

Mme Simet-Lutin explained the role of this association (CGIEF) created in 1973 as a non-profit private organization. It consists of an administrative council of eight members and an inter-disciplinary educational council of 20 specialists, headed by Mme Simet-Lutin.

A research group composed of 12 physicians (specialized in different areas) and 12 social scientists (lawyers, psychologists, social workers, etc.), meet on a monthly basis to provide advice and evaluation on curriculum matters, training courses for the educational system and encouragement for individual research.

French legislation requires that three hours of class training in human reproduction and sexuality be provided to all students during their junior year in high school. The CGIEF has assumed the responsibility for providing instruction to students as well as for training teachers. Every year, 12 groups of 15 educators are trained by a team composed of a lawyer, a gynecologist, a psychologist, a sociologist and a biologist. This activity is also subsidized by the national government. Mme Simet-Lutin showed the PLO the different parts of the center, which is located in the down town area.

VISIT OF THE CERAMIC WORKSHOP

As previously mentioned Mme Simet-Lutin is interested in cottage industries, ceramics, etc., as well as an effort to generate income for unemployed or low-income women. With a lack of funds, she received the voluntary help of a Canadian ceramic art professor whom she lodged, in return, in her home free of charge. In her backyard she built a small cottage where she installed an old working table and a machine to shape the ceramic which was fabricated with her old cars engine. The Canadian professor made several experiments on the mud of the area until he reached the best formula. He also built an oven with primary materials found in the neighborhood.

At the time of the PLO visit, the Canadian was replaced by another art professor and his French wife from Uruguay. They were teaching two Guadeloupeen girls and the PLO saw several pieces of their ceramic products. Mme Simet-Lutin wishes to develop this art and later on have the trainees sell their products to tourists.

VISIT OF THE WOMEN'S TRAINING CENTER

On the afternoon of September 29th, the PLO visited with Mme Simet-Lutin the Women's Training Center which is located on a hill overlooking the sea. The center was created to organize and train women selected from the 16-20 age group or from the single head of household with dependents group so they could acquire practical skills related to the production of handicrafts. The training also includes family health, nutrition, and contraception as well.

The meeting room is connected with a well equipped kitchen which is used when conferences are held for several days. In the same area they built a big cottage used for lodging, which has bathroom facilities.

The physical facilities are impressive and the project itself could become a regional model due to the training that it provides and even more because it involves a high degree of cooperation and interaction between the private sector and several agencies of the government.

VISTI OF THE PREFECTURE OF BASSE-TERRE

On September 30th, the PLO visit with Mme Simet-Lutin, the Prefecture of Basse-Terre where we met Mr. C. Bernos, Director of Social Affairs. The purpose of this visit and discussion, which was suggested by Mme Simet-Lutin, was an awareness and orientation to Mr. Bernos. She wanted him to know about AHEA/IFPP and the integration of family planning into the home economics subject matters. She needed the support of Mr. Bernos in her future plans of integrating family planning into income generating activities. Mr. Bernos was very understanding and receptive to the idea.

VISIT OF AGPF CLINIC AND INFORMATION CENTER BASSE-TERRE

In the afternoon the PLO made the visit with Mme Simet-Lutin. We met:

Mme Chamet	Nurse
Mme Charlotte Eugene	Family Planning Agent
Mme Simone Parize	Family Planning Agent

The AGPF is a non-profit organization with a general membership formed by all the service acceptors (by law one must join the organization to be able to receive any type of health related service) and an active registered voting council of 200 members. The executive committee has 15 members and is elected every two years. Mme Simet-Lutin is its president. The staff consists of 68 people.

Administration

1 Administrative Director
1 Accountant
3 Secretaries

Information and Education

° It operates 9 information and education centers (three of which are located in clinical facilities) and a library.

° 28 social workers working at the I&E centers and visiting their respective areas of influence to motivate and follow acceptors. Film shows, slides and community meetings are organized and held regularly.

Each one of the four clinics operated by the AGPF is staffed by a physician, a midwife or nurse, a family counselor, an administrative assistant and a janitor. Full family counseling, maternal child care and family planning services are available at every clinic. Sterilizations are illegal in France. Abortions must be performed at public hospitals.

MEETING AT AGPF POINTE-a-PITRE

In October the PLO had a meeting and discussion with:

Mr. Arthur Groevius	Director
Ms Claude Agar	Social Worker
Ms Frederic Devaux	Social Worker
Ms Villette Mane	Family Planning Agent
Ms Merenie Cigare	Family Planning Agent
and 25 other agents (home visitors)	

The Director gave a summary on the mechanism and activities of AGPF and presented some of his staff with major responsibilities. The two social workers are French. They explained their role as consultants for the family planning agents. Whenever the agents have problems with a particular case, they come to discuss it with them. The social workers prefer to advise the families indirectly through the agents. They mentioned that personal contact is more accepted by local people. The family planning agents supervise and advise the home visitors. They also hold meetings with them to update information. The training also includes family health, nutrition and food preservation. Some home visitors complained about their low salaries.

AFTERNOON, OCTOBER FIRST

The PLO asked to meet home economists in Guadeloupe to learn about their activities. Mme Simet-Lutin arranged a meeting and was able to invite only one home economist. The persons present were:

Ms Monique Coeffin	Home Economist
Ms Marlene Riga	Agronomist (Extension Worker)
Mrs. Paulette Urgin	Delegate (Dondition Feminine) Education Inspector
Mrs. Elisc Navarin	Social Worker
Ms Monique Boc	Student in Economics
Mr. Jean Pierre Guengant	Demographer

Mrs. Coeffin said that there are only two French home economists working as supervisors and offer some training from time to time. There are few other home economists (all of them French) working as teachers in Guadeloupe.

The highest Home Economics diploma in France can be obtained in two years after completing high school. This training does not exist in Guadeloupe. Mrs. Urgin, Women's Delegate, joined Mrs. Coeffin to explain the reason for not having a school of home economics or the issuance of a diploma in Guadeloupe. It is because of a lack of positions. Secondly, obtaining a diploma would probably create a migration problem to metropolitan France for those who will be looking for jobs. Mrs. Coeffin was aware of the French HEA and IFHE, but is not a member.

Mrs. Riga explained that she is offering training in food preservation, poultry raising and some gardening. Mrs. Mavarin is offering family consultation with some family planning orientation.

Mr. Guengant and Ms. Box are conducting a research on the population in Guadeloupe and particularly the relationship between employment and education and women's fertility. This research is done for Mme Simet-Lutin to support her idea for the income generating project.

The PLO discussed with all of them the possibilities of joining their efforts, ideas and thinking in other meetings and perhaps formulate an association of home economists that could become a member of IFHE through which they can benefit of the international collaboration. They were receptive to the idea.

Mme Simet-Lutin mentioned that she was going to Paris within three weeks. The PLO offered to introduce her to Mme Goncet, IFHE's Secretary General, to discuss Guadeloupe's situation.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Guadeloupe has had a good start in Family Planning. They have impressive physical facilities but they lack educational materials and professional trainers. It is recommended that AHEA/IFPP continue contacts and provide technical assistance within their possible limits.
2. Encourage formation of a Guadeloupean Home Economics Association:
 - a. Send information and materials on developing the association
 - b. Arrange for a meeting between Mme Simet and Mme Gonat.
3. Guadeloupe's Project could become a regional model for the French speaking islands of the area. A regional document center could easily take place there if other organizations collaborated.
4. Invite a Guadeloupean to participate in one of AHEA/IFPP's seminars or workshops.
5. Maintain contact with professionals such as Mme Simet-Lutin, Mme Urgin, Mme Coeffin and Mme Riga, who can act as resources for the Guadeloupean home economists until they become independent on the Project.
6. Send copies of french "Working With Villagers" to the above persons.

LIST OF CONTACTS

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NOTICE

As a follow up to that consultation, the PLO arranged for two meetings on October 29th and November 3rd, between Mme Goncet and Simet-Lutin. Discussion took place on family planning and home economics in general in Guadeloupe. The PLO explored with Mme Goncet the possibilities that IFHE provide technical assistance to Guadeloupe. Mme Goncet replied that if they get the money from UNESCO it will be difficult to finance Guadeloupe, which is a French Department. But Mme Goncet promised to find assistance through the French government.