

7 June 1983

## REPORT OF VISIT TO EGYPT

I arrived in Cairo on Sunday, May 8 and left on Tuesday, May 17. During the time I was there my activities were as follows:

1. Based on preliminary input from Dr. Marion Radke-Yarrow I wrote a preliminary manual for Observation of Social Interactions in School Aged Children. This preliminary draft was discussed with Dr. Zeinab Bishry and then revised. During two afternoons I observed children's interactions in naturalistic settings at various points in Cairo to assess the field utility of the proposed manual. Based on this information, I have given the revised manual back to Dr. Bishry with suggestions for further revision.
2. I met with the four psychologists selected so far by Dr. Faisal Yunnis to discuss the aims and goals of the project. In addition, three days were spent working with the psychologists on procedures for infancy testing. All of the psychologist proved to be intelligent, cooperative, and eager to learn but major amounts of further training are necessary before they can be considered as ready to provide accurate data in this area.
3. One day was spent establishing preliminary reliability with the dieticians trained by Dr. Bishry on measurement of infant parent interaction. In this preliminary attempt at establishing reliability it became obvious that, for certain categories, it was difficult to obtain satisfactory reliability. Dr. Bishry and I have discussed reasons for this and have suggested modifications in our scale, which will be built into further training sessions in an attempt to attain more satisfactory reliability. It should be noted however that on other categories reliability was quickly established and does not appear to be a problem. The major problem seems to center around categories where time sequences are necessary.
4. One morning was spent with Dr. Bishry and Dr. Macalayne Fristoe (a developmental psychologist trained in language assessment who happened to be visiting in Egypt) on approaches to assessing language interactions of mothers' and toddlers. Based on these discussions Dr. Bishry will attempt to develop a specific set of scoring criteria for use in assessing interaction.
5. Several evenings were spent with Dr. Yunnis in terms of establishing measurement procedures for areas such as toy play which have not yet been fully dilienated. Similar amounts of time were spent with Dr. Bishry concerning the utility of behavioral measures designed for assessing adequacy of children's behavioral functioning.

In this last trip one critical problem has become apparent. This is the difficulty of training people while in Egypt, to the standards necessary for research. In training individuals in behavioral measures two critical criteria are necessary. The first are the availability of the people to be trained; the second is the availability of subjects (infants, parents, older children in the age ranges needed and in the time needed). Neither of these criteria are being met in Egypt. In terms of the availability of people to be trained, unfortunately all of our psychologists, as well as key people such as Dr. Bishry and Dr. Feisal are not directly attached to the Nutrition Institute. These individuals have other demands on their time and are available only at selected time periods.

Their relative unavailability is compounded by the problem of finding suitable subjects to train people on. It is difficult to do this in the village given the amount of time to get out to the village, plus the relative unavailability of transport to and from the village. Therefore, we are forced to depend upon clients who come into the Nutrition Institute. Unfortunately this is an extremely haphazard procedure. On a number of days when I was there when several psychologists were scheduled to be there, very few mothers and babies showed up and none were in the appropriate age range. On other days when few psychologists were available a number of mothers and babies all showed up at the same time. By being all there at the same time, infants were continually falling asleep at times when we could have used them.

The only possible solution I can see to the above problem is to take key people such as Dr. Bishry and Dr. Faisal and train them directly in the states. By training them in the states I would have their undivided time plus we could arrange for subjects in the age ranges needed, when we wished. Therefore, in terms of future training the situation is as follows:

1. In regards to Dr. Bishry, she is scheduled to come to the states in July. We are trying to schedule her to visit New York Medical Center, to be trained in assessment of temperament, University of Kansas, to be trained in administration of the Brazelton and Purdue, to establish interobserver reliability on measures of parent interaction and measures of social interaction in older children. Dr. Bishry will then return to Cairo and train the appropriate people over the time needed. When she has established satisfactory reliabilities for them I would then return to Cairo again to cross-validate her reliability.

In regards to Dr. Faisal, in terms of the Egyptian portion of the grant he is not scheduled to come over to the United States for some time. Therefore, I will be formally requesting permission to utilize a portion of my travel funds to bring Dr. Faisal to the United States in the next month or two. The purpose of this would be to train Dr. Faisal on the various measures of infant assessment we are utilizing, and establish reliability with him on these measures. In addition, we would cross-check reliability on all of the measures for children and adults. Dr. Faisal would then return to Cairo and train his people over the time required. Once he had obtained satisfactory reliability procedures with his personnel on all measures I would then return to Cairo to cross-validate his reliability figures. In the interim, until I can get Dr. Faisal over to the United States, he will be establishing reliability figures with his personnel on tests of children and adults.

It must be stressed that until we get satisfactory reliability figures on research personnel supervised by Drs. Bishry and Faisal, which I can then cross validate, we will not be able to collect either cognitive or behavioral data. Hence, it becomes all the more critical to get key people such as Drs. Bishry and Faisal over here as soon as possible if we are to have any hope at all of establishing satisfactory reliability in time for the desired starting dates.