



INTRAH

TRIP REPORT # 0-4

TRAVELERS: Dr. James Lea

COUNTRY VISITED: Ivory Coast

DATE OF TRIP: November 11-13, 1984

PURPOSE: To meet with REDSO/WCA staff and review regional office potential.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 11 - 13, 1984, Dr. James Lea, INTRAH Director, visited Abidjan, Ivory Coast, for the purpose of investigating prospects of establishing the INTRAH Office for West and Central Africa there. Between arrival late on Sunday, November 11, and departure the following Tuesday night, Dr. Lea met with REDSO/WCA and American Embassy officers, and with legal, banking and accounting professionals. Outcomes included the collection of information pertinent to regional office siting and a review with REDSO/WCA officers of INTRAH's 1985 West and Central Africa program prospects.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- November 11** **Arrival Abidjan**
Check in at Hotel Ivoire
- November 12** **Discussions with Duncan, Allen and Mitchell, Attorneys**
Discussions with Citibank/Abidjan
- November 13** **Discussions with REDSO/WCA staff**
Discussions with American Embassy staff
Discussions with Coopers & Lybrand, Abidjan
Departure Abidjan

I. PURPOSE OF TRIP

Meet with REDSO/WCA staff and review regional office potential.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Secured concurrence of REDSO/WCA and cognizant American Embassy officers for establishment of INTRAH, West-Central Africa regional office in Abidjan.
2. Collected necessary information on costs, amenities and amenability relative to regional office operations.
3. Discussed INTRAH's West and Central Africa program prospects with REDSO Regional Population Advisor, Ms. Sarah Clark.

III. BACKGROUND

Except for a previous visit by Dr. Lea in December, 1981, to brief REDSO/WCA, no INTRAH representative has visited Abidjan in an official capacity because family planning assistance opportunities in Ivory Coast have been viewed as quite limited by government policies. Communications with REDSO/WCA population staff since then has been maintained by other means. INTRAH has provided copies of manuals and other materials to the REDSO/WCA office.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Upon arrival in Abidjan on November 11, Dr. Lea found that airport assistance and hotel accommodations had been arranged by REDSO/WCA, courtesies for which INTRAH is grateful.

The following day, November 12, was a U. S. Government holiday, so no meetings with REDSO/WCA or American Embassy officers were possible. Dr. Lea visited the offices of Duncan, Allen and Mitchell, an American law firm with

offices in Washington D.C., Kinshasa, and Nairobi, as well as Abidjan. Discussions with Mr. Hunt Talmadge, resident partner, were quite fruitful, especially on subjects of organizational registration, local labor laws, operating costs and other matters relating to opening an INTRAH office in Ivory Coast. Mr. Talmadge provided a complete package of regulations and guidelines for registering a foreign organization in Ivory Coast. He also provided an introduction to a senior officer of Citibank's local branch.

Dr. Lea then visited Mr. Cheikhou Badio at Citibank. Discussions with Mr. Badio centered on the several financial services required by an INTRAH regional office. Mr. Badio reviewed procedures for opening and maintaining a convertible currency account, transfers of CFA among various West African countries, and Ivory Coast banking laws which would apply to INTRAH's situation. Mr. Badio and Dr. Lea also discussed current and projected economic conditions in several countries and their anticipated effects upon development planning, especially in health and population sectors.

On November 13, Dr. Lea visited REDSO/WCA. At 9:00 a.m., Dr. Lea met with Mr. Larry Bond, REDSO Director; Ms. Sarah Clark, Population Advisor; and Mr. James Shepherd, Health Advisor. Mr. Bond's initial position on the desirability of an INTRAH office in Abidjan was, like that of USAID/Togo, based on the perception that such an office would place an intolerable local support burden upon REDSO/WCA and the Embassy. Against the background of INTRAH's regional office experience in Nairobi, Dr. Lea explained the self-sustaining nature of an office if it were located in Abidjan. Ms. Clark observed that an INTRAH office in Abidjan would be desirable from her perspective because of information-sharing opportunities with REDSO/WCA. Ultimately, all agreed that an INTRAH office would be acceptable.

Dr. Lea then attempted to arrange an appointment with Mr. Bernar Delmonie, director of the Abidjan office of Coopers & Lybrand, Accountants. By telephone, Dr. Lea learned that INTRAH had been introduced to Mr. Delmonie by a letter from Coopers & Lybrand, Nairobi. However, Mr. Delmonie was leaving Abidjan that day, and it was impossible to arrange a meeting. Dr. Lea and Mr. Delmonie talked by telephone about the range of accounting services which an INTRAH regional office would require and Coopers and Lybrand's ability to provide them.

Later that day, Dr. Lea and Ms. Clark visited the American Embassy for a meeting with Mr. Peter Spaulding, Joint Administrative Officer of the Embassy.

Dr. Lea explained the prospects of establishing an INTRAH office in Abidjan, and Ms. Clark confirmed REDSO/WCA's concurrence in such an action. Mr. Spaulding gave Embassy concurrence.

The day ended with a wrap-up meeting between Dr. Lea and Ms. Clark to review notes on the past two days' discussions and INTRAH's prospective West-Central Africa plans for 1985. Dr. Lea departed Abidjan that night.

V. FINDINGS

1. Findings concerning the acceptability of Abidjan as a regional office site are summarized in a separate memorandum.
2. Ms. Clark is a very active regional population advisor, a decided plus for emerging family planning assistance opportunities in West Africa. If INTRAH establishes a West-Central Africa office in Abidjan, coordination (without subordination) with REDSO/WCA would have many mutual advantages.
3. Opportunities for INTRAH activity in Ivory Coast are still quite limited. The GOIC's policies do not support expansion of family planning services, and U.S. Government policy there is sensitive to this fact. It is possible, however, that these circumstances may change gradually over the next several years.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions and recommendations relating to the establishment of an INTRAH regional office in Abidjan are summarized elsewhere.

APPENDIX A

Persons Contacted

Mr. Lawrence Bond
Director, REDSO/WCA

Ms. Sarah Clark
Regional Population Advisor
REDSO/WCA

Mr. James Shepherd
Regional Health Advisor
REDSO/WCA

Mr. Peter Spaulding
Joint Administrative Officer
American Embassy/Ivory Coast

Mr. Hunt Talmadge, III
Resident Partner
Duncan, Allen and Mitchell, Abidjan

Mr. Cheikhou Badio
Citibank, Abidjan

Mr. Bernar Delmonie
Director, Coopers and Lybrand, Abidjan