



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH
2121 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 303
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 298-5901

TRIP REPORT

Traveler: F. Curtiss Swezy, Dr.PH., Program Manager

Itinerary: February 5 - 7 : Saint Lucia
February 8 : Barbados
February 9 - 10: Dominica
February 11 : Antigua

Purpose: To accompany initial volunteers to the Caribbean under the auspices of the NCIH/CARICOM Health Manpower Project. While in the Caribbean, discussed the future management of Project with Permanent Secretaries of Saint Lucia and Dominica as well as CARICOM and USAID RDO/Caribbean staff (see Appendix A, Key Contacts).

Introduction

Dr. Charles Livingston, a general surgeon in private practice in Salina, Kansas, and Dr. Janice Stevens, a research psychiatrist at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., agreed to serve in the Caribbean under the NCIH/CARICOM Health Manpower Project. The writer traveled to Saint Lucia to ensure Dr. Stevens orientation to the assignment. Simultaneously, Mr. Terence Goldson, CARICOM Project Coordinator, traveled to St. Kitts to meet Dr. Livingston upon his arrival (Mr. Goldson's trip is the subject of a separate trip report).

Ministry of Health and Local Government. Saint Lucia

The writer conferred with Ministry of Health staff concerning the utilization of Dr. Stevens' services. Dr. Stevens arrived in Saint Lucia on Sunday, February 7. She will serve in the capacity of psychiatrist for both the nations of Saint Lucia and St. Vincent. The Permanent Secretary of Saint Lucia, Mr. Cornelius Lubin, arranged for Dr. Stevens to stay in an apartment in a former Rockefeller Foundation research center. After discussion, it was agreed that the Ministry of Health would pay Dr. Stevens an allowance for food, and she would make her own arrangements for eating.

Dr. Malcolm Riggsbee oversees the operation of Golden Hope Mental Hospital in Castries on a part-time basis; he is in partial retirement from the Saint Lucia health service. He initiated the orientation of Dr. Stevens while the writer was in Saint Lucia.

Dr. George Mahy, on the faculty of medicine at the University of the West Indies/Barbados, also agreed to orientate Dr. Stevens. He traveled to Saint Lucia on Sunday, meeting with Dr. Stevens and the writer. He provided a broad background on psychiatric disorders in the Caribbean and modes of treatment. Dr. Mahy planned to assist Dr. Riggsbee in orienting Dr. Stevens at Golden Hope Hospital before returning to Barbados Tuesday night.

CARICOM

The writer met in Barbados with Mr. Terence Goldson, Project Coordinator for the NCIH/CARICOM Health Manpower Project. The two reviewed administrative details of the Project.

Mr. Goldson, along with the Permanent Secretary of Health for St. Kitts, Mr. O. Hector, met Dr. Livingston at the airport when he arrived. Temporary lodging was provided by the Ministry of Health for Dr. Livingston in a hotel for the weekend; he later moved to permanent quarters in a house.

The Permanent Secretary had arranged to have Mr. Cuthwin Lake, the general surgeon from Antigua, come to St. Kitts to meet Dr. Livingston. Dr. Lake oriented him to the facilities and equipment, and introduced him to the staff at the hospital. On Saturday morning, his first full day in Saint Lucia, Dr. Livingston performed four operations including an amputation. On Monday, The Ministry arranged for one of the cooks at Joseph N. France Hospital to shop in the market for Dr. Livingston and prepare his meals.

Mr. Goldson related he had been successful in negotiating a health and accident insurance policy for the physician volunteers with the American Life Insurance Company of Wilmington, Delaware. Both Drs. Livingston and Stevens will be covered under this plan. Mr. Goldson is continuing to contact insurance companies to find a satisfactory plan to provide volunteers with professional liability insurance.

A call was placed to Dr. A.I. Boyd, Chief Medical Officer of Antigua, to reaffirm the need for an anesthesiologist. Dr. Boyd explained that an anesthesiologist accepted a contract to work for the government. He had just arrived in Antigua, and would remain until March 15. He would then leave to settle his affairs at his current position and return June 1. Dr. Boyd stated that during this interim period, Antigua clearly needed an anesthesiologist. A call was placed to Dr. Francis Jansa in Rockport, Texas to inquire of her availability to serve in Antigua this spring. Dr. Jansa stated she would consider the offer; Dr. Swezy said he would call her again at the end of the week.

A review was made by Mssrs. Goldson and Swezy of current requests for manpower support under this Project. The priority needs include:

Antigua	:	anesthesiologist
St. Vincent	:	radiologist
Belize	:	pediatrician
"	:	pathologist
"	:	anesthesiologist

In addition, Dominica desires a pharmacist and several nations have indicated a need for assistance in maintenance of hospital equipment.

USAID RDO/Caribbean

Mssrs. Goldson and Swezy met with Mr. Mark Laskin, USAID Public Health Advisor, to review the progress of the Project. A courtesy call was paid upon Mr. Dwight Johnson, USAID Deputy Director.

Mssrs. Goldson and Swezy reviewed the outstanding requests for physician volunteers with Mr. Laskin. Mr. Laskin stated that, from the perspective of USAID/RDO, responding to the gaps expressed by the Government of Belize would have the highest priority. In response to a question, Mr. Laskin stated it would be most appropriate if Dr. Swezy visited Belize to obtain first-hand information on their service needs.

It was further related to Mr. Laskin that there have been requests from a number of the LDCs for technical assistance in medical equipment maintenance and repair. Mr. Laskin replied that USAID/RDO had just completed an agreement with the National Institutes of Health to establish a training program in Barbados on maintenance of hospital equipment; when put into operation, staff from the LDCs will be eligible to participate.

Mr. Laskin stated that consideration should be given to the forthcoming evaluation of the NCIH/CARICOM Health Manpower Project; when it should be done and by whom. Dr. Swezy stated he felt the Project, with the placement

of the initial two physician volunteers, was off to a solid start. He stated the impact made by these volunteers would take some time to manifest. He suggested such an evaluation be held toward the end of the current Project year, in August. He stated since the first two volunteers had just been placed, there were ample funds left in the Project. Dr. Swezy stated he anticipates that, if the evaluation proves supportive, NCIH and CARICOM will request a one-year no-cost extension of the grant. Mr. Laskin stated an evaluation in August would permit time for USAID/RDO to make a judgement whether or not to continue the Project in the next fiscal year. He stated such an evaluation was required primarily to document progress to date; he believed an appropriate evaluation could be done by one person.

Mr. Laskin stated he was interested in exploring the suggestion of involving a U.S. medical school in interacting with the program. Dr. Swezy replied this could well lead to long-term continuity in supporting the service needs of the Caribbean LDCs. He stated his belief that the appropriate institutional alignment would be for a U.S. medical school to have a sister institution agreement with the University of the West Indies. The latter, in turn, could then provide technical backstopping, service and training to patients and medical staff in the LDCs. Dr. Swezy stated he had discussed such options with some administrators of U.S. medical schools. He stated the response he received was optimistic, but such an arrangement would require a host of considerations on the management and funding of such an undertaking.

Ministry of Health, Dominica

The writer met with the Minister of Health, Permanent Secretary and Director of Health Services for the Commonwealth of Dominica. Dr. Swezy briefly explained the Project and noted that two physician volunteers had been placed in the Caribbean. The Permanent Secretary, Mr. F.O. Symes, had not been at the meeting of Permanent Secretaries in St. Kitts when the Project was reviewed. He had the minutes of the meeting. The Minister, the Honorable Charles Maynard, stated he did not recall that the Project was intended to provide volunteers. He thought the Project was designed to recruit long-term salaried professionals and the money would be better utilized in this manner.

Dr. McIntyre, Director of Health Services, reviewed the positions that Dominica would like assistance with; these include:

ear/nose/throat specialist:	1-2 months
internist	: minimum 3 months
pediatrician	: minimum 3 months
pharmacist	: 1-2 years
equipment maintenance specialist	: long term

Dr. Swezy stated it would facilitate recruitment if a Health Specialist Request Form, approved by the Permanent Secretaries at the St. Kitts meeting, could be completed on each position. Dr. McIntyre agreed to do

this and forward the request forms to Mr. Goldson at CARICOM. Dr. Swezy noted the request for a pharmacist for two years might better be recruited by an organization such as the Peace Corps. Mssrs. Symes and McIntyre stated a Peace Corps volunteer would be satisfactory for this position.

Dr. Swezy also noted that USAID RDO/Caribbean intends to begin a training program in Barbados in hospital equipment maintenance and repair; the LDCs are eligible to send staff to the program. Secretary Symes stated that Dominica has three persons they could send immediately.

Dr. Swezy visited Princess Margaret Hospital and discussed the Project with staff there. The French government has provided two physicians for the hospital, but the three specialties currently under request are not included among the 10 staff physicians. The French have also provided a pharmacist for the central stores of the Ministry of Health. But, there is only one pharmacist at the hospital and another full-time person is urgently needed.

Ministry of Health, Antigua

The writer met with Dr. A.I. Boyd, Chief Medical Officer, and Dr. Abu Naser Ziauddin of the Holberton Hospital staff. Dr. Ziauddin has accepted a contract to come to Antigua as the anesthesiologist for the hospital. He will remain in St. John's until March 15 when he will return to the United States to complete his business there. He will assume his new position in Antigua on June 1.

Dr. Boyd reiterated that during the interim period, March 15 to June 1, Antigua urgently requires the services of an anesthesiologist. He gave Dr. Swezy a copy of a completed health volunteer request form.

Key Contacts

Saint Lucia, Ministry of Health and Local Government

Mr. Cornelius Lubin, Permanent Secretary
Dr. A.J. D'Souza, Director of Medical Services
Dr. Malcolm Riggsbee, Director of Golden Hope Mental Hospital (part-time)
Dr. George Mahy, Psychiatric Consultant (from Barbados)

Dominica, Ministry of Health and Education

The Honorable Charles Maynard, Minister of Health
Mr. F.O. Symes, Permanent Secretary
Dr. D.O. McIntyre, Director of Medical Services
Dr. Bernard Sorhaindo, Medical Director of Princess Margaret Hospital
Mr. Rofert Peter, Hospital Administrator
Mr. Stanislaus Cuffy, Hospital Pharmacist

Antigua, Ministry of Health

Dr. A.I. Boyd, Chief Medical Officer
Dr. Abu Naser Ziauddin, Anesthesiologist (beginning June 1)

USAID RDO/Caribbean

Mr. Dwight Johnson, Deputy Director
Mr. Mark Laskin, Public Health Advisor

CARICOM

Mr. Terence Goldson, CARICOM Project Coordinator

**Update on NCIH-CARICOM
Health Manpower Project . . .**

First Volunteers Leave For the Caribbean

Drs. Janice Stevens and Charles Livingstone left for volunteer assignments in the Caribbean early this month, under the auspices of the NCIH/CARICOM Health Manpower Project.

Dr. Stevens, a neurologist/psychiatrist, has accepted a three-month assignment on the islands of Saint Lucia and St. Vincent, providing clinical psychiatric care. A resident of Portland, Oregon, she is presently working as staff physician at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C. In the past, Dr. Stevens has served in such countries as Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Dr. Livingstone, a founding member of the American Association of Volunteer Physicians, has agreed to work in St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla (St. Kitts) for two months. He will serve as general surgeon in the local hospital. A resident of Salina, Kansas, Dr. Livingstone has previously accepted volunteer assignments in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Vietnam.

In addition to providing "hands-on" care, these two physicians will assist in the development of "country-specific" health manpower plans based upon in-depth assessments of their assignments.

The Project is being administered by CARICOM, the Secretariat of the Caribbean Economic Community of the English-speaking Caribbean. In the Health Section of CARICOM, Terence O.B. Goldson, MPH, provides the necessary administrative/logistical support for the successful operation of the Project.

Additional openings for clinical service care exist and recruitment is continuing for the following:

Anesthesiologist	- Antigua
Radiologist	- St. Vincent
Pediatrician	- Belize
Pathologist	- Belize
Anesthesiologist	- Belize
Nurse-Midwife	- Montserrat

Anyone wishing to discuss the possibilities of serving under this Project should contact Ms. Noreen King, Project Assistant, National Council for International Health, 2121 Virginia Ave., N.W., Suite 303, Washington, D.C. 20037.

The NCIH/CARICOM Health Manpower Project, launched last year, is designed to improve the health manpower development capabilities of the nations in the Caribbean community.

Funded by the Agency for International Development, the cooperative program will help member countries meet their health manpower needs and develop their own plans for permanent regionally based primary health care training activities. To achieve this objective, the manpower project is to identify health needs in the region, recruit volunteer health professionals, and place the individuals on temporary assignment where they are needed most.

Eight of the fourteen countries that are members of CARICOM have been identified as lesser developed countries, and are targeted for special attention in this project. These countries are: Antigua-Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Christopher (St. Kitts)/Nevis and St. Vincent.

The end result of the NCIH/CARICOM Project is likely to be assistance in establishing a full-time health manpower unit within CARICOM to help meet the long term health and training needs of the Caribbean.

Africa holds the negative distinction of the world's highest infant mortality rate: 153 out of 1,000 children die before age 1. Consequently, Africans have the lowest life expectancy of any people, 47 years.

MAP will distribute the medicines and supplies among some 160 medic-



Drs. Stevens and Livingstone (left), at a press conference in Washington, D.C., with Dr. F. Curtiss Swezy.

International Legislative Update

Funding was cut for international health programs in a flurry of year-end activity on Capitol Hill. The Foreign Assistance Appropriations Bill and the Foreign Assistance Authorization Bill passed narrowly, amid controversy, in both the House and the Senate. The bills were then sent to the President on December 16th, only one day before Congress broke for holiday recess, and were signed into law on December 29th, 1981. This marks the first time in three years that legislation on foreign assistance has been enacted; for the past two years Congress has passed continuing resolutions fixing the budget at 1979 levels. Both bills passed with bipartisan support, and provide greater funding for most programs in FY'82 than had been available under the continuing resolution.

Foreign Assistance Appropriations Bill

The total for bilateral assistance in agriculture, population, health, education and technical assistance is now to be \$1.295 billion, reflecting a \$110.3 million increase over continuing resolution levels. Despite the overall increase in funding, health appropriations designated for

reporting
beauti
FY'82,
fundi
compa
to int
requi
provid
Congr
assist

State Author

In se
passe
Autho
severa
United
an enc
infant
world,
World
tary gu
milk su
bilater
resear
fant fo
\$5 mil
activit
quired
and o
count
nation
gress.