

memorandum

~~James G.~~  
 files, Liberia, Aug. 16.  
 DATE: August 16, 1983

REPLY TO: Amy G. Nolan  
 ATTN OF: Andy U. Nolan, RHUDO/WA

PD - 605  
 100 - 7256

SUBJECT: Trip Report: May 12-14, 1983  
 Liberia Low-Income Housing 669-0167/669-0146

to: The Files

I. PURPOSE

To review amended PROAG with Mission staff for final comments and to meet with new NHA management team.

II. PERSONS CONTACTED

USAID

- Lois Richards, Mission Director
- John Peilemeier, Deputy Mission Director
- Carol Scherrer-Palma, Program Manager
- Robert Hackman, Housing Officer
- Robert Leonard, Controller
- Willar Eastman, Housing TA

NHA

- Samuel Tody, Managing Director
- Roland Pour, Deputy Director Administration
- Robert Gray, Deputy Director, Technical

III. ACTIVITIES

In introductory meeting with new NHA management, Mission Director emphasized two things to guide her decision with respect to the project's future. Those two issues were the results of the Price-Waterhouse audit and a written Project commitment from the PRC government. A June 30th deadline for receiving the PRC commitment was established by correspondence from Mission Director Richards to former NHA Director, Quiah on December 29, 1982. The contents of this correspondence was discussed with the new Managing Director Tody on May 3rd, and a copy provided.

Outline of Price Waterhouse audit received by Mission May 4, 1983. Draft report expected end of May. Auditors indicate no problems thus far.

In subsequent meeting at NHA with Tody, RHO and Hackman emphasized importance of PRC commitment and possibility of termination without it. On audit, Tody promised full cooperation.



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

In reviewing the technical side, Tody indicated the biggest frustration for NHA is lack of cooperation from the water (LWSC) and electrical (LEC) utilities to approve plans or to discuss NHA cost recovery of grant-funded infrastructure through deductions against utility charges.

In fact, the problems of project implementation through the NHA are considerable. Many administrative and technical activities are either directed by or undertaken in large part by AID or Peace Corps staff. RHO and USAID staff have discussed internally having the NHA turn as much as possible of the technical planning and construction activities over to one or two larger private contractors. This issue might be discussed in project renegotiations.

The draft amended PROAG was reviewed with Hackman and DMD Peilemeier and comments noted. The RHO will carry document to AID/W for GC/H review and send back to the field revised.

RHO recommended that the Mission consider sending Anthony Delaney, NHA Project Coordinator and Robert Gray, the new Deputy Managing Director for Technical Affairs to the two week MIT Technical Workshop on low-cost housing systems in August using project training funds. Also discussed possibility (less likely) of Tody being sponsored for the one-month Shelter Institute Seminar in Washington in October.

#### IV. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

##### NHA

- PRC commitment letter

##### USAID

- Audit report from Price-Waterhouse and training package
- Action on training options particularly for MIT workshop.

##### RHUDO

- Integrate final revisions into amended PROAG draft and carry through GC/H review.

cc: William Mann, PRE/H ✓  
Robert Hackman, USAID/Liberia

AUN/dl