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FROM: ADDIS ABABA

SUBJECT: End-of-Tour Report: Dr. Simon D. Messing

REFERENCE:

Transmitted herewith is Dr. Messing's End-of-Tour Report. The comments of his supervisor, Dr. J. S. Prince, Chief of the USAID/E Public Health Division, are as follows:

"As usual, with Dr. Messing's reports, this one is concise and complete. He has avoided needless repetition by referring to reports already submitted, giving page numbers where necessary.

"First of all, I would like to call attention to Dr. Messing's itemization of his assigned duties. These are indeed correct and show the wide range of activities which he was called upon to carry out. It should be pointed out, in addition, however, that these tasks have been completed in a most outstanding manner.

"On the bottom of page 4 of Dr. Messing's report, he calls attention to factors relating to cooperation with the central and provincial governments, which effected the successfulness of the study in the various communities tested. I wish to call particular attention to his detailed remarks in this connection contained in the reference "Sociological Review", Part I, pages 44-47 inclusive. In order to lend particular force to Dr. Messing's statements I should like to quote his concluding paragraph: "Health Officers are true pioneers. In order to be successful in public health, they must study local social dynamics and negotiate with the power structure, unofficial opinion leaders, merchants, landlords, etc. They may succeed in time, with the likely exception of the Ogaden." I might also point out that the lessons contained in Dr. Messing's analysis of this situation would be of the greatest value for people

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undertaking similar studies in other countries--a by-product of our experience which was anticipated.

"In paragraph D.2. on page 5 in Dr. Messing's report, he calls attention to the summary of his conclusions and recommendations based on the sociological portion of the baseline study contained in Part II pages 49-57 entitled 'Quantitative Analysis from Schedule V, etc.'

"I can only recommend strongly that everyone who sees this report should read the pages indicated. They not only illustrate the essential nature of Dr. Messing's role in this study but also show, in general terms, the equally great importance of including the social anthropology approach in any study of this type. Indeed, this is 'applied anthropology' to a farethewell! (Our friends in the American Society for Applied Anthropology would probably note this comment with gratification and reminiscence of a particularly interesting meeting of the Society which was held in Cleveland during the early 1950s!)

"In conclusion, a few comments about the statements made by Dr. Messing on page 5 of his report:

a. In paragraph 4, he recommends 'sturdier tents' for the re-study. I would only like to supplement this comment with the observation that the tents which we have used and which were purchased from Kernan Company in New York, were, in some cases, unequal to the tasks of the hard use to which they were subjected. I would strongly suggest to USA that they purchase any additional tents from some other company or else obtain a better grade of canvas from the same company. The tents we now have, leak during heavy rains and have a tendency to tear rather easily. More expensive tents might well have proven more economical in the long run.'

b. In paragraph D.3. at the bottom of page 5, Dr. Messing states that Gondar 'is a joint venture of the United Nations (WHO, UNICEF, etc.) and USAID.' To this should be added 'and the Imperial Ethiopian Government which now shoulders more than 70% of the operating budget.'

"Obviously, Dr. Messing's report should be placed in the hands of the Ministry, with all attachments, and should also be made a part of his personnel record. In my opinion, it represents a truly outstanding accomplishment."

As indicated above, it is recommended that a copy of Dr. Messing's report be placed in his personnel file.

VANCE

Attachment as stated.

Mid-of Tour Report
Simon D. Messing, PH.D.
Demonstration & Evaluation Project
August 1963

Introduction

In accordance with paragraph 2 G of Mission Directive No. 11, September 20, 1960 and March 20, 1963, the following research papers, compiled during this tour, are attached:

1. SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW: ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES RELATING TO HEALTH AND SICKNESS; based on Observation and Quantitative Research in Nine Ethiopian Small Towns, 1961-1963.
   August 1963. Part I - 47 pp. Part II - 57 pp.
2. The Community of Chwahit, March 1962 — 12 pp.
   Quantitative Analysis — 33 pp.
3. The Community of Mattu, June 1962 — 18 pp. Appendix
4. The Community of Nurumu, July 1962 — 21 pp.
5. The Community of Dagahbur, September 1962 — 28 pp.
6. The Community of Awaro, September 1962 — 18 pp.
7. The Community of May Chow, December 1962 — 15 pp.
8. The Community of Koram, January 1963 — 10 pp.
9. The Community of Hosanna, March 1963 — 17 pp.
10. The Community of Durami, May 1963 — 13 pp.
11. Demographic, Economic and Sociological Comparisons, Mattu-Nurumu, July 1962
12. Demographic, Economic and Sociological Comparisons, Dagahbur-Awaro, October, 1962

13. Demographic, Economic & Sociological Comparisons, May Chow-Koram, May 1963.

14. Demographic, Economic & Sociological Comparisons, Hosanna-Durami, June 1963.

15. Ecological-Ethnographic Report of Anuak Culture - Gambella District, July 1963, 7 pp.

16. Preliminary Study Design for U & E Project, Public Health, Jan. 4, 1962

17. Glossary of Amharic-English Disease Terms and Traditional Interpretations. Undated (1961) 4 pp.

18. Notes on the Ethnography, Ecology and Mutual Aid of the Blue Nile area, with Special Attention to Labor Recruitment. Prepared by request of USAID Blue Nile - Water Resources Project, November 1962. 7 pp.

19. Outline of Lecture on Amhara vs. Somali Cultures, given in Survey of Ethiopia course at Addis Ababa University College, Nov. 13, 1962.

20. Outline of Lectures on Basic Sociology, and the Application of Sociology to Public Health Problems in Ethiopia. (Given during two weeks in April 1963 at the Haile Sellassie I Public Health College, Gondar, Ethiopia).

21. "Living Overseas - Ethiopia". Lesson Plan and Situational Discussion for Medical Peace Corps Trainees. May 1963. 4 pp.

22. Manual for Enumeration of Schedule on Attitudes and Practices. Rev. January 1963. 9 pp.

<u>Content of Report</u>

A. Description and Analysis of the research conducted by the sociologist and

reconnaissance team leader of the Demonstration and Evaluation Project in Public Health, Ethiopia, are contained in the above-mentioned reports.

1. General objectives and specific goals were contained in No. 10 (above), and the results in No. 1. (above)

The technician's assigned duties were related to the successful operations of the larger Public Health Project at the Gondar Public Health Co Collegs, which trains paramedical personnel for the rural, decentralized Health Centers of Ethiopia. They included:

--Leadership of Reconnaissance Team, in charge of American and Ethiopian personnel, technicians and crew. Introduction of the Project to local officials, identification of and negotiations with the "power structure", development of rapport with population. Selection of "Control" community with similar ecological characteristics. Maintaining log of daily events. Supervising camp administrator. Transferring local cooperation to arriving physician and nurse, so that physical examinations and serology can begin.

--Defining geographical, political and demographic extent of local "community".

Sociological survey of health attitudes, practices and aspirations on questionnaire (Schedule V), by visiting and revisiting each household in the quantitative subsample.

Participant observation of local events and qualitative interviews, using checklist, to gather data on land tenure, standard of living, division of labor, markets, local history, mutual aid, communication

and modern change. Special attention is given to traditional, intermediate and modern health practitioners and their practices.

--Preparation of the descriptive and analytical "community report" coding of the quantitative data. Devising manuals for collection of data in the field and coding procedures. Consultation with team biostatistician (by mail or directly), Johns Hopkins University.

--Preparation of glossaries and other informative aids for use by Public Health officials, and other USAID/Ethiopia projects in various parts of Ethiopia.

2. After initial field trips and negotiations, the community studies cited in the attached bibliography were accomplished, analyzed and coded. Transfer sheets were sent to Johns Hopkins University for punching on IBM cards.

3. The Reconnaissance Team and Sociological questionnaire were protested at the village of Chwabit. As a result, planning, organization, procedures, administration, etc. of the Reconnaissance-Sociological operations were improved and functioned smoothly in the various parts of Ethiopia. The only exception was in one of the two communities of the Ogaden district, the village of Aware, where political border tensions among the Somali Muslim population resulted in reduced cooperation (see Dagabbur and Aware reports). Since care was taken, at all times, to proceed through formal channels and all proprieties of the IPC, full cooperation was enjoyed in relations with the central and provincial governments. (See No. 1, Part I, pp. 42-47)

4. Problems directly related to the project were those of transportation, inter-ethnic tension (Dagahlur, Ayare, in the Ogaden), land tenure tension (Dag Chaw, Kocas, Hosanna) and challenge to report when the testing of blood and stool began (see No. 1, Part I, pp. 44-46). Transportation problems were solved by airlifting 4 - 5 tons of equipment when trails were too poor for the team's landrover, and combinations of railroad lumber, rented truck, etc. For the revetudy, sturdier tents and some other equipment will be necessary, new or borrowed from other Mission personnel.

5. Recommendations for the Revetudy to measure Health Center effectiveness after two years of operation are contained in No. 1, Part II, pp. 49-57. The Camp Administrator-Guide-Interpreter was trained as sociological assistant, and during the hiatus, is studying at H.S.I. University.

F. 1. Project Objectives are described in No. 16 (Preliminary Study Design) and No. 1, Part I, pp. 1-11.

2. Project Activities are analyzed as follows:

Accomplishments: See the entire bibliography

Problems: No. 1, Part II, No. 3 (pp. 49-57)

3. This technician was enrolled in direct and indirect cooperation with the Public Health College of Gondar and the graduates in the field, to develop effective rural, decentralized health services. This institution and the personnel is a joint venture of the United Nations (WHO, UNICEF, etc.) and USAID.

4. Cooperation with other NASA programs resulted in the research outlined in Nos. 18 and 22.

5. Recommendations for future activities are contained in No. 1, Part I, pp. 23-27.

Attachments as stated