



Memorandum

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Date: October 27, 1981

From: Mark W. Oberle, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Epidemiologist, Program Evaluation Branch, Family Planning Evaluation Division (FPED), Center for Health Promotion and Education (CHPE)

Subject: Foreign Trip Report (AID/RSSA): Guatemala, October 3-5, 1981

To: William H. Foege, M.D.
Director, Centers for Disease Control
Through: Horace G. Ogden
Director, CHPE DOT

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SUMMARY

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SUMMARY

The Director of the Ministry of Economics' Statistics Bureau has agreed to provide CDC and the Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia (APROFAM) with a sampling frame for a 1982 contraceptive prevalence survey. This survey would measure changes in fertility and contraceptive use since the 1978 National Survey. Sample selection is tentatively scheduled for January 1982, with field work beginning in May.

The Drogueria Nacional began contraceptive distribution in the third quarter of 1981, but only distributed minimal quantities in the 11 departments under its responsibility. A mixed allocation/requisition formula was agreed on for the last quarter of 1981. Medicine distribution for the country was delayed in the third quarter because of the lack of gasoline. However, by the end of the third quarter, all six vehicles provided by AID were in use. In fact, these vehicles may have been overused--for activities other than their intended purpose. This and other issues will be discussed at a meeting of the Tripartite Agreement Committee in mid-October.

I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL

Guatemala, October 3-5, 1981, at the request of USAID/Guatemala and AID/DS/POP/FPSD, to consult on the integration of contraceptive supplies into the Ministry of Health's (MOH) logistics system and discuss with APROFAM the second national contraceptive prevalence survey. This consultation was provided by Mark W. Oberle, M.D., M.P.H., of the Program Evaluation Branch, FPED/CHPE/CDC. This travel was in accordance with the Resource Support Services Agreement (RSSA) between the Office of Population, AID, and CDC/CHPE/FPED.

However, transportation expenses were provided by AID/ROCAF in conjunction with the regional intensive course in applied epidemiology conducted in Guatemala during the 2 previous weeks.

II. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

A. USAID/Guatemala

1. Mr. Paul Cohn, Health and Population Officer
2. Mr. Carlos Andrino, Project Assistant

B. Ministry of Health (MOH)

1. Dr. Jorge Chang, Area Coordinator
2. Mr. Enrique Prado Spiegel, Coordinator, Drogueria Nacional
3. Sra. Irma Y. Urzua, Chief of Administration, Drogueria Nacional

C. Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia (APROFAM)

1. Dr. Roberto Santiso, Executive Director
2. Sra. Antonieta Pineda, Chief, Evaluation Section

D. Ministry of Economics

1. Dr. Martin Carranza Orellana, Director General, National Statistics Bureau

III. MINISTRY OF HEALTH DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

A. Background

The Tripartite Agreement involving APROFAM, USAID, and the Guatemalan MOH calls for APROFAM to transfer responsibility for contraceptive distribution to health centers and posts in 11 departments to the MOH in 1981. If judged successful in these departments, the MOH would assume responsibility for contraceptive distribution in the remainder of the country in 1982. Details of this plan's evolution are documented in four previous reports (see FPED/CDC-AID/RSSA Foreign Trip Reports: Guatemala--March 3, 1980; January 2, 1981; January 13, 1981, and July 8, 1981).

B. Contraceptives

At a meeting in May, Dr. Jorge Chang, Mr. Enrique Prado, and other officials of the Drogueria Nacional (DN) discussed with me the DN's plans for contraceptive distribution in the 11 departments under the MOH's responsibility. Dr. Chang and I left a written description of the plan with Mr. Prado. Basically, during the third quarter of CY 1981, a fixed allotment of contraceptives would be shipped to each health center and health post, along with a requisition form to be used in fourth and subsequent quarters. Although the form was distributed, the DN did not dispatch contraceptives early in the third quarter. Dr. Chang discovered this omission and discussed it with Mr. Prado. However, instead of sending out the allocation during the remainder of the quarter, the DN simply filled fourth quarter requests that happened to arrive early. As of October 5, only 62 gross of condoms, 5,280 cycles of orals, and 296 tubes of NeoSampoo had been distributed to health centers and health posts in 6 of the 11 departments.

At a meeting on October 5, Mr. Prado, Mrs. Urzua, and I agreed to the following distribution plan for the fourth quarter:

- 1) Health centers and health posts, which had sent a fourth quarter requisition, would receive the contraceptives requested.
- 2) Health centers and posts, which had not sent in a fourth quarter request, would receive the allotment previously scheduled for the third quarter (see FPED/CDC, AID/RSSA Foreign Trip Report: Guatemala, July 8, 1981).

During the first quarter of CY 1982, contraceptive distribution would be entirely by requisition.

In addition to the contraceptives mentioned above, the MOH will soon be able to distribute Copper Ts and Lippes Loops provided by Family Planning International Assistance (FPIA), plus Neogynon, Eugynon, Delfen, and DepoProvera to be purchased with \$10,000 in UNFPA funds.

C. Medicine Distribution

The Direccion General has prepared a detailed allocation proposal for medicine distribution with the assistance of Dr. Michael Bernhart of Georgia State University. However, because of the disappearance of the Minister of Health, the Direccion General has not been able to implement the proposal.

Six vehicles provided by AID are currently being used by the DN for medicine distribution. In all 22 departments, the two large diesel trucks transport supplies to the area (departmental) headquarters. In four departments the area chiefs are responsible for transporting supplies to health centers and health posts. In the remaining departments, the DN, using drivers from the MOH Transportation Department, distributes supplies to health centers and health posts. A request for counterpart funds for drivers to be assigned directly to the DN is included in the DN's 1982 budget request. Initial problems with gasoline supplies and equipment for the trucks delayed the third quarter medicine shipments. Although these problems have been resolved, it remains to be seen whether the DN can effectively administer this transportation system nationwide in the fourth quarter.

An additional problem has been the use of the trucks for purposes other than medicine distribution. One of the large trucks has 3,000 miles of use in less than 2 months--far more than required for the delivery of medicines to the departmental capitals. Although the Tripartite Agreement did not restrict use of the trucks to medicine distribution, that was the intent of the agreement. This and other issues, such as the mechanism for evaluating the DN's overall performance, should be discussed at a meeting of the Tripartite Agreement Committee in mid-October.

IV. 1982 CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE SURVEY

APROFAM has tentatively scheduled a contraceptive prevalence survey (CPS) to be conducted in May-July 1982, with technical assistance to be provided by FPED/CDC. This survey would measure changes in fertility and contraceptive use since the 1978 CPS. In addition, a new module on use of maternal and child services and immunization coverage would be included. CDC/APROFAM would conduct sample selection in January 1982.

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At a meeting on October 5, Dr. Martin Carranza, the Director General of the Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Economics, agreed to provide a sampling frame used in this year's National Survey of Income and Expenses. However, if the 1981 Post-census Verification Survey has been conducted by January, the sampling frame for that survey would be available for our use. A third alternative would be to directly select a sample from the 1980 census. After the meeting, I sent a written request to Dr. Carranza through the USAID Mission for use of a sampling frame. Once the Ministry of Economics formally agrees, Dr. Carranza will send CDC/APROFAM details of the sampling frame's methodology. Specific dates in January for the CPS sample selection will be arranged later this year.



Mark W. Oberle, M.D., M.P.H. 