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Project No. AID/pha-C-1195

TFG 5165

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PD-AAW-447

GENERAL TRIP REPORT

PERIOD COVERED:

May 15-19, 1982

PREPARED BY:

Murray Kenney

CITY AND COUNTRY VISITED:

Yaounde, Cameroon

SUBMITTED TO:

Ms. A. Allison

DATE DRAFTED:

May 26, 1982

DATE SUBMITTED:

May, 1982

THE FUTURES GROUP
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I. Summary

Futures Group staff member Murray Kenney visited Yaounde, Cameroon from May 15 to May 19 at the invitation of Ray Martin, the Health/Population Officer. The purpose of the trip was to assess the possibility of preparing a revised RAPID analysis in anticipation of President Ahmadu Ahidjo's visit to the U.S. in late July, and to gather data for such a revised paper. As a result of assurances given by Mission Director Levin, it was agreed that The Futures Group would develop a new revision of RAPID:Cameroon for possible presentation to the Presidential party in July, and definite presentation to the Minister of Planning later in the year. In addition Ambassador Horan told Martin and Kenney that he would suggest a RAPID presentation as part of the President's schedule. During the visit Kenney was able to gather much of the data necessary for a new plan, and to review the earlier analysis with local demographers and statisticians, who agreed to provide the mission with detailed comments.

II. Activities and Discussions

On Saturday May 15, Kenney discussed with Mr. Martin the possible activities during the week. He said that although the original RAPID had had an impact on the planning process, more work was needed on "consciousness-raising" in Cameroon. President Ahidjo was perhaps more advanced in his thinking than the government as a whole, Martin suggested, because he had made some strong remarks concerning population at a Party Conference, had raised the matter with then - AID Administrator Bennett, and had even asked the Government research unit about the possibility of determining an optimal fertility level for Cameroon. Martin wanted The Futures Group to develop a revised RAPID presentation for the President's trip to the U.S. at the end of July, using the latest data from 1981-1986 Plan.

On Monday May 17th Kenney met with Martin and his assistant George Vishio for further discussions and reviewed the 5th (new) Plan. Population variables have been incorporated into many aspects of the Plan, including agriculture, education, health and personal income. To this extent, the RAPID presentations of 1979 had succeeded in fulfilling one purpose of the project -that of promoting the integration of population variables into the planning process. In comparison with the 4th Plan (1976-1981), or, for that matter, many other Plans for African countries, this most recent Cameroonian effort is very advanced. The statement of a high official in Planning to Martin to the effect that there was no need for further RAPIDs, was not in this sense completely negative.

On Tuesday, May 18, Kenney made a presentation of both the Nigeria and Cameroon models to a group of local demographers and statisticians. The discussion was extremely wide-ranging and lively, though not hostile. The most important point to emerge from the discussion was that rural-urban migration was a demographic variable of primary importance to Cameroon and should be stressed in any revised presentation. Other topics reviewed included subfertility and infertility, the role of education in promoting migration, attitudes toward family planning and the relationship between fertility and maternal and child health. The audience proposed at the end to create an informal committee to review the RAPID analysis and provide any requested data.

On Wednesday Kenney made a presentation to Ambassador Hume Horan and some members of the Embassy and Mission staffs. Comments and questions focused on the reaction of Cameroonians or locals of other countries to such presentations. George Vishio suggested that any population policy, if it resulted in fewer agricultural laborers, had to be linked to an effective program for agriculture leading to large scale-production which would lessen the demand for labor (A similar point had been made in Mali by an economist for the Ministry of Agriculture).

After the presentation Ray Martin and Murray Kenney met with Ambassador Horan and Political Officer Don Bandler. Horan termed population growth one of Cameroon's "greatest challenges" and said that efforts to promote population policies should begin "the sooner the better." He doubted, however, that President Ahidjo would be available for an audience during his July visit to Washington, although Horan said he would propose such a presentation to the President's office. Horan was intrigued by the suggestion that The Futures Group make a presentation to Mrs. Ahidjo, who is active in the Red Cross in Cameroon, and said that he would ensure that every effort would be made to schedule some kind of presentation.

Martin and Kenney then went to Mission Director Levin's office for a meeting with him and Assistant Director Bernard Wilder. Levin said that although he thought that the old Cameroon presentation had some flaws, the general method was "really impressive." He too doubted that there would be access to the President in July, but said that he was now in a position to get an hour with the Minister of Plan and his top aides for a revised presentation. We then agreed to prepare a new RAPID model for Cameroon in anticipation of the Presidential visit, and with the likelihood of Ministerial level presentations in September.

III. Conclusion:

The original RAPID presentation did have an impact on Cameroon's development policy, and this opportunity to assist the progress being made in Cameroon in the population area by exposing key Cabinet officials to the problem certainly merits the efforts to develop a new RAPID Cameroon model.

May 18, 1982
Nigeria and Cameroon

NAME

POSITION/ORGANIZATION

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Prof. Daniel Lantum | Deputy Director of CUSS Med School |
| 2. Fidelis Zama | UNFPA Asst in regional UNFPA office |
| 3. Dr. Jean Mari Techegho | Statistician/Demographer |
| 4. Mr. Lamlen | Statistician/Demographer |
| 5. David Shinn | Embassy DCM |
| 6. George Vishio | USAID/HPN Project Assistant |
| 7. Francis Catania | Action Director of Catholic Relief Services |
| 8. Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Martin | USAID/HNP Health Development Officer |
| 9. Dr. Alain Badjeck | Demographer Teacher, Univ of Yaounde |

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May 19, 1982
Cameroon at USICA

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/ORGANIZATION</u>
1. Hume Horan	Ambassador
2. Donald Bandler	Political Officer
3. Chris Costanzo	Political Officer
4. Duane Sams	Economic Officer
5. Janet Schulman	USAID Program Officer
6. Kathy Bensaid	USAID Translator
7. Melanie Westerman	USAID secretary
8. George Vishio Project Asst	USAID
9. Ray Martin	USAID/HNP Health Development Officer
10. Embassy summer intern	
11. Sylvia Jackson	Controllers Officer
12. Jeanne Carriere	CESSI