

12 MAY 1976

ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, LA

FROM: LA/MRSD, Priscilla Boughton (Acting)

PROBLEM: To approve an OPG proposal submitted by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) to accomplish leadership and certain skills training for selected members of thirteen minority ethnic groups in the Amazon River Basin of Northern Bolivia.

DISCUSSION:

Background: This proposal was included by the USAID in its FY 77 annual budget submission last August (1975). At that time the Bureau's OPG review group (composed of representatives from LA/DP, LA/DR, the Desk, LA/MRSD, PHA, and PPC) regarded this proposal highly and rated it tentatively in category A pending submission and review of the complete project proposal.

Summary of Proposal: There are approximately 13 ethnic groups comprised of some 48,000 people scattered through the lowlands of Northern Bolivia. They remain outside the national culture and economy, separated by barriers of language, illiteracy, and lack of leaders, skills and institutions. The project proposes to help overcome these barriers through augmented literacy efforts and training programs in leadership and community development. Such activities should enable these ethnic groups to take advantage of and support the GOB's increasing efforts to develop the lowlands.

SIL currently runs literacy programs - including translation, materials development and teaching activities - from its facilities located near Riberalta, Beni Department. Under this project, SIL would expand its literacy program to establish a community bilingual education and a teacher training program at this Center. In addition, the facilities would be used for programs in leadership training and community development, including skills development in areas such as basic health services, animal husbandry, coop management, mechanics, radio and group dynamics. The project would also initiate small subprojects which will create job opportunities through which the leaders may develop and expand their skills and their communities' socio-economic viability within Bolivia.

DAEC Meeting: The complete project proposal was received in mid-January and was reviewed January 29, 1976. (Issues Paper attached at Tab A.) The proposal which contained about 85 pages single-spaced probably represented the most thorough and complete OPG proposal received to date. Copies of it were subsequently requested by PPC to be distributed as an example of an excellent OPG proposal. At the January 29 meeting, the proposal received a basically favorable reception. (Report to USAID attached at Tab B.) Two main questions remained outstanding after that meeting: (1) the percentage of SIL's funds which it raises (in dollars) in the U.S., and (2) whether the USAID had granted the project Section 611 approval. With regard to the first question, SIL subsequently submitted the information requested (attached at Tab C) which indicated that its proposed contribution to the Bolivian project represents a relatively small percentage of the funds which it has historically raised in the U.S. With regard to the second question, the USAID indicated, after having reviewed the proposal, that the project met the terms of Section 611, subject to a slight increase in certain costs due to inflation since preparation of the original cost figures (attached at Tab D).

We consider that these questions have been answered to our satisfaction.

Funding Considerations: The original project proposal which was included in the FY 77 ABS indicated a first year AID contribution of \$50,000, with an AID life-of-project contribution of \$125,000 over three years. When the complete project proposal was submitted in early January (the project proposal which was actually reviewed and tentatively approved by the DAEC), it contained a request for a first year contribution of \$91,000 and a life-of-project contribution of \$203,000 over three years. Subsequently, when the USAID approved the proposal for Section 611, it raised the first year contribution from \$91,000 to \$100,000, with the second and third year contributions remaining at \$61,000 for FY 77 and \$51,000 for FY 78, making a total of \$212,000. It should be added that the total cost of the project is almost \$1.8 million, with the major part of the project being contributed by SIL (28.4%), the GOB (49.6%), and others - principally the West German and Swiss Governments (10.1%).

The U.S. contribution thus is seen to be almost 12% of the total project.

When we submitted an earlier revision of this Action Memorandum to you, dated April 19, 1976, there were insufficient E&HR funds with which to fund the incremental \$50,000 in FY 76. Since that time, however, USAID/Bolivia has asked us to postpone consideration during FY 76 of a Craft Centers OPG project (DESEC) for which we had earmarked funds, and we have secured LA/DP's concurrence in our applying those funds to this project. We are, accordingly, preparing a notification package by which we will notify the Congress that we plan to obligate \$100,000 for this project in FY 76.

RECOMMENDATION: That you approve this OPG proposal for \$212,000, of which \$100,000 would come from FY 76 funds, subject to our satisfying the congressional notification requirement.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_



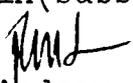
DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

5/12/76

Clearances:

PHA/PVC:MKohan(subs)  
PPC/DPRE:JShannon(subs)  
LA/BC:JEyre(subs)  
LA/GC:NWilliams(draft)  
LA/DP:ASilver(draft)  
LA/DR:SCarbin(subs)



LA/MRSD:RMLindsay:pn:5/12/76

January 27, 1976

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, LA

FROM : LA/MRSD, Edward Marasciulo *EM*

SUBJECT: Issues Paper - Operational Program Grant (OPG)  
Proposal: Leadership Training for Indigenous  
Language Groups - Bolivia  
Proposed by Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL)

The above proposal will be reviewed January 29, 1976 in the LA/MRSD Conference Room, NS 3482, at 2:30 p.m. The proposal was circulated January 16, 1976 for comments and for identifying subjects for discussion. It is acknowledged and accepted that the priorities which had to be accorded to the preparation of the Congressional Presentation reduced the time available for study of the proposal, but considerable interest has nevertheless been expressed in it. Although there was substantial unanimity that SIL's project proposal represents a vast amount of research and planning which has been developed into an extremely well-planned proposal, it was felt that there were, however, certain subjects or questions which should be discussed or for which additional information should be sought:

1. With the GOB's proposed contribution representing by far the largest single contribution (practically 50% of the project), questions have been raised as to the level, the nature, and the firmness of this commitment. Similarly, how firm can Other Contributors' contributions be considered? In this regard, how would SIL plan to proceed if, for whatever reason, one of the proposed contributors, including AID, should elect not to participate in the project? (LA/DP, LA/DR)

2. How large is the target group? Is it the 200 individuals who are to be trained or retrained, or is it the 48,000 members of the 13 tribes involved? Is the \$1.8 million not a considerable concentration of resources upon such a relatively small group? The question has also been raised whether an output of only 31 newly trained teachers is not unduly low, given the size of the investment. (PHA, LA/DR)

3. In this regard, is it realistic to expect the GOB to participate in such a concentration of its relatively limited resources on what obviously are distinct minorities? (LA/MRSD)

4. The question has been posed with regard to what extent SIL's efforts would be concentrated on what are essentially religious matters (e.g., Bible translations). (PPC)

5. In a question which also has a religious connotation, is it reasonable to assume that the GOB, with its relationship to the Catholic Church, will supply major support through this project to a group which has non-Catholic religious ties. (PPC)

6. Does the proposal make adequate financial allowances for maintenance of the following elements:

- Language laboratory
- Buildings
- Printshop equipment
- Vehicle

(LA/DR)

7. The question has been raised whether a demand study has been conducted with regard to the skills in which vocational training is to be conducted (e.g., carpentry, bricklaying, mechanics). (LA/DR)

8. One of the offices in the Bureau has raised the question whether the criteria proposed by SIL for selecting leaders for training will in fact produce graduates who will be recognized and accepted as leaders by their tribesmen. (LA/DR)

9. Can this project be replicated elsewhere in Bolivia? In LA? (PHA)

It is planned that the Desk Officer, Mr. Ronald Nicholson, will represent the Mission and that Mrs. David Farah of SIL will attend the meeting in the absence of her husband who is on an extended field trip in South America. Additionally, Mr. Angel Diaz, until recently the USAID/Bolivia Program Officer who has just returned to AID/W, is planning to attend.

Reference may also be made to the OPG Checklist (attached) on matters not listed above.

Attachment: As stated

Clearances:

LA/DP:ASilver(substance)  
LA/DR:SCarbin(substance)  
PHA/PVC:MKohan(substance)  
PPC/DPRE:JShannon(substance)



LA/MRSD:RLindsay:pn:1/27/76

## OPG PROPOSAL ANALYSIS CHECK-LIST

- Will poor people benefit?
- Institutionalization outlook.
- Women in development requirements.
- Section 611 FAA feasibility study requirements.
- Environmental assessment statement.
- Host country approval.
- Source/origin waiver for equipment and supplies.
- Satisfactory PVO contribution.
- Acceptable logical framework and evaluation plan.
- Replication aspects.
- Innovativeness of project.
- Assurance of other donor input (if stated).
- Sufficient information regarding background, experience and qualifications of PVO.
- Cost/benefit ratio.
- If project has technical input, does the system or plan incorporate the optimum design?
- Maintenance of equipment and vehicles, including spare parts situation.
- Sufficient planning for adequacy of supplies and equipment.
- Possible duplication with AID or other donor projects.
- How does project relate to sector priorities of AID?
- To what extent does the project merely replace traditional sources of support for ongoing PVO activity?
- Does any proposed capital fund activity guard against decapitalization?



Department of State

A  
TELEGRAM  
B

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ORIGIN AID-26

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DRAFTED BY LA/MRSD:RMLINDSAY:PN  
APPROVED BY LA/MRSD:EMARASCIULO  
LA/DP:ASILVER  
LA/BC:RNICHOLSON

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

7G ACTION LA-10 INFO CHRON 2 7 8 IDC PPC PBAR 1 ENGR 26P

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TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SIL OPG PROPOSAL

1. SUBJECT PROPOSAL WAS REVIEWED AT A DAEC MEETING JANUARY 29. SIL WAS REPRESENTED AT MEETING BY ROBERT L. HANCOCK AND MRS. DAVID FARAH, BOTH OF SIL'S WASHINGTON OFFICE, AND USAID/DESK REPRESENTED BY ANGEL DIAZ.
2. GENERAL REACTION FAVORABLE BUT USAID IS REQUESTED TO HAVE ENGINEERS EXAMINE PROPOSAL IN ORDER COMPLY SECTION 611.
3. SIL/WASHINGTON IS ALSO BEING REQUESTED TO SUPPLY LIMITED ADDITIONAL DATA RE DEGREE OF U.S.-ORIGINATED (I.E., NON-AID) SUPPORT TO PROJECT.
4. MRSD PREPARED TO RECOMMEND AA/LA APPROVAL OF PROJECT UPON SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OUTSTANDING ELEMENTS CONTAINED ABOVE. KISSINGER

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# Summer Institute of Linguistics

Washington, D.C. Office • 1800 K Street, N.W., Suite 631 • Washington, D.C. 20006 • (202) 785-2441

February 13, 1976

Mr. Edward Marasciulo,  
Associate Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Latin America  
USAID/Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Mr. Marasciulo:

Thank you for your letter of February 5, 1976.

In compliance with your request, we submit the following information from the last audited reporting year:

Average % of SIL funds raised in U.S.	-	77%
SIL funds raised in U.S.	-	\$8,903,620
Average % of SIL funds from other nations	-	23%
SIL funds from other nations	-	\$2,680,725
% of SIL funds for Bolivia project	-	28.52%
SIL funds for Bolivia project	-	\$ 508,500

Our headquarters completes an annual report for AID which includes more detail on the questions you have raised. I will forward a copy of this report to you upon receipt from our Huntington Beach office.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Gloria C. Farah*

~~Robert L. Hancock~~  
Gloria Farah, Public Relations Secretary  
Robert L. Hancock, SIL/AID Liaison

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ACTION AID-31

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F.O. 116521 N/A  
SUBJ: SIL OPG PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 29170

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL PARA 2, THE CONSTRUCTION PRORTION OF THE PROJECT HAS BEEN EXAMINED AS TO THE CAPABILITY OF THE SIL TO CONSTRUCT THE PROPOSED FACILITIES AND THE PRICE OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THESE FACILITIES. BASED ON CURRENT PRICES AND A REASONABLE ASSUMPTION FOR ESCALATION OF COSTS, THE COST ESTIMATE APPEARS TO BE ADEQUATE AND REASONABLY FIRM. SHOULD ADDITJONAL RESOURCES BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION, THE SIL AGREES TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED LABOR AND MATERIALS TO DO SO.

2. IT IS THE JUDGEMENT OF THE MISSION THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 611(A)(1) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED, HAVE BEEN MET.

3. GIVEN THE TIME LAPSED SINCE SUBMISSION, COST ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY \$9,100 BRINGING TOTAL AID CONTRIBUTION TO \$212,000 OR 11.84 PERCENT OF TOTAL COST.

4. LOGFRAME PAGE 6, A.3, CHANGES FOLLOW:

A) ADMIN/LIB BLDG	11,500	TO	14,800
B) LANGUAGE LAB	4,000	TO	4,800
C) HOUSING	16,500	TO	21,500
TOTAL	32,000		41,100

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5. MISSION REQUESTS AID/W APPROVE INCREASED COST. PLEASE  
ADVISE.  
STEDMAN

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