

QUARTERLY REPORT
August 1, 1991 - October 31, 1991
Submitted to the Agency for International Development
Office of Democratic Initiatives
Cooperative Agreement No. LAC-0770-A-00-0034-00

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I. Overview

During the first quarter of the second year of this project, Amendment No. 3 to the Cooperative Agreement was signed, allowing bi-lateral activities to begin in Haiti. A cooperative agreement was signed for efforts in Guatemala (previously pursued as a buy-in to the Regional Cooperative Agreement), and on September 16, 1991 the Consortium signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Legislative Assembly of Panama for a bi-lateral program of activities initiated with the signing of Amendment No. 4 to the Cooperative Agreement. We continued to pursue our efforts in Costa Rica.

Additionally, a budget seminar was held simultaneously for the two chambers of government in Haiti; a similar week-long LAC-wide seminar was held in Albany for members of ATELCA and representatives from the Paraguay and Bolivia legislatures. The Consortium hosted delegations from all six Central American countries and Haiti at the Strasbourg Conference on Parliamentary Democracy in September; and in August, delegations from Brazil and Haiti were guests of the Consortium at the annual NCSL meeting held in Orlando, Florida. Technical assistance was provided to the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica in the form of meetings held in London with key contacts there. Caleb McCarry, the only non-Central American participant, attended the Encuentro of Central American Presidents at the invitation and sponsorship of the presidents. In September, a student from Brazil began graduate study at the University at Albany.

Details of the implementation of these outputs/activities are developed below, in chronological order. Reports, programs, participants lists and correspondence for these activities are appended in the attachments section of this report.

Programmatic Implementation Details

I. National Conference of State Legislatures annual conference

FIU hosts a delegation of Haitian legislators to the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures, held in Orlando, Florida August 10-14, 1991. U/A also attends, hosting a delegation from Brazil's ANDAL organization.

2. Haiti Seminar on the Role of Legislatures in the Budgetary Process August 30-31, 1992

Under the auspices of the Regional, FIU holds seminars simultaneously for the Senate and Chamber of Deputies regarding their role as legislators in the budgetary process. This seminar was organized and held as a direct result of a request received by the presidents of each side of their bi-cameral legislature. The seminars were scheduled to be held on August 30 - 31, 1991 before the president of Haiti presented his 1992 budget proposal to the legislature. French-speaking presenters were brought from Québec, Canada, Guatemala and the United States. The seminars were well received by the participants who were pleased and impressed with the presenters selected by FIU.

Immediately following the budget seminars, and again in response to a direct request from the leadership of the Senate, FIU sponsors a seminar on bill-drafting. The need was articulated for a clearer understanding of how to write clear and concise legislation in order to avoid problems with decision making in the Senate, and later, in determining legislative intent.

3. Technical Assistance to Haiti

A preliminary MIS study for the Haitian parliament was conducted by Manuel Lorenzo of FIU, which resulted in equipment and commodities being loaned by USAID/Haiti to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, and with initial recommendations being made for future actions and commodity procurement.

4. Haiti Buy-in

Formal notification was received on August 30, 1991 executing Modification No. 3 which allocated \$314,904.00 (*attachment A*) for a bi-lateral buy-in program for legislative development in Haiti as a result of various planning trips to gather information for a needs assessment to be conducted by FIU. Implementation of activities under this buy-in have been suspended indefinitely by AID due to the coup d'etat (*Please see attachment B, correspondence dated October 16, 1991, from Mr. Thomas Stevens, Agreement Officer*).

5. September 1991 -- University at Albany graduate student from Brazil Federal Senate begins study under the Regional Project.

Beatriz Lacerda, Deputy Chief to Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, began graduate studies in September. Ms. Lacerda is a graduate of the University of Brasilia, where she studied economics. Ms. Lacerda is fluent in French, English, her native Portuguese and has a working knowledge of Spanish.

6. Guatemala Cooperative Agreement

Subsequent to the August 8, 1991 submission of a draft "Program for Immediate Action to Strengthen the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala," on September 26, 1991, the Consortium received notification of Cooperative Agreement #520-0398-A-00-1312-00 (*attachment C*) for \$152,000.00 to implement said program. Although not a buy-in under the LAC Regional Cooperative Agreement, this Cooperative Agreement implements activities initiated during earlier discussions between USAID/Guatemala, Ms. Roma Knee, LAC/DI, and the Consortium.

7. FIU Provides Technical Assistance to the Costa Rica Legislative Assembly

Just prior to the Strasbourg Conference on Parliamentary Democracy, Allan Rosenbaum travels to London, England with the Executive Director of the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly to consult with British experts in the development of a project on legislative records and archives.

8. Third Strasbourg Conference on Parliamentary Democracy - September 16-18, 1991

Under the auspices of the Consortium, The Center for Democracy and Florida International University hosted a high-level, twenty-nine member delegation to this meeting of Parliamentarians from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. In addition to four Presidents of the Central American legislatures, there were members and staffers from all Central American legislatures, and a delegation of Deputies and Senators from Haiti. Along with the Council of Europe, The Center for Democracy organized the first meeting of the Secretaries General of the represented parliaments. The Central American's participation led to a discussion to pursue holding a regional colloquy between European and Central American legislatures in the spring of 1992, which opens the door for the beginning of cooperation and networking between Central American and European parliamentarians (*Please see attachment D, a program and participants list*).

9. Memorandum of Understanding signed in Panamá

As a result of receiving a signed Modification No. 4 to the Cooperative Agreement on September 16, 1991 for \$700,000.00 (*attachment E*), on October 21-24, 1991 the Consortium fielded a team consisting of Caleb McCarry and Allan Rosenbaum to Panamá to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding governing the buy-in agreement with the Panamanian Legislative Assembly. This Memorandum is the first such document signed by the Consortium and will serve as a model for future agreements of this type (*Please see appended Memorandum of Understanding in attachment F*).

10. Pursuit of Costa Rica Initiatives

The Consortium fielded Allen Weinstein and Caleb McCarry to San José October 24-25, 1991 to discuss Costa Rica initiatives with USAID/Costa Rica and to refine the multi-donor process with the President of Legislative Assembly (*see attached trip report to Consortium principals and Program Managers in attachment G*).

11. Fourth meeting of the Presidents of Central American Congresses and Legislative Assemblies

This meeting, held in San Salvador, El Salvador October 26-27, 1991 was significant as it resulted in the adoption of a resolution stating the following:

- 1) Support for the Central American Parliament;
- 2) Support for the Peace and Democratization process in El Salvador;
- 3) Support for Democracy in the Caribbean;
- 4) Covenant on Cultural and Technical Cooperation Among the Congresses and Legislative Assemblies of Central America;
- 5) March 1992 Colloquy to be sponsored by the Presidents of Central American Congresses and Legislative Assemblies and the Strasbourg Conference on Parliamentary Democracy.

This agreement ratified the principle of regional cooperation among the region's legislatures and the strengthening of relations with democratic European parliaments. Over six years, the Center for Democracy efforts in the region have consistently supported these goals. Of significant note -- Caleb McCarry was the only non-Central American participant, at the request and sponsorship of the Presidents (*the declaration and March 1992 colloquy draft schedule are appended in attachment H*).

12. ATELCA Activities

ATELCA members attend Budget Seminar held in Albany

U/A hosts delegations from each Central American country, Bolivia, Paraguay and observers from Chile and Brazil for a seminar held August 21-28, 1991. The seminar trained legislative budget staff on their role in the national budget process, techniques and

technologies for increasing the effectiveness of that role, and the organizational, staffing and informational dimensions of their internal budgets (*participants list and schedule are appended in attachment I*).

13. Administrative Matters

Approval was received in Modification #4 to the Cooperative Agreement dated September 16, 1991 of the Consortium's proposed Commodity Procurement Plan submitted to AID for approval August 4, 1991 (*see attachment J*).

On August 8, 1991, the Second Year Workplan developed at the previous Quarterly Consortium meeting and in subsequent internal Consortium correspondence was delivered to AID. (*Please see Attachment K.*)

Official suspension of Haiti buy-in received 16 October 1991 from AID/Washington Office of Procurement, augmented and detailed mission guidance received in October (*attachment A*).

FIU begins recruitment of a long term advisor for the Panamá buy-in.

Problem Areas:

The Consortium encountered the following problems during the first quarter of the second year of this Agreement:

There was continuing discussion of the division of the Scope of Work for the Guatemala Program for Immediate Action.

III. SCHEDULING

We have several major activities planned for the next quarter. Following please find a summary of these activities:

November: SUNY to sponsor a regional public-policy conference in Costa Rica on university-government linkages in the public policy process.

CFD to sponsor the Fifth General Assembly of ATELCA in Managua.

December: SUNY to lead needs assessment team to Paraguay.

January: Second graduate degree program candidate to begin studies at SUNY.

FIU plans to have Panamá LTA in-country and beginning work on the bilateral effort in that country

January 23-24,
1991

Quarterly Consortium Committee meeting scheduled to be held on the campus of Florida International University in Miami, Florida.

IV. STATUS OF BUY-INS & RELATED PROJECTS:

Costa Rica: Continued negotiations with USAID/Costa Rica on efforts initiated under multi-donor plan.

Nicaragua: Anticipate a \$1.6 million buy-in for a twenty month program based on needs assessment efforts.

V. CONSORTIUM ACTIVITIES

This section is designed to provide information on the activities and administrative development of the Consortium itself. Funding, staff adjustments and other issues that affect the operation of the Consortium are discussed here.

1. Special Meeting of the Consortium Committee, October 9, 1991

Due to the increased activity in the area of buy-ins, the Consortium held a Special Meeting of the Consortium Committee on October 9, 1991 in order to discuss and decide on work division for the Panama buy-in and Guatemala effort, how to proceed with the Haiti buy-in, and the status of the initiatives pending for Costa Rica.

2. Quarterly Consortium Meeting held in Albany, NY

On October 29-30, 1991 the Consortium met to discuss the following:

- * Costa Rica negotiations
- * Bolivia and Paraguay updates (Consortium requests Sharon Isralow to schedule meeting with LAC/DI officers to discuss on-going democratic initiatives in South America and the as yet unmet needs there that the Consortium may be able to fill)
- * Honduras and the President of the Congress' desire for an MIS similar to that in Guatemala
- * Development of an Indicators Study
- * Updating of the workplan

3. Assistant Program Director hired

On October 14, 1991 The Center for Democracy added Kristi A. Bessette to its staff to work as Assistant Program Director for the Consortium Coordinator, Caleb McCarry.