

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (Bulgaria), SPO/EE-91-008
Institute of Public Affairs, University of South Carolina

FOURTH SIX MONTHS' REPORT: April 1, 1993 - September 30, 1993
submitted by Glenda Bunce

1. Summary description of project activities. This project began September 16, 1991. During this six month period, the project was extended for another twelve months from June 1, 1993 to May 31, 1994.

During the fourth six months of project activities, the focus of the program continued on providing Resident Advisors. During this period, Jim Budds spent four weeks in Varna and Stara Zagora and Tim Giffel spent two weeks in Varna. In addition, four summer Interns were placed for ten weeks in Varna, Stara Zagora, and Haskovo. Trip reports from the Project Director and the Resident Advisor and the Interns were submitted for each trip to Bulgaria during the six months covered by this report. These reports describe activities in greater detail.

2. Implementation status.

Project Director. During this period, I made two trips to Bulgaria.

I was there from May 18 to June 5 to assist the summer interns in settling into their assignments. I spent most of the first week in Varna with the two interns working there and most of the following week in Haskovo and Stara Zagora assisting the interns there.

From July 22 to August 6, I was back in Bulgaria at the end of the internships to discuss their assignments with them and their supervisors and to get Tim Giffel settled in his assignment in Varna.

At the request of the Peace Corps Volunteer in Vidin, I also traveled to Vidin (on the Danube, near the northwest corner of Bulgaria) to meet with Mayor Kamenov and describe this program. When I saw him, the Mayor was interested. He had been nominated for the PIET study tour and we agreed to talk more in the US. So far, he has still not requested a Resident Advisor.

Jim Budds. During this period Jim Budds completed his fourth trip to Bulgaria; he was there a little more than four weeks from: June 9 to July 9, 1993.

Varna. He spent two and a half weeks in Varna. He worked with Stanka Raicheva and assisted in setting up an organization structure and funding for the "green police" approved by the Municipal Council.

Stara Zagora. The last two weeks in Bulgaria, he was in Stara Zagora. He advised the Mayor on problems with the Municipal Council, questions concerning planning and zoning, and issues surrounding development of an amusement park.

Tim Giffel. Stanka Raicheva met Mr. Giffel during the study tour in the US last August and specifically requested that he come to Varna as an Advisor. Tim is Director of Procurement for Richland County, is a Hungarian-American, and was willing to work in Bulgaria for two weeks for expenses only. While he was in Varna, Ms. Raicheva had him review some of the cities procurement and contract practices and advise about improvements. He also drafted or provided a number of forms and other information that can be used in this area.

Interns. The program this summer included four interns from the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina; they worked in three cities for ten weeks. They worked at the next rung down in the city organization, and in my opinion, their work was very useful and practical. Their reports offered concrete suggestions about implementing their suggestions.

Varna. Steven Stichter reviewed the municipalities' information system and made recommendations about how to develop an integrated system; he also provided information about how such a system would work in the US.

Stephanie Jones reviewed the financial operations of the twelve municipal firms, developed an analytical framework for making decisions about the future of those firms, and made recommendations for whether they should be privatized.

Haskovo. Stacey Hodges had a number of assignments. She reviewed the school canteen operations and made suggestions for personnel management and financial administration of the canteens. She also reviewed problems of the municipal firm, Eco-Progress, and made suggestions for finances and management of the firm's activities. She prepared a basic document on accounting terms and principles for the Director of Finance. And she advised on development of the city's information system.

Stara Zagora. Ann-Marie Lane worked in the housing area with an interpreter provided by the Urban Institute. Although the housing survey on which she was supposed to work was not completed and she did not have access to a computer, she compiled information about housing patterns with regard to new construction and rentals.

Material Development and distribution.

We have continued to collect information and translations in Varna and Haskovo. Ms. Raicheva informs municipal officials in her region about materials that are available and distributes them. Steve Butts, the small business Peace Corps Volunteer in Haskovo, is doing the same thing for the Volunteers who are working with municipalities.

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Contact with municipal associations.

My trips also included meetings with officials of the Association of Rhodope Municipalities and the Association of Black Sea Municipalities to discuss the possibility of bringing Bob Maffin from the National League of Cities back for a week's consultation with each organization. Both organizations were interested and we identified areas with which he can assist; I plan to have him return in October.

At my August meeting with Ginka Kapitanova of the Association of Rhodope Municipalities, I offered to nominate her for the PIET study tour and she was subsequently approved and participated.

The national organization, Association of Democratic Municipalities, continues to follow a partisan line, that is membership is only open to members of the UDF. Until that changes, I will continue to track the Association but we will not provide assistance to it.

PIET training programs.

Under the PIET internship program I nominated three candidates. Ognian Nikolev, Director of Information Services in Varna, was approved and I worked with staff at the University of Georgia who have participated in this project to arrange his internship there. He arrived September 13 and was there until around October 20. His internship focused on how cities in the US organize their information services.

Deyan Kavrov, Assistant to the Mayor of Stara Zagora, was also approved and would have undertaken an internship in Charleston; however, he was admitted to graduate studies in public administration at the University of Charleston and decided to pursue a degree program instead. He left Bulgaria around August 20th.

VOCA nominated a group of Bulgarian mayors and deputy mayors for a study tour in the US. I suggested two persons for the program: Stoyan Iliev, Mayor of Haskovo and Ginka Kapitanova, Mayor of Zlatograd and President of the Association of Rhodope Municipalities; both were accepted. At the end of September, the Institute conducted a five day program in local government and public administration in Charleston for the group of thirteen.

Other contacts.

Throughout this period, I have stayed in touch with Belin Mollov, who, through his office for Local Government and Territorial Administration, is overseeing the World Bank's Local Government Legislative Reform project. This contact is important for information about the status and direction of that project.

Also the small business PC Volunteers continue to be especially helpful and supportive and a continuing source of information. The e-mail connection has helped tremendously with communication with them.

3. Plan of activities for the next six months.

We plan to continue the emphasis on technical assistance through visits by Resident Advisors. Jim Budds will work with municipalities of Varna and Stara Zagora; if he is able to offer more time to the program, I plan to have him do some follow-up work with some of the mayors and deputy mayors from the September trip.

Also for several months we have planned to begin placing Resident Advisors in Pleven and Gorna Oriahovitsa; those assignments will take place during October/ November and November/ December.

Development of regional municipal associations continues to be of major significance especially in light of the importance of local government legislative reform. Whether it will be useful to have Bob Maffin return to Bulgaria to work with these associations and/ or the national association should be evident in the next few months based on whether

- 1) the mayors from the September study tour pursue the idea of a national league;
- 2) the current national league becomes less partisan; or
- 3) the regional associations act on some of the suggestions Bob made and are ready for further assistance.

Finally, our budget includes funds for a spring meeting of local government officials; that was approved conditioned on our assessment that the meeting would be worthwhile and agreement with AID staff on holding the meeting. We have not yet decided whether to recommend going ahead with that meeting.

4. Expenditures.

- Total cumulative expenditures through September 30, 1993
 - AID grant funds: \$409,589.02
 - non-federal cost-sharing \$ 31,191.00

- Total expenditures for the reporting period (April - September 1993)
 - AID grant funds \$ 96,959.47
 - non-federal cost-sharing \$ 10,397.00

- Total anticipated expenditures for grant to date: \$477,877.50 *

*It is not clear what is meant by "anticipated expenditures," so I have taken 75 percent of the total since 24.5 of the total 32.5 agreement months have now passed.