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WORLD ENVIRONMENT CENTER

STAFF TRIP REPORT TO

BULGARIA

HUNGARY

ROMANIA

JANUARY 8 - 15, 1994

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT CENTER
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JANUARY 1994

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thomas J. McGrath, WEC staff, visited Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania from January 9 to January 14, 1994.

In Bulgaria, four candidates for the country coordinator position were interviewed. A meeting was held with Dr. Valentin Bossevsky, Minister of the Environment, to review WEC programs. Ten companies for the waste minimization impact program (WMIP) were selected. Also, the U.S. AID Representative, Mr. Gerald Zarr, was briefed on the WEC visit.

In Hungary, Ms. Zsuzsanna Dorko and Thomas J. McGrath discussed a list of Hungarian-owned enterprises, previously reviewed by the Hungarian government and the OAR, and agreed upon a tentative final list.

In Romania, two venues for the WMIP workshop were visited. Mr. Ioan Jeleu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, was briefed on current and planned programs.

II. MEETINGS

BULGARIA

Sunday, January 9, 1994

Meeting with Dr. Elena Petkova, Country Coordinator, U.S. AID sponsored Environmental Training Program, to discuss possible candidates for the WEC country coordinator position.

Monday, January 10 - Pharmacia - AD, Dupnica

Visited this pharmaceutical producer to discuss its suitability for the third waste minimization demonstration project.

Met with: Simeon Georgiev, General Director

 Boyan Tzanev, Production Director

 Radka Nicolova, Head of Environment Department

Pharmacia was part of the state-owned pharmaceutical combine under the Communist regime. After 1989, the combine was divided into three separate independent, but still state-owned, enterprises.

The facility at Dupnica was built in 1954. Currently the factory is operating at 50% of its capacity, employs 2,500 people and producing over 160 different pharmaceutical products, primarily for the Bulgarian market. Twenty products are made under license. The enterprise has licensing agreements with Merck, Ciba Geigy and Sandoz to produce products under those companies direct supervision.

Most of the products Pharmacia produces are in tablet form and are used for stomach problems, ailments, common colds, etc. Their products are sold "over the counter" and by doctor's prescription. They also produce animal drugs and export to Western Europe.

Pharmacia has a research institute that helps it when it has production problems. It wants to produce products that are environmentally safe and have stopped production of some types of medicines because of the hazardous nature of the residue from the manufacturing process.

They informed WEC that they are large energy and water users. They have a wastewater treatment plant which treats the wastewater chemically to "neutralize"

the water by lowering its PH to within a 6.5 - 8.5 range. The "neutralized" water is then sent to the city wastewater treatment plant.

Pharmacia would like to incinerate its waste. It has identified a German company, Schestl, which manufactures a type of incinerator that would satisfy its requirement. The cost of the incinerator is \$1.5 million but Pharmacia needs a source of funding.

Mr. Georgiev said that the enterprise tries to minimize its waste and would appreciate WEC assistance by doing a WMDP at their facility.

He advised that one of the enterprise's processes uses a lot of ammonia and he suggested that process could be considered for the WMDP. He also said that they don't use the volume of chemicals that a Neftochim would, but the chemicals they use are toxic and expensive.

Pharmacia appears that it would be a suitable facility for a WMDP.

Interview

Interviewed a candidate for the country coordinator position.

Tuesday, January 11 - Ministry of Environment

Met with Doctor Valentin Bossevsky, Minister of the Environment. WEC staff presented a summary of past programs and discussed the future programs under consideration by U.S. AID and WEC for Bulgaria.

Dr. Bossevsky complimented WEC on its practical programs. He volunteered to speak at the opening ceremony for the WMIP workshop. Further, he said that if WEC needs the assistance of the Ministry, it should contact him directly and he will insure that our requests are fulfilled.

The enterprises to be considered for the Environmental Training Program workshop were reviewed and agreed upon with the Ministry of Environment staff.

Visited with Dr. Petkova and discussed the possibility of her assisting us in locating a venue for the WMIP workshop. She also expressed interest in participating as a future waste minimization consultant.

Press Interview

The Ministry of Environment requested WEC staff to be interviewed. Ms. Ludmila Marinova, journalist for Tribuna Medica, interviewed WEC staff about its waste

minimization program and pollution problems in general.

Ms. Marinova said that it will be published next week.

Interview

Interviewed a candidate for the coordinator position recommended by Dr. Petkova.

Wednesday - January 12 - Interview

Interviewed two candidates for the coordinator position who would work as a team.

United States Agency for International Development

WEC staff briefed Messrs. Zarr and Kostov on its visit. Companies to be invited to the WMIP workshop were reviewed and no changes were made.

Discussed WMIP. The study tour of General Directors of the enterprises participating in the workshop is tentatively scheduled for April with the workshop tentatively scheduled for June depending upon the progress of the WMDPs.

HUNGARY

Traveled to Budapest and met with Ms. Zsuzsanna Dorko, WEC country coordinator.

Reviewed a list of possible enterprises that would participate in the WMIP. List has been reviewed by the U.S. AID staff in Budapest.

Eight enterprises were agreed upon. Further discussions will be held with Dr. Bohdan Aftanas in the New York office before final list is agreed upon.

ROMANIA

Thursday - January 13 - Arpechim

WEC headquarters staff and country coordinator visited Arpechim to discuss its meeting with the representative from Ionics, the manufacturer of the Total Carbon Analyzer used in the WMDP.

Messrs. Cojocaru and Florea informed us that they had encountered a problem due to the inconsistency of inorganics in the water at the point where the analyzer

was located. In order to have accurate readings of the amount of organic carbon in the water, the location where the analyzer is to be placed has to have a consistent percentage of inorganic carbon in the water.

Working with the waste minimization team and the Ionics representative, the team agreed upon a solution. Mr. Cojocaru said that the waste minimization techniques demonstrated by WEC work. The team worked through their lunch hour, which is their main daily meal paid for by Arpechim, and into the evening to find a solution.

Mr. Cojocaru said that it was an exciting and stimulating experience for all involved.

Mr. Cojocaru said that the project has initially demonstrated that laboratory analysis of the Total Carbon Analyzer readings of the batch of condensate tested showed that 75% of the condensate was reusable. Previous practice would have discharged the whole amount into the wastewater stream. During the meeting of the waste minimization team, the discussion indicated that Arpechim may be able to significantly reduce its wastewater discharge with proper monitoring equipment. It has requested Ionics to submit a proposal.

WEC suggested that Arpechim send its requirements to WEC and it will investigate other U.S. suppliers and send this information to Arpechim in case it wishes to also contact them.

WMIP Workshop Location

WEC staff and the country coordinator traveled to Valea cu Pesti to review this location as a site for the workshop. It had been used by the Environmental Training Project and appears to have all that would be required for the workshop. A formal proposal will be sent.

Friday - January 14 - Institute of Management and Informatics, Ministry of Industries

Met with Mariana Ciolacu, Director, to discuss the institute as a possible venue for the WMIP workshop.

The institute meeting space could not accommodate the anticipated number of participants.

During the discussion about WEC programs and needs, it became apparent that the Institute could possibly become a consulting organization on waste minimization. WEC will invite Ms. Ciolacu to participate in the workshop.

Ministry of Environment

Met with Mr. Ioan Jeleu, Secretary of State, and some members of his staff.

The Ampellum report was reviewed along with the WEC waste minimization program.

Mr. Jeleu expressed his appreciation for the practical nature of the waste minimization program and offered his assistance whenever required.

III. BUSINESS CARDS OF CONTACTS

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