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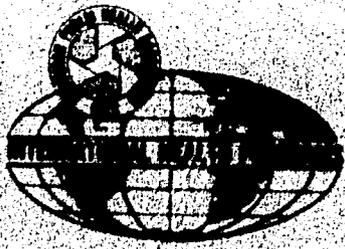
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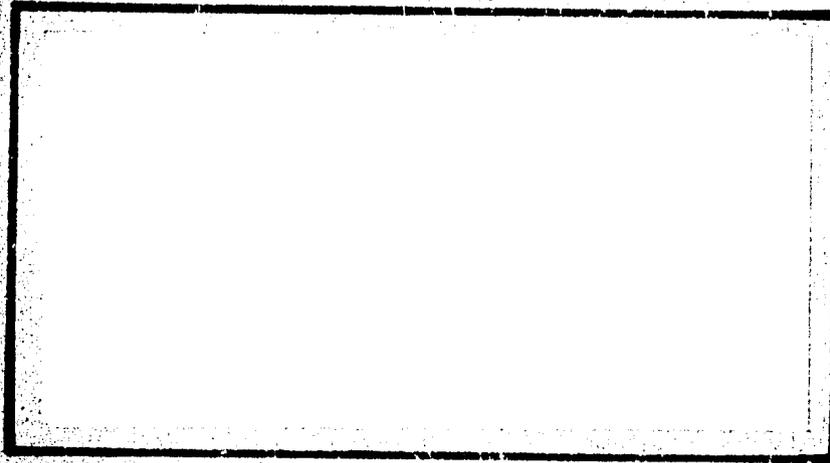
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CONSULTANT REPORT ON
CILSS CONFERENCE
UPPER VOLTA - OCTOBER, 1977

A Report Prepared By:

GEORGES SABAGH

During The Period:

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I. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

I attended the plenary sessions of the CILSS Conference as well as all the meetings of Commission No. 2 (one of the three Commissions of the Conference). I selected this Commission because its agenda included a discussion of the proposed demographic unit of the Sahel Institute (See Appendix). I also participated in the discussions of the recommendations of the Bamako Conference. I was involved in making the following recommendation which was approved unanimously by Commission No. 2. "Commission No. 2 recommends that:

1. The executive secretary of CILSS prepares without any delay a request for funds from various donors for the interim phase of the demographic program (of the Sahel Institute).
2. A coordinator for the program of demographic research be named as soon as possible.
3. The interim coordinator makes the necessary preparations for a conference to be held at the appropriate time."

In addition, I attended a number of informal meetings with other American participants, one of which was at the home of the USAID Mission Director. I also met with Sam Rea of the Sahel Development Program, AID/Washington.

II. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the comments made by the Sahelian participants, both at the plenary sessions and at the meetings of Commission No. 2, it is clear that the creation of the Sahel Institute responds to the needs of the region. Its scope and specific functions, however, are still somewhat problematic. One basic problem to be resolved is the division of tasks and functions between the Sahel Institute and the various national research offices, centers, or institutes. Two different philosophies were expressed about the functions of the Sahel Institute. One would have the Institute engage in various research projects, although in collaboration with various national institutes or centers. According to the other philosophy, the research capabilities of the Institute would be limited so as not to interfere with the activities of these national centers. In my opinion, in concrete cases such as the demographic unit, some demographic research will have to be carried out by such a unit. Such research will have to be focused on comparative methodological and substantive problems. For example, one important comparative problem would be the measurement and analysis of inter-country migration and migration from and to Sahelian countries.

I recently received a letter dated February 2, 1978, from Dr. Ousmane SILLA on behalf of the Director of the Sahel Institute as well as the official documentation on the Sahel Institute. I noticed that the Proposals for the Program of Activities of the Sahel Institute 1977-1982 include a paragraph (p. 7) that reads as follows:

"For the program of demographic research, a maximum diversification of sources of funding is desirable. The contributions from the UN and the UNFP in particular will be sought. The cost of the project will have to be revised to be more realistic. As to the initiation of this program, it has been suggested to name as soon as possible an interim Sahelian coordinator. His task will be to be in contact with various national institutes in order to prepare a global program on demographic research on the Sahel that will be as complete as possible. This program will include regional as well as national projects. It will be submitted to a Sahelian conference that will be held at the appropriate time (about six months after the nomination of the coordinator). It will then be submitted to various donors. USAID is ready to make \$300,000 available for the first year and \$3.5 for the project."

This paragraph essentially reasserts the recommendations of Commission No. 2. It should be noted that the dollar figures quoted were not part of the documents of Commission No. 2. It is clear from this paragraph as well as my discussions with Ms. Sarah Green (AID/POP) at the PAA meetings in Atlanta, that the recommendations of Commission No. 2 have not yet been implemented. While the Sahel Institute has been given a "legal existence" at the 16-19 December, 1977 meetings of the Council of Sahelian Ministers, there is still the matter of funding to be fully resolved. During this interim period, I would suggest that AID provide the necessary funds to appoint an interim Sahelian coordinator who could start making contacts with various national institutes and plan the proposed conference of Sahelian demographers, statisticians, and economic planners. I feel there is a momentum about initiating demographic research on the Sahel that should not be lost.

Background
to
DEMOGRAPHIC PLANNING PROPOSAL

Prepared for the Consideration
of
Club des Amis du Sahel

A number of different activities have gone into forming the attached demographic proposal presented in March to the Health, Nutrition and Water Resources subgroup of the Human Resources Work Group of the Club des Amis du Sahel.

The purpose of this memorandum is to give the background of the proposal and of the major focuses which are contained therein. In preparing the effort, members of a team coordinated by Anne Tinker of AID's Sahel Development Program (SDP) consulted with African, European, and American recognized experts in the collection and application of demographic data in the Sahel area.

Background efforts in Washington included drafting a health study proposal to include the demographic planning effort, sketching the broad areas of the program, inventorying data currently used for planning purposes, identifying both the Sahelian institutions engaged in demographic and planning activities and non-Sahelian individuals and institutions which are most experienced in dealing with the interface of demographic and planning activities.

Three broad purposes were identified as key elements of the proposal:

- 1) Compilation of demographic data to produce an accepted demographic data base for planning purposes and social science analysis;
- 2) Coordination of population research in subject matter, institutional backing, and projects planning; and
- 3) Utilization of demographic analysis in project and regional planning.

The third is most important, but derives from the first two.

Paris

In two visits, members of the team presented this program in preliminary and present form to representatives from French institutions active in demographic data activities and to important donors with economic development projects in the Sahel. Specific purposes were to seek information

about potential research and actual demographic activities, to investigate the support of French institutions for the proposed U.S. initiative, to identify specific research projects and priorities, and to establish contact with Sahelian researchers.

The following summarizes discussions held with the leading French technical institutions, the Development Center at the OECD, National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE), the National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) and Organization of Social and Technical Research Overseas (ORSTOM). In addition, interviews were conducted with Ministry of Cooperation officials concerned with Sahelian affairs, and with AID and Club representatives in Paris.

There was broad consensus on the dearth of actual current data on population topics. Also stressed were the problems of nationalism inhibiting the formation of a regional effort and the need for experts from the U.S., France and the Sahel to come together to determine the priorities of the proposed project.

OECD Development Center

Initial and follow-up meetings were held with the Social Science research staff of the Development Center. Several of their own research efforts have highlighted the lack of demographic data and have been designed to meet the need for better and more detailed population statistics. In particular, there is the Nutrition Survey funded by AID and conducted by Ms. Jacqueline Mondot. Other projects are a West African Migration Study, a planning study for growing populations, a minimum needs project, and the development of social indicators and mortality tables. Since individual staff members have worked closely with Sahelian institutions, they were asked by the SDP team to suggest possible constraints to a successful project as well as to identify Sahelian institutions which might provide resources, such as CODESRIA of IDEP, RIPS, IFORD, and PAA (Population Association of Africa). Response to the draft proposal was favorable although there were some doubts about the success of creating a new institution as opposed to supporting existing ones. Staff support and preliminary proposals are forthcoming.

ORSTOM

The team met with Pierre Cantrelle, Director of Research, ORSTOM, to discuss ORSTOM's past, present, and future Sahelian research and to ascertain ORSTOM reactions to the proposed demographic project. ORSTOM has long been involved in demographic research in the Sahel, starting with a 1957-58 survey in Niger and continuing to a present demographic "observatory" now on its fifth round of sampling in Senegal.

Cantrelle was extremely enthusiastic about all three of the proposed functions. The lack of coordination in research has clearly been a constraint on the organization's research. But the big problem of demographic research in Sahel is, as he sees it, stimulation of the use of demographic data. He had several concrete proposals on this point. Both general support for the project and some staff assistance are likely.

The geographic section of ORSTOM is most interested in following changes among nomads, and has projects dealing with the Tuareg and desertification. Together with UNDP, ORSTOM researchers are investigating the relations between deserts and human activities.

INED

Messrs. Blanc (Director) and Blayo of INED agreed that coordination of research activities is an especially serious problem. There does exist a large volume of Sahelian data which have not yet been consolidated or used. They stressed that INED as an institution worked in Africa only by invitation of the African countries. In addition to the African institutions previously identified, they suggested involvement of the graduates and staff of CEDOR (Center Demographique of Roumanie), ISRA (L'Institut National pour les Statistiques et Recherche, Rabat) and CREP (Center Regionale d'etudes de Population, CAE). Their response to the draft indicated cooperation from INED, INSEE, and ORSTOM, and particular interest in coordination to enhance continuing of population information.

Persons affiliated with donor activities (AID and FAC) were enthusiastic about the plan, but emphasized that it should be project and action related and that goals should be set in recognition of the constraints of operation in the Sahel area.

John Caldwell, who has extensively documented the human condition in the Sahel area, reacted to the proposal by stressing the importance of basic research. What is most needed is research of high standards to lead to quality publications. He identified key research needs as small area, longitudinal surveys that would include socio-economic variables. He also stressed training, especially in survey methodology as a desirable and product of joint expatriot-local research.

New York

At the Population Council, an SDP representative met with Don Heisel, who had just completed an evaluation mission of U.N. training institutions in Africa and Barnett Baron who explained how the new directions of the Population Council coincide with the proposal. Earlier meetings highlighted the work the council was doing in transferring easily

adaptable computer software to African data processing census.

At the United Nations, discussions were held with the Statistics Office which suggested that the African Census Program will produce much of the necessary data for West Africa and that these should be supplemented by the multi-purpose household survey proposed recently by the Statistical Commission rather than initiating a new measurement program. This office stressed the value of the training function as well as the institutionalization of descriptive capability rather than detailed analysis.

Final contacts were with Messrs. Inoue and Kono of the U.N. Population Division. They confirmed the lack of solid demographic data on which to work, and they were very anxious to have the results from the program. They felt that it would be quite some time before there was significant input from the African Censuses, but indicated that they would be issuing a new series of estimates at the end of this year.

Sahel

During a trip to the Sahel in February, team members investigated the areas of population-related research most likely to attract support and implementation at the Institut de Recherche Scientifique et Humaine (IRSH) of Niger. There the Director, who is also rapporteur of the CILSS Human Resources Working Group, and former Director expressed the need for better demographic analysis, particularly as this relates to the Rural Development Network studies which IRSH is currently conducting. In addition, while the role of women in development was vehemently rejected as an IRSH research priority, there was an enthusiastic reception for the sponsorship of studies on the traditional norms and practices surrounding child spacing. The meetings encouraged use and support of IRSH and like institutions within the framework of the proposed demographic program.

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UN Population Division
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The Population Council
Messrs. Barnett Baron and Donald Heisel

Proposed Terms of Reference For Demographic Unit for the Sahel Institute

Background

Demographic data, that is to say, the basic facts about populations including their size, age and sex composition, geographic distribution and movements and the population growth, birth and death rates, are an important set of elements in development planning.

Recognizing this, the donor and recipient countries of the Club du Sahel, through the Working Group on Human Resources and Health, expressed the need for more data to better understand the human conditions of the Sahel peoples and to improve program planning, implementation and evaluation. The CILSS health strategy, adopted by the Council of Ministers in Ottawa in June 1977, included the recommendation that the Sahel Institute collect, analyze and disseminate pertinent demographic data and the resulting conclusions.

In addition, the CILSS document on the Sahel Institute, prepared in May 1977, for the Council of Ministers Meeting, identifies as a short- to medium-term objective, a program to encourage the use of demographic data, as well as other socio-economic data, in the design and implementation of development programs.

The U.S. has proposed an assistance program to further these efforts, including the provision of support to establish a demographic unit in the Institute. This unit, to be effective, must be closely linked to national planning bodies and be integrated with Institute and CILSS activities in all sectors, relating demographic variables to the planning process. It would operate appropriately in concert with a socio-economic data unit such as described in the Sahel Institute document noted above.

Demographic Unit Functions

The following is a proposal for CILSS consideration, which could be funded from multi-donor sources, including A.I.D. We envision that the unit would serve the following related functions: a center for documentation and analysis of population data; a center for research and training, and a center for technical assistance. It would draw upon the expertise and experience of existing regional institutions as appropriate. Specifically, we would support a demographic unit with the following functions:

1. To coordinate, compile and evaluate demographic data produced by national statistical offices.
 - to maintain an updated version of the numbers and demographic characteristics of the population and consistent short-term population projections.

- to analyze demographic events and trends affecting regional considerations, such as migration and river basin settlements.
- 2. To identify research and project needs of Sahelian national and regional institutions in order to build a firmer demographic base for planning and program purposes.
- 3. To provide an inventory of the demographic projects and institutions in the area and assist in their coordination.
- 4. To convene seminars and panels of experts from national statistical offices, policymakers and outside experts on a variety of topics which will increase the awareness among Sahelians of population factors in the development process or which will increase the level of demographic expertise.
- 5. To identify training needs and weaknesses in regional training institutions and administer a training grant to meet those needs.
- 6. To administer a small research grant program for research on population topics by Sahelian institutions.
- 7. To assist in integrating demographic considerations into development projects, including health projects.
- 8. To design programs for outside funding for the amelioration of demographic measurement in topics of particular concern of the area, such as the movements of nomadic populations, long term implications of cross national migration.
- 9. To build up a roster of regional and international experts who could provide expert assistance on demographic and population subjects in a wide variety of contexts.
- 10. To develop appropriate means for disseminating the results of research possibly through a newsletter or journal.

Illustrative Annual Budget

Salaries and benefits for resident advisor, counterpart, research assistant, short term consultants	\$130,000
Clerical and documentation staff	20,000
Scholarship fund (for short and long-term training at regional and national institutes)	75,000
Workshops (Initially 1 regional and up to 2 per year over life of project)	30,000
Small grants for research, analysis and application (up to \$100,000)	100,000
Equipment maintenance, computer rental and programming support costs	20,000
Office Supplies	4,000
Printing, reproduction and postage	1,500
Equipment (calculators, office equipment - one time cost of \$4,000)	<u>(4,000)</u>
Approximate Annual Total	<u>\$280,500</u>