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FINAL REPORT

on

PHASE II

LDC PARTICIPATION IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

to

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

July 1978

Subject Grant: AID/otr-G-1416

LDC PARTICIPATION IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

I. Scope of Work

This project involved the following tasks:

1. Assessment of the interest and capability of a number of research institutes in Asia, Africa and Latin America to undertake relevant research on issues of development policy.
2. On the basis of the above enquiries, assistance to L.D.C. research institutes in (a) identifying specific development problems of concern both to themselves and to AID on which research was required and (b) preparing policy-oriented research proposals designed to investigate these problems which could be executed by the institutes with AID funding.

II. Objectives of the Project

The objectives of the project were (1) increase the participation of LDC research institutes in AID sponsored programs in order to make their research more relevant and applicable to LDC development problems, and (2) increase the research capacity of the LDC institutes as a contribution to raising LDC development capabilities. As with other development research efforts, it was also hoped that the research would make a valuable net contribution to international understanding of development problems and the efficacy of alternative policy measures, and

would increase the available supply of socio-economic data on developing countries.

In the past, LDC researchers have frequently criticized the nature of the research relationship between the developed and the underdeveloped countries, pointing both to its substantive undesirability (the danger of the creation of research priorities of greater interest to the donor than to the donee) and its procedural impropriety (the inability of LDC researchers to participate equally with developed country researchers on work done in their own countries.)

For example, the Bellagio Conference on Social Sciences and Development (held in 1974 under the auspices of AID, the International Development Research Center of Canada, the IBRD, the Ford Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation) composed of leading LDC researchers and heads of donor research institutions, examined the problem of LDC research participation, and in its report noted the substantive problem that:

"many of the research financing agencies in developed countries gave priority to research that met their own needs, which were primarily those of the national aid agencies supported by those countries. While this was not wrong, it was not enough, and more weight should be given to the research needs of the developing countries themselves, and to the building up of research capacity in those countries. . ." 1/

1/ The Social Sciences & Development, Papers presented at a Conference in Bellagio, Italy, on the Financing of Social Science Research for Development (February, 1974) p. 225.

The Conference was also concerned with what can be identified as a procedural problem. This problem concerned cases where research was subcontracted to LDC institutes, but where the LDC representatives typically had little or no role in project planning or decision making and received sparse credit and recognition for their contribution to the research.

The first meeting of the Third World Forum, held in January, 1975, which brought together leading social scientists and intellectuals from developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, also struck both the substantive and procedural theme noted above. The participants identified a need to confront "the systematic intellectual biases which have been diffused in much of the world on such questions as economic development, international trade, welfare economics and project criteria."^{2/} It set forth, as its objective, the formulation of alternative development strategies from those established by donor countries. To this end it saw the need:

"to stimulate and organize relevant socio-economic research particularly through the regional and national research institutes in the Third World; . . ." ^{3/}

^{2/} Communique of the Third World Forum Conference in Karachi, January 1975, p. 8 (Mimeo).

^{3/} Ibid., p. 2.

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Thus increased participation by LDC institutes in development research is not a new idea. However the support for LDC institutes to prepare proposals according to their own priorities and to act as primary contractor does represent a significant advance in AID's previous research practice. In this regard, it is consistent with the program approach of U.S. foreign assistance that emphasizes increased participation by the recipient communities in both the planning and the implementation of various development programs that receive AID assistance. It is also consistent with AID policy on research which calls for genuine collaboration of LDC research institutions in Agency research projects and programs.

III. Summary of IILED Work on the Project

The project has been funded in two parts, a first phase which was essentially an assessment and evaluation phase designed to explore the feasibility of the project, and a second phase designed to translate the preliminary findings into action by launching several research studies in different LDC institutes.

In the first phase, 120 research institutes in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean were selected through a process of research and discussion as having research capabilities and interests compatible with the type of study envisioned for development during the later phase of the project. Thirty-nine of these institutes responded to an enquiry as to their interest in the project, and from this group, eight institutes were

recommended for follow-up activities during Phase II of the project.

The eight, five from Asia and three from Africa were selected on the basis of their apparent interest and research capacity and on the potential policy relevance of their proposals.^{4/} Their identity and respective proposals were as follows:

1. Thammasat University, Thailand, to study the income and employment consequences of a number of rural feeder road projects.
2. Marga Institute, Sri Lanka, to study rural modernization and legal change.
3. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, to study the ethnic component in population planning.
4. Small Industry Extension Training Institute, India, to study technology dispersion and transfer within and between LDCs.
5. Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, Xavier University, the Philippines, to evaluate the regional impact of an electric service cooperative on employment, income and fertility.
6. Institute of Development Research, University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to explore an early warning system in relation to ecological change.
7. Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi to study the impact of agricultural programs on the income of small farmers.
8. Institute de Recherches Economiques et Sociales, University of Zaire, to study the food distribution system of Kinshasa and its effect on rural-urban economic relationships.

Phase II of the project involved assessment of these initial proposals by IILED and AID, the development with AID

^{4/} The IILED Report on Phase I, submitted February 1976, provides further detail on the work and results of this first stage of the project.

approval, of a number of fresh proposals elicited from other institutes, further refinement of the more promising proposals and finally, arrangement for the funding of research contracts.

During the early stages of Phase II, a number of fresh proposals were received and evaluated.^{5/} These included:

1. The Economic Research Bureau, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to study incentives and rural development in Tanzania.
2. Graduate School of Public Administration, Seoul National University, Korea, to study alternative aspects of female employment experience.
3. Institute of Economics of the Academia Sinica, Taiwan, to study the extent and causes of income inequality in Taiwan.
4. Bureau of Educational Research, University of Nairobi, Kenya, to study the effectiveness of non-formal education and training programs in rural areas.
5. Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of the West Indies, Jamaica, to study patterns and determinants of employment and income distribution in the West Indies.

In each case, the proposals were systematically evaluated by IILED and by AID Washington in order to select the more promising candidates in terms of subject matter, staff and institutional support. Detailed resumes of institute staff were obtained and the research capability of the institutes assessed through discussion with knowledgeable individuals and study of earlier research outputs.

^{5/} For detailed assessment of these institutes and their proposals see IILED Phase II progress Reports submitted January and March 1977.

In order to assist the institutes in formulating firm proposals which matched the project research criteria and to thoroughly evaluate the potential of the various institutes and their staff to undertake the research, field visits were then made to those institutes whose initial proposals seemed to be the most promising. Prior clearance from AID was obtained for each visit and local AID offices briefed on the purposes and where possible, the results of the working discussions with the institutes.

The Institute of Mindanao Culture, Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao, Philippines, and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore were visited in March 1977, and in each case discussion cleared the way for submission of a firm proposal to AID which could be seen to fit with the existing work program and expertise of the respective organisations.^{6/}

During May and June 1977, visits were made to the Bureau of Educational Research, University of Nairobi, Kenya, and the Bureau of Economic Research, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to discuss in detail the research proposals that had been submitted by these institutes. The project directors and their staff were interviewed and the research proposals reviewed and revised as appropriate. Efforts were made to ensure that the proposals were feasible in terms of data

^{6/}Detailed reports on these missions were submitted as Appendix A of the Phase II Progress Report, March 1977 .

requirements, analytical problems and scale of work required, and that the results would be presented in a form most appropriate to use needs.^{7/}

During this field mission, discussions were also held with the University of Zambia and the University's African Studies Institute, and with the National University of Rwanda and the Institute of Scientific and Agricultural Research concerning the possibility of research proposal submissions from these bodies. Similar discussions took place in Washington with representatives of the University of Yaounde and with a representative of the government of Nigeria.

A mission to Asia was undertaken in December 1977 to progress discussions of research proposals with the Marga Institute, Sri Lanka and the Small Industry Extension Training Institute, India. Extensive discussions were also held with the Center for Educational Research, Innovation and Development and with the Centre for Economic Development and Administration in Kathmandu, Nepal, concerning the possible involvement of these two institutes in the project.^{8/}

A second mission to Africa was undertaken between January and March 1978. Follow-up discussion with the local USAID project manager and staff of the Bureau of Educational Research in Nairobi, Kenya ironed out problems in the

^{7/} The work of this field mission was described in the IILEP Phase II Progress Report of July 1977.

^{8/} See IILEP Phase II Progress Report of December 1977 for additional detail on these discussions.

administration of the study proposed by this institute. Visits to the Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales, Zaire, to the University of Yaounde, Cameroon and to the National University of Rwanda were made to progress discussions with the institutes and local AID offices on their research proposals. In addition, preliminary discussions were held with institutes in Senegal, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta and Niger concerning their possible participation in the project, and with the local AID officials responsible for research activities in these countries.^{9/}

Also during March 1978, IILED staff took advantage of the presence of representatives of the Institute of Social and Economic Research of the University of the West Indies at the IILED Caribbean Development Conference to further discussions with Dr. Vaughan Lewis, Director of the Institute, on his Institute's possible participation in the AID project.

IV. Project Status at June 1978

The present status of the project is as follows:

GRANTS AWARDED OR NEARING APPROVAL

1. Bureau of Educational Research, University of Nairobi, Kenya. Grant No. AID/otr-6-1584 for \$152,520 awarded to study means to increase the effectiveness of non-formal education and training programs in rural areas through promotion of coordinated district-level planning and monitoring of programs. The grant is for two years. At mission request, the project is managed by Carl Penndorf, USAID/Nairobi.

^{9/} See Phase II Progress Report March 1978, Appendix I.

2. Research Institute for Minadano Culture, Xavier University, Philippines. Grant No. AID/otr-6-1585 for \$62,117 awarded to study the impact of a rural electric service cooperative (MORESCO) on income, the labor force participation of women and fertility in Western Misamis Oriental Province. The grant is for one year. The grant manager is Dr. Richard Shortlidge.
3. Economic Research Bureau, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. A proposal for \$57,977 has been submitted to study the nature and effectiveness of monetary and nonmonetary incentives on agricultural productivity and village services with primary focus on the impact on peasant farmers. The study will require between 18 and 24 months to complete. The proposal has been cleared by AID/Washington and the USAID mission. A grant document has been prepared and a waiver obtained for ERB to have a Land Rover purchased by AID for the project.

PROPOSALS IN PREPARATION

1. Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of the West Indies, Trinidad, submitted a comprehensive proposal to study employment and income distribution in the West Indies. The initial proposal has been reviewed by AID, and I.S.E.R. have agreed to focus on one or two clearly identified sub-areas of their original proposal. I.S.E.R. has proposed an analysis of the adequacy of official unemployment statistics and current collection methods in Guyana and Trinidad and an investigation of the additional data required to adequately assess work status and the incidence of poverty.
2. National University, Rwanda, has indicated that it plans to submit a research proposal to study peasant perceptions of agricultural extension programs designed to introduce new farming methods. No formal proposal has been received.
3. Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (I.R.E.S.), Zaire, has submitted a brief proposal which outlines their proposed study of rural-urban growth linkages. The study would examine the food distribution system of Kinshasa. The proposal has been circulated to relevant AID personnel for review. Dr. Weinstein visited Zaire in March 1978 to discuss the project with the USAID Mission and IRES staff.

4. University of Zambia, Zambia, has proposed a study on rural employment generation for unemployed urban youth. The proposal was reviewed by AID and comments have been sent to the research scholars in Zambia. A revised proposal is expected, although there is a problem with funding directly from AID. The University, for administrative reasons, will be able to pursue its work on this project only if funds are channelled through an outside intermediary or if the appropriate Zambian Government Ministry requests AID to fund the particular research project being developed.
5. University of Yaounde, Cameroon, has proposed a study of the social and economic functions of language in the Cameroon. During the summer of 1977, researchers from the University met with Dr. Warren Weinstein and Richard Shortlidge in Washington to discuss their proposal. Dr. Weinstein visited Yaounde in February 1978 and discussed possible funding of either the language project (which is already underway) or of an alternative proposal. No alternative proposal has since been received.
6. Small Industry Extension Training Institute, India, continues to express interest in going forward with its study of technology dispersion. The political climate in India precluded IILED from pursuing this proposal. However, at the advice of the India Desk, S.I.E.T. was informed that AID would seriously consider its proposal if Government of India clearance were obtained. AID has been informed that such clearance is being sought.
7. Marga Institute, Sri Lanka, wishes to undertake a two year study of rural change in ten villages as a follow-up to a base-line study completed under an I.D.R.C. (Canada) grant. A proposal is in preparation and is expected to be submitted shortly.
8. Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA), Kathmandu, Nepal, wishes to undertake a one to two year project in the area of educational research. A proposal is in preparation.
9. Centre for Educational Research, Innovation and Development, Kathmandu, Nepal, has submitted four research proposals on different aspects of the effectiveness of Nepalese education programs. After initial review by IILED, these proposals have been passed to AID for detailed assessment.

In addition, contacts were established in Phase I and followed-up orally in Phase II, with the objective of eliciting proposals, with the following institutes in Africa:

- (1) Institut Fondamental de L'Afrique Noire, Senegal
- (2) Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales, Ivory Coast
- (3) Societe Africaine de Etudes et du Developpment, Upper Volta
- (4) Centre Voltaique de la Recherche Scientifique, Upper Volta
- (5) Institut de Recherche en Sciences Humanes, Universite de Niamey, Niger
- (6) Organisation for African Unity Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition, Niger

No firm proposals have as yet been received from this group.

V. Assessment of the ILED Intermediary Role in the Project

The following ILED staff, who are listed alphabetically, have been involved in the project:

- Mr. Robin Broadfield
- Ms. Sandra Collier
- Dr. Edmond C. Hutchinson
- Mr. Arnold Leibowitz
- Mr. John Marshall
- Dr. Dan E. Perin
- Dr. Warren Weinstein

In each case, at least two of these staff members have been in contact with the institutes participating in the project.

Experience with the implementation of the project has confirmed that the IILEE intermediary role has been critical to its success to date. Political considerations would have made it difficult for AID to deal directly with many LED research institutes and their personnel. In addition, IILEE involvement has given the project a degree of professional credibility. This has resulted both from the LDC institutes' knowledge that they were dealing with a professional American research organization which could offer them a window on U.S. and international research, and from their experience of dealing personally with the IILEE staff involved in the project. LDC research personnel and officials responsible for overseeing research activities tend to view AID personnel as government officials and bureaucrats. On the other hand, LDC researchers have been able to relate directly to the IILEE staff as colleagues resulting in consequential improvement in project effectiveness.

Not only has the intermediary role of the IILEE been critical in generating the participation of LDC research institutes in the project, but the role permitted IILEE to participate more actively in the design and processing of the research proposals. In several instances, the IILEE project staff were able to offer constructive criticisms of an institute or its proposals that an AID official would have been unable to communicate.

AID Washington, which is ultimately responsible for management of the project, may not have easily established such relationships or performed the role of the constructive critic.

Tanzania and Sri Lanka afford a good example of this point. In the former case, IILEED was specifically requested to provide support to the Bureau of Educational Research in both the preparation of their proposal and the execution of the study. As a result, IILEED staff worked closely with BER staff to revise the scope and methodology of the BER proposal for submission to AID/PPC. In the latter case, after initial contacts had been established in Washington, IILEED was able to discuss with the staff of the Marga Institute some of the weaknesses in the Institute's research capabilities and thus help to overcome these shortcomings. This constructively critical role which the IILEED has been able to play should bring considerable benefits in terms of the quality of resource outputs.

The intermediary role of the IILEED also appears to have facilitated AID mission relationships with local institutes and with their AID-sponsored research projects. By acting in a support role to IILEED, the missions have avoided the risk that their participation would compromise the reputation of the research institute, and AID-mission participation in the project has thus been both active and well received.

The case of Nepal was an outstanding example of a further attribute that IILED has been able to bring to the project - the ability to cut through official red tape and achieve rapid progress in setting up potential research projects. In Nepal, a member of the IILED staff was able to meet with the key Nepalese government officials responsible for external research funding in the country, to establish a rapport with these government officials, and to engage in a frank and constructive discussion of the AID project. AID officials would probably have found such an interchange more difficult.

Finally, the IILED staff have been able to respond quickly and effectively to the managerial needs of the project, and have thus been able to achieve rapid progress in proposal development.

VI. Project Evaluation

1. Potential for Aid to Contract Research Directly with LDC Institutes

There were fears expressed at the onset of the project that LDC institutions in Asia and Africa may be unwilling to participate actively in a program of AID financed research. The fears pivoted on the difficulties often associated with intergovernmental assistance. Historically, donor government agencies such as AID dealt directly with host country political and financial structures, and indirectly with LDC institutions. The intervening bureaucracy often hindered or distorted programs to support a political rather than developmental agenda. Financing that had to be filtered through national

treasuries was often misappropriated.

The program initiated by IILED and A.I.D. switched the intermediary functions to the donor country, with IILED acting as the facilitator dealing directly with LDC institutes. Thus, direct participation was encouraged and direct funding made available from the U.S. agency.

IILED staff experience and AID mission experience confirms the initial reticence of many LDC institutes to participate in government to government research programs. The utilization of a facilitating agency such as IILED proved successful provided:

- (a) U.S. AID's primary goal of supporting and enhancing LDC institute credibility, capability and stature was clearly articulated.
- (b) IILED staff personnel actively encouraged and participated in communications with local political, administrative and service groups and U.S. AID regional missions.
- (c) Person to person contact was initiated early in the project development process, and communication aggressively encouraged throughout the development period.

In summary, there appears to be a great potential for AID to directly contract research with LDC institutes. This is especially true in the case of smaller research contracts where AID regional missions do not have the time or staff resources to adequately develop the programs. The use of IILED (or similar institution) as

a facilitator expedited the project development process. Many of the LDC institutes approached have responded to invitations to participate in AID funded projects. A number of substantive proposals were generated and the dialogue necessary to develop additional research programs initiated.

2. Contribution of the Project to LDC
Institution Building

The most effective means of accelerating the process of development in the world's poorer countries is almost certainly to increase their capacity for self-help. This project will have made a direct contribution to the process by funding the training of a number of local people in the analysis of their countries' development problems.

The project has consistently sought to maximise the involvement of locally-recruited staff in the identification of development issues in their country which require further investigation and in the preparation and execution of appropriate policy-oriented research studies.

However, in order to achieve satisfactory results in terms of completion of the research and in terms of output quality, some trade-off in terms of institution-building objectives has occurred. The research contracts awarded and in prospect are with relatively well-established research institutes that have a high potential for producing quality research. This preference for funding well-established institutes rather than smaller, less professional organisations, was based on the view that the quality of research outputs would be a key criterion by which the project was judged a success or failure. Therefore in looking to the future of the project, potential output quality was given high priority in the selection of institutes and proposals to support.

It is likely that this decision has reduced the potential contribution that the project could have made to training and institution building, because the institutes that have been approached are relatively well-staffed, have an academic reputation and are in a favorable position to obtain research funds from a variety of different sources. Had research contracts been awarded to institutes with a lesser reputation, the net results of the project in terms of its contribution to institution building might

have been greater, as these institutes have relatively fewer alternative sources of finance and poorer growth prospects. If the project is successful and well received in AID, the possibility of placing greater emphasis on its institution-building role in the future might be considered.

3. Potential for Inter-Institution Communication and Collaboration

The possibility of developing cooperative research studies involving several institutes in a region to examine issues in a multinational context was explicitly included in the project's original proposal. However, when the project was launched, AID decided that budgetary constraints would not permit the devotion of sufficient resources for ILED to overcome the weak existing institutional relationships and for effective inter-institute cooperation in the planning and execution of research. Therefore, AID decided that the project should focus on the development of single-country projects and abandon the attempt to develop multinational proposals.

In first hand contacts with research institutes, which occurred mostly in field missions, the project staff have nevertheless consistently attempted to explore the potential for joint research or for the organisation of parallel and comparative research projects. The ILED project staff have encouraged awareness in one institution of existing or potential relationships between their work and that of neighboring institutions, and,

in the case of Rwanda, and to a lesser extent, Tanzania, encouraged the research institutes to explore the possibility of submitting cooperative research proposals.

In summary, therefore, while a potential for joint research activities of an interdisciplinary nature exists and the project staff have made every attempt to further the development of inter-institution links and relationships, greater staff effort would be needed to achieve favorable results in this area. The devotion of such effort would be one possible component of a later stage of the project.

Bearing in mind that joint research proposals are not an end in themselves, and that one of the basic objectives of such cooperation is to produce research outputs that are applicable to related issues outside the specific context in which the work is performed, renewed emphasis has been placed on the development of proposals whose results will have interregional or international applicability. Thus the subject of rural development, which is a major concern of developing countries throughout the world, has been selected as the focus of the project, and research topics have thus been identified which involve policy issues of concern to many different developing countries.

For example, the three most advanced studies are concerned with rural education and training, rural incentives and the impact of rural electrification on incomes and labor force participation.

The significance for rural development policy of the issues under examination means that the results of these studies will have wide applicability outside the geographical area of the enquiry. It is thus expected that the project will, through its research outputs, generate externalities in the understanding of rural development problems and stimulate parallel and supportive studies elsewhere.

4. Encouragement of Parallel Action By Other Donors

Throughout the duration of the project, systematic attempts were made to brief interested foundations and international organizations its purpose and content. Contacts were made with the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the International Development Research Center. All these organisations have been supportive of the project and have provided useful advice and assistance to the project staff.

These organisations are themselves already actively engaged in providing direct support for research in LDC research institutions. In return for comprehensive briefing on the AID project, they willingly provided reciprocal information on their own activities in this field. It seems clear from these discussions that the foundations and international organisations are favourably disposed towards the idea and this technique of increasing the development capacity of the LDC's, and that their financial

support for LDC research on development issues will continue to increase.

5. Generation of Research Results
of Interest to AID

In addition to the objectives of LDC institution-building and training, a major purpose of the project has been to generate development research results which are accurately directed towards the analytical needs of officials and experts in developing countries. A related political objective has been to improve AID's feel for the development priorities and research needs of the developing countries through improved contact between AID, LDC governments and research institutes.

Preliminary results strongly suggest that these objectives will be achieved. Representatives of the LDC research institutes, in consultation with state authorities where appropriate, have consistently played the decisive role in selecting research topics and organizing their own research programs. It is thus clear that the research studies will reflect the priorities and concerns of the LDC institutes and their host governments.

The project has also provided a useful mechanism for AID Washington to keep abreast of the current thinking of policy makers and development experts in a number of AID recipient countries. Without excessive interference in the role the institutes have played in proposal development, the ILED staff have been careful to ensure that the research studies will cover

issues of primary policy concern to AID. The presentation of AID interests in this process of discussion and negotiation has also promoted LDC understanding of those interests, which is favourable to future AID operations in the countries concerned.

Among the new insights that AID has obtained from the project is a comprehensive understanding of the range of material as well as non-material inducements which the Tanzanians are considering introducing in an effort to stimulate the output of rural agricultural and non-agricultural producers. Similarly, the Kenyan research study represents an advanced approach to the planning and evaluation of non-formal education which is of considerable interest to the AID Technical Assistance Bureau. The focus of other studies or proposals on issues such as fertility and female labor force participation, rural-urban migration and urban unemployment makes them also consistent with current AID policy concerns.

VII. Recommendations

It is suggested that the results achieved by this project to date have more than met the expectations of the instigators. Based on the thesis that increasing the capacity for self-help is one of the surest and most acceptable roads to development, the project has convincingly demonstrated the feasibility of direct AID funding of research in the LDC's as a means of LDC research institutes and to the training of local research workers whose skills will enhance their country's development capability.

It has proved possible to combine a high degree of freedom of action for the LDC research institutes in selecting research topics with the formulation of a program of research, the results of which will be highly relevant to both the developmental needs of the LDC's and the interests of AID. The project has provided the institutes with links to AID and has increased the potential for future relationships with U.S. universities. Mutual understanding of AID and LDC concerns has been improved in the process.

It is therefore recommended that AID should further extend the present duration and scale of the project to permit:

- (a) active monitoring of the on-going research studies to ensure their successful completion.
- (b) continued discussion with research institutes which have responded favourably to initial approaches with a view to generating firm and acceptable research proposals; and
- (c) monitoring of research proposals submitted or in the pipeline which will be funded in the future.

It is further recommended that this work should be handled by a group of independent professional development experts, and that their role in the project should be further expanded to include sub-contracting of the research studies.

Experience has conclusively demonstrated the effectiveness of employing an independent, professional organisation to perform

an intermediary role in executing this project. It would therefore be logical for this arrangement to be maintained were the project to be extended.

Concerning the possibility of delegating the responsibility for research contracting to the intermediary institution, this would increase the willingness of IDC institutions to accept AID funding and thus accelerate the process of proposal formulation and study implementation.