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BLACK WOMEN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION; PROGRESS REPORT

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May 10, 1978

Mr. Robert Asselin
Agency for International Development
AFR/DR/SFWAP
Room 2646
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20523

PATRICIA E. LAYTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Re: Grant No. AID/afr-G-1273

Dear Mr. Asselin:

Under the terms of Grant No. AID/afr-G-1273, please find attached the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, Inc.'s semi-annual (actually ten (10) months) progress report reflecting the results of the work on the project to date.

I know that you have been waiting some time for this report. But, after reading it, I hope you will understand the time it took for preparation.

The report is quite long and comprehensive. I have had many conversations with you and other A.I.D. officials and, as you know, the Foundation has encountered many obstacles in project implementation. (Close Encounters of the Umpteenth Kind.....).

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I hope that you will take time to peruse this report, not only in view that it is the BWCDF report, but also because we feel that it will give you a better insight into the UNFM and the ramifications on our and future women's related programs in Mali.

Sincerely,

Patricia F. Eaton

Patricia F. Eaton
Executive Director

In consultation with:

Jacquelyn O. Briggs

Jacquelyn O. Briggs
BWCDF Mali Project Director

PFE/JOB/sp
enclosure

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A RE-INTRODUCTION
to the
BLACK WOMEN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

The Black Women's Community Development Foundation was formed in 1967 shortly after former Harvard professor and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, published a long report about the plight of Black Americans. In his report called "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action", Moynihan asserted that Black people occupy the bottom of the country's socioeconomic ladder because most have grown up in families headed by women. The male heads of such families have often been forced to leave their families, due to attempts by the white community to block economic progress for Black men. Such families, Moynihan said, disintegrate under the aegis of women.

The children of such matriarchal families, he asserted, remain trapped in a self-perpetuating vicious cycle of welfare dependency, low aspirations and petty criminal activity. Mr. Moynihan, after analyzing the Black family for the previous 30 years, concluded that the Negro family had to be put in order before the race as a whole "could achieve real equality of opportunity."

Needless to say that report took the Black community by storm and although many leaders came forth with eloquent rebuttals to the report, another group of people decided to work to strengthen the very aspect of the Black family that Moynihan had considered negative. This group, which later became the nucleus of the BWCDF, included Myrlie Evers, widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers; Jean Fairfax of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; the Rev. James Hargett, secretary for the Black Ministries for the Council of the United Church of Christ; James A. Joseph, then a Washington businessman and the trustee of several colleges; and attorney Marian Wright Edelman. They began meeting regularly over a period of about six months, discussing what could be done to fully utilize the talents of Black women.

Ms. Fairfax, BWCDF Board President emeritus and presently an active member of BWCDF's Board, reflects: "It was foolish to consider the Black family pathological in light of the fact that it has survived until this day," expressing the sentiments expressed by the other founders of BWCDF. "So we decided to build affirmatively on the strength of Black women by helping them to make their untapped resources more available to the entire community."

Thus BWCDF became incorporated in the state of Indiana in August, 1968, as a non-profit, tax-exempt private foundation.

During the first years of existence, BWCDF served as a fund-raising agency and, with grants from larger foundations and government agencies, provided financial support and technical assistance to over 22 community-based women's groups in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

Some of the community groups funded by BWCDF during the late sixties and early seventies are now floundering due to the country's present economic crisis but others are still flourishing. For example, the Freedom Quilting Bee of Alberta, Alabama, a cooperative of 100 women, many of whom were living on family incomes of less than \$1,000 a year, received a grant of \$10,000 in 1969 from BWCDF and continues to sell its crafts nationwide. The cooperative used BWCDF's grant to finance the completion of a new building and to buy new equipment with which to make their quilts. This is only one of BWCDF's success stories of not only capability and sensitivity, but -- on the domestic front -- these projects have reinforced BWCDF's continuous goal to develop strong, healthy, positive, pro-

ductive black women, thus developing strong, healthy, positive, productive black communities.

This was our goal in 1968. This is still our goal a decade later, BWCDF's 10th Anniversary.

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT: AFRICA

Aside from programs on a national and local level, the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, Inc. saw a need and a "must" to deal with these same issues internationally. Inspired by the West African Sahelian drought crisis, the purpose of this concern was to provide multi-disciplinary instruction to young women in rural areas of Africa, areas facing the same basic problems asserted by Moynihan -- but on a different scale -- to provide assistance to women to act as change agents in their respective communities and through the acquisition, extension and integration of these new skills assist in increasing rural family income, stability, independence and self-reliance with dignity.

Therefore, in March, 1972 the BWCDF hosted a luncheon for wives of African diplomatic personnel. The purpose was to get a better understanding of what African women perceived to be some of the most important problems facing them. This luncheon encouraged the Foundation to become more actively involved in assisting, somehow, our African sisters.

In January , 1973, the Foundation held a conference chaired by the person who, at that time, was permanent Representative to the United Nations and Secretary General of the All African Women's Conference, Madame Cisse. This conference of African women and men was designed to help the Foundation discover and define what realistic and meaningful contribution we might make towards the development of African communities.

For months, the Foundation held many discussions with African representatives.

In March, 1974, a member of the Foundation traveled to Algeria to attend the meeting of the All African Women's Conference. It was made clear to us at this time that the Foundation should become involved in international development -- but strictly on Africa's terms!

On May 18, 1975 -- one year later -- 6 people representing the Foundation visited Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta and Ethiopia (funded by AID feasibility grant AID/AFR-G-1122) to see how we could best be of assistance and in which country we should begin.

When the team arrived in Mali, the project was discussed and designed with the assistance of the following Malian officials: the Minister of Health and Social Affairs; the Cabinet Director of the Ministry of Production; the Cabinet Director of the Ministry of Basic Education; the Director of International Organizations, Minister of Foreign Affairs; the President and Secretary General of the National Union of Malian Women; Madame Traore (the wife of the President of Mali); and Madame Tall.

This 6 member team was very impressed with the reception, hospitality, assistance, enthusiasm, knowledge, concern and advice to the Foundation. Mali was seen by the Foundation to have several assets towards complementing our objectives: political awareness and activism; an established, strong women's organization and self determination under international cooperation.

Mali was chosen as the site of BWCDF's first international project.

Upon returning to the United States, meetings were held with members of the Mali Mission to the United Nations, including the Ambassador. The project was approved by the government of Mali at which time both BWCDF and the Malian government anxiously awaited funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The project was written and re-written to meet the guidelines as established by A.I.D.

The final project proposal was submitted to A.I.D. February 11, 1976; A.I.D. approved the funding September 30, 1976 to become effective October 1, 1976 (AID/afr-G-1273).

The Status of BWCDF

At the Time of Project Grant: An Interim

BWCDF's Board of Directors had closed down the operations of the Foundation June, 1976 in search of a new Executive Director and staff. On September 30, 1976 (three months later) BWCDF's Board President, Dr. Herschelle Challenor, received a phone call from A.I.D. informing her that the three-year, \$777,500, BWCDF Mali AID Project Grant, had been approved and that her signature was needed. Dr. Challenor signed the first year's grant on the same day, effective the following day, October 1, 1976.

Dr. Challenor notified the other Board members, several meetings were held and a national search for an Executive Director of the Foundation was intensified.

Because the Board was scattered across the U.S., the search for an Executive Director and the prospect of re-opening the Foundation became frustrating. Board members in the Washington Metropolitan area approached several established organizations already involved in Sahelian development (Africare and the African American Scholars Council) with the idea of possibly subcontracting the grant.

Without exception, all possible subgrantors refused to implement the project for the same reason: Women in general and black women in particular, should and need to become involved in development on an international scope.

The search continued. At the time, I was Director of Communications and Chapter Development at Africare. Mr. C. Payne Lucas, Executive Director, told me about the Foundation, the position and the responsibilities. I had had long and extensive involvement in African development, administrative experience/skills and am a professional fund-raiser.

I became Executive Director of the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, effective July 11, 1977.

I was faced with the immediate challenge and responsibilities of finding new offices, equipping the office, hiring a totally new staff and retrieving, organizing and reviewing 40 boxes of programmatic and financial materials which had been sitting in storage for over a year. Audits had to be done; legal documents had to be filed; grant regulations had to be met; information for grant registration had to be compiled.

Reconstructing the BWCDF with a staff of only 3 full time employees, including myself, proved to be an awesome -- but not insurmountable -- task.

All of this while getting the Mali project off the ground and running.

Project Implementation

Mrs. Joy Zollner was employed as the Mali Project Director by the BWCDF's Board of Directors, effective July 12, 1977, her arrival date in Bamako, Mali.

Prior to her appointment, Mrs. Zollner had been an associate director with the African American Institute in New York City and had been involved with the BWCDF project from its very inception, including being a member of the 1975 BWCDF Sahelian feasibility team. This mission was, from her standpoint, a most difficult undertaking. Her personal and emotional involvement with the project made objectivity rather difficult, and at that point, her patience with those who did not seem to share the same understanding and enthusiasm, short.

Added to this, according to Mrs. Zollner, was the suspicion with which any "Native African" working with a national institution that does not belong to his country of origin is regarded heavily with suspicion. In Mrs. Zollner's case, the fact that she was representing an American Organization, that was not very well known -- and that organization was/is funded by USAID, perhaps, she reflected, added to her personal troubles as BWCDF's Project Director in Mali.

Upon Mrs. Zollner's arrival in Mali, her BWCDF directives and accomplishments were:

- (1) to establish the fact that the BWCDF is now prepared to undertake the creation of a community development training program for rural girls; (henceforth called the project);
- (2) to define with the government of Mali and other agencies in Mali (i.e., USAID Mission) the criteria for cooperation in implementing the project; and
- (3) to discuss and elaborate on the project regarding:
 - (a) the site;
 - (b) the timetable for implementation;
 - (c) the program for training including a definition of content, personnel, etc.; and
 - (d) generally establish contacts for the project.

In order to establish the willingness of the BWCDF to undertake this project, she made courtesy visits to:

- (I) The Ministry of Rural Development: Here she met with the Chef du Cabinet, Mr. Toukara; the Directeur du Cabinet, Mr. Cissoko, and the Director for International Cooperation, Mr. Diallo. This first visit she felt was necessary because the Ministry of Rural Development was responsible for all projects concerned with rural development in Mali. The Ministry asked Mr. Diallo to work with her in establishing her program while in Mali. They also asked Mme. Marian Thiam to come to Bamako from Markala to accompany her during her stay. Mme. Thiam headed the division for "Animation Feminine" within the Ministry of Rural Development.
- (II) Mrs. Zollner paid a visit to the Secretary-General of the Union Nationale des Femmes Maliennes (UNFM), Mme. Tall.
- (III) The Minister of Health, Mr. Mamady Keita (the Ministry of Health was responsible to the Government of Mali for all social affairs and the UNFM).

- (IV) The then Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Seydou Traore. At the Ministry for Foreign Affairs she met with Mme. Aminata Marico. (She had served as the liason person between the BWCDF, the Foreign Ministry and the UNFM during the visit of the BWCDF feasibility study team in 1975). Mrs. Zollner also met with Mme. Hawa Wane of the Division for International Cooperation within the Foreign Ministry. She also took the opportunity to see Mme. Marie Fofanah, who was a member of the Bureau of the UNFM and had worked closely with the feasibility team in 1975. Mme. Fofanah was a member of the staff of Foreign Affairs.
- (V) Mrs. Zollner also paid a visit to the Chief of Protocol, Mr. Moussa Leo Keita. This Division of Foreign Affairs was responsible for diplomatic privileges and immunities, including exemptions from customs duties, some of which the project would need.
- (VI) She visited with the Director General of the OACV (Operation Arachides et Cultures Vivieres), Mr. Bagourou.

- (VII) The Associate Director General of CMDT (Commission Malien pour le Developpement du Textile);
Mr. Bagayoko.
- (VIII) Mr. Habib Diop, Director of Rural Animation (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (IX) The head of the Division du Promotion Feminine Rurale of the Ministry of Education, Mme. Diop, received her on very short notice since Mme. Diop was leaving Mali on vacation. (Madame Diop is presently President of the UNFM).
- (X) Mr. Zana Dao, the Directeur du Cabinet of the Ministry of Planning, also received her and offered any help the project would need from his Ministry.
- (XI) The Minister of Finance, Mr. Founeke Keita, though not immediately involved with the project, invited Mrs. Zollner to see him and offered invaluable advice, as well as his personal commitment to helping the project's implementation.

- (XII) A meeting with the Director General of the Division of Social Affairs of the Ministry of Health had to be cancelled at his request, because of conflicting appointments. (The Director was suddenly called upon to represent his Minister at another meeting).
- (XIII) Though she was scheduling her meeting with the USAID Mission last, Mrs. Zollner underlined the fact that her very first stop upon arrival in Mali was to the USAID office in the American Embassy. The following morning she met briefly with Mr. Myron Golden of the USAID Mission to bring him up to date on the intentions of her mission for the BWCDF. Mr. Golden offered her any help she would need while in Mali. He also introduced her to the AID Mission liason person with the Malian Government. Mrs. Zollner thanked Mr. Golden and said she would keep the offer in mind, but that BWCDF and herself were concerned about keeping the identity of the BWCDF separate from USAID Mission. BWCDF had wanted to keep itself as a separate entity. She agreed to meet with the Deputy Mission Director at his convenience and it was arranged by Mr. Golden. This meeting took place later in the week.

All of Mrs. Zollner's above visits, except that with USAID, were suggested and scheduled by Mr. O. Diallo of the Ministry of Rural Development and she was accompanied on almost all of them by Mme. Marian Thiam.

While these visits were taking place, Mr. Diallo had offered the clerical services of his division at Rural Development to correct and retype the project as it was proposed and presented by BWCDF in its report to USAID of the Study Team in 1975. It had been decided by the Directeur du Cabinet, Mr. Diallo, and Mrs. Zollner, that this would serve as the working papers. It was to be circulated to all the divisions of the Ministry of Rural Development and all the other agencies of the Malian government that would be called upon to cooperate in the implementation of the project.

It was also agreed that this document would have to be made more explicit and precise and that this exercise would take place at an intra-ministerial meeting at Rural Development.

All of this activity was undertaken because the Minister of Health had been categorical in his statement

to Mrs. Zollner about the inability of both his ministry and the UNFM to undertake with the BWCDF the efficient implementation of this project. The Minister kindly offered to convey this to the UNFM Bureau and asked her to continue her work with the Ministry of Rural Development. The Minister of Health said that the government of Mali was particularly concerned about the following:

- (1) The availability of financing for the project;
- (2) The expected contributions of the Malian government;
- (3) That the young women trained by the project would not create a new class of unemployables with great expectations, that the Malian government would have to deal with. Mr. Keita insisted that any training offered by the project reflects realistic needs and provides profitable self-employment and incentives to stay in the rural areas. He added that his Ministry was faced with this problem of social welfare assistants whose training no longer reflected the needs of the rural areas and who were then a burden on the

civil service of Mali. He was not recycling some for medical and para-medical work and simply relieving others. The government was no longer training social welfare assistants; and

- (4) The Minister at this time, wanted to know what kinds of provisions BWCDF was making for the continuity of the project once the initial 3-year funding was utilized. The government of Mali was concerned again, because it did not want to suddenly find itself burdened with a project it did not undertake itself, nor did they want to see another project started with a great deal of enthusiasm and then left hanging once the initial funding ran out. The Minister warned that the Malian government had no funds available at this time, or in the foreseeable future, to contribute to this project.

The Minister felt that valid answers to these questions would have to be given to the government of Mali before final approval would be forthcoming. The Minister, in his conversation, suggested that the government of Mali had rejected the proposals of the BWCDF for the project.

This confused Mrs. Zollner a little because her information from other high officials was different. She later learned that the former Minister of Health, Mr. Ali Cisse, had presented the BWCDF report and received tentative approval pending clarification on the availability of funding and the expected participation of the Malian government.

However, after his departure in late 1975, the UNFM had extracted from, or better yet, rewritten the proposal for the project and had asked the then new Minister, Mr. Keita, to present this to the Ministerial Council. Since this new document was even less precise than the BWCDF proposal in the report, the government had rejected it.

Mme. Fatou Tall, the Secretary General of the UNFM, at their first meeting after that with the Minister of Health, told Zollner about their (UNFM) document and after much cajoling, gave her a copy. Zollner expressed regret to Mme. Tall that the BWCDF had never been informed of, or received, a copy of their proposal. Zollner added that an exchange of information prior to her leaving for the mission would have clarified the intent of the project.

At this meeting with Mme. Tall, she expressed surprise that Zollner had arrived in Mali and was meeting with government officials without the knowledge and presumed approval of the UNFM. Zollner explained that contact had been made with the government of Mali through the Embassy announcing her intended arrival in Mali and that her visit to Tall was within the intent of her mission to re-establish contact and define relationships. Zollner then related her conversation with the Minister of Health and his advice that she work with the Ministry of Rural Development as the most efficient manner in which to go about implementing the project.

In response to her not informing them of her exact date of arrival, Zollner said this was impossible since she was previously in Freetown for family matters and could not give an exact arrival date. Zollner also added that she did not want to abuse their kindness. Mme. Tall was obviously peeved. However, she said the Bureau of the UNFM was meeting Saturday, July 16 and asked Zollner to meet with her again on the afternoon of Monday, July 18, at which time she promised Zollner would have a discussion with the UNFM on terms of cooperation, etc.

Mme. Tall had questioned the use and involvement of the Ministry of Rural Development. Zollner again said it was her understanding that all projects to do with Rural Development came under this particular ministry and that their (UNFM) Minister had given her authorization, pending his meeting with them. She added that the BWCDF was still concerned with having the full support of the UNFM, but that in the interest of efficiently and expeditiously implementing the project, the Ministry of Rural Development was handling BWCDF's programming.

On Monday, July 18, Zollner returned to see Mme. Tall and was told, most solemnly, that the UNFM Bureau would meet with her Wednesday afternoon, July 20. Zollner expressed some disappointment since her program called for travel to the interior that morning, but said she would go to the Ministry of Rural Development and change the departure date to suit the Bureau, which she did. Mme. Tall again seemed annoyed that she had been programmed to visit the interior. Zollner explained this was in order for her to see other CAR and Community Development Centers of Operation Riz Segou, programs the feasibility team had not visited, and which Rural Development felt would give her a more informed understanding of needs and existing programs.

In between Zollner's meetings with the UNFM, on Tuesday, July 19, she went to Ouelessebougou with Mme. Thiam as scheduled. At Ouelessebougou, during this period, the Prefect seemed pleased to see a representative of the BWCDF because they had been expecting some activity by the BWCDF at the 'mixte' CAR for over a year. The UNFM had ordered the construction of 8 huts to house students for the BWCDF project. The construction had yet to be finished and more importantly, paid for. The Prefect naturally had a copy of the bill to show Zollner. She asked for a copy but he said he could not give Zollner his only file copy, but that both the Ministry of Health and the UNFM had copies.

The Prefect then accompanied Mme. Thiam and Zollner to the CAR where they visited the new huts, the other installations and experimental farms. Discussions were held with the monitrice, the agricultural agents and the Director of the CAR. At these discussions the assumption on all sides was that the Ministry of Rural Development would still approve of Ouelessebougou as the site for the BWCDF training center. The Director was most enthusiastic about the possibility of collaboration with the BWCDF. It meant more equipment and personnel from which his trainees could benefit. He showed them unused class-

room space that would be available to the BWCDF with some modification. It also meant that this CAR would be able to follow-up ex-trainees with the cooperation of the BWCDF and joint use of vehicles. Ouelessebouyou has no vehicles.

The new project would help the CAR rejuvenate and reconstruct the fire-destroyed homes of previous volunteer organizations.

The French volunteers had also left Ouelessebouyou and the BWCDF would fill this gap.

Zollner had long discussions about the health and agricultural programs at this CAR mixte. It was quite clear that the sole monitrice, who served as health, nutrition, sewing, handicrafts and general teacher, was far from adequate. The Director felt both the CAR and the BWCDF would benefit from joint programs. The agricultural agents at Ouelessebouyou also felt that the CAR would benefit from the presence of the BWCDF.

An agent from Operation Haute Vallee happened to come to the CAR and joined Zollner in discussion. (The government of Mali had several agricultural develop-

ment projects which are called "Operation." These included Operation Mil in the north, Operation Poisson in the region of Mopti, Operation Riz-Segou, Operation Arachides et Cultures Vivieres (OAVC) in the central region around KATI and Operation Haute Valee in the region of Bamako. These are very intensive economic projects designed to improve and increase food production. They were, Zollner believed, designed and developed during the drought and funded jointly by external sources and the government of Mali).

In preliminary discussion at Rural Development, Zollner felt that attaching the BWCDF project to one of these "Operations" would limit the possibility of failure by assuring the project an economic base. Recruitment would perhaps be from the villages which had successfully joined these operations and assured the trainees of employment or use. The Community Development Centers attached to Operation Riz-Segou comprise a glittering success story of an integrated development project.

A visit was then paid to the Catholic Nuns operating a Social Service and Health Center at Ouelessebougou. (The feasibility team visited the nuns in 1975).

Their programs included alphabetization, handicrafts, health and nutrition. Even though their center was/is far from the the CAR and they have specialized personnel, e.g. a nurse/midwife, and both the CAR and Catholic Mission could benefit from close cooperation, there heretofore had been no cooperation between the two. Cooperation seemed a particularly desirable thing should the BWCDF project be implanted at Ouclesseboucou. The nuns did not seem, at this time, to disagree with possible cooperation.

The nuns are funded by the F.E.D. and the Catholic Church. The Malian government contributes the salary of local personnel.

The following day, Wednesday, July 20, meetings were continued at the Ministry of Rural Development and with USAID. Zollner asked Mr. Myron Golden of the AID Mali Mission, to accompany her to the UNFM Bureau meeting that afternoon. She felt it would be helpful in explaining the USAID funding of BWCDF. Zollner had also asked Mme. Thiam to come to the meeting, even though she wanted nothing to do with UNFM. Zollner insisted, since she had been assisted to accompany her everywhere by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The Bureau of the UNFM was there in full force, except for five women, who, in Zollner's estimation, understood most clearly the intents of the BWCDF project. The meeting was presided over by Mme. Marian Traore, the President of UNFM and the Malian President's wife.

The President invited Mme. Fatou Tall, the Secretary General of UNFM, to refresh the memory of the Bureau on the project. Mme. Tall did this, emphasizing the role of the UNFM in organizing the visit of the BWCDF feasibility team. She added that the UNFM had also constructed the huts at Ouelessebouyou for the project.

Zollner was then asked to update the project. She began by apologizing for not informing them of her arrival and giving the reasons. Zollner then said she had been recruited to coordinate the project by the BWCDF and was in Mali to start work on implementation. She explained the funding and introduced Mr. Myron Golden of USAID Bamako. She then assured them the funds were available and had been for over a year. She gave them copies of the project as proposed in the BWCDF report to USAID and said this was extracted and copied as a working document.

She then pleaded that we, the BWCDF, the government of Mali and the UNFM had a unique opportunity to prove that the project could be implemented and serve as a showcase for future community development efforts in the region that could be funded from outside and if properly designed, become self-supporting. On the question of the regionalization of the project, she explained that the funding we had would be insufficient to finance a viable international center at this time, but that if it succeeded, the experience could serve to find new and/or renewed funding for expansion. Zollner explained that in her understanding, the BWCDF report was clear on this.

After much discussion it became quite clear that Mme. Tall and some other members of the Bureau were not listening or had misread the proposal. They (the UNFM) had understood that BWCDF would deliver the funds to the UNFM for the implementation of the project. On the strength of this understanding they had presented their proposal to the Malian government, which was rejected and had also asked for the huts to be built in Ouelesse-bougou. As a matter of fact, Mme. Tall added, they had a bill for 750,000 Malian Francs for the buildings.

Zollner explained that BWCDF had received the funding from USAID and would be responsible for the management of the project and the funds, and that BWCDF and she had hoped for cooperation and political support from the UNFM just as we expected technical and some material support from other agencies within the government of Mali. She offered the Bureau a look at the contract BWCDF had signed with AID and Mr. Golden tried to clarify the intent of the project further.

The UNFM then tried to question Zollner's ability to represent the BWCDF. Mme. Tall even suggested that they (UNFM) had planned to ask for an invitation from the BWCDF to visit the U.S. to discuss the project. To this, Mr. Golden said the USAID mission would be willing to write to the UNFM officially establishing her credentials.

It became more and more obvious that Mme. Tall and Mme. Diarra were leading a slight "witch-hunt" and were not listening. They claimed the copied project was a new document, to which Zollner said no and pointed out it was merely removed from the bulky report to facilitate use.

It was clear that the UNFM was not interested. Mme. Marian Traore then said that the meeting should end, since it was going around in circles and suggested Zollner continue to elaborate the project with the Ministry of Rural Development. Mme. Traore stated that once the project was accepted by the government of Mali, if they (UNFM) were invited to participate, they would.

This seemed to Zollner to be a sensible and efficient decision. Thereupon, she apologized for there not having been an exchange of information prior to her arrival in Mali and for the misunderstanding which seemed to exist. She said that perhaps the French translation of the project was not clear, but hoped that the BWCDF and the UNFM would reach a clearer understanding of their roles in the implementation of the project once it was more clearly elaborated.

Zollner then thanked the Bureau and left. Mme. Tall had, much to her surprise and annoyance, refused to allow Mme. Thiam to participate at the meeting, even though Mme. Thiam told her she had been assigned to accompany Zollner everywhere by Rural Development.

Zollner reported the meeting to the Directeur du Cabinet and the Director for International Cooperation at Rural Development immediately afterwards.

The next morning, Mme. Thiam and Zollner left to visit the Community Development Centers attached to Operation Riz-Segou and other CARs in the region.

Mme. Aminata Diawara, Director of the CDC of Operation Riz-Segou had been expecting their arrival since the evening of Tuesday, July 19. Zollner apologized and explained the delay. Mme. Diawara further explained the nature of the CDCs and how they had been an integral part of the planning of the agricultural and economic development of the region of Segou. The major funding sources (FED) and the government had decided that social development was part and parcel of a successful economic and agricultural development project. Hence, there is a CDC attached to every station and sub-station within the area of the Operation Riz. Headquarters are in Segou. The CDC were particularly concerned with improving health and making women within the area more productive.

Mme. Diawara explained there were at present five major and at least ten minor CDCs operating in the region

with 780 participants, with plans for more as soon as financing and the expressed will of the women permitted.

The CDCs recruited participants on a volunteer basis with the following criteria in mind:

- (a) that the women are between the ages of 20-35;
- (b) that they did not travel out of their villages on a regular basis;
- (c) and their willingness and ability to do volunteer work.

The CDC programs include:

- (1) Health: Nivaquinization, pre and post natal care and general hygiene.
- (2) Nutrition: demonstrations of food preparation for children once a week, general discussions on nutrition and pictorial demonstrations of healthy food preparation, etc.

- (3) Training in modern health methods of traditional mid-wives and creation of working relationships between the traditional midwives and nurses and health center personnel in the area.
- (4) Economics: (a) gardening through demonstration at the CDC. The surplus is sold and revenue remains with the CDC; (b) Chicken farming. The CDCs have three chicken runs in operation and plan six others. They buy imported stock which is then crossbred with local. The CDCs had been quite pleased with the results and have been trying to introduce the wider use of eggs and chicken in the food of the area. (Some Malian ethnic groups have a strong taboo about the use of eggs in the diet of children and pregnant women); (c) Tiedyeing using chemical and local dyes. The CDC at Sansanding had a very well designed and equipped workshop. The products are sold. There is a growing market.
- (5) Dressmaking
- (6) Emergency Care

(7) Functional Literacy

The training for the women at the CDCs is done in two-week periods. They are then visited on a regular weekly basis by the agents from their particular station or sub-station. (Vehicles were provided to the CDC by UNICEF).

A visit to the CDC at Sansanding, about 75 km. from Segou proved to be most rewarding. This center is in the Sarakole ethnic area, very orthodox Muslim and generally not open to formal education for their women or children. The CDC has two social welfare assistants detached from the Ministry of Rural Development. Two aides (who received two months training in Community Development at the Headquarters in Segou) and two agricultural agents complete the staff. There were at the time 33 participants at the Sansanding CDC. The Center had trained teams of two nutritionists, two health aides and two matrons for each of twenty-two villages it covers.

The head of the CDC at Sansanding underlined the fact that health was the number one priority and that they tried to interest and educate the whole family to the fact that better health meant increased production.

The programs were organized to coincide with the planting and, therefore, seasons. E.g., in the rainy season, they worked on nivaquinization and prevention; in the dry season, they held demonstrations; December was largely gardening.

There were, at this time, seven villages involved in gardening. The CDC held demonstrations in each village on food preparation, especially for children at severance.

On tie-dying, the initial funds were provided by the CDC. This program has become self-supporting, the revenue being divided equally between the participants and the CDC.

They considered this activity pre-cooperative. They intended to create a cooperative. Sansanding has also started organizing pottery production of small items, ash trays, glasses, etc.

The CDC staff at Sansanding said that their greatest difficulty at the start was lack of communication and hence understanding between the staff members. Therefore, the agricultural agents used different languages and had different expectations of participants from those of the

health people and/or those who taught alphabetization. Since then the barriers have disappeared and all understand the need for an integrated approach for success.

They pointed out that the maximum stay at the center was 15 days for each participant, but that every year there were recycling programs for the former participants. At the start, four years ago, it was pointed out that the agents for the CDCs were largely male. Since then there have been many females, but the CDC had to reason to make the trainers all female.

The CDC substation at Bougoura was also visited. There, Zollner and her escorts met with the Director of the Station at San., Mme. Cisse, who was visiting the villages and substations with a group of trainees for the Community Development school at Bamako. These trainees are the first class at the Community Development school and will finish their 4-year training in 1978.

Bougoura is considered a secondary CDC. There are two agents there, one male and one female and a traditional midwife or matron. There are six villages involved with this CDC.

At Koni, Zollner and company visited a CAR mixte run by the Catholic Church. It was financed in 1973 by the FED. This program is similar to the other CAR, except that the training lasts only 9-10 months for the couples. The staff includes four nuns, one of whom is a midwife, one monitrice and two agricultural agents.

The program is organized from May through January to accommodate the harvest season and the return of participants to their villages for this activity. The nuns, assisted by the priest in charge of the men, recruit the couples. The criteria again includes: (1) age; (2) what they describe as "a dynamic desire to progress"; (3) monogamous couples; (4) with children, they must bring someone to care for the children. One sister gives the girls who are brought to care for the children, lessons in childcare. They normally recruit from the same villages every year.

Follow-up by the nuns is done on a weekly basis. They also encourage their former participants to hold village meetings.

The former participants sell nivaquine and care for small wounds, etc. The nuns insist on example from former participants, peer group support and cooperation.

Yangasso is a state CAR which Zollner and company also visited.

The team also visited Koutiala in the CMDT area. Mme. Diawara insisted this visit was useful because the women of Koutiala had, on their own, insisted on a CDC and had gone ahead with raising their own funds to build the Center. The center is still unfurnished, but it seems the government is now willing to help the women finish the structure, while the CDC Headquarters has promised to help equip the Center.

This CDC would have the same programs as other CDCs.

In answer to Zollner's question as to what the women felt would be the most useful training in the proposed BWCDF Center, they answered:

- (1) Tie-dying;
- (2) Dressmaking, especially children's wear;
- (3) Embroidery, especially machine embroidery of household goods, sheets, etc.;
- (4) Weaving of tapistry;

- (5) Cooperative management;
- (6) Use of oil presses, i.e. peanut oil and kazite oil and the know-how for the commercialization of these products, as well as wood gathering, etc. Also the use of mills for millet, etc.;
- (7) Water problems and management;
- (8) small animal farming and gardening; and
- (9) catering: i.e. organizing food preparation and sale for factory workers, etc.

The women of Koutiala then went into a discussion of their particular needs including the setting-up of a factory for the preservation of mango and production of mango juice.

On Monday, July 25, in Bamako, Zollner attended an intra-ministerial meeting at Rural Development, presided over by the Directeur du Cabinet, Mr. Cissoko. This meeting was organized to work out the details of the project and its implementation.

All divisions and agencies of the Ministry of Rural Development were invited to attend, including the several operations with offices in Bamako.

The meeting was agreed, after much discussion and a near coup d'etat by OAVC, which had come as a three-man delegation with a proposal of their own, that they; (1) agreed with the philosophy of the project as presented in the BWCDF proposal, but that the project should be situated way out in the rural area and not at Ouelessebougon, which is within the region of Bamako and too close to the city; (2) that it should be as described in the BWCDF proposal as an integrated program; (3) that the OAVC zone of operation was the most favorable area from which to choose a new site and OAVC would provide the economic "encardement", much as Operation Riz had done for the CDCs; (4) that funds available, as was stated in the proposal, could be used to start two Centers, one in OAVC area only and a second in a zone which covered more than one operation, e.g. Yangasso; (5) that a working group consisting of Mr. Traore of OAVC, Mme. Thiane, Mme. Diawara and Mme. Zollner would spend the next 48 hours working on the details of the two Centers and the time table for implementation.

The Directeur du Cabinet, at this time, noted that all salaries for local personnel would continue to be paid by the government of Mali, allowing more funds for the two Centers.

It was agreed that the proposed Center would be considered national, even though recruitment, etc., would be limited to the immediate environs and the specific operation or operations in the area.

At the previous small committee meeting it was agreed that one center would be at Gidian, about 45 km. from KATI, the center of OAVC operations and that Gidian would recruit from the villages in the area and serve as a center for the mobile unit.

The second center would be at Yangasso, which rides herd on OAVC activities, Rice and CMDT activities. That Yangasso was (1) rural enough being 135 km. from Segou, 56 km. from San and 20 km. from Koni. (2) That Yangasso had a CAR mixte where the center would be established. (3) That the CDC at Bougoura was only a few minutes away. There is a maternity and a dispensary in Yangasso. (5) It is within a zone of functional alphabetization (Z.A.F.). (6) There existed a branch of the National

Federation of Cooperatives in Yangasso. (7) It is an important marketplace. (8) The population of Bamara was most open to innovation. (9) The French volunteers were also moving to the CAR at Yangasso. They also felt the head of the arrondissement was a particularly dynamic person, with a greater chance of success. The working team spent a half a day, well into the evening, elaborating on a program for Yangasso, which would also be used at Gidian with greater emphasis at Gidian on peanut production and utilization.

Mr. Traore and his team worked on the budget and building plans for both sites.

Unfortunately, Zollner was asked to leave Mali before the final project was to have been ready, discussed, polished and presented to the government for approval.

On the evening of Tuesday, July 26, Zollner found a "convocation" to the local police station for the next morning. She discussed this with friends, who felt it was nothing. However, she knew from the spelling of her name on the "convocation", Zolina (African) that the UNFM had something to do with it.

This suspicion seemed even more real, since she had been invited to the UNFM office by mistake that same evening. Mme. Tall said she had only asked someone to verify her address. The person had left a message that she was wanted at UNFM headquarters. The next morning, she went to the local police station, to be told that she had been asked to leave Mali within 24 hours. The officers said they could give me no reason why and were only executing orders. Thereupon Zollner went to the Ministry of Rural Development and was taken directly to see Minister of Labor, Assim Diawara, who was assuming the post of Minister of Rural Development while the minister was away from Mali. Minister Diawara went directly to the Presidency and came back and asked her to wait while he tried to reach the Director of Internal Security, who had signed the order. Zollner decided to plan to leave, whatever happened, since she had no intention of being mistreated by local police.

She went back to the Ministry and asked that they continue to develop the project, that the personality clash between her and the UNFM should in no way hinder the project. She said that she would report back to the BWCDF on the work accomplished and insisted that someone else, either an American or a Malian, assume Directorship.

She met with her committee and insisted on the same thing. She then went to AID and told Mr. Golden and local staff of the order.

That evening, Zollner was invited to dinner by Ambassador Byrne. She attended, but said nothing about the incident.

Meanwhile, the Minister had reached the Director of Internal Security, but Zollner was too upset to stay. She left the next morning for Abidjan. It has since been confirmed to her that the UNFM did indeed ask for her expulsion, pretending she was in Mali visiting the interior and making promises without their knowledge, or by insinuation.

She found the incident rather depressing, because to her, it proved the lack of professional knowledge on the part of the Director of Internal Security.

Because of the above-mentioned expulsion, Mrs. Zollner ended her contract with BWCDF effective July 28, 1977, the day of her departure from Bamako.

Upon her return to Washington, she met with the Executive Committee of the Board and me, to comprehensively explain her Malian "odessey" and, more importantly, to plead with BWCDF to see that everything be done to see the implementation of the project. In conclusion, Mrs. Zollner reported; "Again, I would like to stress that the Malians are most disposed to seeing the project implemented, once the questions of (1) funding assurance; (2) program content; and (3) continuity, etc., are agreed upon. Mali is still a dynamic place, in spite of my own personal problems."

Mrs. Joy Zollner immediately returned to her native home, Sierra Leon, where she now works and resides with her son.

PROJECT RECONSTRUCTION

Without evident provocation or notice, Joy Zollner's expulsion from Mali left BWCDF temporarily confused, insulted and uncertain. An urgent meeting of the Board of Directors was called.

While the Board meeting was being confirmed, I received an unexpected phone call from the African-American Institute's D.C. office, introducing Mr. Moustapha DEME to me (Director General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mali). The caller said that Mr. Deme was in Washington and wanted to meet with me regarding the status of BWCDF's project in Mali.

I, along with a few Board members, met with Mr. Deme on Friday, August 26 at BWCDF's office, during which time Deme assured us that Mali still wanted to work with BWCDF on the development of the project. He expressed regret for the circumstances surrounding the expulsion of Ms. Zollner and implied that her expulsion was due to her own professional and personal indiscretions. With intentional evasions and avoidance, no further explanations were given or expounded upon.

However, Mr. Deme did spend much time reiterating the point that the Malian government wanted to renew/re-establish a working relationship with the Foundation.

Mr. Deme left Washington shortly thereafter with background materials on BWCDF's project in his possession. He returned to Washington and met with me for lunch on September 21, 1977 at which time he invited me and a member of the Board of Directors to come to Mali for a first-hand assessment of the situation, for re-negotiations and to set the project in motion.

At the confirmed meeting of the BWCDF Board on the following day, September 22, 1977, it was agreed that I and a representative of the Board would go to Bamako at the earliest possible time to meet with Malian government representatives and the UNFM. The purpose of such a visit, as we saw it, was to determine the feasibility of continuing with the projected rural development program for women in light of the "inhospitable treatment" afforded our representative. Clearance for travel was given by our AID contracts and project officers. The AID mission in Mali was notified along with the Foreign Ministry, the UNFM and the American Embassy.

The Malian Ambassador assigned to Washington His Excellency Ibrahima Sima, attended this September 22 Board meeting.

Visit to Bamako, Mali: October 9 - 21, 1977

I arrived in Bamako October 9, 1977 accompanied by Miss Yvonne Williams, BWCDF Board of Directors Treasurer.

This trip was not productive in pinning down specific details of the project as had been hoped and planned. This result stems largely from the fact that there was no basis of continuity with Joy's trip. It was clear that the clock had been turned back, completely erasing any initiatives undertaken by Joy. Even with the intervention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we were never able to get a copy of the working paper started by Joy, as described in her report. We were told that this document was no longer relevant.

Our visit was programmed by the UNFM, with the endorsement of M. Deme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a series of visits to relevant ministries, to be followed by an all-day work session with ministry representatives. We cooperated in good faith, on the assurance that matters were being worked out among the Malians behind closed doors in a way that the women's group would not lose face, but so that the project would be assured a sound organizational framework.

Arriving Sunday afternoon, October 9, BWCDF representatives were met by a delegation of Malians from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Union Nationale des Femmes du Mali. This delegation consisted of Mme. Hawa Wane, Chief of the Division of Social and Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mlle. Hawa Diallo, Conseiller Technique, Ministry of Health and Head of External Relations, UNFM; Mme. Toure, Office of Protocol Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mme. Diakite, UNFM; Mme. Bengaly, UNFM; M. Boubacar Daou, Assistant to Mr. Myron Golden at USAID. M. Moustapha Deme, who had met with BWCDF representatives in Washington, arrived from Geneva on the same flight. We were taken to our hotel and the UNFM indicated they would call for us at 9 the next morning. Shortly after our arrival, Myron Golden of AID called on us and reviewed the background of the project and Joy's visit.

UNFM Member Mme. Faty Diawara, Director of a teacher-training school, called for us before nine o'clock Monday morning. We went directly to the UNFM and met with Mme. Fatou Tall, the Secretary General. Mme. Tall indicated that she was pleased that we had come and that we were still interested in the project. She expressed regret that they "had to ask Mme. Zollner to leave." She said that Mm. Zollner had shown disrespect for the President's wife.

Also, they were displeased that Mme. Zollner had arrived unannounced, had not coordinated her stay with UNFM and had taken the project to the Ministry of Rural Development. Mme. Tall expressed hope that the project could now proceed forthwith as a considerable amount of time had been lost. She complemented Moustapha Deme for the role he played in clarifying the issues. Mme. Tall apologized that the UNFM was very busily engaged in nightly meetings all over the city in preparations for their December Congress. She indicated that these responsibilities would limit their availability to meet with us. She also explained that her mother had died only four days before our arrival and this had placed limitations on her ability to receive us as she had wished. We indicated that BWCDF was quite shocked and concerned at Joy's expulsion. However, we had decided to pursue the matter as we were still interested in attempting to launch a project which would aid rural women in Mali.

We went to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs where we met with the Minister, M. Keita Mamadi and Dr. Traore Gaoussou, Directeur de Cabinet. M. Keita welcomed us and indicated he was pleased that the project was still alive. M. Keita asked if it were correct

that we would be working only with the UNFM. We indicated that we were interested in working with all elements of the Malian government which could contribute to the success of the project. As the government had the most comprehensive knowledge in this regard, it would be up to the government to determine the framework in which we would work. I had the impression that M. Keita was somewhat relieved by this response. He stated that he wanted to confirm that the project wasn't limited to the UNFM, but was in fact a grant to the Mali government for a project to be coordinated among the various ministries by the government.

We then returned for lunch, fully expecting to resume our scheduled afternoon program, beginning with a visit to the Director General of Social Affairs. When we arrived there at the appointed time, we were informed that the UNFM had cancelled the appointment and that it would be rescheduled for another time. We went to the UNFM to see what had happened but it was deserted. We proceeded to our next appointment with Moustapha Deme at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. We met with M. Deme and Mme. Hawa Wane, Chief of the Division of Social and Cultural Cooperation. They were surprised at the change in schedule, but assured us that any problems would be

ironed out in an interministerial meeting among the Malian Ministries scheduled for the following afternoon. M. Deme and Mme. Wane reviewed the program set up by UNFM and indicated their approval of it. M. Deme also explained that some of the appointments were set up to follow up several project ideas which he had discussed with me during his Washington visit.

We were scheduled to meet with the Minister of Rural Development at 9 A.M. on Tuesday morning. Our UNFM hostess from the previous morning had said she would pick us up at 8:45. When she had not arrived by 9:10, I telephoned the UNFM. When I finally got through to Mme. Tall, she said she was so sorry, but UNFM had not had time to make the appointments and that we had a free morning. We were quite shocked at this turn of events, even moreso when we learned that the appointment with Rural Development had actually been made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the people at Rural Development wondered why we never showed up. While deciding what would be the next move, we were joined by Mme. Marico (not Aminata) of the Protocol Office of Foreign Affairs. She said she had been waiting at Rural Development to meet us and accompany us on the rest of our visit.

We then decided, that we would have to continue our program with the use of an AID vehicle, which Myron Golden had graciously arranged to place at our disposal. Accompanied by Mme. Marico, we resumed our program with an afternoon visit to the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications. This meeting had been scheduled at the suggestion of M. Deme to explore the availability of films and other materials which would be useful in publicizing future Mali - BWCDF cooperative projects. We met with the Directeur du Cabinet who also agreed to provide a photographer for certain of our visits.

Because of the growing importance of the AID Mission Chiefs with respect to activities in countries for which they are responsible, we decided to meet with Ron Levin and discuss developments with respect to the program. The visit was useful in conveying to AID our current approach of working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in an attempt to get the program back on the track. He seemed convinced that our approach was sound and indicated a willingness to assist.

One Wednesday morning, we called on the Governor of the Region of Koulikoro. Koulikoro is the region in which Ouelessebougu is located. The Governor was a

very expansive person who talked at some length on the importance of cooperative efforts between Mali and the United States. He particularly praised the work of Africare in well-digging and of Sister Cities. He stated that he was very pleased that our project would be in his region and offered to cooperate in any way he could. We accepted his graciousness and, given our understanding with M. Deme that inter-Ministerial differences would be worked out among the Malians, we did not mention that there was a question as to whether the project would really take place in Ouelessebouyou. The following visit to the Mayor of Bamako was wholly ceremonial.

We then met with the United States Ambassador Patricia Byrnes. Ambassador Byrnes stated that she was very concerned as to how things were going and that she was very eager to have the project get off the ground. She seemed quite shocked at what had happened to Joy and was pleased that we were now working with Foreign Affairs in attempting to coordinate among the Ministries. We received the invitation list for a reception which she would host at the end of our visit, for the Ministry and UNFM officials with whom we would be working.

In the afternoon we met with M. Zakara Traore and Mme. Sacko Koumba at the Direction Nationale de la Cooperation. This service is responsible for the development of rural and urban cooperatives. Mme. Koumba is responsible for the women's section which was initiated in 1975 under a grant from a Canadian Foundation. The areas of concentration for the rural cooperatives include agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry, transport and handicrafts. In urban areas, the service is promoting the development of consumer cooperatives, of which 57 are now located in Bamako. Mme. Koumba added that once production at the artisanal coops were expanded, they would be interested in seeking external markets.

Thursday visits related essentially to arts and culture including visits to M. Sedipho Niang, Director of the National Weaving and Rug-Making Workshop, a women's tie-dye cooperative at Tomikorobougou and M. N' Tii Indriss Mariko, National Director of Arts and Culture.

At our request, the meeting with the Ministry of Rural Development was rescheduled for Thursday afternoon. We met with M. Ouedji Diallo, Conseiller Technique responsible for non-governmental organizations.

We asked Mr. Diallo about Joy's Tollner's report and he stated that it was no longer relevant. He indicated that Rural Development would be working under the direction of the UNFM which was best placed to oversee a project relating to women. I did not sense from his comments or from his response to our questions any sense of continuity with Joy's earlier meetings with Rural Development. Unfortunately, the Minister was out of the country and therefore, not available to provide further clarification.

The interministerial workshop was held on Friday, the 14th, at the Direction Generale of Social Affairs. This is the section of the Ministry of Health responsible for the UNFM. Dr. Abdoul Karem Sangare, Inspector General of Health, presided over the meeting. Mme. Tall was seated next to him. Other ministries and services represented included: Rural Development (M. Ouedji Diallo); UNFM (Mlle. Hawa Diallo); Affairs Sociales (M. Arouna) Dembelle and M. Boubacar Keita; the Government of Koulikoro (M. Camara); Ministry of Plan.

A memorandum prepared by Moustapha Deme upon his return from the United States formed the agenda for the meeting. In opening the meeting, Dr. Sangare reviewed the background of the project from the visit of the

feasibility team in 1975 and its ultimate selection of Mali as the location for the project.

He stated that the Malian government had chosen Ouelessebouyou. He emphasized that the project had been from the beginning a project under the "tutelle" UNFM and hence under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. He noted that following the visit of Joy Zollner and her expulsion, the UNFM had thought the project was dead. It was only following the meeting of Moustapha Deme with BWCDF in Washington that they realized the project might still be possible. The points raised in Deme's Washington discussion would form the basis for the meeting. As we had not previously seen the report, I asked for copies and time to read it. We were given copies and it was read aloud in its entirety by one of the participants. (See attachment). Following the reading I stated that the substance of the report was accurate but emphasized that our primary purpose in coming to Mali was to work out the details for implementing the rural development projects. Other possible future projects noted by Deme in his report were only the subject of tentative exploratory conversations and need not be made a part of the workshop agenda.

The following points were discussed:

a) Location of Project

Dr. Sangare stated that the project would take place at Ouelessebouyou, 65 kilometers from Bamako. This location was selected because a development center is already located there. The C.A.R. would set aside 10 of its 60 hectares for the use of the project. He noted that the government had already made some preliminary investments in the form of lodgings. No mention was made of billing BWCDF for these lodgings. He added that Ouelessebouyou is the site of a weekly fair attended by 50 villages and would therefore be well-suited for the involvement of several departments.

b) Design and construction of buildings.

The Malians proposed two kinds of structures: initial structures to get the project started and additional structures for the international phase of the project. The Mali government decided in favor of traditional type structures.

The government would be responsible for building the lodgings for the students ("casas") and the classrooms and the BWCDF was asked to be responsible for the offices and lodging for the project director. BWCDF was asked if it could build two wells. We indicated that this had not been envisaged in the project budget. We suggested that cost estimates be provided if the matter were to be considered formally.

what is the project

The representative of the Ministry of Plan asked if there were a complete budget giving cost estimates for the entire project. Dr. Sangare replied that the negotiations had not yet reached that state. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that cost estimates would be provided before our departure.

c) Organizational framework.

It was stated that the Mali government had decided that the project would be conducted through the UNFM under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

The following Ministries were designated to collaborate and name permanent project representatives: Health, Plan, Rural Development, National Education, Youth and Sports, Finance and Commerce, Region of Koulikoro. The UNFM was to follow up with their ministries to get the names of their representatives.

d) Staffing

The Malians agreed to place at the disposition of the project maintenance personnel and instructional personnel already on government payroll. BWCDF would be expected to provide the "personnel specialist."

e) Course of study

Mali will draft a design of the content of the program study. The UNFM agreed to prepare before the arrival of the BWCDF representative a draft program of study, coordinating the participation of the various ministries.

M. Toure of the Community Development Service would assist in this regard.

f) Equipment

The UNFM agreed to prepare an equipment list with prices. Among the equipment they expected to request were two cars: a Land Rover 109 SW and a Peugeot 504 Commerciale.

g) Director

The UNFM recommended a Malian director for the project to assure that the project would be properly initiated in the country and well-accepted by the people. We raised the Foundation's concern for assuring the administrative accountability with respect to AID. After a brief discussion it was agreed that there would be co-directors, a Malian and an American.

h) Date of Commencement

The UNFM explained that it was fully engaged in preparation of its Congress for the month of December and would not be able to give full attention to the project until afterwards. They suggested January 16, 1978 as a starting date for the project.

Several Ministry representatives recommended to Mme. Tall that she name a UNFM person to be responsible for the project and not delay because of the Congress. Mme. Tall did not seem responsive to this suggestion and did not indicate whether or not she would do so. She did agree, however, to prepare the information noted above before the BWCDF representative would arrive, tentatively on December 1.

We went directly from this meeting to the reception hosted by Ambassador Byrne. Mme. Tall and UNFM representatives had been invited and the time of the reception had been set early to accommodate them. Mme. Tall apologized, however, that she and the other representatives would be unable to attend. Moustaphe Deme and two associates did attend the reception.

We spent Saturday morning in Ouelessebouyou. Mm. Demba Diallo, Director of the C.A.R., took us to visit the lodgings that had been started. He showed what work would have to be done to prepare them for habitation. The structure included 8 traditional style dwellings made of earth and grasses. There was also a refectory and a storage structure and a classroom both of which were to have tin roofs, he stated. He described the program of the C.A.R. which has already been covered in the report of the feasibility team.

We visited the government funded maternity center nearby and met the French nun who runs it. Two UNFM representatives of the area also appeared to welcome us.

Interestingly, no UNFM representatives accompanied us from Bamako. There was considerable discussion at the Friday meeting as to who would accompany us. The UNFM succeeded in shifting this role entirely to others and we were accompanied by an Amadou Toure of the Direction Nationale des Affaires Sociales and M. Wali of Commerce, Chef du Cabinet of the Government, Region of Koulikoro.

Miss Williams returned to Washington October 16, 1977. I stayed.

During the following week, I had several meetings with Mme. Fatou Tall, UNFM Secretary General. Always present with us were Myron Golden, A.I.D., and M. Boubacar Daou, A.I.D. as translator.

The first such meetings occurred on the morning of Monday, October 17. Much of our meetings focused on establishing a clear working relationship between BWCDF, UNFM and the Malian government.

Mme. Tall reiterated the circumstances of Joy's expulsion: disrespect for the President's wife (who is also President of UNFM) un-ladylike and unprofessional conduct and an allegation that Joy had become personally involved with a high male government official (who had since been "demoted" and reassigned in the interior). All of this was Mme. Tall's account.

(Note: Because of Joy's report, I was suspicious as to Tall's reasoning which, later I discovered, had been spread throughout the Malian government).

Mme. Tall re-emphasized that, in expelling Joy, they were expelling an individual, not a representative from BWCDF or BWCDF itself, since she was not told, even by Joy herself, that Joy was acting in an official position or capacity in behalf of BWCDF.

Mme. Tall also pointed out that it was the UNFM that acted as hostess to the feasibility team and coordinated much of their preliminary efforts. She elaborated that this function also included absorbing some of the BWCDF team's expenses out of their own revenues. Mme. Tall acknowledged that Joy had made a courtesy call to them, but had not discussed the project with them and they were offended.

Mme. Tall assured me that, once she has an official notice from BWCDF approved by the Malian government of the presence of a BWCDF representative working in Mali, the BWCDF representative would not be expelled from Mali (unless because of extreme security measures) without notification to and redress from BWCDF.

I apologized to Mme. Tall on behalf of BWCDF for not observing Mali's protocol and for not sending notification of Joy's status with BWCDF, her arrival in Mali, or BWCDF's project position (what we hoped to accomplish). I explained the circumstances of Joy's hasty departure from the U.S., interval time and arrival in Mali. We both agreed that the matter of Joy was "water-over-the-dam" and we would move forward with a new beginning and in a constructive, fresh, positive manner.

In subsequent meetings, Mme. Tall requested that BWCDF return to Mali the second week of January, 1978 with: (1) a BWCDF field director for Mali; (2) technical expertise to help design the specific framework of the project, so that the necessities can be ordered and curriculum, logistics and time-table designed for implementation. Also at this time, BWCDF should have a written working agreement for the Malian government to sign.

Before the next BWCDF visit to Mali, UNFM was to have sent to us; (1) a breakdown of the responsibilities Mali will assume (mostly in-kind services) with cost analysis; (2) BWCDF's general responsibilities, including a budget breakdown; (3) a list of equipment, supplies, etc.; and (4) an official letter on the present status of BWCDF's project in Mali and actions being taken in preparation for the next visit, to ensure maximum usage of time, especially in light of reporting requirements to A.I.D.

None of this was ever received by BWCDF.

My last meeting with Mme. Tali was the day I left Mali, Friday, October 21, at which time she introduced me to Mme. Troare, the President's wife. Mme. Traore said that she was looking forward to working with her Black sisters, toward international development in general and BWCDF in particular. She said she was aware of the dynamic projects undertaken by BWCDF in the U.S., respected our capabilities to get a job done promised UNFM's full cooperation and assistance. She also interjected that UNFM would be utilizing Mali's Ministry of Rural Development for their expertise, along with the other ministries and that she is aware that this project will involve learning experiences for both organizations.

I met with M. Moriba Sissoko, le Directeur du Cabinet in the Ministry of Rural Development. M. Oeudii Diallo, Sissoko's assistant, who he has designated to work with the UNFM on BWCDF's project. (Sissoko was out of town while Yvonne Williams was in Mali and waiting for his return was one reason I extended my visit).

I began by briefing M. Sissoko on Yvonne's and my stay in Mali the previous week. He asked me why we had not kept our appointment with him the morning of Tuesday, October 10. I explained that UNFM told us the meeting had not been set up and that Mme. Marico, in the Foreign Affairs Protocol office, had been to Rural Development to meet us and when she did join us at the hotel, said that we were not on Rural Development's appointment calendar. M. Sissoko said that he was approached by M. Deme himself to schedule the meeting and had not told his secretary to confirm the appointment with UNFM. I asked how it made the UNFM schedule given to us by them. Sissoko replied that the time was a tentative "request" that was set up, but not confirmed with UNFM. He assured me that the confusion had nothing to do with the UNFM sabotaging the appointment, but rather with the lack of communication because of his schedule and abrupt travel schedule. In short, Sissoko thought Deme was going to tell UNFM and Deme though Sissoko had.

I asked Sissoko about Mrs. Zollner's report. He said the report in question was not Zollner's but Rural Development's report. He said he had designed the report at Zollner's request, as a working paper, assuming that the necessary procedures and authorizations had been made/ approved for Joy to pursue official, sanctioned implementation. Therefore, the report was no longer relevant, in view of the circumstances surrounding the report and since UNFM was going to coordinate the project as decided/assigned by the government of Mali.

I asked what role Rural Development would play in the planning, implementation and development of the project to ensure goal-oriented success. M. Sissoko explained that Rural Development would work with BWCDF and UNFM in; (1) designing the overall and "phase" budgets within the framework of available funds; (2) coordinate the ordering and delivery of supplies and equipment; (3) review all developmental steps to ensure maximum use of all monies, energy and time; and (4) act as consultant to UNFM when requested or needed.

M. Sissoko said that Rural Development would meet with Mme. Tall in preparation of the budget to be submitted to BWCDF and would directly keep lines of commu-

nication open between Rural Development and BWCDF. He said he looked forward to working with us and was sure that the project would be successful in helping improve the quality of life in rural Mali and rural Sahel.

I spent a considerable amount of time, on different occasions, with M. Deme trying to understand the present situation in Mali. From these conversations, M. Deme confirmed directly or indirectly, that: (1) BWCDF must work with UNFM because they were acting as hostesses/ coordinators for the feasibility team and subsequent follow-through (although minimal); and (2) our project is a women's program and we should therefore work with Mali's women representatives. I responded to M. Deme that BWCDF preferred not to work with a political group, but, rather with the Malian government. His answer was that UNFM is an elected body representing the choice of the people as to who should speak for the women in Mali. Therefore, they should not be considered any more or any less of a political entity than the government ministries. UNFM is a "Congress" and we should therefore work with the women chosen to represent their country.

M. Deme acknowledged that there are internal problems among which is a not-too-amiable relationship between the UNFM and certain representatives of the ministries, especially in the arena of political clout (again, the President of Mali's wife is the President of the UNFM). He implied that they could be influenced, to get full cooperation, but that it must be done tactfully by those within the system and by those whom the women respect. Deme said that he has no doubt that the UNFM would work to ensure the success of the project because, since they are elected, they would only want to be associated with successful developmental operations, especially in rural areas where they want to increase support.

The Foreign Ministry would oversee the project on behalf of the government of Mali. Developmentally, the project site should be Segou and ministerial discussions were taking place to relocate the project to Segou. M. Deme assured me that, if I left the internal logistics in his hands, details would be worked out with full cooperation from all parties concerned. M. Deme said he would have these details to me by mid-November, when he was expected to visit Washington. M. Deme said that he would assign a task force of Malians to work toward achieving this end.

(Mr. Deme has never returned to Washington).

M. Deme said that all queries about the UNFM or the ministries should be addressed to him, since his responsibility is to oversee internal cooperation on behalf of the Foreign Ministry.

I engaged in several lengthy discussions with A.I.D. representatives: Ronald Levin, Myron Golden and Thom Park. Mali/A.I.D.'s position is that they understand the problems. If we can manage to work with UNFM, it would have been an accomplishment in itself for women in development. They believe strongly that BWCDF has the capability to work these problems out. The A.I.D. team interpreted BWCDF's most recent concerns as approaching an almost defeatist attitude before even trying.

A.I.D. representatives in Mali saw no alternatives as to how BWCDF could alter the terms of the grant. They indicated flexibility as to such changes as project site (within Mali) methodology, project design and phase implementation -- as long as we stay within the 3-year budget. Also, there was a possibility of additional funding if the project is underway successfully.

Also, I was told not to worry about how many trips are taken to Mali as long as there is funding available for the trips; and trips to improve the lines of communication are needed for the success of the project. A.I.D. Mali gave me their full support and understanding.

I left Bamako the same day as these encouraging words from AID/Mali, October 21, 1977.

The following report was submitted by Mr. Moustapha DEME after his return to Mali from the United States. It was distributed to Malian government officials and to the UNFM, and is in its original form as presented to us. It was translated into English by his office.

It was the basis of our workshop as mentioned on page 58.

Meeting Notice No. 1110/MSP - AS/CAP

Are invited to participate in a meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 1977 at 15 o'clock in the Conference room of the National Director of Social Affairs under the Presidency of Dr. Gaswsou Traore, Director of Cabinet.

- The Executive Bureau of UNFM.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Plan.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- A Representative of the Ministry of National Education.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Commerce.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture.
- A Representative of the Governor of Koulikors Region.
- The General Director of Social Affairs.

Agenda

Meeting with the Representative of the Black Women's Community Development Foundation to discuss the creation of a Community Development Center aimed at the training of rural nurses in Ouelessebougou.

NB. The members of the National Commission for the Promotion of Women are requested to study the documents given to them on the subject project.

The Director General of Social Affairs will choose one of his personnel to be secretary to the meeting.

Note on the talks the Director General of International Cooperation had with the Black Women's Community Development Foundation.

(August 23 - September 20, 1977)

Personalities met:

Mrs. Herchelle Challenor - President
Ms. Patricia Eaton - Executive Director

- 1 - The Foundation started talks in 1972 with the UNFM to implement in Mali a Community Development Center for African Women, aimed at being open, in the following steps, to other Sahelian countries.
- 2 - After contracts made for founding, USAID has committed itself to give funds up to \$250,000 to cover implementation and operating costs of the project for two-years.
- 3 - After the expulsion of Mrs. Zollner, representative of the Foundation and Director of the Mali project at the beginning of 1977, the progress of the project has been stopped.
- 4 - The UNFM members gave mission to the Director of International Cooperation, going to Washington to explain to the President and the Executive Director of the Foundation that Mrs. Zollner's expulsion does in no way mean that Mali is not interested in the Black Women's Community Development project.

The leaders of the Foundation, who were very sorry for the apparent failure of their first trial in Africa, seemed relieved to learn anew that Malian women are still interested in the project.

They have expressed their satisfaction and joy to be able to continue the project and have raised the following points necessary for the pursuit of the project.

The modalities of use of the \$250,000 must be stated in a complete and precise document that the Foundation must submit to AID before January 1, 1978.

(The date anticipated by the fiscal regulations of USAID was September 30, but an extension of 4 additional months has been agreed on).

An agreement was to be reached between Mali and the Foundation before that date and that is the main reason why the Executive Director of the Foundation, Ms. Eaton, would wish that Mali gives the quickest possible his accord to the Mission. She would like to undertake in Mali from October 9 to October 17, accompanied by Ms. Yvonne Williams to discuss this agreement and in particular the following points.

- a) geographic location of the Center
- b) design and ways of building the houses that should be the quarters of the Center
- c) location of the office (in the Center or on another site near communication facilities)
- d) institutional framework of the project and in particular definition of the Autor authority and naming of all the Malian collaborators.

Issues related to the local personnel (availability, recruiting, salaries etc...). Questions related to trainees (number and obligations).

- g) curriculum
- h) inventory of the supplies necessary to the Center. Office and dormitory supplies.

Identification of the type of the two vehicles.

- i) definition of the shape that the foundation will give the project (part of Director or deputy Director)
- j) definition of the Malian contribution (Government and UNFM)
- k) tripartite understanding foundation/Mali/USAID.
- l) after the center of this first mission, a second mission of the foundation will come to Mali.

After the return of this 1st mission, the 2nd mission of the foundation will come to Mali, starting the 1st of November, to submit to USAID the last elements of the documents. One member of this delegation, Miss French, would return to the U.S. on November 30th. The others will stay longer following the beginning of the implementation. This person will probably be one of the directors of the project.

If the program so defined progresses normally, the Foundation will be able to negotiate and get second financial advances from AID for the following fiscal year.

The foundation will also seek other sources of financing and will be able to bring an additional contribution if these resources improved.

Observations

The contribution from AID is a contribution given to Black American Women for a project in Mali and not directly to Mali.

The \$250,000 will be appropriated to the foundation, which is the only one responsible for using it in regards to program presented in the fields to be submitted by January 1, 1978.

Therefore, the only counterpart (partner) of UNFM and the government of Mali is the Foundation, who is in charge of reporting to USAID for justification of expenses and the continuing of the program.

- II. The interest of the Black American Woman for this project finds its explanation in the drive to the return of "Roots" of mother Africa that enlivens the emancipation movement of American Blacks enlarged by Alex Haley's book. The very successful televised film that resulted from the book.
- III. The foundation has in the United States many sub-groups and connections that could be useful, in particular personal connections that Herchelle has, who is very influential in the Congress.

Among the things that the Foundation can bring to Mali is the promotion of the furtherance of tourism, the support of supplying to Mali prefabricated hospitals and dispensaries that the government of the U.S. built. Note: U.S. built these during Cuban Crisis, many years ago for bombing against USSR. Material is outdated, is now donated, given away to Latin American countries through the Pan Am Foundation.

And finally, the support for the success of a tour of the artistic floreit troupe, and exhibit of arts and handicraft objects from Mali to the United States next year, starting in Rochester, in accordance with the agreement with Sister Cities, in the state of New York, and Bamoko.

The extension of these (rejoicings) to other American cities (other than Rochester) is a viability condition, for this rejoicing will be very fruitful because of the number of cities (places) that will welcome them. The support of other organizations such as AAI and NAACP, the African tourism association, and associations such as Pan Am have already been announced to the director general of international cooperation and could be asked for confirmation if the government accepted the project.

Miss Eaton has many connections in television (ABC) and would be able to get a free advertisement for the needs of this project. The Foundation is also interested in the sale of the eye dyes and braiding exhibitions and sale from Mali. The potential market is very important.

Conclusion

For all the above mentioned reasons, and on account of the important role played by women, Black and White, in the American society, on account of the particular importance of the Black women in this (American) society, and on account of the benefits that UNFM can have from this project, it would be good that good relations be maintained with this organization and in particular that the joint project of the CDC be a positive test for the cooperation that they will have with this organization.

N.B. During her mission from 9-17 October, 1977 Miss Eaton, Executive Director of the Foundation, would wish to visit the site that will be chosen for the project and be able to hear artistic and flurist.

Her recordings from this musical group, be accompanied during her stay by a professional photographer of the chosen center, picture of floriec and artie groups, all pictures of tourist aspects of Mali.

AN INTERVAL

Upon my return from Mali, I was submerged immediately with BWCDF matters, especially the work which had piled up in my absence and taking up where I had left off in re-establishing the Foundation.

I was also given the responsibility of interviewing a new Mali Project Director. This took months; over 30 people were interviewed. In December, 1977, I had narrowed the interviews down to 3, all of whom were interviewed by the Executive Committee on the Board. Upon my strong recommendation, Mrs. Jacquelyn Briggs was selected as the Project Director and approved by the Board.

Because Mrs. Briggs was presently employed and had to fulfill her current obligations, she was not available to assume the position until February 2, 1978.

In the interim, I was reviewing the project with Ambassador Sima (Mali's ambassador to Washington) re-drafting/updating the proposal and preparing for our return to Bamako as requested by the Malian government in October, 1977 -- with a Project Director and technical advisor to begin implementation.

BWCDF's Observance of the

UNFM Congress

December 26, 27, 28, 1977

Bamako, Mali

In early December, 1977, BWCDF received a telex by way of our AID Project Officer, inviting a representative from BWCDF to attend the Annual Congress in Bamako December 26-27-28, 1977, an event to which they invite various foreign women's groups to send delegates as observers. Mme. Fatou Tall, at that time UNFM Secretary General, had specifically asked the Mission to transmit the invitation (by cable) to the BWCDF.

I, the Executive Director asked Mary Ann French, BWCDF's Director of Program Administration, to attend the Congress.

Here follows first a broad day-to-day description of Mary Ann French's activities while attending this three-day conference of the UNFM in Bamako. Interspersed in this description also are her reactions of some of the activities.

Also, you will find:

- the official UNFM schedule for the conference;
- the address she made on behalf of BWCDF to the congress; and
- a listing of newly elected UNFM officers.

She arrived in Bamako Monday, December 26, at 5:00 P.M.; unfortunately due to the timing of the invitation to attend this UNFM conference and its conflict with the holiday season, she was unable to secure flights which would deliver her to Bamako in time to attend the first day opening session, which was when the UNFM had scheduled the foreign delegates to give their addresses to the congress.

Her official UNFM guide, Mme. Traore and two other UNFM representatives met her as soon as she deplaned. She was escorted into the first class lounge while her entry and baggage were taken care for her. Mr. Myron Golden of AID, arrived to welcome her. Mr. Clarke from the American Embassy arrived to greet her and quickly departed.

Mme. Traore had her chauffeured to L'Amitie Hotel, where the conference was held and where the UNFM had arranged for her to stay.

While she was checking in the hotel, Mme. Traore and Myron Golden discussed arranging a "translator/guide" for her to facilitate her full understanding of the conference sessions, as often in the heat of a discussion their French was spoken very fast, lapsing into Bamara. Mr. Golden agreed to have AID supply her with such a person beginning the next morning.

Mme. Traore and her associate seemed eager for Ms. French to change clothes so that she could attend the evening's sessions and in fact, waited outside her hotel room while she did so. When she emerged, however, she was told that the schedule had been changed and that she wouldn't be attending any sessions until the following morning. It was explained to her by Mme. Traore and her associate that the foreign delegates had the evening free and they had arranged for them to have dinner in the hotel restaurant. As she had been traveling for 24 hours and was exhausted, Ms. French took the opportunity to rest that evening.

On Tuesday, December 27, Mr. Golden arrived early in the morning with her translator/guide, Daou. They then attempted to learn of her schedule from Mme. Traore so that she could determine when she would be able to give her address and when she would have need of Daou during the day.

Mme. Traore said that the foreign delegates were to go on an outing that morning to Ouelessebouyou and would return to the hotel for lunch, with the remainder of the afternoon free.

Mr. Golden told Miss French that he had heard during the opening session on Monday a couple of foreign delegates had gotten into political areas of discussion which were uncomplimentary to the U.S. He didn't quite know all of the details, but said that the American Charge d' Affairs, Ralph H. Graner (Ambassador Byrne was on leave) wanted to see her when she had a chance. They arranged for Mr. Golden to pick her up from the hotel that afternoon.

The outing to Ouelessebouyou was very interesting. They rode in a new UNFM bus; her guide Mme. Traore, was obviously the most powerful, influential leader of the group of UNFM "Guides to Foreign Delegates."

Throughout the bus ride, the guides attempted to keep the atmosphere light and gay by having delegates sing songs from their native countries.

The foreign countries represented included Somalia, Guinea, Togo, Upper Volta, Senegal, West Germany, East Germany, Korea, Soviet Union and the United States.

Once in Ouelessebouyou, they toured the medical facilities, classrooms for the instruction of the matrons, sewing, reading and writing, tie-dying, etc.

After their return to the hotel, the West German delegate asked her to sit with her for lunch as she wanted to relate to her what had happened during the first day. She expressed her gladness to see Miss French, as they were the only delegates present who represented organizations which weren't directly connected to their governments. Her organization (West German) is a federation of all the women's clubs, groups and organizations in West Germany, representing seven million women in all, including opposing political parties.

Evidently, during their addresses to the conference, the Koreans had condemned the U.S. presence in South Korea and the Soviets had unfavorably discussed in detail the U.S. development of the nuclear bomb. The West German delegate said that the UNFM seemed bored by both of the discourses, which were long and dry and obviously had been written by someone other than the women who delivered them.

Afterwards, Mme. Tall gave a long detailed report of the UNFM's past and current activities.

Mr. Golden arrived to take her to the American Embassy, where she met with Mr. Graner, the Charge d' Affairs. Graner told her that "his friend" the West German Ambassador, had called him to tell him of the happenings the day before. They expected the Korean attack, but the Soviets had surprised them which annoyed them a great deal.

Graner said that the Soviets were hosting a soiree Thursday night which he planned to have the American sector boycott. Miss French then informed him that she was scheduled to leave Thursday morning so there would be no problem.

Graner said that in light of what had transpired so far during the conference, he would be interested in learning of anything additional in the same vein that might transpire. He didn't want to make Miss French feel awkward, although she was under no obligation, but he would have appreciated any help she could give him.

She told him everything that she knew of what had transpired, as she had nothing to hide and also added that as BWCDF is a private organization, would not be involved in any international policy or political entanglements at any rate.

Myron Golden then took her on a tour of the AID offices and introduced her to Ron Levin. Levin asked her how things were going, which in turn, she gave him a brief synopsis and Graner agreed with her interpretation of the UNFM closing the sessions to foreign delegates as an attempt to shield their U.S. delegate from any atmospheric discomfort. It was obvious that the UNFM was not pleased with those foreign delegates who had used their conference as a political forum and an opportunity to attack another of their invited guest.

Levin said he was very pleased that BWCDF had come, as other countries had in the past sent delegates to UNFM affairs where the U.S. was never represented.

That afternoon, Ms. French returned to the hotel where she had the opportunity to meet officially, Mme. Marian Traore, President of the UNFM and First Lady of Mali and Mme. Tall, at that time, Secretary General of the UNFM; both were ingulfed in hectic schedules and didn't have the time to converse extensively.

Ms. French was also able to talk with some of the foreign African delegates to get a clearer picture of how the UNFM operates as a political lobby in Mali and to learn of some of the issues being discussed during the conference.

Evidently, polygamy was one of the foremost concerns, while the urban, more educated and experienced women were pushing for the complete outlawing of polygamy (as Guinea had recently done) the rural women were supporting certain guidelines to accompany the practice, such as separate houses for each wife, etc.

Many of the rural women spoke only Bamara and it was necessary to depend on the French translation of their views.

That evening, she met with Moustapha Deme, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. who advised her that the UNFM was very supportive of BWCDF's project and told her unofficially that they had agreed to have the project in Ouelessebouyou, as originally planned.

Deme reviewed the address she was to give and strongly advised that BWCDF include some mention of the project, emphasizing the time that had been spent to date planning for it and hoping BWCDF could very shortly get it underway. He recommended that she speak with Mme. Tall before she gave the address and diplomatically, forcefully, but not overbearingly, impress upon her the importance of getting some concrete time-table established and working together towards the immediate launching and success of the project.

During breakfast on Wednesday, December 28, she learned that the foreign delegates were scheduled to

) visit a textile factory in the morning, break for lunch and then observe the school for the blind in the afternoon.

By this time, it was apparent that these outings and activities were being planned for the delegates rather than having them attend the sessions for a combination of reasons:

- a number of the sessions were preplanned to be closed to enable the UNFM to conduct their annual business;
- some of the election skirmishes were heated and there was rumor of a pending upset; and
- the political friction between the invited foreign delegates.

Everyone was to attend the closing session that afternoon at 5:00 P.M., when new officers would be announced, etc.

At that point, knowing it was the last day of her stay, Miss French approached several prominent UNFM members, including her guide, to see when she would be able to give her address. They explained how they were at the height of negotiations and advised that she bypass the outings and stick around the conference hall, as they weren't able to set an exact time, but assured her that she would be able to make her address before the close of the conference.

Daou and Miss French went to the AID offices, re-typed her speech with Deme's additions, left a copy with AID, returned to the hotel, submitted a copy to the UNFM and waited to be called.

As it turned out, she was to give her address, along with the delegate from Guinea (the other delegate who had not yet spoken) at the closing ceremony.

The President of Mali, his cabinet, the military, foreign ambassadors, press, etc., arrived to attend that ceremony.

Miss French was called upon to give her speech after the opening of the session, which she delivered in French. (See English version which follows).

It was very well received and afterwards, the West German Ambassador, Mr. Graner and Mr. Levin rushed up to congratulate her, noting what a marked distinction had been made by the tone of BWCDF's address and that of the others' longwinded and acidic propoganda.

The meeting progressed to the announcement of new UNFM officers and to everyone's surprise, Mme. Tall; the only person visibly running for President, was not re-elected!

That immediately relieved Miss French's concerns over her not being able to reach a policy-making level with UNFM representatives during the conference to discuss BWCDF/UNFM project and relations.

After the ceremony, a dance event and dinner was scheduled, which Miss French did not attend because she met with Mme. Keita, at that time, Secretaire of Economic Affairs and Mme. Soumare, at that time, General Treasurer, to discuss where we would go from there.

They assured Miss French that the reason negotiations and communications had been so sporadic to date was because of their internal problems caused by the "long-in-the-works" administration change. They were joined in that meeting by Deme, who impressed upon them the urgency of their time frame.

They suggested that that they return towards the end of January, when they would have had the time to ease the transition of administration. At that time, they assured Miss French the UNFM would be prepared to cooperate fully with BWCDF to get the project off the ground expeditiously and successfully.

On Thursday, December 29, four UNFM members arrived at the hotel in the morning to escort her and the delegates from Togo and Upper Volta to the airport.

They again took care of all the customs and immigrations formalities for Miss French.

Mr. President,
Madam President,
Madam Secretary General,
Distinguished Members of the UNFM
and Malians,

I am very happy to be here today, to bring you greetings from the BWCDF of the USA, our Executive Director, Miss Patricia Eaton and our Board of Directors.

Our organization began in 1968 as an outgrowth of a series of riots that occurred as a result of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the great Afro-American leaders.

Since our inception, we have sponsored programs in Afro-American communities all over the USA, that have helped young victims of crime, assisted young blacks attain better education, developed ways to combat health problems and many other areas.

But now, we are branching out to do work with blacks throughout the international community, including the women of Mali, with whom we are going to institute and operate the Women's Center for Community Development. Towards this purpose, I would like to say that a high-level delegation from BWCDF plans to come to Mali during the first of this coming year to settle the last remaining details of the contract for this project.

We black American women, truly hope, that the contract will be finalized on this next trip so that this project, after more than three years of discussion and study, can get off the ground.

We would like to be of service to you, just as we have been in the past ten years within our own Afro-American communities.

We are honored that we have been asked to attend this congress of the UNFM. I was invited to observe and I hope that through this process, I will be able to learn much from you.

I sincerely hope, in the name of the community I am here to represent, that this collaboration between black American women and Malian women, will be reinforced and grow stronger each day.

Best wishes to all for the new year.

Thank you.

UNFM/National Executive Bureau

Mme. Traore - Marian SISSOKO
Honorary President

Mme. DIOP - Sira SISSOKO
President

Mme. Dicko - Massaran KONATE
Secretary General

Mlle. Hawa DIALLO
Secretary of Administrative and Legal Affairs

Mme. Keita - Ouleimatou BA
Secretary of Economic Affairs

Mme. Ba - Aminata DIALLO
Secretary of Cultural Affairs

Mme. Aoua THIERO
Secretary of the Press

Mme. SOUMARE - Assam Diallo
Treasurer

Mme. Toure - Kani SANGARE
Chief of Protocol

Mme. Traore - Assetou SANGARE
Secretary for External Relations

Mme. Sy-Sokona DIABATE
Secretary of Social Affairs

Mme. Keita - Farima SAMAKE
Commissioner of Youth

MALI VISIT: February 14 - March 6, 1978

The Execution

After the Mali Project Director was hired in January, 1978, a three member team left for Bamako, Mali February 14 at the request of the Executive Committee of the UNFM.

This team consisted of Patricia Eaton, Executive Director of the Foundation, Jacquelyn Briggs, Mali Project Director and Dr. J. Fletcher Robinson, technical advisor for the project who had served on the feasibility study team in 1975.

The purpose of the trip was to re-define the objectives of the project with the UNFM, now under new directorship and to establish some type of working agreement with them so that the Project could be put into motion.

This proved to be the first major cooperative program launched and carried out directly by African women living in Africa and America, utilizing A.I.D. financing. This approach of A.I.D. funding a private women's organization to design, implement and produce an overseas project with their counterparts in the host country is unprecedented.

We arrived in Bamako 15 February. UNFM representatives welcomed us, made us comfortable in the Hotel de l'Amitie and gave us an agenda for our anticipated two-week stay; the agenda was a tight schedule that began the following morning. Our agenda demonstrated a keen interest on behalf of the UNFM and Foreign Ministry to finalize negotiations and to reach a written "execution" agreement before BWCDF's departure.

Our first functions were to meet with the various ministers. They were all well appraised of the purpose of our visit to implement this long-awaited CFAR. Throughout the meetings with the Ministries, BWCDF felt nothing short of full cooperation on the part of the Malian government. From each, there was voiced concern as to how they might fully cooperate with BWCDF and the Union in making the project a successful and innovative one.

Our agenda was as follows:

Schedule of Events
for the BWCDF Delegation in Mali
February 15 - 7 March, 1978

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Objective of visit: Develop Project Document for the Training Center for Rural "Animatrices" with the UNFM.

First Week

Wednesday, February 15th

11:20 A.M. Arrival and welcome at the Bamako-Senou Airport by the UNFM, the Department of International Cooperation and the Protocol Section.

Registration at the Hotel de l'Amitie.

Thursday, February 16th

9:00 A.M. Visit with the Minister of Information and Telecommunications, Mr. BAKAYOYO, Yaya.

10:00 A.M. Visit with the Director of the Cabinet, Ministry of Planning, Mr. ZANO, Dao.

11:00 A.M. Visit with the Division Chief for Culture and Cooperation, Mrs. WANE.

4:00 P.M. Visit with the Mayor of Bamako and his assistant Mr. MARE, Sekou, Mr. COULIBALY, Cheick.

5:00 P.M. Visit with the Governor of the Region of Koulikoro; Mr. SORY, Ebrahima.

5:45 P.M. Visit with Mr. Ron Levin and Mr. Nelson Golden, USAID/Mali.

Friday, February 17th

- 9:00 A.M. Visit with the Minister of Rural Development, Mr. DIAWARA, Assim.
- 9:45 A.M. Visit with the President of the UNFM, Mme. DIOP, Sira.
- 11:00 A.M. Visit with the Director General for National Cooperatives, Mr. TRAORE, Zakaria.

Saturday - Monday, February 18th - 20th

Holiday weekend: No meetings; BWCDF team works on design of the project and training design; Personal tours of Bamako for availability of resources.

Tuesday, February 21st

- 10:00 A.M. Workshop with the UNFM representatives.
- 3:30 P.M. Visit with the Minister of Youth and Sports, Culture and the Arts.
- 4:00 P.M. Workshop with the National Executive Bureau of the UNFM.

Wednesday, February 22nd

- 9:00 A.M. -
- 6:00 P.M. Closed session of the UNFM to draft the letter of Execution.
- Closed session of BWCDF representatives to draft project implementation.

Thursday, February 23rd

- 9:00 A.M. Workshop with UNFM to review the Letter of Execution and the Union's findings.
- 3:00 P.M. Meeting with U.S. Ambassador, Miss Patricia M. Byrne.
- 4:00 P.M. Visit with the Director General for Social Affairs.

Friday, February 24th

- 9:00 A.M. Workshop with the UNFM and representatives of each Ministry visited.
- 3:30 P.M. BWCDF representatives meet with Mme. Soumare, Directress of the School of Public Health -- tour of the facilities and classes.
- 4:30 P.M. BWCDF representatives meet with Dr. Ba, Dean of the Medical School.
- 5:30 P.M. BWCDF representatives meet with Dr. Koumare, Director of Traditional Medicine.

Saturday, February 25th

- 8:30 A.M. -
- 6:00 P.M. BWCDF team visits site at Ouelessebougou, accompanied by Mme. DICKO, Secretary General of the UNFM and counterpart to Mrs. Briggs and Mme. TOURE, Second Secretary of the Union and Chief of Protocol.
- Site guide and host was Mr. DIALLO, Director of the Rural Training Center at Ouelessebougou (CAR).

Sunday, Monday, February 26th - 27th

Holiday weekend -- No meetings Ms. Briggs translated the Letter of Execution into English.

BWCDF team reviews translation and makes adjustments on behalf of BWCDF; review of Dr. Robinson's report and suggestions.

Dr. Robinson departs Bamako.

Tuesday, February 28th

3:00 P.M. Meeting with USAID/Mali Program Officer, Mr. Golden and USAID lawyer, William Louris to review legalities of the Letter of Execution in keeping with AID regulations and guidelines.

Wednesday, March 1st

10:00 - 4:00 Meeting with Mr. Golden and Mr. Louris to complete additions required by USAID, Additional Translations.

7:00 P.M. Reception at Ambassador Byrne's residence for Ms. Eaton, Ms. Briggs.

Thursday, March 2nd

10:00 Typing of draft in English.

5:00 Submission and discussion with Ms. Eaton, Ms. Briggs and Mr. Golden with Mme. Diop at UNFM.

Friday, March 3rd

Meeting with Mme. Diop to receive final draft of document in French.

Monday, March 6th

Typing of final draft of document in English.

Tuesday

5:00 P.M. Signing of Letter of Execution by Moustapha DEME, Director General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mme. Sira DIOP, President, UNFM, Miss Patricia M. Byrne, Ambassador to Mali, and Miss Patricia F. Eaton, Executive Director, BWCDF.

Wednesday, March 7th

9:00 A.M.	Final arrangements for departure, tickets, airport taxes, etc.
7:00 P.M.	Reception dinner for Ms. Eaton, Ms. Briggs by UNFM.
9:00 P.M.	Traditional dancing and singing presentation in Ms. Eaton's and Ms. Briggs' honor.
11:15 P.M.	Leave for airport.
11:30 P.M.	Reception at airport with UNFM representatives, Mme. DICKO, Mme. TOURE and Mme. DIAKITE.
12:50 A.M.	Depart for Paris.

All government officials were consistent and unanimous in their praise of the idea of the project, its potential value to the country and their eagerness and willingness to lend the assistance of their respective departments to the success of the project. They were familiar with the problems that had occurred beforehand and were most anxious for things to go well. Advice was given freely and proved to be valuable in our workshops. It was the experience and wisdom of the Governor who emphasized that the initial trainees be older, settled, married women with families. This is most important to both stabilize the program and give maximum impact in the rural areas. The Minister of Planning was especially impressive as he explained the importance of this project in local, national and international perspectives. The development of women, he stated, is important because they educate the children. The success of this project is also very important because it will serve as an example to neighboring countries. Since it is the first project of its kind, they would be scrutinizing this effort as a model for their own development of women. The Center's development, it was discussed, is important to the Ministry of Planning because this Ministry is responsible for the social and economic progress of the country.

The Ministry of Planning collaborates with all of the other ministries in the financing and coordination of projects into the goals of the country. The Minister also reminded us that this is the first time in history that Black women from the United States have had a project in Francophone Africa. It was his stated opinion that Black American women should be in all of Africa.

The Ministry of Rural Development felt that Oulessebouyou was an excellent site and that at some point the project would be beneficial to other countries. For the first two years the project will concentrate on establishing itself in Mali after which time women from neighboring Sahelian countries will be invited to participate. The Ministry felt Mali is ideal for the project because it is centrally located; it shares much in common with the contiguous countries: the same traditions, customs and languages. This project could be a unifying force. The Ministry discussed the importance of this project in their immediate goal of enhancing agricultural production. It is especially important because emphasis on women had not previously been included in their plan and BWCDF's effort complements their plan. We also discussed the incentives for making the rural area more attractive such as electricity, better prices for crops

and easier accessibility to staples e.g., sugar, salt and commodities. The ability to solve everyday problems through functional literacy and other skills will compliment the ten to twenty year projections of the government.

The Department of National Cooperation -- Division of Rural Development, shared with us their concept of the development of cooperatives to facilitate the commercialization of cottage industries, particularly with women. The cooperative can enhance the acquisition of materials as well as the production, distribution and selling of products to be marketed.

The workshops began on the sixth day after our arrival and were presided over by Madame Sira Diop, President of the UNFM. Her resourcefulness, experience and deliberateness were forceful, direct and precise. She obviously had command of the CFAR development and implementation design. She was well-prepared and understood what was best for Mali but was open to suggestions of potential innovations. It was felt that the women recruited for the program should be volunteers and would in effect represent the UNFM.

The program will be conducted in the Bambara language and for the first two years will be entirely for Malian women. The objectives of the program are in the long run to improve rural life and to augment the revenue of rural women. It was established that the site for CFAR would be in Ouclessebougon and would have permanent structures on this permanent site. The center will initially train twenty women for 3 months, three times a year with a month break between sessions. The courses will obviously be quite intensive, because it is difficult for a wife and mother to be absent from her responsibilities for over three months. The training will be mostly practical rather than academic and a follow-up program would be carried out with government assistance. It is assumed this would be expertise from the various Ministries pertaining to the reinforcement needs of the returned trainees. Incentives for the trainees to keep the program viable and relevant were discussed. It was decided that the trainees will not be hired or paid. Paying the trainees would create a precedent that would be dangerous for the government in terms of providing jobs and maintaining economic standards above its means. The knowledge and skills that they should acquire while at the center should equip them to function quite well economically and socially.

The suggestion was that certain equipment might be given to graduates such as sewing machines, looms and agricultural tools. It was also suggested that tools, equipment or even machinery could be made available to the trainees to rent. This would give the leasee a sense of ownership as well as an incentive to utilize the item for the purpose of making money.

The curriculum is designed with the intention of making these rural women instruments of change for the betterment of all. It will consist of: functional literacy, maternal child health and nutrition, food technology, agricultural techniques and administrative skills. Implicit in these disciplines is first aid, civic responsibility, cooperatives and small animal husbandry.

SYLLABUS

Regardless of the strength or objectives of the curriculum, the learning process and retention is only as strong or effective as the instructors themselves. A pre-service teacher training program and continued evaluation of the methodology, with effective training, will be included in the program design. Three months of intensive training for semi-literate rural women to

become instruments of change is certainly a demanding, no-nonsense proposition. Obviously, the total experience must lend itself to learning. The whole milieu of the Center must direct itself to accomplishing the objectives of the program.

In planning the curriculum one must keep in mind that the course has to be rigorous and intense; short periods will allow for less fatigue and more retention; days will be long; repetition is essential; acting out or simulating the learning helps retention and breaks monotony; competitive exercise intensifies learning. Recreational periods as well as evenings should be planned and should be relaxed. During these periods movies, skits and demonstrations prepared by staff and/or students should reinforce the course material. Students should also be involved in communicating via posters, hand-outs and other visual techniques they will later use in their villages.

CURRICULUM

The proposed core curriculum consisting of twelve weeks will include the following:

- 1). Administrative Skills is an area which must be integrated into the entire curriculum. It consists of outlining techniques of planning and establishing its importance since planning is an essential element of any endeavor. Under administrative skills is included an understanding of government structure and organization and the process it establishes to function. Knowledge of procedure to increase effectiveness in the village is integrated into this subject matter as well as management which is the sequence to planning. The development of cooperatives as a mechanism for increasing income, minimizing cost and enhancing production will be incorporated. Since communications is as important to administration as it is to literacy, emphasis will be on giving techniques to the trainee which will help her to effectively instruct and be understood.

- 2). Agricultural Techniques will include small animal husbandry and is inclusive of the other disciplines. Hybridization, to improve yield, resist disease and to enhance nutrition, is a technique that the animatrice will be taught as well as pest and disease control. Crop rotation, methods to preserve the soil

and techniques to control or discourage pests through organic means will be part of the course. Because of the short training period at the Center, the agricultural techniques course will have its heaviest impact through the outreach program. Certainly there should be food grown at the Center and animals kept for demonstration and learning purposes.

- 3). Food Technology will deal with the preservation of food in the rural setting as well as the utilization of waste for fertilization and animal feed. Storage techniques that are applicable to the villages will be taught. Preparation for drought and other unforeseen disasters to assure adequate food supply will be considered.

- 4). Nutrition will involve explaining essential requirements for growth and development of health foods and how to assure their fulfillment in the diet. This course would also explain food sources growing wild in the immediate environment. Nutrition will also be coordinated with health.

5). Maternal Child Health (MCH) shows importance as a woman becomes sophisticated about the way things function, since she begins to anticipate the betterment of things closest to her. The morbidity and mortality of children in the rural areas are devastating to the whole community but never more than to the mother. The animatrice will learn how to immunize the infants, how immunization schedules and know their costs and how to acquire them. Immunization of course is only a part of the health program. As she understands the causes of diseases, the importance of clean water, proper waste disposal and hygiene becomes her daily routine. There will also be a concentration on early infant care such as the necessity of breast feeding, the introduction of food in infancy and family spacing. So many of these practices are traditionally based and, unfortunately, modern urban influences have begun to change the old practices to the detriment of the family; the prime examples being bottle feeding, packaged baby food, etc.

The effectiveness of this course has revolutionary social potential. Possibly within two years, measles,

pertussis, tetanus, polio, diphtheria, mumps and rubella could be totally eradicated! The course would also teach techniques to control other diseases which contribute greatly to high morbidity and mortality in the rural areas, namely: malaria, schistosomiasis, kwashiorkor, keratomalacia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, conjunctivitis, hookworm and guinea worm. Utilizing clean water and removing waste from exposure to others would reduce substantially the incidence of amebiasis, ascariasis, hookworm, guinea worm, strongyloides, typhoid and hepatitis, to name a few. First aid is also included in the MCH course. This aspect will teach wound care, emergency assistance, resuscitation, bandaging, aseptic techniques and disease recognition.

6). Functional Literacy is the foundation for learning and communicating. It is essential for the growth and development of the animatrice and helps greatly to assure her effectiveness when she returns to the village. It also is a reasonable guarantee that her children will not be illiterate. This course will equip the trainee with reading, writing and numerical functioning (basic arithmetic). The process will contain other aspects of the curriculum such as administration, health, nutrition, etc.

It should be explained that the curricular material will be developed on a multi-disciplinary basis where students may see the relationship between the various areas of operational efficiency and the health of the community with a wider, social order.

Method of Implementation

Following is a suggestion of material to be covered on a weekly basis keeping in mind that the material is integrated in a multidisciplinary approach. The methodology is based on new information being introduced in relation to familiar information thus bringing the past experiences of the learner into contact with the unfamiliar facts and skills -- especially in the areas of language, communication, community and government systems and numerical reasoning. The methodology process from the known and the familiar to the new or unknown through a gradual, intensive, repetitive building process. Consideration will also be given to academic sedentary material early in the day with more "action-oriented" activities later as fatigue becomes a problem.

FIRST WEEK

Functional Literacy

Reading, Writing

Alphabet Letters

Phonetics

Word Formation

Printing

Recitation

First Aid

Wound Care

Cleanliness

Dressings

Bleeding and its Control

Types of Wounds

Burns

Cuts

Lacerations

Abrasions

Health/Hygiene

Water Uses

Bathing

Cooking

Grooming

Cleaning

Purification

Food

Foods

Preparation

Nutrition

Agriculture

Crops and Growth Requirements

SECOND WEEK

Functional Literacy

Reinforcement

New Words

Sentences

Health
First Aid

Germ

Foreign Bodies

Abscess

Splinters

Bites

Animal

Human

Snake

Hygiene

Water Borne Diseases

Water

Sources

Uses

Collection

Storage

Nutrition

Nutrition

Agriculture

Fertilization

Soil

Types/Content

Uses

THIRD WEEK

Functional Literacy

Numbers

Addition

Subtraction

Reinforcement

Multiplication

Division

Hygiene

Making Soap

Waste Disposal

Human Waste

Garbage/Trash

Utilization as Fertilizer

Utilization of Junk

Disease Prevention

Vector-Borne Diseases

Obtaining Water

Wells

Irrigation

Food

Food Storage

Agriculture

Utilization of Waste

Plowing

Crop Rotation

FOURTH WEEK

Functional Literacy	Review Reinforcement Application of Basic Arithmetic
Hygiene	Make Food and Water Storage Containers
Health	Immunizations Types Techniques of Injections Schedules Recognition of Illness Signs & Symptoms Dehydration/Diarrhea Fever Coughs Malnutrition Conjunctivites Anemia Venereal Disease
Food	Meat and Fish Butchering Drying Smoking Curing

Agriculture

Seedlings

Hybrids

FIFTH WEEK

Functional Literacy

Accounting

Conceptualization - Writing

First Aid

Review

Use of Splints

Health

Traditional Remedies

Remedies

Agriculture

Building Chicken Coops

Food Requirements for Animals

Animal Shelter

SIXTH WEEK

Functional Literacy

Budgeting

Letter Writing

Health

Diseases contracted from Animals

Safety

Skin Diseases

Feeding Children

Breast Feeding

Agriculture

Organic Gardening

SEVENTH WEEK

Review Week

Oral Examinations

Written Examinations

Simulation Exercises

Practical Exams -- What would you do if.....?

Reinforcement

Tutoring

Make-up Work

Assessment

Teaching Methodology

Teachers

Students

Mid-term Evaluation

Suggestions for Improvement

EIGHTH WEEK

Functional Literacy

Speech

Marketing

Cooperatives

Health

Resuscitation

Eye Care

Common Disease Recognition

Antenatal Care

NINTH WEEK

Problem Solving

The trainees would organize into groups of various sizes to solve problems that will commonly arise in the village setting. For example, dealing with water presents many difficulties that will require serious attention: 1) How to avoid contamination of water at the source; 2) How to get villagers to cooperate with the solutions; and 3) How to convince them that these new efforts are worth it.

What can be done to make water more accessible? What methods of collecting and storing rain water could be devised in the village?

What incentives can be used to get people to boil water or purify it by other means considering that:

1) it is inconvenient; 2) people are resistant to change; and 3) it is costly and time consuming to boil and cool before it is drinkable.

These sessions should be actual simulation exercises and may be staged to incorporate all of the things they have learned. These sessions would allow for evaluation of the teaching and the program effectiveness and see the progress of the student.

These exercises should also demonstrate the cognitive skills that the student employs.

It will be very helpful to refine this process of problem solving through recall, recognition, organization, synthesis, evaluation and application.

TENTH WEEK

Cooperatives

Definition

Justification

Organization

Implementation

Operation

Evaluation

Growth & Development

Accounting/Financing

ELEVENTH WEEK

Communications

Methodology

Lecture

Discussion

Brain Storming

Role Playing

Community Organizing

Information Dissemination

Propaganda Techniques

TWELTH WEEK

Round Tables

Evaluation

Evaluation

Tutoring

Review

Seminars

Signing of the Agreement

We arrived in Bamako February 15th. In our possession we had a revised draft of the project on which I had been working for several months -- and a working paper, both to be used as a basis for discussion.

Our Agenda, activities and observations have already been reported in this document. However, at this point, I would like to interject an observation of the trip.

During our first meeting with the new UNFM President, Madame Diop, I introduced Ms. Briggs as BWCDF's Project Director in Mali and Dr. Robinson as technical advisor. Madame Diop immediately interrupted saying that she had not agreed to have a Project Director -- nor even a BWCDF project!

In that we had seen this meeting as the first step toward signing an agreement, this statement took us totally by surprise. I had to explain that their presence had been requested by the UNFM (and government of Mali). Madame Diop emphatically and proudly set us straight: those were the understandings as arranged by her predecessor whom she defeated during the December

elections. (Mme. Tall).

After a release of "egos", this first encounter continued slowly with a feeling of caution and suspicion on both our parts.

Our next confrontation with Madame Diop was at the first day's workshop. Knowing of her proud cautiousness, I decided to set a firm tone of serious business with my opening remarks. Copies in French were distributed to each participant:

Address delivered by Madame Patricia F. Eaton, Executive Director of the U.S. Black Women's Community Development Foundation to the Union Nationale de Femmes Maliennes during the opening workshop, 21 February, 1978:

Madame President of the Union Nationale de Femmes Maliennes, distinguished members of the UNFM, distinguished representatives of the government of Mali, U.S.A.I.D. and friends. Thank you for the very warm and hospitable reception you have extended to me, Madame Briggs and Dr. Robinson since we arrived in Mali. Our visit here in Mali has been very nice and we have been well received. Everyone has been so very kind to us and we have made many new friends.

We have met with many Malian Ministries and government agencies. Each of the persons with whom we have met has extended to us warm greetings, has encouraged us to continue with the project and has said that their office is willing to assist with the project in any way possible if they are asked by the UNFM. This has been very encouraging to us and we appreciate their enthusiasm, encouragement and advise.

Now it is time to address ourselves to serious discussions.

But first, I would like to briefly tell you about the Black Women's Community Development Foundation which, because the title is so long, I will refer to as the "Foundation."

The Foundation was organized in 1968, soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Black Americans were so angry and sad that riots occurred all over the United States destroying mainly our own Black communities.

The Foundation saw a need to rebuild our communities, organize our communities, our families and ourselves. We also saw the important role Black women must assume in meeting these objectives, especially since so many of us are heads of households and teachers of our children.

This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary. Over these past 10 years we have assisted women in becoming involved in the development of our country. We have sponsored programs in the Black communities all over the United States that have helped young victims of crime, assisted Blacks in obtaining a better education, developed community cooperative programs, helped combat mental and physical health problems of Black women, assisted in finding employment for Black Americans and have brought to the attention of Americans many Black cultural programs and talents -- and many other areas. Also during this time Blacks in America became more aware and proud of their African heritage and concerned about the drought which was affecting the Sahel region of West Africa.

In March, 1972, the Foundation hosted a luncheon for wives of African diplomatic personnel. The purpose was to get a better understanding of what African women perceived to be some of the most important problems facing them. This luncheon encouraged the Foundation to become involved in assisting, somehow, our African sisters.

In January, 1973, the Foundation held a conference chaired by the person who, at that time, was a Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Secretary General of the All African Women's Conference (Madame Cisse).

This conference of African women and men was designed to help the Foundation discover and define what realistic and meaningful contribution we might make to the development of African communities.

For months, the Foundation held many discussions with African representatives.

In March, 1974, a member of the Foundation traveled to Algeria to attend the meeting of the All African Women's Conference. It was made clear to us at this time that the Foundation should become involved in international development -- but on AFRICA'S TERMS!

On May 18, 1975 -- one year later -- 6 people representing the Foundation visited Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta and Ethiopia to see how we could best be of assistance and in which country we should begin.

When the team arrived in Mali, the project was discussed and designed with the assistance of many Malian officials.

This is where U.S.A.I.D. enters the picture. AID had the money and the Foundation had to begin writing proposals to get the money necessary to do the project.

Now that the Foundation has received the money (funding) from AID, the Foundation must continue to be accountable to AID on a continuous basis as to how the money is being spent and the progress of the project.

The Foundation must do this to receive approval and money for different phases of the project. This is our relationship with AID and the Foundation must therefore work closely with AID both here in Mali and Washington, D.C.

The Foundation did not begin to use this money until June, 1977 at which time the Foundation sent Mrs. Zollner to Mali to begin implementation of the project. Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Zollner returned to Washington, resigned her position with the Foundation and returned to her home in Sierra Leone.

In August, 1977, I received a visit from Monsieur Deme who expressed, on behalf of the government of Mali and the UNFM, a present and continuous interest in the project. Monsieur Deme also stated that Mali wanted to pursue and develop the project and asked that I come to Mali for further discussions and to begin implementation. I also met with Ambassador Sina in Washington who agreed.

I arrived in Mali 1½ months later, in October, 1977, met with each ministry and attended meetings and a workshop at which each ministry was represented. I might add that Madame Tall was the only person present who helped design the original project. Therefore, we had to start at the beginning.

Since several years had passed, we spent a lot of time re-establishing relationships and used the original, basic proposal concept to update the objectives and details of implementation.

For the first time to the Foundations' knowledge, it was made clear at this workshop that the project belonged to the UNFM and that the different ministries were available to assist if the UNFM requested. The Foundation agreed, especially since we were both Black women's organizations with the same basic objectives in our communities. It was also agreed that the project would have co-directors: The Foundation would have a Project Director who would be mainly accountable to the Foundation and to AID. The UNFM would have a co-director who would directly oversee the daily operations of the project (mainly being principal of the training facility).

During my visit in October, the UNFM continuously explained to me that they were very busy with elections and did not have the time necessary to spend with me to work on the details of the project and that this would be the situation until the end of December. Madame Tall requested that I return approximately during the middle of January, 1978 and that I bring with me the Foundation's Project Director and a technical advisor, which I have done.

However, again I find several changes in Mali government representatives here today at this workshop and new leaders of the UNFM.

The Foundation has been working on this international project for 6 years.....6 years of planning, discussions, trips and project writing involving the Foundation, African representatives in the United States, Africans in 5 different nations, U.S. AID and, more specifically and intensely, with Malian government officials and members of the UNFM --- many trips to Mali and many, many meetings.

And now, we must begin again.

What the Foundation has to offer Mali and the UNFM . are funds, technical assistance and expertise.

But Mali is your country. During these workshops and meetings, we hope that you will tell us how we can best use our resources to most effectively serve the needs of the women in rural areas of Mali.

We cannot waste any more valuable time, yours or ours. We must define the plan and implementation. We must sign an agreement to this plan of implementation. I am sure that it can be done during this visit. The Foundation wants to work with you; We are at your disposal. But today we must begin the final beginning. This is it!

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Madame Diop looked at me with approving respect. She then gave her concurring opening remarks and we got down to the business of development.

Upon our arrival at this first workshop, we found that the UNFM also had a working paper on the project design for the Center at Ouelessebouyou. Along with the working paper we had prepared, we were able to exchange, embellish and incorporate ideas with the Union in designing what we think to be a substantive developmental project.

There were certainly problems in the workshops, from the standpoint of language alone, since each paper had to be translated into the other language (French/English) for clarification of each party.

A great deal of time was spent by Ms. Briggs in these translations since each time the workshop met, there were additions, deletions or revisions to be made.

The Union worked closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs as we did with AID/Mali in creating an agreement acceptable to all parties concerned.

Along with Mr. Myron Golden of AID/Mali, we met with the AID attorney, Mr. William Louris, to clearly define the implications and legalities of the document and to incorporate all provisions necessary for us, both as protective measures as well as those necessary to remain within AID guidelines for grantees.

Toward the end of negotiations with the Union, there were some political incidents which placed the country in unstable, low-profile spirits.

The Ministers of Information, Justice, Security and Foreign Affairs were arrested during the last proposed week of our stay. Due to the unrest, there were some obstacles in meeting with the Union as had been scheduled. Meetings were cancelled because the President of the Union was involved in a conference with Malian President Traore and we were advised by a Malian that no contact was to be made with foreigners during a certain period of time preceding the arrests.

There were public protests in the city in favor of the arrests and the American Ambassador, Miss Byrne, advised Americans to keep a low profile for a couple of days. This included closing the American Mission at noon, the day following the first three arrests and demonstrations.

After a one week delay, the project agreement known as a "Letter of Execution" was signed by the National Union of Malian Women and the Black Women's Community Development Foundation. The signatures were witnessed and signed by a representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the American Ambassador to Mali.

Each page on the official and original French version was initialed by Mr. Deme, Miss Byrne, Madame Diop and me. Official seals were affixed. This document is in the hands of Mr. Deme at the Foreign Ministry in Mali. Copies are with the AID/Mali office (which is suppose to be forwarding us copies).

The English version of the Letter of Project Execution follows, retyped by our office to be more easily read. The last page of seals and signatures has been duplicated. The original English document is in our office on file.

LETTER OF PROJECT EXECUTION

No. 688-0209/No. 1

TITLE: SETTING UP THE TRAINING CENTER FOR RURAL ANIMATRICES (CFAR)

INTRODUCTION: Origin and Identification of the Project

From May to June 1975, an American feasibility team for the Black Women's Community Development Foundation (BWCDF) headed by Mrs. Inez Smith Reid, came to West Africa visiting Senegal, Mali and Upper Volta.

The team was financed by a grant from the Agency for International Development (USAID/Grant No. AID/AFR-G1122) to study the possibilities of a program geared toward community development for African women.

Their objective was to find a host country interested in participating in the creation of a training center for rural women's development and provide the necessary elements for successful execution.

It happened that the National Union of Malian Women (UNFM) which had held its Constituent Congress in December 1974 had adopted, as part of its future programs, pilot education projects aimed at improving rural women's access to information, training and the use of modern techniques of production for development.

The Malian Government had also tried several mass educational methods and had introduced structures for educating the rural community.

Having recognized the effort already made by the Malians and their determination to persevere, the team recommended to USAID that the project be situated in Mali.

Through consultation with USAID, BWCDF, the Malian Government and the UNFM drew up the present project document. It is effective upon signature by the four parties.

I. Project Description

The Training Center for Rural Animatrices (CFAR) is an educational and training institution at Ouelessebougu, on a ten hectares site, belonging to the Government of Mali.

It is foreseen that for the first two years, the Center's activities will be geared toward women only and will take place on location. Beginning the third year, with the Center's activities well defined, CFAR would extend its expertise to a few selected villages through periodic visits of a mobile unit of visiting instructors.

This permanent center will train women who come from the villages and will return to them to act as community development agents. These "Animatrices" must be able to return to their villages and transmit to the villagers the training they have received in order to introduce a new mentality, for improving village living-conditions.

In order to do this, those selected by CFAR will be recruited from among women already living in the village, who are of good character and who can have some influence on their fellow sister-citizens. They will be chosen on the local level by the UNEM on a voluntary basis, keeping in mind the future impact they will have upon their village environment.

In order to facilitate teaching, each group of trainees, as much as possible, will be made up of women who are of the same socio-cultural levels, slightly literate or having left school early.

The trainees will be provided with room and board for the three month training period. Each group will have a maximum of twenty women. Each woman will be allowed to bring with her one child, under six, who will be cared for in a nursery at the Center. Each three month training period will be followed by a one month break. In a year then, with three sessions, CFAR will train a maximum of sixty women. The three month break will be dedicated to evaluation, preparation of training materials and program readjustments made by the training staff of the Center.

The training provided by CFAR is essentially practical and active. It is intensive so that the trainees can, in a relatively short time, be given the fundamentals of the curriculum. The curricula is composed of several elements: general courses (functional literacy, civic education, management and accounting for small cooperatives, budgeting and family health) and practical courses with specialization (tailoring, dyeing, cooking, hair dressing, home economics, gardening and animal husbandry). These courses will offer a core curriculum with specialized workshops.

In terms of time, the courses will be divided up allowing one-third for general training and two-thirds for practical pre-professional training. The trainees will be required to maintain their living quarters and prepare their food as a practical application of the lessons they will receive in hygiene, nutrition and home economics. CFAR, having been set up on an experimental basis in a Bambara zone, will use as the language of instruction, Bambara, since the women are illiterate in French. The activities of CFAR at Ouelessebouyou will extend only to women of the second region (Koulikoro) who speak Bambara. Eventually, in light of achieved results, similar centers could be created in other regions of Mali, using other languages of instruction. CFAR of Ouelessebouyou could even take trainees coming from other regions of Mali who speak Bambara, as well as neighboring countries (Senegal, Upper Volta) whose languages have a common origin with Bambara.

The trainees from West African states will have scholarships provided by their own countries or by the BWCDF or by other national or international organizations.

After the experimental three years CFAR will begin its operational phase. The BWCDF will continue to assist for three years. At the end of six years, CFAR will become the property of the UNEM and will be self-financing due to investments made in the Center (kitchen gardens, orchards, hen houses, rabbit hutches, sheep pens, stables, craft workshops, etc.). The BWCDF will continue its assistance by seeking out funds other than the USAID grant and by looking for markets through which to vent the exportable products of the Center. Even in this stage the Center will retain its sub-regional flavor.

These women who have completed training at CFAR will always remain in contact with the Center and will always be able to return there for short periods of retraining. These seminars will be set up once a year beginning in the third year of operation and will last a maximum of one month with fifteen to twenty women students. The training and administrative staff of CFAR will be provided by Mali; however, instructors from other countries may be recruited to teach craft techniques or pre-professional courses that are valuable to the training and viable to the country of Mali.

The mobile unit which will function from CFAR and which will come into being the third year, will help to maintain contact between the Center and the surrounding villages. On one hand, it would provide support to the animatrice trained at CFAR in their village activities and on the other hand, would extend the training activities of the Center to the villages as a whole.

In order to do so, the multi-disciplinary mobile unit would act as an outreach. It will conduct nutrition and primary health care demonstration, will give technical agricultural courses and instruction in rural public works, such as well-drilling or hygiene. The mobile unit will remain in a village on an average of one to seven days and will return to the same village at least three times a year.

CFAR must emphasize the practical application of the training that it gives. In order to do so, when the trainees must return home after "graduation", the local union of their village will be given equipment by CFAR in the form of a reimbursable loan. This material, which will be provided in accordance with the needs of the different villages, will permit the "animatrices" to use her new knowledge and allow the local union to undertake the management of community activities. The amounts reimbursed will establish a revolving fund which will be administered jointly by the UNFM and the BWCDF, to continue its work after the experimental phase.

II. Organization Responsibilities For Executing The Project

The Malian government has placed the project under the aegis of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs (National Bureau of Social Affairs).

The UNFM, an organization recognized by the State has been designated as the organization responsible for the implementation of the project. Mrs. DIOP Sira Sissoko, President of the UNFM will be the person responsible for all payments made as part of the project. In her absence, she will be replaced by Mrs. DICKO Massaran Konate, the Secretary General of the UNFM. Furthermore, since the Executive Director of the BWCDF has named a Field Representative, Mrs. Jacquelyn Briggs, the UNFM has named Mrs. DICKO Massaran Konte as a counterpart to Mrs. Briggs who will live in Bamako. A Malian Directress will be appointed to reside at Ouelessebougon to oversee the execution of the project on a daily basis. The National Executive Bureau of the UNFM, composed of twenty one members will oversee the proper execution of the project.

A technical, inter-ministerial coordinating commission made up of representatives of the different national departments and bureaus involved in the project (Public Health and Social Affairs, Planning, Rural Development, National Education, National Cooperatives, International Cooperation and the Governor's Office at Koulikoro) has also been established to coordinate project activities (see organizational chart on following page).

III. Time Table

In its experimental phase, i.e. the first three years, the project will be implemented in three, one year stages. In the first year there will be creation of infrastructure (building and equipment) recruiting and training of the instructional staff, the preparation of training aids and materials and the opening of the Center for twenty trainees. In the second year, CFAR will take in three groups of twenty trainees each, or sixty women, making a total of eighty Malian Rural "Animatrices" trained the first two years. In the third year the activities of the Center will consist not only of the training of three groups of twenty trainees each, including without a doubt trainees from neighboring countries, but also of the dispatch of the mobile unit to the villages.

Listed below are the detailed activities of the first year.

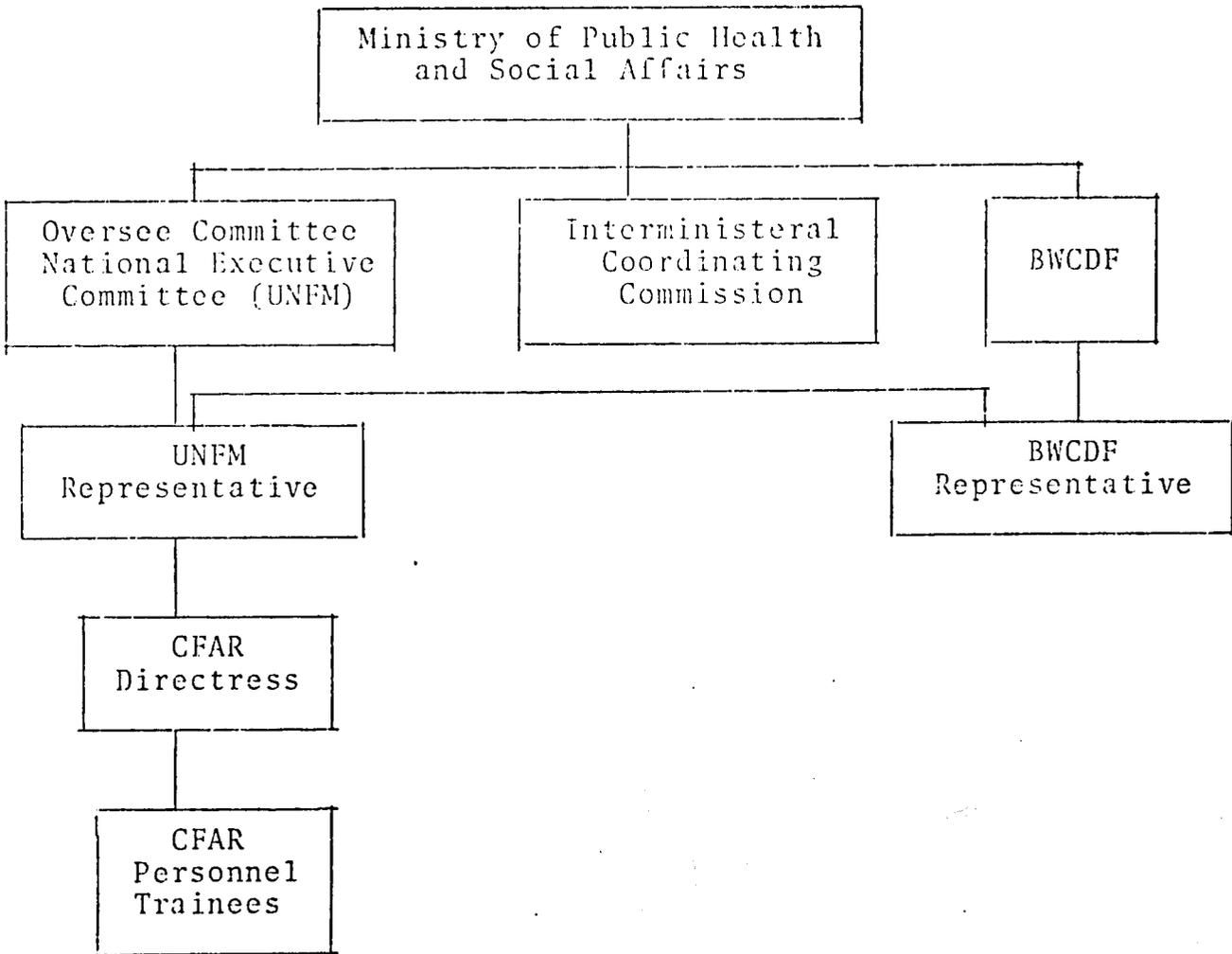
Program Activities - 1978

- 1st Stage - 15 February - 7 March: Discussion, adoption and signing of project document.
- 2nd Stage - 8 March - 31 December: Compile information and determine the opinions of the public, and of local authorities on the project.
- 3rd Stage - 10 March - 30 May : Expansion of outlined activities for the Centers operational structure.
- 4th Stage - 15 March - 25 December: Building construction at Ouelessebouyou
- 5th Stage - 8 March - 30 May : Draw up lists of materials and equipment; order materials and equipment.
- 6th Stage - 25 March - 30 July : Recruitment and training of instructors.
- 7th Stage - 1 August - 15 December: Preparation of the instructional materials and methodology in Bambara.
- 8th Stage - 15 October 20 December: Registration of trainees for first session.
- 9th Stage - 28 December : Inauguration of the Center opening of first training session.

N.B.: The building construction is pending the availability of materials.

UNFM/BWCDF PROJECT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1978

MONTH

	Fe	Mr	Ap	Ma	Jn	Ju	Au	Se	Oc	No	De
discussion, adoption and signing of project document	_____										
compile information and determine the opinions of the public, and of local authorities		_____									
expansion of outlined activities for the Center's operational structure		_____									
building construction at Quelessebougou		_____									
draw up lists of materials and equipment		_____									
recruitment and training of instructors		_____									
preparation of instructional materials and methodology in Bambara							_____				
registration of trainees for first sessions									_____		
inauguration of the Center Opening of first training sessions											_____

IV. Objectives

Long-Term

The long term socio-economic objectives of this project are to improve the living conditions of women in rural areas and to increase their monetary-incomes through the conduct of a training project for sixty village women per year in the following areas:

- 1) Family health and children care (hygiene, first aid, identification of symptoms of common illnesses, preventative medicine, sanitary education);
- 2) Increased agricultural production (use of fertilizer, crop rotation, proper use of tools, basic animal care);
- 3) Nutrition and family care (food storage and preservation, basic food requirements);
- 4) Home economics (marketing, management of family budget, village coops); and
- 5) Functional literacy and civic education (roles and responsibilities of public services, organization of community locals).

Short-Term

In the near future it will be necessary to:

- 1) Create and equip a permanent training Center;
- 2) Prepare detailed program curricula and materials for the Center;
- 3) Define the profile of teachers for the Center;
- 4) Train the trainers;
- 5) Recruit the trainees;
- 6) Plan for the creation of the mobile unit; and
- 7) Prepare instruments for evaluating the project.

V. Budget

The financial contribution of the BWCDF, which has a grant from USAID, will be utilized either in foreign currency or in local currency for the purpose of goods and services for the benefit of the project. The yearly contribution by the BWCDF is subject to agreement by the parties and to the availability of funds from USAID. The line items of the budget are established but sums may be modified by written agreement between the parties.

The BWCDF will attempt to furnish to the project, funds outside the USAID grant to realize the success of the project.

The resources furnished by BWCDF for the length of the project will not be less than 777,500 US Dollars:

	1st year US \$ 250,000	118,750,000 FM
	2nd year US \$ 227,500	108,062,500 FM
	3rd year US \$ 300,000	142,500,000 FM
TOTAL	<u>US \$ 777,500</u>	<u>369,312,500 FM</u>

A budget outline appears below:

	\$	
Salaries	71,000	33,725,000
Travel	13,000	6,175,000
Construction	100,000	47,500,000
Equipment/Materials	11,000	5,225,000
Trainee Tuition	1,000	475,000
Other Direct Costs	4,000	1,900,000
Administrative Costs	50,000	23,750,000
TOTAL	<u>250,000</u>	<u>118,750,000</u>

VI. Government Contributions

These contributions are in-kind and services and in cash. The Government puts at the disposition of the project a ten hectare plot of land at 2 000 FM per square meter or a value equal to two hundred million Malian Francs. The Government agrees to facilitate the launching of the project. In addition, it will provide instructors for the project and participate in the preparation of training materials. It will take responsibility for certain recurrent costs whose annual total paid in cash is estimated to be:

Personnel (general services)	1,440,000 FM
Technical personnel	3,480,000 FM
Operational Costs	600,000 FM
TOTAL	<u>5,520,000 FM</u>

VII. Other Contributions

In the context of cultural exchange, training of cadre and search for outlets for goods produced at CFAR, the BWCDF might furnish financial and technical assistance to the UNFM over and above the contribution of USAID and the Malian Government.

VIII. Rate of Exchange

For funds provided under the grant from USAID, to BWCDF, to satisfy the obligations of BWCDF, or USAID, the Government of Mali will make such necessary arrangements so that funds may be converted into Malian currency at the highest legal rate.

IX. Procurement Source

Disbursement of funds will be used exclusively to finance the costs of goods and services required for the project and having their source and origin in the United States unless USAID agrees otherwise, in writing.

X. Repayment

In case of disbursement non conforming to the laws regulating USAID, or not carried out or used conforming to the present letter, the UNFM will reimburse the money to BWCDF.

XI. Taxation

- (a) This agreement and the grant will be free from any taxes and fees imposed under laws in effect in Mali.
- (b) To the extent that (1) any contractor, including any technical advisors, and any personnel of the contract financed under the grant, as well as goods or transactions relative to these contracts and (2) any commodity procurement financed by the grant, are not exempt from taxes, tariffs duties or other levies imposed under laws in effect in Mali. This in effect and conforming to the letter of execution, in the limits of funds projected will be paid or reimbursed with funds other than those provided for under the grant.

XII. Report, Accounting, Records and Audits

The BWCDF will furnish to USAID all periodic reports on the situation of the progress of the project conforming to fixed procedures by USAID, among those:

- (1) A bi-annual report of activities describing the reports of project activities to be submitted six months after the effective date of the grant
- (2) A bi-annual financial report describing the expenditures incurred in the reporting period to be submitted six months after the effective date of the grant.
- (3) A final report on the project.
- (4) Five copies of each report will be submitted to USAID/Washington AFR/SFWA.

The UNFM will participate in the preparation of above reports and will receive three copies of each. The Union will report to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs of Mali.

The BWCDF and the UNFM will conform to generally accepted accounting procedures by maintaining books and evidence to substantiate charges of goods and services acquired. These records shall be made available to the comptroller General of the United States or his duly - appointed representative. The records must be (1) kept for a period of three years after the date of the last disbursement and (2) for a longer period if necessary for the verification of disbursements unless stated in writing by USAID. USAID, in general follows accepted auditing practices in determining the proper use of grant funds.

XIII. Communications

Any notice, request, document or other communication submitted by either party to the other under this agreement will be in writing or by telegram or cable and will be deemed duly given or sent when delivered to such party at the following addresses:

UNFM
BP 1975
Bamako, Mali
Telephone: 239-88

BWCDF
c/o USAID
BP 34
Bamako, Mali

1028 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 456-6220

XIV. Modifications

This letter of execution may be modified in writing by the authorized representatives of the parties: the UNFM and the BWCDF, without official amendments to the agreement.

XV. Termination

By giving written notice thirty days in advance, any of the four parties may cancel this letter of execution by agreement of the other parties. Termination will cancel any portion of the grant not already disbursed or obligated to a third party.

IN TESTIMONY OF WHICH, the Government of Mali and the UNFM, USAID and the BWCDF in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement (Grant AID/AFR-G-1273) each acting through its own duly appointed representative, has signed this letter of Execution and in their name, on the day and year, so indicated.

Bamako, Mali
7 March, 1978

Signed by: _____
M. Moustapha Deme
Director General
of International Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Signed by: _____
The Honorable Patricia Byrne
Ambassador of the United States to Mali

Signed by: _____
Mrs. DIOP Sira Sissoko
President
UNFM

Signed by: _____
Ms. Patricia F. Eaton
Executive Director
BWCDF

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Telephone: (202) 466-6220

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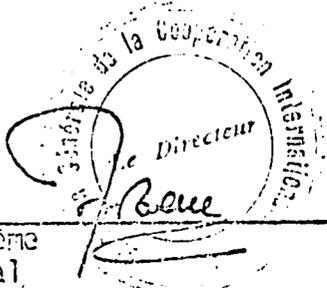
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7 March, 1978

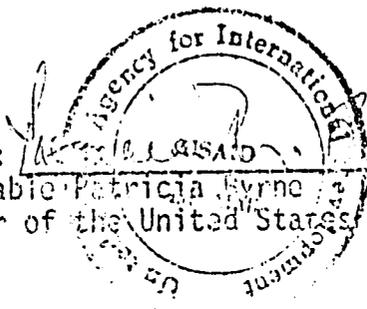
Signed by: M. Houstapha Deme
Director General
of International Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Signed by: Mrs. DIOP Sira Sissoko
President
UNFM

DIOP

Signed by: The Honorable Patricia Byrne
Ambassador of the United States
to Mali



Signed by: Mrs. Patricia F. Eaton
Executive Director
BWCDF

Patricia F. Eaton

The signing of the agreement took place in the office of Mr. Deme (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) with a "packed-house", broadcasted over Radio Mali. At the conclusion of the signing, speeches were made by Mr. Deme and Miss Byrne officially sealing and endorsing the agreement. Madame Diop opted not to speak in lieu of Mr. Deme's remarks. I made the following statement on behalf of the Foundation:

Remarks by Miss Patricia F. Eaton, Executive Director of the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, at the signing of the "LETTRE D'EXECUTION D'ACTIVITE", 7 March, 1978:

Mr. Director General, Your Excellency Miss Ambassador, Mrs. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

We have come to work with the descendants of Soundiata Keita, Kankan Moussa, Askia Mohammed -- the descendants of the great empires of Ancient Africa and of a civilization whose influence has spread over Europe, the Middle East and throughout the continent of Africa.

We as Black Americans or African Americans proudly share in this heritage.

The slave trade destroyed or weakened the economic, political and social fabric of Africa and paved the way for colonialism. Until all of us, including our brothers and sister in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa are free, then, in a sense, we are all involved in the struggle for liberation and self-reliance.

With the signing of the "Letter of Project Execution," we are joining the expertise of our sisters in Mali and the expertise of our sisters in the United States to work together to improve the life of women and their families in rural areas of Mali. This is an essential part of that struggle for liberation and self-reliance.

This effort is unique in our history and is being watched very closely throughout the African world. It is of special concern to our sisters in other areas of the Sahel who will eventually share in this project.

The Foundation has been successful in proposing to and securing from our United States government its financial assistance through AID to create this developmental training project for women in rural Mali. It is necessary that the original goals of this project be accomplished: to increase the participation of and more meaningful utilization of women as a rich human resource in the economic, social and cultural development of Mali. Achievement of these goals will be measured by increased numbers of trained women in health, social and economic activities in local villages. These women will be able to contribute toward the attainment of the developmental goals of the Republic of Mali.

The success of this project and the cooperation between the Union Nationale des Femmes Maliennes and the Black Women's Community Development Foundation establishes acceptance of women as meaningful resources on an international level.

I know, that wherever our great African Ancestors are today, they are very proud of this moment which will go down in history.

I thank you.

Changes in Original Project Proposal

In reviewing the original project proposal (which was the basis for funding) several changes for the first year have been made because of the lapse of time and the re-structuring of the Foundation.

The proposal called for a target group of young rural women ages twelve to eighteen. After recent discussion with several Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Rural Development, the target age was raised to eighteen and above. Credibility is best established by an older, stable woman in the community, since, as a change agent, it is imperative that the village women have respect for her training and confidence in her judgement.

The proposal also called for two components in year one that have been revised due to increased cost estimates for in-country expenditures.

The mobile unit, along with the permanent site at Ouelessebougu, were the projected training areas; but due to the increased cost of construction for buildings at Ouelessebougu, the mobile unit has been delayed for incorporation into year three.

Furthermore, because the Center is in its formative stage, it was agreed upon by BWCDF and the UNFM that a mobile unit at this time could detract from the maximum potential of the training site itself. This factor is of particular importance since the UNFM felt that the proposed five months sessions were too long for a woman to be away from her family. The length of training was cut to a three-month session with the woman being allowed to bring with her one child, under the age of six. Care for the children during the day will be provided at the Center.

With regard to curriculum, no changes were made; however, some practical instruction has been included. The proposal called for health/child care, agriculture, nutrition, home management and functional literacy. All of these components remain, but courses in tailoring, cooking, tie-dying and hair dressing have been added. These courses will allow village women to have expertise in areas where they can not only increase family income, but act as the village expert in those fields as well.

In perusing the project proposal, it was discovered that there was no mention of the Project Director living in Mali. It simply states that the "project director will spend substantial time in Africa." Due to the uncertainty of the political environment now in Mali, BWCDF is exploring the possibility of the Project Director maintaining the temporary accommodations whenever in Mali. Travel will be based on necessity; at present, trips are anticipated at a minimum toward quarterly visits in order to meet AID reporting requirements. For the remainder of the AID fiscal year (October 1, 1977 - September 30, 1978) for the success of the project, two additional visits by the Project Director are required, with each trip lasting approximately twenty one days.

BWCDF also finds it necessary, in view of the present political upheaval, for the Executive Director to accompany the Project Director on at least one trip in order to put the project in its proper perspective.

Staff projections in the proposal called for three agricultural agents, one health educator, one nurse, four instructors for functional literacy and home management and one female extension agent.

Under the project, the staff for the Center will be chosen by the Malian government and the UNFM; the number has not been decided upon.

BWCDF has hired only the Project Director and any other staff person will be hired locally, to assist the Director in keeping the project running smoothly.

Budget

The in-country expenditure proposal amounted to a total of \$26,000. This included the following expenses:

1) staff salaries, travel	\$ 5,000
2) adaptation of existing building	10,000
3) liaison staff-project/host country	7,000
4) maintenance costs	2,000
5) duty exemption	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	26,000

The project now consists of the following host-country inputs:

1) 10 hectare plot of land for project site	42,000
2) personnel	3,000
3) technical personnel	7,325
4) operational costs	<u>1,200</u>
TOTAL	53,525

Schedule of Activities

After negotiation and signing with AID, the proposal called for hiring the Project Director within two weeks of signing the contract. In actuality the Project Director was hired sometime after that, but, the first Director was asked to leave Mali after only two weeks. The next Director was hired with AID's approval in February of 1978.

Some sort of administrative and financial systems were to be set up under the proposal. The systems will be completed upon the Project Director's return to Mali and the reporting systems will be based on the AID financial and reporting procedures.

In-country activities consist of the following changes:

	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Project</u>
Staff Recruitment	June '76	25 March - 30 July, 1978
Staff Training	July '76	25 March - 30 July, 1978
Preparation of Project Facilities	July - September '76	15 March - 25 December '78
Preparation of Instructional Materials	_____	1 August - 15 December '78
Recruitment/Registration of initial trainees	August - September '76	15 October - 20 December '78
Training session begins	October '76	28 December '78

Donor inputs remain the same; however due to the delay in getting the project underway, costs for the first year are estimated much higher than the original budget (in the proposal).

Facilities development alone has more than tripled. Although this is only an estimate, it is expected that much more than the allotted \$65,000 will be needed.

Equipment has also increased; travel, salaries and administrative figures have been rearranged and amount to less than \$5,000 above the original projections for these combined line items.

The budget projections from the proposal and the actual project follow for all expenditures:

	<u>Domestic</u>	
	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Project</u>
Salaries	91,000.00	21,635.00
Travel	8,000.00	32,750.00
Administration	<u>35,000.00</u>	<u>85,440.00</u>
Sub-total	134,000.00	139,825.00

	<u>In-Country</u>	
Facilities Development	65,000.00	150,000.00
Equipment	20,000.00	29,975.00
Trainee Tuition	20,000.00	3,500.00
Other Direct Costs	<u>11,000.00</u>	<u>7,500.00</u>
Sub-total	116,000.00	190,975.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	250,000.00	330,800.00

A complete breakdown follows:

BWCDF/UNFM TRAINING CENTER

FY 78 - BUDGET

July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978

Total

SALARIES

Salaries

Project Director	7,638.00
Fringe Benefits (12%)	916.00
Secretary	916.00
Consultants	3,565.00
Wormens Compensation	600.00

13,635.00

Allowances

Housing	1,600.00
Settling-in	500.00
Furnishings	5,500.00
Education	-0-
Office Management (rent)	-0-
Communications	200.00
Printing/Reproduction	200.00

8,000.00

TOTAL SALARIES

\$21,635.00

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

Domestic	500.00
International	11,000.00
In-Country	-0-
Storage/Freight	13,000.00

24,750.00

Pre-Departure Expenses	250.00
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Per Diem	8,000.00
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8,000.00

TOTAL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

32,750.00

IN-COUNTRY EXPENDITURES

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

		<u>Total</u>
Construction/Rehab	150,000.00	
TOTAL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT		\$150,000.00

EQUIPMENT

Equipment	8,000.00	
Vehicles	20,000.00	
Spare parts	-0-	
Typewriter	375.00	
Office supplies	850.00	
Educational Materials		
Movie Projector	300.00	
Slide Projector	250.00	
Movie Screen	50.00	
Audio-Visual Aids	150.00	
TOTAL EQUIPMENT		\$ 29,975.00

TRAINEE TUITION

Trainee tuition, supplies	3,500.00	
TOTAL TRAINEE TUITION		\$ 3,500.00

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS		\$ 7,500.00
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TOTAL IN-COUNTRY EXPENDITURES		<u>\$190,975.00</u>
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ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

		<u>Total</u>
Salaries	49,386.00	
Fringe Benefits	2,083.00	
Consultants	9,200.00	
Rent	5,722.00	
Equipment Rental	2,369.00	
Supplies	4,000.00	
Domestic Travel	1,200.00	
Telephone	800.00	
Outside Printing	1,000.00	
Postage Rental, Machine	1,200.00	
Subscriptions, Ref. Publ.	128.00	
Xerox	1,250.00	
Insurance (other than fringe)	1,092.00	
Payroll Taxes	1,360.00	
F.I.C.A.	4,654.00	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS		\$ 80,440.00

SALARIES	21,635.00
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	32,750.00
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT	150,000.00
EQUIPMENT	29,225.00
TRAINEE TUITION	3,500.00
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	7,500.00
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	85,444.00
TOTAL COSTS	<u>\$330,054.00</u>

Projections for the Remainder of the First Year

Although the groundwork has been laid there is still much to do in implementing the Center at Oueles-sebougou.

For the remainder of the 1978 AID fiscal year, BWCDF hopes to have accomplished several concrete phases toward making CFAR operational.

The most obvious of these, is of course, designing and constructing the classroom building on the site. This can only be achieved with USAID/Mali approval since the new estimate is above the allowable cost for construction. Availability of cement is also a factor.

With the UNFM, the Project Director will, upon her return to Mali, discuss the final details of the curriculum design and complete details for the Center's operational structure. Also at this time, lists of materials and equipment will be discussed and drawn up so that these items may be ordered and secured in the United States under the guidelines of AID regulations. These items will be ordered after BWCDF has been properly advised by AID/W Commodity experts.

Recruitment of the instructors is being carried out by the UNFM in Mali and by the time the Project Director returns to Mali, their training should be well underway.

After the training of the instructors, the instructional materials and the methodology will be set up in Bamara.

Hopefully, by mid-October, recruitment of the initial trainees can begin.

BWCDF is presently awaiting acceptance of the invitation extended to the UNFM for a representative to visit the United States and observe women's programs in practice. The proposed length of stay will be approximately two weeks and she will be afforded the opportunity to see women in development and mobile unit systems in action.

The Project Director is expecting to return to Bamako with the UNFM representative. The anticipated time of return to Bamako is mid-June.

BWCDF/Mali Project Director: Jacquelyn Briggs

On February 2, 1978, Ms. Jacquelyn O. Briggs began working with BWCDF as Project Director for the Women's Development program in Mali, West Africa. Her contract was approved by the BWCDF Board of Directors and the AID Contract and Project Officers.

Prior to her departure to Bamako, on February 14, 1978, Ms. Briggs was involved in reading background information on Mali and its cultural heritage. She also spent time studying the background material provided her on the history of BWCDF and of the Mali project including the initial proposal to AID.

She also attended a conference on Human Resources including workshops for women in development.

A skeletal budget was drawn up to be used with the UNFM in our workshops as a guideline for expenditures. Unfortunately, as a working paper, it created some resentment on the part of the Executive Committee because since they had a project proposal in their possession, they were under the false assumption that the entire \$250,000 first year grant was to be spent on the project, in-country.

Since her return, Ms. Briggs has been investigating the potential of introducing innovative techniques to the project training site at Ouelessebougou, including the use of solar and mechanical (windmills) resources for energy, water purification methods outside the conventional boiling and filtering techniques and sources of iodine for purification and diet.

Through the Department of Agriculture she has acquired various materials for practical demonstrations to incorporate into the actual curriculum at the Center.

Although a three year budget has been prepared and submitted to our project officer, real figures cannot be determined until Ms. Briggs has further meetings with the UNFM in Mali to establish actual costs, i.e. construction and materials needed for the Center.

During the duration of the Project, Ms. Briggs will submit quarterly financial and programmatic reports to BWCDF and AID as required under the grant guidelines.

POINTS OF CONCERN

- I. The original, first year \$250,000 project grant was to become effective October 1, 1976. Effective September 30, 1977, AID Grant Officer, S.D. Heishman, gave to BWCDF an official Amendment of Solicitation/Modification of the Grant.

The description stated:

1. The estimated completion date is changed from September 30, 1977 to 30 June, 1978 wherever it appears in the Grant.
2. Paragraph 3, Face Page
Delete "This Grant is made to PAI...." and substitute "This Grant is made to BWCDF...."
3. ATTACHMENT A, Paragraph E. Reports
Both reports listed shall be submitted sixteen (16) months after the effective date of the Grant.

BWCDF is dealing with three fiscal/reporting years/time-tables. The Foundation's fiscal year is April 1 - March 31. AID's fiscal year is October 1 - September 30.

Our project seems to be working on the fiscal/reporting year July 1 - June 30. In view of this, my concern is:

- Since AID works on the fiscal year October - September, our first year grant "expires" June 30, 1978 and therefore, we are not to receive additional funding of over \$250,000 until October 1, 1978. (Voiding year of project implementation). Therefore, our first year of operations will have five (5) quarters and we will need advanced funding from our second year's installment. In order to facilitate funding disbursements, program planning and reporting requirements, we would like to have our fiscal year to be re-defined to coincide with AID's.

II. On several occasions, funds from AID have been very late in coming. Although we have submitted funding request forms in plenty of time, our last two checks (we have only had three disbursements to date) have both been late causing staff not to be paid and delaying scheduled trips to Mali. We would like to establish some system for securing disbursements on a regular basis in order to meet our financial obligations and commitments to the program. Further, these delays have strained our credibility in Mali.

PROGRAM OBSERVATIONS

Despite the current political unrest in Mali, BWCDF feels that the project for Malian women is a feasible one.

It is interesting to note that the wife of the Minister of Security and former influential member of the UNFM under Madame Tall played a very instrumental part in the expulsion of Joy Zollner. It was this Minister of Security who directly expelled Joy and is now under arrest, (along with, I have heard, his wife) for allegedly trying to undermine the government of Mali.

Other interesting notes are:

Madame Traore, the wife of the President of Mali, is no longer President of the UNFM (which was an active position). Now, as the Honorary President of the UNFM, the emphasis on direct political involvement has perhaps been lessened reflecting more confidence in Madame Diop who was not given the title of Secretary General as with Madame Tall -- but the position and title of "President" of the Union. Madame Diop was meeting with the President during the arrests, therefore slightly delaying our meetings with her and our expected departure date.

During the recent arrests of civilians in Mali, BWCDF understands that Mme. Tall has been placed under arrest along with several other women who had served with her.

Ambassador Sima, the Malian Ambassador to the United States, has been very supportive of our project and was extremely helpful during our last trip to Mali, at which time he was on consultation with all the other Malian Ambassadors. Now we hear that he has been recalled and detained/arrested by the government of Mali. His family has been asked to leave the United States at the close of his children's school year.

As a non-political organization, BWCDF does not want, nor seek, to be involved in Malian politics but we do think it is important to be aware of the political climate, both now and in the past.

Reflectively, we can now see that Joy Zollner's report was more reliable in view of the internal power-play between different facets of the government and the UNFM. I see that Joy was "in the wrong place at the wrong time." I also see this to be the reason why my trip in October went so unfruitful; however, less dramatic because Mr. Deme, who is in good standing with the government, intervened.

Madame Diop, prior to being elected as President of the UNFM, served as Mali's UNESCO representative to Upper Volta. I have much more confidence in her administrative and developmental skills. This is one reason why I think that her impending visit, as requested by BWCDF, could be very meaningful to the project.

We have seen many officials with whom we have had to deal directly, change since work began on the project, but we have always been able to deal with whomever necessary in trying to reach our goals and objectives -- having the training center succeed.

We have come a long way since last July. Granted, it has taken time, but now we feel that the groundwork has been laid and we, along with the Malian women, are ready and prepared to move ahead.

However, we need AID's full cooperation and support. The Chinese, North Korean, Polish and Russian (among others) influence is greatly felt in Mali. Although considered "window dressing for communism" by many, the "good-will" presence/touch is not being felt in Mali on behalf of the United States' involvement. While in Mali, many government officials would opt my appointment for sessions with representatives of the aforementioned governments.

Since we are not treated with priority support from the government of Mali (presumably because we are American), we would like to have some form of "priority support" from AID, especially in Washington.

AID/MALI has been nothing but supportive, understanding and encouraging. I would like here to officially thank Mr. Levin, Mr. Golden and the rest of the AID/Mali team for all of their assistance.

The reason that I brought out the above points is that I honestly feel that our program in Mali is extremely beneficial to both the United States and Mali. Do not construe this as BWCDF having any interest whatsoever in any type of American propoganda. However, from a developmental view point -- and without any underlying intentions -- it is quite evident that when you "touch the women, you touch the whole family." (Ask Mr. Moynihan...).

This was the concept at the founding of BWCDF. It is still, now, our concept in Mali.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET

PN-AAJ-931

BLACK WOMEN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION; PROGRESS REPORT

PERSONAL AUTHORS - EATON, P.P.
BRIGGS, J.O.

CORPORATE AUTHORS - BLACK WOMEN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FND.

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M/ LI RURAL AREAS

BLACK WOMEN'S
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1028 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. * Suite 1020 * Washington, D.C. 20036 * 202/466-6220

May 10, 1978

Mr. Robert Asselin
Agency for International Development
AFR/DR/SFWAP
Room 2646
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20523

PATRICIA E. EATON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Re: Grant No. AID/afr-G-1273

Dear Mr. Asselin:

Under the terms of Grant No. AID/afr-G-1273, please find attached the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, Inc.'s semi-annual (actually ten (10) months) progress report reflecting the results of the work on the project to date.

I know that you have been waiting some time for this report. But, after reading it, I hope you will understand the time it took for preparation.

The report is quite long and comprehensive. I have had many conversations with you and other A.I.D. officials and, as you know, the Foundation has encountered many obstacles in project implementation. (Close Encounters of the Umpteenth Kind.....).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HERSCHELLS CHAFFINOR, Ph.D. PRESIDENT
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RASHAD ROBINSON
C. LEE C. TAYLOR

Mr. Robert Asselin
May 10, 1978
Page 2

I hope that you will take time to peruse this report, not only in view that it is the BWCDF report, but also because we feel that it will give you a better insight into the UNFM and the ramifications on our and future women's related programs in Mali.

Sincerely,

Patricia F. Eaton

Patricia F. Eaton
Executive Director

In consultation with:

Jacquelyn O. Briggs

Jacquelyn O. Briggs
BWCDF Mali Project Director

PFE/JOB/sp
enclosure

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A RE-INTRODUCTION
to the
BLACK WOMEN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

The Black Women's Community Development Foundation was formed in 1967 shortly after former Harvard professor and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, published a long report about the plight of Black Americans. In his report called "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action", Moynihan asserted that Black people occupy the bottom of the country's socioeconomic ladder because most have grown up in families headed by women. The male heads of such families have often been forced to leave their families, due to attempts by the white community to block economic progress for Black men. Such families, Moynihan said, disintegrate under the aegis of women.

The children of such matriarchal families, he asserted, remain trapped in a self-perpetuating vicious cycle of welfare dependency, low aspirations and petty criminal activity. Mr. Moynihan, after analyzing the Black family for the previous 30 years, concluded that the Negro family had to be put in order before the race as a whole "could achieve real equality of opportunity."

Needless to say that report took the Black community by storm and although many leaders came forth with eloquent rebuttals to the report, another group of people decided to work to strengthen the very aspect of the Black family that Moynihan had considered negative. This group, which later became the nucleus of the BWCDF, included Myrlie Evers, widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers; Jean Fairfax of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; the Rev. James Hargett, secretary for the Black Ministries for the Council of the United Church of Christ; James A. Joseph, then a Washington businessman and the trustee of several colleges; and attorney Marian Wright Edelman. They began meeting regularly over a period of about six months, discussing what could be done to fully utilize the talents of Black women.

Ms. Fairfax, BWCDF Board President emeritus and presently an active member of BWCDF's Board, reflects: "It was foolish to consider the Black family pathological in light of the fact that it has survived until this day," expressing the sentiments expressed by the other founders of BWCDF. "So we decided to build affirmatively on the strength of Black women by helping them to make their untapped resources more available to the entire community."

Thus BWCDF became incorporated in the state of Indiana in August, 1968, as a non-profit, tax-exempt private foundation.

During the first years of existence, BWCDF served as a fund-raising agency and, with grants from larger foundations and government agencies, provided financial support and technical assistance to over 22 community-based women's groups in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

Some of the community groups funded by BWCDF during the late sixties and early seventies are now floundering due to the country's present economic crisis but others are still flourishing. For example, the Freedom Quilting Bee of Alberta, Alabama, a cooperative of 100 women, many of whom were living on family incomes of less than \$1,000 a year, received a grant of \$10,000 in 1969 from BWCDF and continues to sell its crafts nationwide. The cooperative used BWCDF's grant to finance the completion of a new building and to buy new equipment with which to make their quilts. This is only one of BWCDF's success stories of not only capability and sensitivity, but -- on the domestic front -- these projects have reinforced BWCDF's continuous goal to develop strong, healthy, positive, pro-

ductive black women, thus developing strong, healthy, positive, productive black communities.

This was our goal in 1968. This is still our goal a decade later, BWCDF's 10th Anniversary.

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT: AFRICA

Aside from programs on a national and local level, the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, Inc. saw a need and a "must" to deal with these same issues internationally. Inspired by the West African Sahelian drought crisis, the purpose of this concern was to provide multi-disciplinary instruction to young women in rural areas of Africa, areas facing the same basic problems asserted by Moynihan -- but on a different scale -- to provide assistance to women to act as change agents in their respective communities and through the acquisition, extension and integration of these new skills assist in increasing rural family income, stability, independence and self-reliance with dignity.

Therefore, in March, 1972 the BWCDF hosted a luncheon for wives of African diplomatic personnel. The purpose was to get a better understanding of what African women perceived to be some of the most important problems facing them. This luncheon encouraged the Foundation to become more actively involved in assisting, somehow, our African sisters.

In January , 1973, the Foundation held a conference chaired by the person who, at that time, was permanent Representative to the United Nations and Secretary General of the All African Women's Conference, Madame Cisse. This conference of African women and men was designed to help the Foundation discover and define what realistic and meaningful contribution we might make towards the development of African communities.

For months, the Foundation held many discussions with African representatives.

In March, 1974, a member of the Foundation traveled to Algeria to attend the meeting of the All African Women's Conference. It was made clear to us at this time that the Foundation should become involved in international development -- but strictly on Africa's terms!

On May 18, 1975 -- one year later -- 6 people representing the Foundation visited Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta and Ethiopia (funded by AID feasibility grant AID/AFR-G-1122) to see how we could best be of assistance and in which country we should begin.

When the team arrived in Mali, the project was discussed and designed with the assistance of the following Malian officials: the Minister of Health and Social Affairs; the Cabinet Director of the Ministry of Production; the Cabinet Director of the Ministry of Basic Education; the Director of International Organizations, Minister of Foreign Affairs; the President and Secretary General of the National Union of Malian Women; Madame Traore (the wife of the President of Mali); and Madame Tall.

This 6 member team was very impressed with the reception, hospitality, assistance, enthusiasm, knowledge, concern and advice to the Foundation. Mali was seen by the Foundation to have several assets towards complementing our objectives: political awareness and activism; an established, strong women's organization and self determination under international cooperation.

Mali was chosen as the site of BWCDF's first international project.

Upon returning to the United States, meetings were held with members of the Mali Mission to the United Nations, including the Ambassador. The project was approved by the government of Mali at which time both BWCDF and the Malian government anxiously awaited funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The project was written and re-written to meet the guidelines as established by A.I.D.

The final project proposal was submitted to A.I.D. February 11, 1976; A.I.D. approved the funding September 30, 1976 to become effective October 1, 1976 (AID/afr-G-1273).

The Status of BWCDF

At the Time of Project Grant: An Interim

BWCDF's Board of Directors had closed down the operations of the Foundation June, 1976 in search of a new Executive Director and staff. On September 30, 1976 (three months later) BWCDF's Board President, Dr. Herschelle Challenor, received a phone call from A.I.D. informing her that the three-year, \$777,500, BWCDF Mali AID Project Grant, had been approved and that her signature was needed. Dr. Challenor signed the first year's grant on the same day, effective the following day, October 1, 1976.

Dr. Challenor notified the other Board members, several meetings were held and a national search for an Executive Director of the Foundation was intensified.

Because the Board was scattered across the U.S., the search for an Executive Director and the prospect of re-opening the Foundation became frustrating. Board members in the Washington Metropolitan area approached several established organizations already involved in Sahelian development (Africare and the African American Scholars Council) with the idea of possibly subcontracting the grant.

Without exception, all possible subgrantors refused to implement the project for the same reason: Women in general and black women in particular, should and need to become involved in development on an international scope.

The search continued. At the time, I was Director of Communications and Chapter Development at Africare. Mr. C. Payne Lucas, Executive Director, told me about the Foundation, the position and the responsibilities. I had had long and extensive involvement in African development, administrative experience/skills and am a professional fund-raiser.

I became Executive Director of the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, effective July 11, 1977.

I was faced with the immediate challenge and responsibilities of finding new offices, equipping the office, hiring a totally new staff and retrieving, organizing and reviewing 40 boxes of programmatic and financial materials which had been sitting in storage for over a year. Audits had to be done; legal documents had to be filed; grant regulations had to be met; information for grant registration had to be compiled.

Reconstructing the BWCDF with a staff of only 3 full time employees, including myself, proved to be an awesome -- but not insurmountable -- task.

All of this while getting the Mali project off the ground and running.

Project Implementation

Mrs. Joy Zollner was employed as the Mali Project Director by the BWCDF's Board of Directors, effective July 12, 1977, her arrival date in Bamako, Mali.

Prior to her appointment, Mrs. Zollner had been an associate director with the African American Institute in New York City and had been involved with the BWCDF project from its very inception, including being a member of the 1975 BWCDF Sahelian feasibility team. This mission was, from her standpoint, a most difficult undertaking. Her personal and emotional involvement with the project made objectivity rather difficult, and at that point, her patience with those who did not seem to share the same understanding and enthusiasm, short.

Added to this, according to Mrs. Zollner, was the suspicion with which any "Native African" working with a national institution that does not belong to his country of origin is regarded heavily with suspicion. In Mrs. Zollner's case, the fact that she was representing an American Organization, that was not very well known -- and that organization was/is funded by USAID, perhaps, she reflected, added to her personal troubles as BWCDF's Project Director in Mali.

Upon Mrs. Zollner's arrival in Mali, her BWCDF directives and accomplishments were:

- (1) to establish the fact that the BWCDF is now prepared to undertake the creation of a community development training program for rural girls; (henceforth called the project);
- (2) to define with the government of Mali and other agencies in Mali (i.e., USAID Mission) the criteria for cooperation in implementing the project; and
- (3) to discuss and elaborate on the project regarding:
 - (a) the site;
 - (b) the timetable for implementation;
 - (c) the program for training including a definition of content, personnel, etc.;
and
 - (d) generally establish contacts for the project.

In order to establish the willingness of the BWCDF to undertake this project, she made courtesy visits to:

- (I) The Ministry of Rural Development: Here she met with the Chef du Cabinet, Mr. Toukara; the Directeur du Cabinet, Mr. Cissoko, and the Director for International Cooperation, Mr. Diallo. This first visit she felt was necessary because the Ministry of Rural Development was responsible for all projects concerned with rural development in Mali. The Ministry asked Mr. Diallo to work with her in establishing her program while in Mali. They also asked Mme. Marian Thiam to come to Bamako from Markala to accompany her during her stay. Mme. Thiam headed the division for "Animation Feminine" within the Ministry of Rural Development.
- (II) Mrs. Zollner paid a visit to the Secretary-General of the Union Nationale des Femmes Maliennes (UNFM), Mme. Tall.
- (III) The Minister of Health, Mr. Mamady Keita (the Ministry of Health was responsible to the Government of Mali for all social affairs and the UNFM).

- (IV) The then Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Seydou Traore. At the Ministry for Foreign Affairs she met with Mme. Aminata Marico. (She had served as the liason person between the BWCDF, the Foreign Ministry and the UNFM during the visit of the BWCDF feasibility study team in 1975). Mrs. Zollner also met with Mae. Hawa Wane of the Division for International Cooperation within the Foreign Ministry. She also took the opportunity to see Mme. Marie Fofanah, who was a member of the Bureau of the UNFM and had worked closely with the feasibility team in 1975. Mme. Fofanah was a member of the staff of Foreign Affairs.
- (V) Mrs. Zollner also paid a visit to the Chief of Protocol, Mr. Moussa Leo Keita. This Division of Foreign Affairs was responsible for diplomatic privileges and immunities, including exemptions from customs duties, some of which the project would need.
- (VI) She visited with the Director General of the OACV (Operation Arachides et Cultures Vivieres), Mr. Bagourou.

- (VII) The Associate Director General of CMDT (Commission Malien pour le Developpement du Textile);
Mr. Bagayoko.
- (VIII) Mr. Habib Diop, Director of Rural Animation (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (IX) The head of the Division du Promotion Feminine Rurale of the Ministry of Education, Mme. Diop, received her on very short notice since Mme. Diop was leaving Mali on vacation. (Madame Diop is presently President of the UNFM).
- (X) Mr. Zana Dao, the Directeur du Cabinet of the Ministry of Planning, also received her and offered any help the project would need from his Ministry.
- (XI) The Minister of Finance, Mr. Founেকে Keita, though not immediately involved with the project, invited Mrs. Zollner to see him and offered invaluable advice, as well as his personal commitment to helping the project's implementation.

- (XII) A meeting with the Director General of the Division of Social Affairs of the Ministry of Health had to be cancelled at his request, because of conflicting appointments. (The Director was suddenly called upon to represent his Minister at another meeting).
- (XIII) Though she was scheduling her meeting with the USAID Mission last, Mrs. Zollner underlined the fact that her very first stop upon arrival in Mali was to the USAID office in the American Embassy. The following morning she met briefly with Mr. Myron Golden of the USAID Mission to bring him up to date on the intensions of her mission for the BWCDF. Mr. Golden offered her any help she would need while in Mali. He also introduced her to the AID Mission liason person with the Malian Government. Mrs. Zollner thanked Mr. Golden and said she would keep the offer in mind, but that BWCDF and herself were concerned about keeping the identity of the BWCDF separate from USAID Mission. BWCDF had wanted to keep itself as a separate entity. She agreed to meet with the Deputy Mission Director at his convenience and it was arranged by Mr. Golden. This meeting took place later in the week.

All of Mrs. Zollner's above visits, except that with USAID, were suggested and scheduled by Mr. O. Diallo of the Ministry of Rural Development and she was accompanied on almost all of them by Mme. Marian Thiam.

While these visits were taking place, Mr. Diallo had offered the clerical services of his division at Rural Development to correct and retype the project as it was proposed and presented by BWCDF in its report to USAID of the Study Team in 1975. It had been decided by the Directeur du Cabinet, Mr. Diallo, and Mrs. Zollner, that this would serve as the working papers. It was to be circulated to all the divisions of the Ministry of Rural Development and all the other agencies of the Malian government that would be called upon to cooperate in the implementation of the project.

It was also agreed that this document would have to be made more explicit and precise and that this exercise would take place at an intra-ministerial meeting at Rural Development.

All of this activity was undertaken because the Minister of Health had been categorical in his statement

to Mrs. Zollner about the inability of both his ministry and the UNFM to undertake with the BWCDF the efficient implementation of this project. The Minister kindly offered to convey this to the UNFM Bureau and asked her to continue her work with the Ministry of Rural Development. The Minister of Health said that the government of Mali was particularly concerned about the following:

- (1) The availability of financing for the project;
- (2) The expected contributions of the Malian government;
- (3) That the young women trained by the project would not create a new class of unemployables with great expectations, that the Malian government would have to deal with. Mr. Keita insisted that any training offered by the project reflects realistic needs and provides profitable self-employment and incentives to stay in the rural areas. He added that his Ministry was faced with this problem of social welfare assistants whose training no longer reflected the needs of the rural areas and who were then a burden on the

civil service of Mali. He was not recycling some for medical and para-medical work and simply relieving others. The government was no longer training social welfare assistants; and

- (4) The Minister at this time, wanted to know what kinds of provisions BWCDF was making for the continuity of the project once the initial 3-year funding was utilized. The government of Mali was concerned again, because it did not want to suddenly find itself burdened with a project it did not undertake itself, nor did they want to see another project started with a great deal of enthusiasm and then left hanging once the initial funding ran out. The Minister warned that the Malian government had no funds available at this time, or in the foreseeable future, to contribute to this project.

The Minister felt that valid answers to these questions would have to be given to the government of Mali before final approval would be forthcoming. The Minister, in his conversation, suggested that the government of Mali had rejected the proposals of the BWCDF for the project.

This confused Mrs. Zollner a little because her information from other high officials was different. She later learned that the former Minister of Health, Mr. Ali Cisse, had presented the BWCDF report and received tentative approval pending clarification on the availability of funding and the expected participation of the Malian government.

However, after his departure in late 1975, the UNFM had extracted from, or better yet, rewritten the proposal for the project and had asked the then new Minister, Mr. Keita, to present this to the Ministerial Council. Since this new document was even less precise than the BWCDF proposal in the report, the government had rejected it.

Mme. Fatou Tall, the Secretary General of the UNFM, at their first meeting after that with the Minister of Health, told Zollner about their (UNFM) document and after much cajoling, gave her a copy. Zollner expressed regret to Mme. Tall that the BWCDF had never been informed of, or received, a copy of their proposal. Zollner added that an exchange of information prior to her leaving for the mission would have clarified the intent of the project.

At this meeting with Mme. Tall, she expressed surprise that Zollner had arrived in Mali and was meeting with government officials without the knowledge and presumed approval of the UNFM. Zollner explained that contact had been made with the government of Mali through the Embassy announcing her intended arrival in Mali and that her visit to Tall was within the intent of her mission to re-establish contact and define relationships. Zollner then related her conversation with the Minister of Health and his advice that she work with the Ministry of Rural Development as the most efficient manner in which to go about implementing the project.

In response to her not informing them of her exact date of arrival, Zollner said this was impossible since she was previously in Freetown for family matters and could not give an exact arrival date. Zollner also added that she did not want to abuse their kindness. Mme. Tall was obviously peeved. However, she said the Bureau of the UNFM was meeting Saturday, July 16 and asked Zollner to meet with her again on the afternoon of Monday, July 18, at which time she promised Zollner would have a discussion with the UNFM on terms of cooperation, etc.

Mme. Tall had questioned the use and involvement of the Ministry of Rural Development. Zollner again said it was her understanding that all projects to do with Rural Development came under this particular ministry and that their (UNFM) Minister had given her authorization, pending his meeting with them. She added that the BWCDF was still concerned with having the full support of the UNFM, but that in the interest of efficiently and expeditiously implementing the project, the Ministry of Rural Development was handling BWCDF's programming.

On Monday, July 18, Zollner returned to see Mme. Tall and was told, most solemnly, that the UNFM Bureau would meet with her Wednesday afternoon, July 20. Zollner expressed some disappointment since her program called for travel to the interior that morning, but said she would go to the Ministry of Rural Development and change the departure date to suit the Bureau, which she did. Mme. Tall again seemed annoyed that she had been programmed to visit the interior. Zollner explained this was in order for her to see other CAR and Community Development Centers of Operation Riz Segou, programs the feasibility team had not visited, and which Rural Development felt would give her a more informed understanding of needs and existing programs.

In between Zollner's meetings with the UNFM, on Tuesday, July 19, she went to Ouelessebouyou with Mme. Thiam as scheduled. At Ouelessebouyou, during this period, the Prefect seemed pleased to see a representative of the BWCDF because they had been expecting some activity by the BWCDF at the 'mixte' CAR for over a year. The UNFM had ordered the construction of 8 huts to house students for the BWCDF project. The construction had yet to be finished and more importantly, paid for. The Prefect naturally had a copy of the bill to show Zollner. She asked for a copy but he said he could not give Zollner his only file copy, but that both the Ministry of Health and the UNFM had copies.

The Prefect then accompanied Mme. Thiam and Zollner to the CAR where they visited the new huts, the other installations and experimental farms. Discussions were held with the monitrice, the agricultural agents and the Director of the CAR. At these discussions the assumption on all sides was that the Ministry of Rural Development would still approve of Ouelessebouyou as the site for the BWCDF training center. The Director was most enthusiastic about the possibility of collaboration with the BWCDF. It meant more equipment and personnel from which his trainees could benefit. He showed them unused class-

room space that would be available to the BWCDF with some modification. It also meant that this CAR would be able to follow-up ex-trainees with the cooperation of the BWCDF and joint use of vehicles. Ouelessebouyou has no vehicles.

The new project would help the CAR rejuvenate and reconstruct the fire-destroyed homes of previous volunteer organizations.

The French volunteers had also left Ouelessebouyou and the BWCDF would fill this gap.

Zollner had long discussions about the health and agricultural programs at this CAR mixte. It was quite clear that the sole monitrice, who served as health, nutrition, sewing, handicrafts and general teacher, was far from adequate. The Director felt both the CAR and the BWCDF would benefit from joint programs. The agricultural agents at Ouelessebouyou also felt that the CAR would benefit from the presence of the BWCDF.

An agent from Operation Haute Vallee happened to come to the CAR and joined Zollner in discussion. (The government of Mali had several agricultural develop-

ment projects which are called "Operation." These included Operation Mil in the north, Operation Poisson in the region of Mopti, Operation Riz-Segou, Operation Arachides et Cultures Vivieres (OAVC) in the central region around KATI and Operation Haute Valee in the region of Bamako. These are very intensive economic projects designed to improve and increase food production. They were, Zollner believed, designed and developed during the drought and funded jointly by external sources and the government of Mali).

In preliminary discussion at Rural Development, Zollner felt that attaching the BWCDF project to one of these "Operations" would limit the possibility of failure by assuring the project an economic base. Recruitment would perhaps be from the villages which had successfully joined these operations and assured the trainees of employment or use. The Community Development Centers attached to Operation Riz-Segou comprise a glittering success story of an integrated development project.

A visit was then paid to the Catholic Nuns operating a Social Service and Health Center at Ouelessebougou. (The feasibility team visited the nuns in 1975).

Their programs included alphabetization, handicrafts, health and nutrition. Even though their center was/is far from the the CAR and they have specialized personnel, e.g. a nurse/midwife, and both the CAR and Catholic Mission could benefit from close cooperation, there heretofore had been no cooperation between the two. Cooperation seemed a particularly desirable thing should the BWCDF project be implanted at Ouclesseboucou. The nuns did not seem, at this time, to disagree with possible cooperation.

The nuns are funded by the F.E.D. and the Catholic Church. The Malian government contributes the salary of local personnel.

The following day, Wednesday, July 20, meetings were continued at the Ministry of Rural Development and with USAID. Zollner asked Mr. Myron Golden of the AID Mali Mission, to accompany her to the UNFM Bureau meeting that afternoon. She felt it would be helpful in explaining the USAID funding of BWCDF. Zollner had also asked Mme. Thiam to come to the meeting, even though she wanted nothing to do with UNFM. Zollner insisted, since she had been assisted to accompany her everywhere by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The Bureau of the UNFM was there in full force, except for five women, who, in Zollner's estimation, understood most clearly the intents of the BWCDF project. The meeting was presided over by Mme. Marian Traore, the President of UNFM and the Malian President's wife.

The President invited Mme. Fatou Tall, the Secretary General of UNFM, to refresh the memory of the Bureau on the project. Mme. Tall did this, emphasizing the role of the UNFM in organizing the visit of the BWCDF feasibility team. She added that the UNFM had also constructed the huts at Ouelessebouyou for the project.

Zollner was then asked to update the project. She began by apologizing for not informing them of her arrival and giving the reasons. Zollner then said she had been recruited to coordinate the project by the BWCDF and was in Mali to start work on implementation. She explained the funding and introduced Mr. Myron Golden of USAID Bamako. She then assured them the funds were available and had been for over a year. She gave them copies of the project as proposed in the BWCDF report to USAID and said this was extracted and copied as a working document.

She then pleaded that we, the BWCDF, the government of Mali and the UNFM had a unique opportunity to prove that the project could be implemented and serve as a showcase for future community development efforts in the region that could be funded from outside and if properly designed, become self-supporting. On the question of the regionalization of the project, she explained that the funding we had would be insufficient to finance a viable international center at this time, but that if it succeeded, the experience could serve to find new and/or renewed funding for expansion. Zollner explained that in her understanding, the BWCDF report was clear on this.

After much discussion it became quite clear that Mme. Tall and some other members of the Bureau were not listening or had misread the proposal. They (the UNFM) had understood that BWCDF would deliver the funds to the UNFM for the implementation of the project. On the strength of this understanding they had presented their proposal to the Malian government, which was rejected and had also asked for the huts to be built in Ouelesse-bougou. As a matter of fact, Mme. Tall added, they had a bill for 750,000 Malian Francs for the buildings.

Zollner explained that BWCDF had received the funding from USAID and would be responsible for the management of the project and the funds, and that BWCDF and she had hoped for cooperation and political support from the UNFM just as we expected technical and some material support from other agencies within the government of Mali. She offered the Bureau a look at the contract BWCDF had signed with AID and Mr. Golden tried to clarify the intent of the project further.

The UNFM then tried to question Zollner's ability to represent the BWCDF. Mme. Tall even suggested that they (UNFM) had planned to ask for an invitation from the BWCDF to visit the U.S. to discuss the project. To this, Mr. Golden said the USAID mission would be willing to write to the UNFM officially establishing her credentials.

It became more and more obvious that Mme. Tall and Mme. Diarra were leading a slight "witch-hunt" and were not listening. They claimed the copied project was a new document, to which Zollner said no and pointed out it was merely removed from the bulky report to facilitate use.

It was clear that the UNFM was not interested. Mme. Marian Traore then said that the meeting should end, since it was going around in circles and suggested Zollner continue to elaborate the project with the Ministry of Rural Development. Mme. Traore stated that once the project was accepted by the government of Mali, if they (UNFM) were invited to participate, they would.

This seemed to Zollner to be a sensible and efficient decision. Thereupon, she apologized for there not having been an exchange of information prior to her arrival in Mali and for the misunderstanding which seemed to exist. She said that perhaps the French translation of the project was not clear, but hoped that the BWCDF and the UNFM would reach a clearer understanding of their roles in the implementation of the project once it was more clearly elaborated.

Zollner then thanked the Bureau and left. Mme. Tall had, much to her surprise and annoyance, refused to allow Mme. Thiam to participate at the meeting, even though Mme. Thiam told her she had been assigned to accompany Zollner everywhere by Rural Development.

Zollner reported the meeting to the Directeur du Cabinet and the Director for International Cooperation at Rural Development immediately afterwards.

The next morning, Mme. Thiam and Zollner left to visit the Community Development Centers attached to Operation Riz-Segou and other CARs in the region.

Mme. Aminata Diawara, Director of the CDC of Operation Riz-Segou had been expecting their arrival since the evening of Tuesday, July 19. Zollner apologized and explained the delay. Mme. Diawara further explained the nature of the CDCs and how they had been an integral part of the planning of the agricultural and economic development of the region of Segou. The major funding sources (FED) and the government had decided that social development was part and parcel of a successful economic and agricultural development project. Hence, there is a CDC attached to every station and sub-station within the area of the Operation Riz. Headquarters are in Segou. The CDC were particularly concerned with improving health and making women within the area more productive.

Mme. Diawara explained there were at present five major and at least ten minor CDCs operating in the region

with 780 participants, with plans for more as soon as financing and the expressed will of the women permitted.

The CDCs recruited participants on a volunteer basis with the following criteria in mind:

- (a) that the women are between the ages of 20-35;
- (b) that they did not travel out of their villages on a regular basis;
- (c) and their willingness and ability to do volunteer work.

The CDC programs include:

- (1) Health: Nivaquinization, pre and post natal care and general hygiene.
- (2) Nutrition: demonstrations of food preparation for children once a week, general discussions on nutrition and pictorial demonstrations of healthy food preparation, etc.

- (3) Training in modern health methods of traditional mid-wives and creation of working relationships between the traditional midwives and nurses and health center personnel in the area.
- (4) Economics: (a) gardening through demonstration at the CDC. The surplus is sold and revenue remains with the CDC; (b) Chicken farming. The CDCs have three chicken runs in operation and plan six others. They buy imported stock which is then crossbred with local. The CDCs had been quite pleased with the results and have been trying to introduce the wider use of eggs and chicken in the food of the area. (Some Malian ethnic groups have a strong taboo about the use of eggs in the diet of children and pregnant women); (c) Tiedyeing using chemical and local dyes. The CDC at Sansanding had a very well designed and equipped workshop. The products are sold. There is a growing market.
- (5) Dressmaking
- (6) Emergency Care

(7) Functional Literacy

The training for the women at the CDCs is done in two-week periods. They are then visited on a regular weekly basis by the agents from their particular station or sub-station. (Vehicles were provided to the CDC by UNICEF).

A visit to the CDC at Sansanding, about 75 km. from Segou proved to be most rewarding. This center is in the Sarakole ethnic area, very orthodox Muslim and generally not open to formal education for their women or children. The CDC has two social welfare assistants detached from the Ministry of Rural Development. Two aides (who received two months training in Community Development at the Headquarters in Segou) and two agricultural agents complete the staff. There were at the time 33 participants at the Sansanding CDC. The Center had trained teams of two nutritionists, two health aides and two matrons for each of twenty-two villages it covers.

The head of the CDC at Sansanding underlined the fact that health was the number one priority and that they tried to interest and educate the whole family to the fact that better health meant increased production.

The programs were organized to coincide with the planting and, therefore, seasons. E.g., in the rainy season, they worked on nivaquinization and prevention; in the dry season, they held demonstrations; December was largely gardening.

There were, at this time, seven villages involved in gardening. The CDC held demonstrations in each village on food preparation, especially for children at severance.

On tie-dying, the initial funds were provided by the CDC. This program has become self-supporting, the revenue being divided equally between the participants and the CDC.

They considered this activity pre-cooperative. They intended to create a cooperative. Sansanding has also started organizing pottery production of small items, ash trays, glasses, etc.

The CDC staff at Sansanding said that their greatest difficulty at the start was lack of communication and hence understanding between the staff members. Therefore, the agricultural agents used different languages and had different expectations of participants from those of the

health people and/or those who taught alphabetization. Since then the barriers have disappeared and all understand the need for an integrated approach for success.

They pointed out that the maximum stay at the center was 15 days for each participant, but that every year there were recycling programs for the former participants. At the start, four years ago, it was pointed out that the agents for the CDCs were largely male. Since then there have been many females, but the CDC had to reason to make the trainers all female.

The CDC substation at Bougoura was also visited. There, Zollner and her escorts met with the Director of the Station at San., Mme. Cisse, who was visiting the villages and substations with a group of trainees for the Community Development school at Bamako. These trainees are the first class at the Community Development school and will finish their 4-year training in 1978.

Bougoura is considered a secondary CDC. There are two agents there, one male and one female and a traditional midwife or matron. There are six villages involved with this CDC.

At Koni, Zollner and company visited a CAR mixte run by the Catholic Church. It was financed in 1973 by the FED. This program is similar to the other CAR, except that the training lasts only 9-10 months for the couples. The staff includes four nuns, one of whom is a midwife, one monitrice and two agricultural agents.

The program is organized from May through January to accommodate the harvest season and the return of participants to their villages for this activity. The nuns, assisted by the priest in charge of the men, recruit the couples. The criteria again includes: (1) age; (2) what they describe as "a dynamic desire to progress"; (3) monogamous couples; (4) with children, they must bring someone to care for the children. One sister gives the girls who are brought to care for the children, lessons in childcare. They normally recruit from the same villages every year.

Follow-up by the nuns is done on a weekly basis. They also encourage their former participants to hold village meetings.

The former participants sell nivaquine and care for small wounds, etc. The nuns insist on example from former participants, peer group support and cooperation.

Yangasso is a state CAR which Zollner and company also visited.

The team also visited Koutiala in the CMDT area. Mme. Diawara insisted this visit was useful because the women of Koutiala had, on their own, insisted on a CDC and had gone ahead with raising their own funds to build the Center. The center is still unfurnished, but it seems the government is now willing to help the women finish the structure, while the CDC Headquarters has promised to help equip the Center.

This CDC would have the same programs as other CDCs.

In answer to Zollner's question as to what the women felt would be the most useful training in the proposed BWCDF Center, they answered:

- (1) Tie-dying;
- (2) Dressmaking, especially children's wear;
- (3) Embroidery, especially machine embroidery of household goods, sheets, etc.;
- (4) Weaving of tapistry;

- (5) Cooperative management;
- (6) Use of oil presses, i.e. peanut oil and kazite oil and the know-how for the commercialization of these products, as well as wood gathering, etc. Also the use of mills for millet, etc.;
- (7) Water problems and management;
- (8) small animal farming and gardening; and
- (9) catering: i.e. organizing food preparation and sale for factory workers, etc.

The women of Koutiala then went into a discussion of their particular needs including the setting-up of a factory for the preservation of mango and production of mango juice.

On Monday, July 25, in Bamako, Zollner attended an intra-ministerial meeting at Rural Development, presided over by the Directeur du Cabinet, Mr. Cissoko. This meeting was organized to work out the details of the project and its implementation.

All divisions and agencies of the Ministry of Rural Development were invited to attend, including the several operations with offices in Bamako.

The meeting was agreed, after much discussion and a near coup d'etat by OAVC, which had come as a three-man delegation with a proposal of their own, that they; (1) agreed with the philosophy of the project as presented in the BWCDF proposal, but that the project should be situated way out in the rural area and not at Ouelessebougon, which is within the region of Bamako and too close to the city; (2) that it should be as described in the BWCDF proposal as an integrated program; (3) that the OAVC zone of operation was the most favorable area from which to choose a new site and OAVC would provide the economic "encardement", much as Operation Riz had done for the CDCs; (4) that funds available, as was stated in the proposal, could be used to start two Centers, one in OAVC area only and a second in a zone which covered more than one operation, e.g. Yangasso; (5) that a working group consisting of Mr. Traore of OAVC, Mme. Thiane, Mme. Diawara and Mme. Zollner would spend the next 48 hours working on the details of the two Centers and the time table for implementation.

The Directeur du Cabinet, at this time, noted that all salaries for local personnel would continue to be paid by the government of Mali, allowing more funds for the two Centers.

It was agreed that the proposed Center would be considered national, even though recruitment, etc., would be limited to the immediate environs and the specific operation or operations in the area.

At the previous small committee meeting it was agreed that one center would be at Gidian, about 45 km. from KATI, the center of OAVC operations and that Gidian would recruit from the villages in the area and serve as a center for the mobile unit.

The second center would be at Yangasso, which rides herd on OAVC activities, Rice and CMDT activities. That Yangasso was (1) rural enough being 135 km. from Segou, 56 km. from San and 20 km. from Koni. (2) That Yangasso had a CAR mixte where the center would be established. (3) That the CDC at Bougoura was only a few minutes away. There is a maternity and a dispensary in Yangasso. (5) It is within a zone of functional alphabetization (Z.A.F.). (6) There existed a branch of the National

Federation of Cooperatives in Yangasso. (7) It is an important marketplace. (8) The population of Bamara was most open to innovation. (9) The French volunteers were also moving to the CAR at Yangasso. They also felt the head of the arrondissement was a particularly dynamic person, with a greater chance of success. The working team spent a half a day, well into the evening, elaborating on a program for Yangasso, which would also be used at Gidian with greater emphasis at Gidian on peanut production and utilization.

Mr. Traore and his team worked on the budget and building plans for both sites.

Unfortunately, Zollner was asked to leave Mali before the final project was to have been ready, discussed, polished and presented to the government for approval.

On the evening of Tuesday, July 26, Zollner found a "convocation" to the local police station for the next morning. She discussed this with friends, who felt it was nothing. However, she knew from the spelling of her name on the "convocation", Zolina (African) that the UNFM had something to do with it.

This suspicion seemed even more real, since she had been invited to the UNFM office by mistake that same evening. Mme. Tall said she had only asked someone to verify her address. The person had left a message that she was wanted at UNFM headquarters. The next morning, she went to the local police station, to be told that she had been asked to leave Mali within 24 hours. The officers said they could give me no reason why and were only executing orders. Thereupon Zollner went to the Ministry of Rural Development and was taken directly to see Minister of Labor, Assim Diawara, who was assuming the post of Minister of Rural Development while the minister was away from Mali. Minister Diawara went directly to the Presidency and came back and asked her to wait while he tried to reach the Director of Internal Security, who had signed the order. Zollner decided to plan to leave, whatever happened, since she had no intention of being mistreated by local police.

She went back to the Ministry and asked that they continue to develop the project, that the personality clash between her and the UNFM should in no way hinder the project. She said that she would report back to the BWCDF on the work accomplished and insisted that someone else, either an American or a Malian, assume Directorship.

She met with her committee and insisted on the same thing. She then went to AID and told Mr. Golden and local staff of the order.

That evening, Zollner was invited to dinner by Ambassador Byrne. She attended, but said nothing about the incident.

Meanwhile, the Minister had reached the Director of Internal Security, but Zollner was too upset to stay. She left the next morning for Abidjan. It has since been confirmed to her that the UNFM did indeed ask for her expulsion, pretending she was in Mali visiting the interior and making promises without their knowledge, or by insinuation.

She found the incident rather depressing, because to her, it proved the lack of professional knowledge on the part of the Director of Internal Security.

Because of the above-mentioned expulsion, Mrs. Zollner ended her contract with BWCDF effective July 28, 1977, the day of her departure from Bamako.

Upon her return to Washington, she met with the Executive Committee of the Board and me, to comprehensively explain her Malian "odessey" and, more importantly, to plead with BWCDF to see that everything be done to see the implementation of the project. In conclusion, Mrs. Zollner reported; "Again, I would like to stress that the Malians are most disposed to seeing the project implemented, once the questions of (1) funding assurance; (2) program content; and (3) continuity, etc., are agreed upon. Mali is still a dynamic place, in spite of my own personal problems."

Mrs. Joy Zollner immediately returned to her native home, Sierra Leon, where she now works and resides with her son.

PROJECT RECONSTRUCTION

Without evident provocation or notice, Joy Zollner's expulsion from Mali left BWCDF temporarily confused, insulted and uncertain. An urgent meeting of the Board of Directors was called.

While the Board meeting was being confirmed, I received an unexpected phone call from the African-American Institute's D.C. office, introducing Mr. Moustapha DEME to me (Director General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mali). The caller said that Mr. Deme was in Washington and wanted to meet with me regarding the status of BWCDF's project in Mali.

I, along with a few Board members, met with Mr. Deme on Friday, August 26 at BWCDF's office, during which time Deme assured us that Mali still wanted to work with BWCDF on the development of the project. He expressed regret for the circumstances surrounding the expulsion of Ms. Zollner and implied that her expulsion was due to her own professional and personal indiscretions. With intentional evasions and avoidance, no further explanations were given or expounded upon.

However, Mr. Deme did spend much time reiterating the point that the Malian government wanted to renew/re-establish a working relationship with the Foundation.

Mr. Deme left Washington shortly thereafter with background materials on BWCDF's project in his possession. He returned to Washington and met with me for lunch on September 21, 1977 at which time he invited me and a member of the Board of Directors to come to Mali for a first-hand assessment of the situation, for re-negotiations and to set the project in motion.

At the confirmed meeting of the BWCDF Board on the following day, September 22, 1977, it was agreed that I and a representative of the Board would go to Bamako at the earliest possible time to meet with Malian government representatives and the UNFM. The purpose of such a visit, as we saw it, was to determine the feasibility of continuing with the projected rural development program for women in light of the "inhospitable treatment" afforded our representative. Clearance for travel was given by our AID contracts and project officers. The AID mission in Mali was notified along with the Foreign Ministry, the UNFM and the American Embassy.

The Malian Ambassador assigned to Washington His Excellency Ibrahima Sima, attended this September 22 Board meeting.

Visit to Bamako, Mali: October 9 - 21, 1977

I arrived in Bamako October 9, 1977 accompanied by Miss Yvonne Williams, BWCDF Board of Directors Treasurer.

This trip was not productive in pinning down specific details of the project as had been hoped and planned. This result stems largely from the fact that there was no basis of continuity with Joy's trip. It was clear that the clock had been turned back, completely erasing any initiatives undertaken by Joy. Even with the intervention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we were never able to get a copy of the working paper started by Joy, as described in her report. We were told that this document was no longer relevant.

Our visit was programmed by the UNFM, with the endorsement of M. Deme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a series of visits to relevant ministries, to be followed by an all-day work session with ministry representatives. We cooperated in good faith, on the assurance that matters were being worked out among the Malians behind closed doors in a way that the women's group would not lose face, but so that the project would be assured a sound organizational framework.

Arriving Sunday afternoon, October 9, BWCDF representatives were met by a delegation of Malians from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Union Nationale des Femmes du Mali. This delegation consisted of Mme. Hawa Wane, Chief of the Division of Social and Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mlle. Hawa Diallo, Conseiller Technique, Ministry of Health and Head of External Relations, UNFM; Mme. Toure, Office of Protocol Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mme. Diakite, UNFM; Mme. Bengaly, UNFM; M. Boubacar Daou, Assistant to Mr. Myron Golden at USAID. M. Moustapha Deme, who had met with BWCDF representatives in Washington, arrived from Geneva on the same flight. We were taken to our hotel and the UNFM indicated they would call for us at 9 the next morning. Shortly after our arrival, Myron Golden of AID called on us and reviewed the background of the project and Joy's visit.

UNFM Member Mme. Faty Diawara, Director of a teacher-training school, called for us before nine o'clock Monday morning. We went directly to the UNFM and met with Mme. Fatou Tall, the Secretary General. Mme. Tall indicated that she was pleased that we had come and that we were still interested in the project. She expressed regret that they "had to ask Mme. Zollner to leave." She said that Mm. Zollner had shown disrespect for the President's wife.

Also, they were displeased that Mme. Zollner had arrived unannounced, had not coordinated her stay with UNFM and had taken the project to the Ministry of Rural Development. Mme. Tall expressed hope that the project could now proceed forthwith as a considerable amount of time had been lost. She complemented Moustapha Deme for the role he played in clarifying the issues. Mme. Tall apologized that the UNFM was very busily engaged in nightly meetings all over the city in preparations for their December Congress. She indicated that these responsibilities would limit their availability to meet with us. She also explained that her mother had died only four days before our arrival and this had placed limitations on her ability to receive us as she had wished. We indicated that BWCDF was quite shocked and concerned at Joy's expulsion. However, we had decided to pursue the matter as we were still interested in attempting to launch a project which would aid rural women in Mali.

We went to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs where we met with the Minister, M. Keita Mamadi and Dr. Traore Gaoussou, Directeur de Cabinet. M. Keita welcomed us and indicated he was pleased that the project was still alive. M. Keita asked if it were correct

that we would be working only with the UNFM. We indicated that we were interested in working with all elements of the Malian government which could contribute to the success of the project. As the government had the most comprehensive knowledge in this regard, it would be up to the government to determine the framework in which we would work. I had the impression that M. Keita was somewhat relieved by this response. He stated that he wanted to confirm that the project wasn't limited to the UNFM, but was in fact a grant to the Mali government for a project to be coordinated among the various ministries by the government.

We then returned for lunch, fully expecting to resume our scheduled afternoon program, beginning with a visit to the Director General of Social Affairs. When we arrived there at the appointed time, we were informed that the UNFM had cancelled the appointment and that it would be rescheduled for another time. We went to the UNFM to see what had happened but it was deserted. We proceeded to our next appointment with Moustapha Deme at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. We met with M. Deme and Mme. Hawa Wane, Chief of the Division of Social and Cultural Cooperation. They were surprised at the change in schedule, but assured us that any problems would be

ironed out in an interministerial meeting among the Malian Ministries scheduled for the following afternoon. M. Deme and Mme. Wane reviewed the program set up by UNFM and indicated their approval of it. M. Deme also explained that some of the appointments were set up to follow up several project ideas which he had discussed with me during his Washington visit.

We were scheduled to meet with the Minister of Rural Development at 9 A.M. on Tuesday morning. Our UNFM hostess from the previous morning had said she would pick us up at 8:45. When she had not arrived by 9:10, I telephoned the UNFM. When I finally got through to Mme. Tall, she said she was so sorry, but UNFM had not had time to make the appointments and that we had a free morning. We were quite shocked at this turn of events, even moreso when we learned that the appointment with Rural Development had actually been made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the people at Rural Development wondered why we never showed up. While deciding what would be the next move, we were joined by Mme. Marico (not Aminata) of the Protocol Office of Foreign Affairs. She said she had been waiting at Rural Development to meet us and accompany us on the rest of our visit.

We then decided, that we would have to continue our program with the use of an AID vehicle, which Myron Golden had graciously arranged to place at our disposal. Accompanied by Mme. Marico, we resumed our program with an afternoon visit to the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications. This meeting had been scheduled at the suggestion of M. Deme to explore the availability of films and other materials which would be useful in publicizing future Mali - BWCDF cooperative projects. We met with the Directeur du Cabinet who also agreed to provide a photographer for certain of our visits.

Because of the growing importance of the AID Mission Chiefs with respect to activities in countries for which they are responsible, we decided to meet with Ron Levin and discuss developments with respect to the program. The visit was useful in conveying to AID our current approach of working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in an attempt to get the program back on the track. He seemed convinced that our approach was sound and indicated a willingness to assist.

One Wednesday morning, we called on the Governor of the Region of Koulikoro. Koulikoro is the region in which Ouelessebougu is located. The Governor was a

very expansive person who talked at some length on the importance of cooperative efforts between Mali and the United States. He particularly praised the work of Africare in well-digging and of Sister Cities. He stated that he was very pleased that our project would be in his region and offered to cooperate in any way he could. We accepted his graciousness and, given our understanding with M. Deme that inter-Ministerial differences would be worked out among the Malians, we did not mention that there was a question as to whether the project would really take place in Ouelessebouyou. The following visit to the Mayor of Bamako was wholly ceremonial.

We then met with the United States Ambassador Patricia Byrnes. Ambassador Byrnes stated that she was very concerned as to how things were going and that she was very eager to have the project get off the ground. She seemed quite shocked at what had happened to Joy and was pleased that we were now working with Foreign Affairs in attempting to coordinate among the Ministries. We received the invitation list for a reception which she would host at the end of our visit, for the Ministry and UNFM officials with whom we would be working.

In the afternoon we met with M. Zakara Traore and Mme. Sacko Koumba at the Direction Nationale de la Cooperation. This service is responsible for the development of rural and urban cooperatives. Mme. Koumba is responsible for the women's section which was initiated in 1975 under a grant from a Canadian Foundation. The areas of concentration for the rural cooperatives include agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry, transport and handicrafts. In urban areas, the service is promoting the development of consumer cooperatives, of which 57 are now located in Bamako. Mme. Koumba added that once production at the artisanal coops were expanded, they would be interested in seeking external markets.

Thursday visits related essentially to arts and culture including visits to M. Sedipho Niang, Director of the National Weaving and Rug-Making Workshop, a women's tie-dye cooperative at Tomikorobougou and M. N' Tii Indriss Mariko, National Director of Arts and Culture.

At our request, the meeting with the Ministry of Rural Development was rescheduled for Thursday afternoon. We met with M. Ouedji Diallo, Conseiller Technique responsible for non-governmental organizations.

We asked Mr. Diallo about Joy's Tollner's report and he stated that it was no longer relevant. He indicated that Rural Development would be working under the direction of the UNFM which was best placed to oversee a project relating to women. I did not sense from his comments or from his response to our questions any sense of continuity with Joy's earlier meetings with Rural Development. Unfortunately, the Minister was out of the country and therefore, not available to provide further clarification.

The interministerial workshop was held on Friday, the 14th, at the Direction Generale of Social Affairs. This is the section of the Ministry of Health responsible for the UNFM. Dr. Abdoul Karem Sangare, Inspector General of Health, presided over the meeting. Mme. Tall was seated next to him. Other ministries and services represented included: Rural Development (M. Ouedji Diallo); UNFM (Mlle. Hawa Diallo); Affairs Sociales (M. Arouna) Dembelle and M. Boubacar Keita; the Government of Koulikoro (M. Camara); Ministry of Plan.

A memorandum prepared by Moustapha Deme upon his return from the United States formed the agenda for the meeting. In opening the meeting, Dr. Sangare reviewed the background of the project from the visit of the

feasibility team in 1975 and its ultimate selection of Mali as the location for the project.

He stated that the Malian government had chosen Ouelessebouyou. He emphasized that the project had been from the beginning a project under the "tutelle" UNFM and hence under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. He noted that following the visit of Joy Zollner and her expulsion, the UNFM had thought the project was dead. It was only following the meeting of Moustapha Deme with BWCDF in Washington that they realized the project might still be possible. The points raised in Deme's Washington discussion would form the basis for the meeting. As we had not previously seen the report, I asked for copies and time to read it. We were given copies and it was read aloud in its entirety by one of the participants. (See attachment). Following the reading I stated that the substance of the report was accurate but emphasized that our primary purpose in coming to Mali was to work out the details for implementing the rural development projects. Other possible future projects noted by Deme in his report were only the subject of tentative exploratory conversations and need not be made a part of the workshop agenda.

The following points were discussed:

a) Location of Project

Dr. Sangare stated that the project would take place at Ouelessebougou, 65 kilometers from Bamako. This location was selected because a development center is already located there. The C.A.R. would set aside 10 of its 60 hectares for the use of the project. He noted that the government had already made some preliminary investments in the form of lodgings. No mention was made of billing BWCDF for these lodgings. He added that Ouelessebougou is the site of a weekly fair attended by 50 villages and would therefore be well-suited for the involvement of several departments.

b) Design and construction of buildings.

The Malians proposed two kinds of structures: initial structures to get the project started and additional structures for the international phase of the project. The Mali government decided in favor of traditional type structures.

The government would be responsible for building the lodgings for the students ("casas") and the classrooms and the BWCDF was asked to be responsible for the offices and lodging for the project director. BWCDF was asked if it could build two wells. We indicated that this had not been envisaged in the project budget. We suggested that cost estimates be provided if the matter were to be considered formally.

what is the project

The representative of the Ministry of Plan asked if there were a complete budget giving cost estimates for the entire project. Dr. Sangare replied that the negotiations had not yet reached that state. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that cost estimates would be provided before our departure.

c) Organizational framework.

It was stated that the Mali government had decided that the project would be conducted through the UNFM under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

The following Ministries were designated to collaborate and name permanent project representatives: Health, Plan, Rural Development, National Education, Youth and Sports, Finance and Commerce, Region of Koulikoro. The UNFM was to follow up with their ministries to get the names of their representatives.

d) Staffing

The Malians agreed to place at the disposition of the project maintenance personnel and instructional personnel already on government payroll. BWCDF would be expected to provide the "personnel specialist."

e) Course of study

Mali will draft a design of the content of the program study. The UNFM agreed to prepare before the arrival of the BWCDF representative a draft program of study, coordinating the participation of the various ministries.

M. Toure of the Community Development Service would assist in this regard.

f) Equipment

The UNFM agreed to prepare an equipment list with prices. Among the equipment they expected to request were two cars: a Land Rover 109 SW and a Peugeot 504 Commerciale.

g) Director

The UNFM recommended a Malian director for the project to assure that the project would be properly initiated in the country and well-accepted by the people. We raised the Foundation's concern for assuring the administrative accountability with respect to AID. After a brief discussion it was agreed that there would be co-directors, a Malian and an American.

h) Date of Commencement

The UNFM explained that it was fully engaged in preparation of its Congress for the month of December and would not be able to give full attention to the project until afterwards. They suggested January 16, 1978 as a starting date for the project.

Several Ministry representatives recommended to Mme. Tall that she name a UNFM person to be responsible for the project and not delay because of the Congress. Mme. Tall did not seem responsive to this suggestion and did not indicate whether or not she would do so. She did agree, however, to prepare the information noted above before the BWCDF representative would arrive, tentatively on December 1.

We went directly from this meeting to the reception hosted by Ambassador Byrne. Mme. Tall and UNFM representatives had been invited and the time of the reception had been set early to accommodate them. Mme. Tall apologized, however, that she and the other representatives would be unable to attend. Moustaphe Deme and two associates did attend the reception.

We spent Saturday morning in Ouelessebouyou. Mm. Demba Diallo, Director of the C.A.R., took us to visit the lodgings that had been started. He showed what work would have to be done to prepare them for habitation. The structure included 8 traditional style dwellings made of earth and grasses. There was also a refectory and a storage structure and a classroom both of which were to have tin roofs, he stated. He described the program of the C.A.R. which has already been covered in the report of the feasibility team.

We visited the government funded maternity center nearby and met the French nun who runs it. Two UNFM representatives of the area also appeared to welcome us.

Interestingly, no UNFM representatives accompanied us from Bamako. There was considerable discussion at the Friday meeting as to who would accompany us. The UNFM succeeded in shifting this role entirely to others and we were accompanied by an Amadou Toure of the Direction Nationale des Affaires Sociales and M. Wali of Commerce, Chef du Cabinet of the Government, Region of Koulikoro.

Miss Williams returned to Washington October 16, 1977. I stayed.

During the following week, I had several meetings with Mme. Fatou Tall, UNFM Secretary General. Always present with us were Myron Golden, A.I.D., and M. Boubacar Daou, A.I.D. as translator.

The first such meetings occurred on the morning of Monday, October 17. Much of our meetings focused on establishing a clear working relationship between BWCDF, UNFM and the Malian government.

Mme. Tall reiterated the circumstances of Joy's expulsion: disrespect for the President's wife (who is also President of UNFM) un-ladylike and unprofessional conduct and an allegation that Joy had become personally involved with a high male government official (who had since been "demoted" and reassigned in the interior). All of this was Mme. Tall's account.

(Note: Because of Joy's report, I was suspicious as to Tall's reasoning which, later I discovered, had been spread throughout the Malian government).

Mme. Tall re-emphasized that, in expelling Joy, they were expelling an individual, not a representative from BWCDF or BWCDF itself, since she was not told, even by Joy herself, that Joy was acting in an official position or capacity in behalf of BWCDF.

Mme. Tall also pointed out that it was the UNFM that acted as hostess to the feasibility team and coordinated much of their preliminary efforts. She elaborated that this function also included absorbing some of the BWCDF team's expenses out of their own revenues. Mme. Tall acknowledged that Joy had made a courtesy call to them, but had not discussed the project with them and they were offended.

Mme. Tall assured me that, once she has an official notice from BWCDF approved by the Malian government of the presence of a BWCDF representative working in Mali, the BWCDF representative would not be expelled from Mali (unless because of extreme security measures) without notification to and redress from BWCDF.

I apologized to Mme. Tall on behalf of BWCDF for not observing Mali's protocol and for not sending notification of Joy's status with BWCDF, her arrival in Mali, or BWCDF's project position (what we hoped to accomplish). I explained the circumstances of Joy's hasty departure from the U.S., interval time and arrival in Mali. We both agreed that the matter of Joy was "water-over-the-dam" and we would move forward with a new beginning and in a constructive, fresh, positive manner.

In subsequent meetings, Mme. Tall requested that BWCDF return to Mali the second week of January, 1978 with: (1) a BWCDF field director for Mali; (2) technical expertise to help design the specific framework of the project, so that the necessities can be ordered and curriculum, logistics and time-table designed for implementation. Also at this time, BWCDF should have a written working agreement for the Malian government to sign.

Before the next BWCDF visit to Mali, UNFM was to have sent to us; (1) a breakdown of the responsibilities Mali will assume (mostly in-kind services) with cost analysis; (2) BWCDF's general responsibilities, including a budget breakdown; (3) a list of equipment, supplies, etc.; and (4) an official letter on the present status of BWCDF's project in Mali and actions being taken in preparation for the next visit, to ensure maximum usage of time, especially in light of reporting requirements to A.I.D.

None of this was ever received by BWCDF.

My last meeting with Mme. Tali was the day I left Mali, Friday, October 21, at which time she introduced me to Mme. Troare, the President's wife. Mme. Traore said that she was looking forward to working with her Black sisters, toward international development in general and BWCDF in particular. She said she was aware of the dynamic projects undertaken by BWCDF in the U.S., respected our capabilities to get a job done promised UNFM's full cooperation and assistance. She also interjected that UNFM would be utilizing Mali's Ministry of Rural Development for their expertise, along with the other ministries and that she is aware that this project will involve learning experiences for both organizations.

I met with M. Moriba Sissoko, le Directeur du Cabinet in the Ministry of Rural Development. M. Oeudii Diallo, Sissoko's assistant, who he has designated to work with the UNFM on BWCDF's project. (Sissoko was out of town while Yvonne Williams was in Mali and waiting for his return was one reason I extended my visit).

I began by briefing M. Sissoko on Yvonne's and my stay in Mali the previous week. He asked me why we had not kept our appointment with him the morning of Tuesday, October 10. I explained that UNFM told us the meeting had not been set up and that Mme. Marico, in the Foreign Affairs Protocol office, had been to Rural Development to meet us and when she did join us at the hotel, said that we were not on Rural Development's appointment calendar. M. Sissoko said that he was approached by M. Deme himself to schedule the meeting and had not told his secretary to confirm the appointment with UNFM. I asked how it made the UNFM schedule given to us by them. Sissoko replied that the time was a tentative "request" that was set up, but not confirmed with UNFM. He assured me that the confusion had nothing to do with the UNFM sabotaging the appointment, but rather with the lack of communication because of his schedule and abrupt travel schedule. In short, Sissoko thought Deme was going to tell UNFM and Deme though Sissoko had.

I asked Sissoko about Mrs. Zollner's report. He said the report in question was not Zollner's but Rural Development's report. He said he had designed the report at Zollner's request, as a working paper, assuming that the necessary procedures and authorizations had been made/ approved for Joy to pursue official, sanctioned implementation. Therefore, the report was no longer relevant, in view of the circumstances surrounding the report and since UNFM was going to coordinate the project as decided/assigned by the government of Mali.

I asked what role Rural Development would play in the planning, implementation and development of the project to ensure goal-oriented success. M. Sissoko explained that Rural Development would work with BWCDF and UNFM in; (1) designing the overall and "phase" budgets within the framework of available funds; (2) coordinate the ordering and delivery of supplies and equipment; (3) review all developmental steps to ensure maximum use of all monies, energy and time; and (4) act as consultant to UNFM when requested or needed.

M. Sissoko said that Rural Development would meet with Mme. Tall in preparation of the budget to be submitted to BWCDF and would directly keep lines of commu-

nication open between Rural Development and BWCDF. He said he looked forward to working with us and was sure that the project would be successful in helping improve the quality of life in rural Mali and rural Sahel.

I spent a considerable amount of time, on different occasions, with M. Deme trying to understand the present situation in Mali. From these conversations, M. Deme confirmed directly or indirectly, that: (1) BWCDF must work with UNFM because they were acting as hostesses/ coordinators for the feasibility team and subsequent follow-through (although minimal); and (2) our project is a women's program and we should therefore work with Mali's women representatives. I responded to M. Deme that BWCDF preferred not to work with a political group, but, rather with the Malian government. His answer was that UNFM is an elected body representing the choice of the people as to who should speak for the women in Mali. Therefore, they should not be considered any more or any less of a political entity than the government ministries. UNFM is a "Congress" and we should therefore work with the women chosen to represent their country.

M. Deme acknowledged that there are internal problems among which is a not-too-amiable relationship between the UNFM and certain representatives of the ministries, especially in the arena of political clout (again, the President of Mali's wife is the President of the UNFM). He implied that they could be influenced, to get full cooperation, but that it must be done tactfully by those within the system and by those whom the women respect. Deme said that he has no doubt that the UNFM would work to ensure the success of the project because, since they are elected, they would only want to be associated with successful developmental operations, especially in rural areas where they want to increase support.

The Foreign Ministry would oversee the project on behalf of the government of Mali. Developmentally, the project site should be Segou and ministerial discussions were taking place to relocate the project to Segou. M. Deme assured me that, if I left the internal logistics in his hands, details would be worked out with full cooperation from all parties concerned. M. Deme said he would have these details to me by mid-November, when he was expected to visit Washington. M. Deme said that he would assign a task force of Malians to work toward achieving this end.

(Mr. Deme has never returned to Washington).

M. Deme said that all queries about the UNFM or the ministries should be addressed to him, since his responsibility is to oversee internal cooperation on behalf of the Foreign Ministry.

I engaged in several lengthy discussions with A.I.D. representatives: Ronald Levin, Myron Golden and Thom Park. Mali/A.I.D.'s position is that they understand the problems. If we can manage to work with UNFM, it would have been an accomplishment in itself for women in development. They believe strongly that BWCDF has the capability to work these problems out. The A.I.D. team interpreted BWCDF's most recent concerns as approaching an almost defeatist attitude before even trying.

A.I.D. representatives in Mali saw no alternatives as to how BWCDF could alter the terms of the grant. They indicated flexibility as to such changes as project site (within Mali) methodology, project design and phase implementation -- as long as we stay within the 3-year budget. Also, there was a possibility of additional funding if the project is underway successfully.

Also, I was told not to worry about how many trips are taken to Mali as long as there is funding available for the trips; and trips to improve the lines of communication are needed for the success of the project. A.I.D. Mali gave me their full support and understanding.

I left Bamako the same day as these encouraging words from AID/Mali, October 21, 1977.

The following report was submitted by Mr. Moustapha DEME after his return to Mali from the United States. It was distributed to Malian government officials and to the UNFM, and is in its original form as presented to us. It was translated into English by his office.

It was the basis of our workshop as mentioned on page 58.

Meeting Notice No. 1110/MSP - AS/CAP

Are invited to participate in a meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 1977 at 15 o'clock in the Conference room of the National Director of Social Affairs under the Presidency of Dr. Gaswsou Traore, Director of Cabinet.

- The Executive Bureau of UNFM.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Plan.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- A Representative of the Ministry of National Education.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Commerce.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture.
- A Representative of the Governor of Koulikors Region.
- The General Director of Social Affairs.

Agenda

Meeting with the Representative of the Black Women's Community Development Foundation to discuss the creation of a Community Development Center aimed at the training of rural nurses in Ouelessebougou.

NB. The members of the National Commission for the Promotion of Women are requested to study the documents given to them on the subject project.

The Director General of Social Affairs will choose one of his personnel to be secretary to the meeting.

Note on the talks the Director General of International Cooperation had with the Black Women's Community Development Foundation.

(August 23 - September 20, 1977)

Personalities met:

Mrs. Herchelle Challenor - President
Ms. Patricia Eaton - Executive Director

- 1 - The Foundation started talks in 1972 with the UNFM to implement in Mali a Community Development Center for African Women, aimed at being open, in the following steps, to other Sahelian countries.
- 2 - After contracts made for founding, USAID has committed itself to give funds up to \$250,000 to cover implementation and operating costs of the project for two-years.
- 3 - After the expulsion of Mrs. Zollner, representative of the Foundation and Director of the Mali project at the beginning of 1977, the progress of the project has been stopped.
- 4 - The UNFM members gave mission to the Director of International Cooperation, going to Washington to explain to the President and the Executive Director of the Foundation that Mrs. Zollner's expulsion does in no way mean that Mali is not interested in the Black Women's Community Development project.

The leaders of the Foundation, who were very sorry for the apparent failure of their first trial in Africa, seemed relieved to learn anew that Malian women are still interested in the project.

They have expressed their satisfaction and joy to be able to continue the project and have raised the following points necessary for the pursuit of the project.

The modalities of use of the \$250,000 must be stated in a complete and precise document that the Foundation must submit to AID before January 1, 1978.

(The date anticipated by the fiscal regulations of USAID was September 30, but an extension of 4 additional months has been agreed on).

An agreement was to be reached between Mali and the Foundation before that date and that is the main reason why the Executive Director of the Foundation, Ms. Eaton, would wish that Mali gives the quickest possible his accord to the Mission. She would like to undertake in Mali from October 9 to October 17, accompanied by Ms. Yvonne Williams to discuss this agreement and in particular the following points.

- a) geographic location of the Center
- b) design and ways of building the houses that should be the quarters of the Center
- c) location of the office (in the Center or on another site near communication facilities)
- d) institutional framework of the project and in particular definition of the Autor authority and naming of all the Malian collaborators.

Issues related to the local personnel (availability, recruiting, salaries etc...). Questions related to trainees (number and obligations).

- g) curriculum
- h) inventory of the supplies necessary to the Center. Office and dormitory supplies.

Identification of the type of the two vehicles.

- i) definition of the shape that the foundation will give the project (part of Director or deputy Director)
- j) definition of the Malian contribution (Government and UNFM)
- k) tripartite understanding foundation/Mali/USAID.
- l) after the center of this first mission, a second mission of the foundation will come to Mali.

After the return of this 1st mission, the 2nd mission of the foundation will come to Mali, starting the 1st of November, to submit to USAID the last elements of the documents. One member of this delegation, Miss French, would return to the U.S. on November 30th. The others will stay longer following the beginning of the implementation. This person will probably be one of the directors of the project.

If the program so defined progresses normally, the Foundation will be able to negotiate and get second financial advances from AID for the following fiscal year.

The foundation will also seek other sources of financing and will be able to bring an additional contribution if these resources improved.

Observations

The contribution from AID is a contribution given to Black American Women for a project in Mali and not directly to Mali.

The \$250,000 will be appropriated to the foundation, which is the only one responsible for using it in regards to program presented in the fields to be submitted by January 1, 1978.

Therefore, the only counterpart (partner) of UNFM and the government of Mali is the Foundation, who is in charge of reporting to USAID for justification of expenses and the continuing of the program.

- II. The interest of the Black American Woman for this project finds its explanation in the drive to the return of "Roots" of mother Africa that enlivens the emancipation movement of American Blacks enlarged by Alex Haley's book. The very successful televised film that resulted from the book.
- III. The foundation has in the United States many sub-groups and connections that could be useful, in particular personal connections that Herchelle has, who is very influential in the Congress.

Among the things that the Foundation can bring to Mali is the promotion of the furtherance of tourism, the support of supplying to Mali prefabricated hospitals and dispensaries that the government of the U.S. built. Note: U.S. built these during Cuban Crisis, many years ago for bombing against USSR. Material is outdated, is now donated, given away to Latin American countries through the Pan Am Foundation.

And finally, the support for the success of a tour of the artistic floreit troupe, and exhibit of arts and handicraft objects from Mali to the United States next year, starting in Rochester, in accordance with the agreement with Sister Cities, in the state of New York, and Bamoko.

The extension of these (rejoicings) to other American cities (other than Rochester) is a viability condition, for this rejoicing will be very fruitful because of the number of cities (places) that will welcome them. The support of other organizations such as AAI and NAACP, the African tourism association, and associations such as Pan Am have already been announced to the director general of international cooperation and could be asked for confirmation if the government accepted the project.

Miss Eaton has many connections in television (ABC) and would be able to get a free advertisement for the needs of this project. The Foundation is also interested in the sale of the eye dyes and braiding exhibitions and sale from Mali. The potential market is very important.

Conclusion

For all the above mentioned reasons, and on account of the important role played by women, Black and White, in the American society, on account of the particular importance of the Black women in this (American) society, and on account of the benefits that UNFM can have from this project, it would be good that good relations be maintained with this organization and in particular that the joint project of the CDC be a positive test for the cooperation that they will have with this organization.

N.B. During her mission from 9-17 October, 1977 Miss Eaton, Executive Director of the Foundation, would wish to visit the site that will be chosen for the project and be able to hear artistic and flurist.

Her recordings from this musical group, be accompanied during her stay by a professional photographer of the chosen center, picture of floriec and artie groups, all pictures of tourist aspects of Mali.

AN INTERVAL

Upon my return from Mali, I was submerged immediately with BWCDF matters, especially the work which had piled up in my absence and taking up where I had left off in re-establishing the Foundation.

I was also given the responsibility of interviewing a new Mali Project Director. This took months; over 30 people were interviewed. In December, 1977, I had narrowed the interviews down to 3, all of whom were interviewed by the Executive Committee on the Board. Upon my strong recommendation, Mrs. Jacquelyn Briggs was selected as the Project Director and approved by the Board.

Because Mrs. Briggs was presently employed and had to fulfill her current obligations, she was not available to assume the position until February 2, 1978.

In the interim, I was reviewing the project with Ambassador Sima (Mali's ambassador to Washington) re-drafting/updating the proposal and preparing for our return to Bamako as requested by the Malian government in October, 1977 -- with a Project Director and technical advisor to begin implementation.

BWCDF's Observance of the

UNFM Congress

December 26, 27, 28, 1977

Bamako, Mali

In early December, 1977, BWCDF received a telex by way of our AID Project Officer, inviting a representative from BWCDF to attend the Annual Congress in Bamako December 26-27-28, 1977, an event to which they invite various foreign women's groups to send delegates as observers. Mme. Fatou Tall, at that time UNFM Secretary General, had specifically asked the Mission to transmit the invitation (by cable) to the BWCDF.

I, the Executive Director asked Mary Ann French, BWCDF's Director of Program Administration, to attend the Congress.

Here follows first a broad day-to-day description of Mary Ann French's activities while attending this three-day conference of the UNFM in Bamako. Interspersed in this description also are her reactions of some of the activities.

Also, you will find:

- the official UNFM schedule for the conference;
- the address she made on behalf of BWCDF to the congress; and
- a listing of newly elected UNFM officers.

She arrived in Bamako Monday, December 26, at 5:00 P.M.; unfortunately due to the timing of the invitation to attend this UNFM conference and its conflict with the holiday season, she was unable to secure flights which would deliver her to Bamako in time to attend the first day opening session, which was when the UNFM had scheduled the foreign delegates to give their addresses to the congress.

Her official UNFM guide, Mme. Traore and two other UNFM representatives met her as soon as she deplaned. She was escorted into the first class lounge while her entry and baggage were taken care for her. Mr. Myron Golden of AID, arrived to welcome her. Mr. Clarke from the American Embassy arrived to greet her and quickly departed.

Mme. Traore had her chauffeured to L'Amitie Hotel, where the conference was held and where the UNFM had arranged for her to stay.

While she was checking in the hotel, Mme. Traore and Myron Golden discussed arranging a "translator/guide" for her to facilitate her full understanding of the conference sessions, as often in the heat of a discussion their French was spoken very fast, lapsing into Bamara. Mr. Golden agreed to have AID supply her with such a person beginning the next morning.

Mme. Traore and her associate seemed eager for Ms. French to change clothes so that she could attend the evening's sessions and in fact, waited outside her hotel room while she did so. When she emerged, however, she was told that the schedule had been changed and that she wouldn't be attending any sessions until the following morning. It was explained to her by Mme. Traore and her associate that the foreign delegates had the evening free and they had arranged for them to have dinner in the hotel restaurant. As she had been traveling for 24 hours and was exhausted, Ms. French took the opportunity to rest that evening.

On Tuesday, December 27, Mr. Golden arrived early in the morning with her translator/guide, Daou. They then attempted to learn of her schedule from Mme. Traore so that she could determine when she would be able to give her address and when she would have need of Daou during the day.

Mme. Traore said that the foreign delegates were to go on an outing that morning to Ouelessebouyou and would return to the hotel for lunch, with the remainder of the afternoon free.

Mr. Golden told Miss French that he had heard during the opening session on Monday a couple of foreign delegates had gotten into political areas of discussion which were uncomplimentary to the U.S. He didn't quite know all of the details, but said that the American Charge d' Affairs, Ralph H. Graner (Ambassador Byrne was on leave) wanted to see her when she had a chance. They arranged for Mr. Golden to pick her up from the hotel that afternoon.

The outing to Ouelessebouyou was very interesting. They rode in a new UNFM bus; her guide Mme. Traore, was obviously the most powerful, influential leader of the group of UNFM "Guides to Foreign Delegates."

Throughout the bus ride, the guides attempted to keep the atmosphere light and gay by having delegates sing songs from their native countries.

The foreign countries represented included Somalia, Guinea, Togo, Upper Volta, Senegal, West Germany, East Germany, Korea, Soviet Union and the United States.

Once in Ouelessebouyou, they toured the medical facilities, classrooms for the instruction of the matrons, sewing, reading and writing, tie-dying, etc.

After their return to the hotel, the West German delegate asked her to sit with her for lunch as she wanted to relate to her what had happened during the first day. She expressed her gladness to see Miss French, as they were the only delegates present who represented organizations which weren't directly connected to their governments. Her organization (West German) is a federation of all the women's clubs, groups and organizations in West Germany, representing seven million women in all, including opposing political parties.

Evidently, during their addresses to the conference, the Koreans had condemned the U.S. presence in South Korea and the Soviets had unfavorably discussed in detail the U.S. development of the nuclear bomb. The West German delegate said that the UNFM seemed bored by both of the discourses, which were long and dry and obviously had been written by someone other than the women who delivered them.

Afterwards, Mme. Tall gave a long detailed report of the UNFM's past and current activities.

Mr. Golden arrived to take her to the American Embassy, where she met with Mr. Graner, the Charge d' Affairs. Graner told her that "his friend" the West German Ambassador, had called him to tell him of the happenings the day before. They expected the Korean attack, but the Soviets had surprised them which annoyed them a great deal.

Graner said that the Soviets were hosting a soiree Thursday night which he planned to have the American sector boycott. Miss French then informed him that she was scheduled to leave Thursday morning so there would be no problem.

Graner said that in light of what had transpired so far during the conference, he would be interested in learning of anything additional in the same vein that might transpire. He didn't want to make Miss French feel awkward, although she was under no obligation, but he would have appreciated any help she could give him.

She told him everything that she knew of what had transpired, as she had nothing to hide and also added that as BWCDF is a private organization, would not be involved in any international policy or political entanglements at any rate.

Myron Golden then took her on a tour of the AID offices and introduced her to Ron Levin. Levin asked her how things were going, which in turn, she gave him a brief synopsis and Graner agreed with her interpretation of the UNFM closing the sessions to foreign delegates as an attempt to shield their U.S. delegate from any atmospheric discomfort. It was obvious that the UNFM was not pleased with those foreign delegates who had used their conference as a political forum and an opportunity to attack another of their invited guest.

Levin said he was very pleased that BWCDF had come, as other countries had in the past sent delegates to UNFM affairs where the U.S. was never represented.

That afternoon, Ms. French returned to the hotel where she had the opportunity to meet officially, Mme. Marian Traore, President of the UNFM and First Lady of Mali and Mme. Tall, at that time, Secretary General of the UNFM; both were ingulfed in hectic schedules and didn't have the time to converse extensively.

Ms. French was also able to talk with some of the foreign African delegates to get a clearer picture of how the UNFM operates as a political lobby in Mali and to learn of some of the issues being discussed during the conference.

Evidently, polygamy was one of the foremost concerns, while the urban, more educated and experienced women were pushing for the complete outlawing of polygamy (as Guinea had recently done) the rural women were supporting certain guidelines to accompany the practice, such as separate houses for each wife, etc.

Many of the rural women spoke only Bambara and it was necessary to depend on the French translation of their views.

That evening, she met with Moustapha Deme, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who advised her that the UNFM was very supportive of BWCDF's project and told her unofficially that they had agreed to have the project in Ouelessebouyou, as originally planned.

Deme reviewed the address she was to give and strongly advised that BWCDF include some mention of the project, emphasizing the time that had been spent to date planning for it and hoping BWCDF could very shortly get it underway. He recommended that she speak with Mme. Tall before she gave the address and diplomatically, forcefully, but not overbearingly, impress upon her the importance of getting some concrete time-table established and working together towards the immediate launching and success of the project.

During breakfast on Wednesday, December 28, she learned that the foreign delegates were scheduled to

visit a textile factory in the morning, break for lunch and then observe the school for the blind in the afternoon.

By this time, it was apparent that these outings and activities were being planned for the delegates rather than having them attend the sessions for a combination of reasons:

- a number of the sessions were preplanned to be closed to enable the UNFM to conduct their annual business;
- some of the election skirmishes were heated and there was rumor of a pending upset; and
- the political friction between the invited foreign delegates.

Everyone was to attend the closing session that afternoon at 5:00 P.M., when new officers would be announced, etc.

At that point, knowing it was the last day of her stay, Miss French approached several prominent UNFM members, including her guide, to see when she would be able to give her address. They explained how they were at the height of negotiations and advised that she bypass the outings and stick around the conference hall, as they weren't able to set an exact time, but assured her that she would be able to make her address before the close of the conference.

Daou and Miss French went to the AID offices, re-typed her speech with Deme's additions, left a copy with AID, returned to the hotel, submitted a copy to the UNFM and waited to be called.

As it turned out, she was to give her address, along with the delegate from Guinea (the other delegate who had not yet spoken) at the closing ceremony.

The President of Mali, his cabinet, the military, foreign ambassadors, press, etc., arrived to attend that ceremony.

Miss French was called upon to give her speech after the opening of the session, which she delivered in French. (See English version which follows).

It was very well received and afterwards, the West German Ambassador, Mr. Graner and Mr. Levin rushed up to congratulate her, noting what a marked distinction had been made by the tone of BWCDF's address and that of the others' longwinded and acidic propoganda.

The meeting progressed to the announcement of new UNFM officers and to everyone's surprise, Mme. Tall; the only person visibly running for President, was not re-elected!

That immediately relieved Miss French's concerns over her not being able to reach a policy-making level with UNFM representatives during the conference to discuss BWCDF/UNFM project and relations.

After the ceremony, a dance event and dinner was scheduled, which Miss French did not attend because she met with Mme. Keita, at that time, Secretaire of Economic Affairs and Mme. Soumare, at that time, General Treasurer, to discuss where we would go from there.

They assured Miss French that the reason negotiations and communications had been so sporadic to date was because of their internal problems caused by the "long-in-the-works" administration change. They were joined in that meeting by Deme, who impressed upon them the urgency of their time frame.

They suggested that that they return towards the end of January, when they would have had the time to ease the transition of administration. At that time, they assured Miss French the UNFM would be prepared to cooperate fully with BWCDF to get the project off the ground expeditiously and successfully.

On Thursday, December 29, four UNFM members arrived at the hotel in the morning to escort her and the delegates from Togo and Upper Volta to the airport.

They again took care of all the customs and immigrations formalities for Miss French.

Mr. President,
Madam President,
Madam Secretary General,
Distinguished Members of the UNFM
and Malians,

I am very happy to be here today, to bring you greetings from the BWCDF of the USA, our Executive Director, Miss Patricia Eaton and our Board of Directors.

Our organization began in 1968 as an outgrowth of a series of riots that occurred as a result of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the great Afro-American leaders.

Since our inception, we have sponsored programs in Afro-American communities all over the USA, that have helped young victims of crime, assisted young blacks attain better education, developed ways to combat health problems and many other areas.

But now, we are branching out to do work with blacks throughout the international community, including the women of Mali, with whom we are going to institute and operate the Women's Center for Community Development. Towards this purpose, I would like to say that a high-level delegation from BWCDF plans to come to Mali during the first of this coming year to settle the last remaining details of the contract for this project.

We black American women, truly hope, that the contract will be finalized on this next trip so that this project, after more than three years of discussion and study, can get off the ground.

We would like to be of service to you, just as we have been in the past ten years within our own Afro-American communities.

We are honored that we have been asked to attend this congress of the UNFM. I was invited to observe and I hope that through this process, I will be able to learn much from you.

I sincerely hope, in the name of the community I am here to represent, that this collaboration between black American women and Malian women, will be reinforced and grow stronger each day.

Best wishes to all for the new year.

Thank you.

UNFM/National Executive Bureau

Mme. Traore - Marian SISSOKO
Honorary President

Mme. DIOP - Sira SISSOKO
President

Mme. Dicko - Massaran KONATE
Secretary General

Mlle. Hawa DIALLO
Secretary of Administrative and Legal Affairs

Mme. Keita - Ouleimatou BA
Secretary of Economic Affairs

Mme. Ba - Aminata DIALLO
Secretary of Cultural Affairs

Mme. Aoua THIERO
Secretary of the Press

Mme. SOUMARE - Assam Diallo
Treasurer

Mme. Toure - Kani SANGARE
Chief of Protocol

Mme. Traore - Assetou SANGARE
Secretary for External Relations

Mme. Sy-Sokona DIABATE
Secretary of Social Affairs

Mme. Keita - Farima SAMAKE
Commissioner of Youth

MALI VISIT: February 14 - March 6, 1978

The Execution

After the Mali Project Director was hired in January, 1978, a three member team left for Bamako, Mali February 14 at the request of the Executive Committee of the UNFM.

This team consisted of Patricia Eaton, Executive Director of the Foundation, Jacquelyn Briggs, Mali Project Director and Dr. J. Fletcher Robinson, technical advisor for the project who had served on the feasibility study team in 1975.

The purpose of the trip was to re-define the objectives of the project with the UNFM, now under new directorship and to establish some type of working agreement with them so that the Project could be put into motion.

This proved to be the first major cooperative program launched and carried out directly by African women living in Africa and America, utilizing A.I.D. financing. This approach of A.I.D. funding a private women's organization to design, implement and produce an overseas project with their counterparts in the host country is unprecedented.

We arrived in Bamako 15 February. UNFM representatives welcomed us, made us comfortable in the Hotel de l'Amitie and gave us an agenda for our anticipated two-week stay; the agenda was a tight schedule that began the following morning. Our agenda demonstrated a keen interest on behalf of the UNFM and Foreign Ministry to finalize negotiations and to reach a written "execution" agreement before BWCDF's departure.

Our first functions were to meet with the various ministers. They were all well appraised of the purpose of our visit to implement this long-awaited CFAR. Throughout the meetings with the Ministries, BWCDF felt nothing short of full cooperation on the part of the Malian government. From each, there was voiced concern as to how they might fully cooperate with BWCDF and the Union in making the project a successful and innovative one.

Our agenda was as follows:

Schedule of Events
for the BWCDF Delegation in Mali
February 15 - 7 March, 1978

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Objective of visit: Develop Project Document for the Training Center for Rural "Animatrices" with the UNFM.

First Week

Wednesday, February 15th

11:20 A.M. Arrival and welcome at the Bamako-Senou Airport by the UNFM, the Department of International Cooperation and the Protocol Section.

Registration at the Hotel de l'Amitie.

Thursday, February 16th

9:00 A.M. Visit with the Minister of Information and Telecommunications, Mr. BAKAYOYO, Yaya.

10:00 A.M. Visit with the Director of the Cabinet, Ministry of Planning, Mr. ZANO, Dao.

11:00 A.M. Visit with the Division Chief for Culture and Cooperation, Mrs. WANE.

4:00 P.M. Visit with the Mayor of Bamako and his assistant Mr. MARE, Sekou, Mr. COULIBALY, Cheick.

5:00 P.M. Visit with the Governor of the Region of Koulikoro; Mr. SORY, Ebrahima.

5:45 P.M. Visit with Mr. Ron Levin and Mr. Nelson Golden, USAID/Mali.

Friday, February 17th

- 9:00 A.M. Visit with the Minister of Rural Development, Mr. DIAWARA, Assim.
- 9:45 A.M. Visit with the President of the UNFM, Mme. DIOP, Sira.
- 11:00 A.M. Visit with the Director General for National Cooperatives, Mr. TRAORE, Zakaria.

Saturday - Monday, February 18th - 20th

Holiday weekend: No meetings; BWCDF team works on design of the project and training design; Personal tours of Bamako for availability of resources.

Tuesday, February 21st

- 10:00 A.M. Workshop with the UNFM representatives.
- 3:30 P.M. Visit with the Minister of Youth and Sports, Culture and the Arts.
- 4:00 P.M. Workshop with the National Executive Bureau of the UNFM.

Wednesday, February 22nd

- 9:00 A.M. -
- 6:00 P.M. Closed session of the UNFM to draft the letter of Execution.
- Closed session of BWCDF representatives to draft project implementation.

Thursday, February 23rd

- 9:00 A.M. Workshop with UNFM to review the Letter of Execution and the Union's findings.
- 3:00 P.M. Meeting with U.S. Ambassador, Miss Patricia M. Byrne.
- 4:00 P.M. Visit with the Director General for Social Affairs.

Friday, February 24th

- 9:00 A.M. Workshop with the UNFM and representatives of each Ministry visited.
- 3:30 P.M. BWCDF representatives meet with Mme. Soumare, Directress of the School of Public Health -- tour of the facilities and classes.
- 4:30 P.M. BWCDF representatives meet with Dr. Ba, Dean of the Medical School.
- 5:30 P.M. BWCDF representatives meet with Dr. Koumare, Director of Traditional Medicine.

Saturday, February 25th

8:30 A.M. -

- 6:00 P.M. BWCDF team visits site at Ouelessebougou, accompanied by Mme. DICKO, Secretary General of the UNFM and counterpart to Mrs. Briggs and Mme. TOURE, Second Secretary of the Union and Chief of Protocol.

Site guide and host was Mr. DIALLO, Director of the Rural Training Center at Ouelessebougou (CAR).

Sunday, Monday, February 26th - 27th

Holiday weekend -- No meetings Ms. Briggs translated the Letter of Execution into English.

BWCDF team reviews translation and makes adjustments on behalf of BWCDF; review of Dr. Robinson's report and suggestions.

Dr. Robinson departs Bamako.

Tuesday, February 28th

3:00 P.M. Meeting with USAID/Mali Program Officer, Mr. Golden and USAID lawyer, William Louris to review legalities of the Letter of Execution in keeping with AID regulations and guidelines.

Wednesday, March 1st

10:00 - 4:00 Meeting with Mr. Golden and Mr. Louris to complete additions required by USAID, Additional Translations.

7:00 P.M. Reception at Ambassador Byrne's residence for Ms. Eaton, Ms. Briggs.

Thursday, March 2nd

10:00 Typing of draft in English.

5:00 Submission and discussion with Ms. Eaton, Ms. Briggs and Mr. Golden with Mme. Diop at UNFM.

Friday, March 3rd

Meeting with Mme. Diop to receive final draft of document in French.

Monday, March 6th

Typing of final draft of document in English.

Tuesday

5:00 P.M. Signing of Letter of Execution by Moustapha DEME, Director General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mme. Sira DIOP, President, UNFM, Miss Patricia M. Byrne, Ambassador to Mali, and Miss Patricia F. Eaton, Executive Director, BWCDF.

Wednesday, March 7th

9:00 A.M. Final arrangements for departure, tickets, airport taxes, etc.

7:00 P.M. Reception dinner for Ms. Eaton, Ms. Briggs by UNFM.

9:00 P.M. Traditional dancing and singing presentation in Ms. Eaton's and Ms. Briggs' honor.

11:15 P.M. Leave for airport.

11:30 P.M. Reception at airport with UNFM representatives, Mme. DICKO, Mme. TOURE and Mme. DIAKITE.

12:50 A.M. Depart for Paris.

All government officials were consistent and unanimous in their praise of the idea of the project, its potential value to the country and their eagerness and willingness to lend the assistance of their respective departments to the success of the project. They were familiar with the problems that had occurred beforehand and were most anxious for things to go well. Advice was given freely and proved to be valuable in our workshops. It was the experience and wisdom of the Governor who emphasized that the initial trainees be older, settled, married women with families. This is most important to both stabilize the program and give maximum impact in the rural areas. The Minister of Planning was especially impressive as he explained the importance of this project in local, national and international perspectives. The development of women, he stated, is important because they educate the children. The success of this project is also very important because it will serve as an example to neighboring countries. Since it is the first project of its kind, they would be scrutinizing this effort as a model for their own development of women. The Center's development, it was discussed, is important to the Ministry of Planning because this Ministry is responsible for the social and economic progress of the country.

The Ministry of Planning collaborates with all of the other ministries in the financing and coordination of projects into the goals of the country. The Minister also reminded us that this is the first time in history that Black women from the United States have had a project in Francophone Africa. It was his stated opinion that Black American women should be in all of Africa.

The Ministry of Rural Development felt that Oulessebouyou was an excellent site and that at some point the project would be beneficial to other countries. For the first two years the project will concentrate on establishing itself in Mali after which time women from neighboring Sahelian countries will be invited to participate. The Ministry felt Mali is ideal for the project because it is centrally located; it shares much in common with the contiguous countries: the same traditions, customs and languages. This project could be a unifying force. The Ministry discussed the importance of this project in their immediate goal of enhancing agricultural production. It is especially important because emphasis on women had not previously been included in their plan and BWCDF's effort complements their plan. We also discussed the incentives for making the rural area more attractive such as electricity, better prices for crops

and easier accessibility to staples e.g., sugar, salt and commodities. The ability to solve everyday problems through functional literacy and other skills will compliment the ten to twenty year projections of the government.

The Department of National Cooperation -- Division of Rural Development, shared with us their concept of the development of cooperatives to facilitate the commercialization of cottage industries, particularly with women. The cooperative can enhance the acquisition of materials as well as the production, distribution and selling of products to be marketed.

The workshops began on the sixth day after our arrival and were presided over by Madame Sira Diop, President of the UNFM. Her resourcefulness, experience and deliberateness were forceful, direct and precise. She obviously had command of the CFAR development and implementation design. She was well-prepared and understood what was best for Mali but was open to suggestions of potential innovations. It was felt that the women recruited for the program should be volunteers and would in effect represent the UNFM.

The program will be conducted in the Bambara language and for the first two years will be entirely for Malian women. The objectives of the program are in the long run to improve rural life and to augment the revenue of rural women. It was established that the site for CFAR would be in Ouclessebougon and would have permanent structures on this permanent site. The center will initially train twenty women for 3 months, three times a year with a month break between sessions. The courses will obviously be quite intensive, because it is difficult for a wife and mother to be absent from her responsibilities for over three months. The training will be mostly practical rather than academic and a follow-up program would be carried out with government assistance. It is assumed this would be expertise from the various Ministries pertaining to the reinforcement needs of the returned trainees. Incentives for the trainees to keep the program viable and relevant were discussed. It was decided that the trainees will not be hired or paid. Paying the trainees would create a precedent that would be dangerous for the government in terms of providing jobs and maintaining economic standards above its means. The knowledge and skills that they should acquire while at the center should equip them to function quite well economically and socially.

The suggestion was that certain equipment might be given to graduates such as sewing machines, looms and agricultural tools. It was also suggested that tools, equipment or even machinery could be made available to the trainees to rent. This would give the lessee a sense of ownership as well as an incentive to utilize the item for the purpose of making money.

The curriculum is designed with the intention of making these rural women instruments of change for the betterment of all. It will consist of: functional literacy, maternal child health and nutrition, food technology, agricultural techniques and administrative skills. Implicit in these disciplines is first aid, civic responsibility, cooperatives and small animal husbandry.

SYLLABUS

Regardless of the strength or objectives of the curriculum, the learning process and retention is only as strong or effective as the instructors themselves. A pre-service teacher training program and continued evaluation of the methodology, with effective training, will be included in the program design. Three months of intensive training for semi-literate rural women to

become instruments of change is certainly a demanding, no-nonsense proposition. Obviously, the total experience must lend itself to learning. The whole milieu of the Center must direct itself to accomplishing the objectives of the program.

In planning the curriculum one must keep in mind that the course has to be rigorous and intense; short periods will allow for less fatigue and more retention; days will be long; repetition is essential; acting out or simulating the learning helps retention and breaks monotony; competitive exercise intensifies learning. Recreational periods as well as evenings should be planned and should be relaxed. During these periods movies, skits and demonstrations prepared by staff and/or students should reinforce the course material. Students should also be involved in communicating via posters, hand-outs and other visual techniques they will later use in their villages.

CURRICULUM

The proposed core curriculum consisting of twelve weeks will include the following:

- 1). Administrative Skills is an area which must be integrated into the entire curriculum. It consists of outlining techniques of planning and establishing its importance since planning is an essential element of any endeavor. Under administrative skills is included an understanding of government structure and organization and the process it establishes to function. Knowledge of procedure to increase effectiveness in the village is integrated into this subject matter as well as management which is the sequence to planning. The development of cooperatives as a mechanism for increasing income, minimizing cost and enhancing production will be incorporated. Since communications is as important to administration as it is to literacy, emphasis will be on giving techniques to the trainee which will help her to effectively instruct and be understood.

- 2). Agricultural Techniques will include small animal husbandry and is inclusive of the other disciplines. Hybridization, to improve yield, resist disease and to enhance nutrition, is a technique that the animatrice will be taught as well as pest and disease control. Crop rotation, methods to preserve the soil

and techniques to control or discourage pests through organic means will be part of the course. Because of the short training period at the Center, the agricultural techniques course will have its heaviest impact through the outreach program. Certainly there should be food grown at the Center and animals kept for demonstration and learning purposes.

- 3). Food Technology will deal with the preservation of food in the rural setting as well as the utilization of waste for fertilization and animal feed. Storage techniques that are applicable to the villages will be taught. Preparation for drought and other unforeseen disasters to assure adequate food supply will be considered.

- 4). Nutrition will involve explaining essential requirements for growth and development of health foods and how to assure their fulfillment in the diet. This course would also explain food sources growing wild in the immediate environment. Nutrition will also be coordinated with health.

5). Maternal Child Health (MCH) shows importance as a woman becomes sophisticated about the way things function, since she begins to anticipate the betterment of things closest to her. The morbidity and mortality of children in the rural areas are devastating to the whole community but never more than to the mother. The animatrice will learn how to immunize the infants, how immunization schedules and know their costs and how to acquire them. Immunization of course is only a part of the health program. As she understands the causes of diseases, the importance of clean water, proper waste disposal and hygiene becomes her daily routine. There will also be a concentration on early infant care such as the necessity of breast feeding, the introduction of food in infancy and family spacing. So many of these practices are traditionally based and, unfortunately, modern urban influences have begun to change the old practices to the detriment of the family; the prime examples being bottle feeding, packaged baby food, etc.

The effectiveness of this course has revolutionary social potential. Possibly within two years, measles,

pertussis, tetanus, polio, diphtheria, mumps and rubella could be totally eradicated! The course would also teach techniques to control other diseases which contribute greatly to high morbidity and mortality in the rural areas, namely: malaria, schistosomiasis, kwashiorkor, keratomalacia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, conjunctivitis, hookworm and guinea worm. Utilizing clean water and removing waste from exposure to others would reduce substantially the incidence of amebiasis, ascariasis, hookworm, guinea worm, strongyloides, typhoid and hepatitis, to name a few. First aid is also included in the MCH course. This aspect will teach wound care, emergency assistance, resuscitation, bandaging, aseptic techniques and disease recognition.

6). Functional Literacy is the foundation for learning and communicating. It is essential for the growth and development of the animatrice and helps greatly to assure her effectiveness when she returns to the village. It also is a reasonable guarantee that her children will not be illiterate. This course will equip the trainee with reading, writing and numerical functioning (basic arithmetic). The process will contain other aspects of the curriculum such as administration, health, nutrition, etc.

It should be explained that the curricular material will be developed on a multi-disciplinary basis where students may see the relationship between the various areas of operational efficiency and the health of the community with a wider, social order.

Method of Implementation

Following is a suggestion of material to be covered on a weekly basis keeping in mind that the material is integrated in a multidisciplinary approach. The methodology is based on new information being introduced in relation to familiar information thus bringing the past experiences of the learner into contact with the unfamiliar facts and skills -- especially in the areas of language, communication, community and government systems and numerical reasoning. The methodology process from the known and the familiar to the new or unknown through a gradual, intensive, repetitive building process. Consideration will also be given to academic sedentary material early in the day with more "action-oriented" activities later as fatigue becomes a problem.

FIRST WEEK

Functional Literacy

Reading, Writing

Alphabet Letters

Phonetics

Word Formation

Printing

Recitation

First Aid

Wound Care

Cleanliness

Dressings

Bleeding and its Control

Types of Wounds

Burns

Cuts

Lacerations

Abrasions

Health/Hygiene

Water Uses

Bathing

Cooking

Grooming

Cleaning

Purification

Food

Foods

Preparation

Nutrition

Agriculture

Crops and Growth Requirements

SECOND WEEK

Functional Literacy

Reinforcement

New Words

Sentences

Health
First Aid

Germ

Foreign Bodies

Abscess

Splinters

Bites

Animal

Human

Snake

Hygiene

Water Borne Diseases

Water

Sources

Uses

Collection

Storage

Nutrition

Nutrition

Agriculture

Fertilization

Soil

Types/Content

Uses

THIRD WEEK

Functional Literacy

Numbers

Addition

Subtraction

Reinforcement

Multiplication

Division

Hygiene

Making Soap

Waste Disposal

Human Waste

Garbage/Trash

Utilization as Fertilizer

Utilization of Junk

Disease Prevention

Vector-Borne Diseases

Obtaining Water

Wells

Irrigation

Food

Food Storage

Agriculture

Utilization of Waste

Plowing

Crop Rotation

FOURTH WEEK

Functional Literacy	Review Reinforcement Application of Basic Arithmetic
Hygiene	Make Food and Water Storage Containers
Health	Immunizations Types Techniques of Injections Schedules Recognition of Illness Signs & Symptoms Dehydration/Diarrhea Fever Coughs Malnutrition Conjunctivites Anemia Venereal Disease
Food	Meat and Fish Butchering Drying Smoking Curing

Agriculture

Seedlings

Hybrids

FIFTH WEEK

Functional Literacy

Accounting

Conceptualization - Writing

First Aid

Review

Use of Splints

Health

Traditional Remedies

Remedies

Agriculture

Building Chicken Coops

Food Requirements for Animals

Animal Shelter

SIXTH WEEK

Functional Literacy

Budgeting

Letter Writing

Health

Diseases contracted from Animals

Safety

Skin Diseases

Feeding Children

Breast Feeding

Agriculture

Organic Gardening

SEVENTH WEEK

Review Week

Oral Examinations

Written Examinations

Simulation Exercises

Practical Exams -- What would you do if.....?

Reinforcement

Tutoring

Make-up Work

Assessment

Teaching Methodology

Teachers

Students

Mid-term Evaluation

Suggestions for Improvement

EIGHTH WEEK

Functional Literacy

Speech

Marketing

Cooperatives

Health

Resuscitation

Eye Care

Common Disease Recognition

Antenatal Care

NINTH WEEK

Problem Solving

The trainees would organize into groups of various sizes to solve problems that will commonly arise in the village setting. For example, dealing with water presents many difficulties that will require serious attention: 1) How to avoid contamination of water at the source; 2) How to get villagers to cooperate with the solutions; and 3) How to convince them that these new efforts are worth it.

What can be done to make water more accessible? What methods of collecting and storing rain water could be devised in the village?

What incentives can be used to get people to boil water or purify it by other means considering that:

1) it is inconvenient; 2) people are resistant to change; and 3) it is costly and time consuming to boil and cool before it is drinkable.

These sessions should be actual simulation exercises and may be staged to incorporate all of the things they have learned. These sessions would allow for evaluation of the teaching and the program effectiveness and see the progress of the student.

These exercises should also demonstrate the cognitive skills that the student employs.

It will be very helpful to refine this process of problem solving through recall, recognition, organization, synthesis, evaluation and application.

TENTH WEEK

Cooperatives

Definition

Justification

Organization

Implementation

Operation

Evaluation

Growth & Development

Accounting/Financing

ELEVENTH WEEK

Communications

Methodology

Lecture

Discussion

Brain Storming

Role Playing

Community Organizing

Information Dissemination

Propaganda Techniques

TWELTH WEEK

Round Tables

Evaluation

Evaluation

Tutoring

Review

Seminars

Signing of the Agreement

We arrived in Bamako February 15th. In our possession we had a revised draft of the project on which I had been working for several months -- and a working paper, both to be used as a basis for discussion.

Our Agenda, activities and observations have already been reported in this document. However, at this point, I would like to interject an observation of the trip.

During our first meeting with the new UNFM President, Madame Diop, I introduced Ms. Briggs as BWCDF's Project Director in Mali and Dr. Robinson as technical advisor. Madame Diop immediately interrupted saying that she had not agreed to have a Project Director -- nor even a BWCDF project!

In that we had seen this meeting as the first step toward signing an agreement, this statement took us totally by surprise. I had to explain that their presence had been requested by the UNFM (and government of Mali). Madame Diop emphatically and proudly set us straight: those were the understandings as arranged by her predecessor whom she defeated during the December

elections. (Mme. Tall).

After a release of "egos", this first encounter continued slowly with a feeling of caution and suspicion on both our parts.

Our next confrontation with Madame Diop was at the first day's workshop. Knowing of her proud cautiousness, I decided to set a firm tone of serious business with my opening remarks. Copies in French were distributed to each participant:

Address delivered by Madame Patricia F. Eaton, Executive Director of the U.S. Black Women's Community Development Foundation to the Union Nationale de Femmes Maliennes during the opening workshop, 21 February, 1978:

Madame President of the Union Nationale de Femmes Maliennes, distinguished members of the UNFM, distinguished representatives of the government of Mali, U.S.A.I.D. and friends. Thank you for the very warm and hospitable reception you have extended to me, Madame Briggs and Dr. Robinson since we arrived in Mali. Our visit here in Mali has been very nice and we have been well received. Everyone has been so very kind to us and we have made many new friends.

We have met with many Malian Ministries and government agencies. Each of the persons with whom we have met has extended to us warm greetings, has encouraged us to continue with the project and has said that their office is willing to assist with the project in any way possible if they are asked by the UNFM. This has been very encouraging to us and we appreciate their enthusiasm, encouragement and advise.

Now it is time to address ourselves to serious discussions.

But first, I would like to briefly tell you about the Black Women's Community Development Foundation which, because the title is so long, I will refer to as the "Foundation."

The Foundation was organized in 1968, soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Black Americans were so angry and sad that riots occurred all over the United States destroying mainly our own Black communities.

The Foundation saw a need to rebuild our communities, organize our communities, our families and ourselves. We also saw the important role Black women must assume in meeting these objectives, especially since so many of us are heads of households and teachers of our children.

This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary. Over these past 10 years we have assisted women in becoming involved in the development of our country. We have sponsored programs in the Black communities all over the United States that have helped young victims of crime, assisted Blacks in obtaining a better education, developed community cooperative programs, helped combat mental and physical health problems of Black women, assisted in finding employment for Black Americans and have brought to the attention of Americans many Black cultural programs and talents -- and many other areas. Also during this time Blacks in America became more aware and proud of their African heritage and concerned about the drought which was affecting the Sahel region of West Africa.

In March, 1972, the Foundation hosted a luncheon for wives of African diplomatic personnel. The purpose was to get a better understanding of what African women perceived to be some of the most important problems facing them. This luncheon encouraged the Foundation to become involved in assisting, somehow, our African sisters.

In January, 1973, the Foundation held a conference chaired by the person who, at that time, was a Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Secretary General of the All African Women's Conference (Madame Cisse).

This conference of African women and men was designed to help the Foundation discover and define what realistic and meaningful contribution we might make to the development of African communities.

For months, the Foundation held many discussions with African representatives.

In March, 1974, a member of the Foundation traveled to Algeria to attend the meeting of the All African Women's Conference. It was made clear to us at this time that the Foundation should become involved in international development -- but on AFRICA'S TERMS!

On May 18, 1975 -- one year later -- 6 people representing the Foundation visited Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta and Ethiopia to see how we could best be of assistance and in which country we should begin.

When the team arrived in Mali, the project was discussed and designed with the assistance of many Malian officials.

This is where U.S.A.I.D. enters the picture. AID had the money and the Foundation had to begin writing proposals to get the money necessary to do the project.

Now that the Foundation has received the money (funding) from AID, the Foundation must continue to be accountable to AID on a continuous basis as to how the money is being spent and the progress of the project.

The Foundation must do this to receive approval and money for different phases of the project. This is our relationship with AID and the Foundation must therefore work closely with AID both here in Mali and Washington, D.C.

The Foundation did not begin to use this money until June, 1977 at which time the Foundation sent Mrs. Zollner to Mali to begin implementation of the project. Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Zollner returned to Washington, resigned her position with the Foundation and returned to her home in Sierra Leone.

In August, 1977, I received a visit from Monsieur Deme who expressed, on behalf of the government of Mali and the UNFM, a present and continuous interest in the project. Monsieur Deme also stated that Mali wanted to pursue and develop the project and asked that I come to Mali for further discussions and to begin implementation. I also met with Ambassador Sina in Washington who agreed.

I arrived in Mali 1½ months later, in October, 1977, met with each ministry and attended meetings and a workshop at which each ministry was represented. I might add that Madame Tall was the only person present who helped design the original project. Therefore, we had to start at the beginning.

Since several years had passed, we spent a lot of time re-establishing relationships and used the original, basic proposal concept to update the objectives and details of implementation.

For the first time to the Foundations' knowledge, it was made clear at this workshop that the project belonged to the UNFM and that the different ministries were available to assist if the UNFM requested. The Foundation agreed, especially since we were both Black women's organizations with the same basic objectives in our communities. It was also agreed that the project would have co-directors: The Foundation would have a Project Director who would be mainly accountable to the Foundation and to AID. The UNFM would have a co-director who would directly oversee the daily operations of the project (mainly being principal of the training facility).

During my visit in October, the UNFM continuously explained to me that they were very busy with elections and did not have the time necessary to spend with me to work on the details of the project and that this would be the situation until the end of December. Madame Tall requested that I return approximately during the middle of January, 1978 and that I bring with me the Foundation's Project Director and a technical advisor, which I have done.

However, again I find several changes in Mali government representatives here today at this workshop and new leaders of the UNFM.

The Foundation has been working on this international project for 6 years.....6 years of planning, discussions, trips and project writing involving the Foundation, African representatives in the United States, Africans in 5 different nations, U.S. AID and, more specifically and intensely, with Malian government officials and members of the UNFM --- many trips to Mali and many, many meetings.

And now, we must begin again.

What the Foundation has to offer Mali and the UNFM . are funds, technical assistance and expertise.

But Mali is your country. During these workshops and meetings, we hope that you will tell us how we can best use our resources to most effectively serve the needs of the women in rural areas of Mali.

We cannot waste any more valuable time, yours or ours. We must define the plan and implementation. We must sign an agreement to this plan of implementation. I am sure that it can be done during this visit. The Foundation wants to work with you; We are at your disposal. But today we must begin the final beginning. This is it!

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Madame Diop looked at me with approving respect. She then gave her concurring opening remarks and we got down to the business of development.

Upon our arrival at this first workshop, we found that the UNFM also had a working paper on the project design for the Center at Ouelessebougou. Along with the working paper we had prepared, we were able to exchange, embellish and incorporate ideas with the Union in designing what we think to be a substantive developmental project.

There were certainly problems in the workshops, from the standpoint of language alone, since each paper had to be translated into the other language (French/English) for clarification of each party.

A great deal of time was spent by Ms. Briggs in these translations since each time the workshop met, there were additions, deletions or revisions to be made.

The Union worked closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs as we did with AID/Mali in creating an agreement acceptable to all parties concerned.

Along with Mr. Myron Golden of AID/Mali, we met with the AID attorney, Mr. William Louris, to clearly define the implications and legalities of the document and to incorporate all provisions necessary for us, both as protective measures as well as those necessary to remain within AID guidelines for grantees.

Toward the end of negotiations with the Union, there were some political incidents which placed the country in unstable, low-profile spirits.

The Ministers of Information, Justice, Security and Foreign Affairs were arrested during the last proposed week of our stay. Due to the unrest, there were some obstacles in meeting with the Union as had been scheduled. Meetings were cancelled because the President of the Union was involved in a conference with Malian President Traore and we were advised by a Malian that no contact was to be made with foreigners during a certain period of time preceding the arrests.

There were public protests in the city in favor of the arrests and the American Ambassador, Miss Byrne, advised Americans to keep a low profile for a couple of days. This included closing the American Mission at noon, the day following the first three arrests and demonstrations.

After a one week delay, the project agreement known as a "Letter of Execution" was signed by the National Union of Malian Women and the Black Women's Community Development Foundation. The signatures were witnessed and signed by a representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the American Ambassador to Mali.

Each page on the official and original French version was initialed by Mr. Deme, Miss Byrne, Madame Diop and me. Official seals were affixed. This document is in the hands of Mr. Deme at the Foreign Ministry in Mali. Copies are with the AID/Mali office (which is suppose to be forwarding us copies).

The English version of the Letter of Project Execution follows, retyped by our office to be more easily read. The last page of seals and signatures has been duplicated. The original English document is in our office on file.

LETTER OF PROJECT EXECUTION

No. 688-0209/No. 1

TITLE: SETTING UP THE TRAINING CENTER FOR RURAL ANIMATRICES (CFAR)

INTRODUCTION: Origin and Identification of the Project

From May to June 1975, an American feasibility team for the Black Women's Community Development Foundation (BWCDF) headed by Mrs. Inez Smith Reid, came to West Africa visiting Senegal, Mali and Upper Volta.

The team was financed by a grant from the Agency for International Development (USAID/Grant No. AID/AFR-G1122) to study the possibilities of a program geared toward community development for African women.

Their objective was to find a host country interested in participating in the creation of a training center for rural women's development and provide the necessary elements for successful execution.

It happened that the National Union of Malian Women (UNFM) which had held its Constituent Congress in December 1974 had adopted, as part of its future programs, pilot education projects aimed at improving rural women's access to information, training and the use of modern techniques of production for development.

The Malian Government had also tried several mass educational methods and had introduced structures for educating the rural community.

Having recognized the effort already made by the Malians and their determination to persevere, the team recommended to USAID that the project be situated in Mali.

Through consultation with USAID, BWCDF, the Malian Government and the UNFM drew up the present project document. It is effective upon signature by the four parties.

I. Project Description

The Training Center for Rural Animatrices (CFAR) is an educational and training institution at Ouelessebougu, on a ten hectares site, belonging to the Government of Mali.

It is foreseen that for the first two years, the Center's activities will be geared toward women only and will take place on location. Beginning the third year, with the Center's activities well defined, CFAR would extend its expertise to a few selected villages through periodic visits of a mobile unit of visiting instructors.

This permanent center will train women who come from the villages and will return to them to act as community development agents. These "Animatrices" must be able to return to their villages and transmit to the villagers the training they have received in order to introduce a new mentality, for improving village living-conditions.

In order to do this, those selected by CFAR will be recruited from among women already living in the village, who are of good character and who can have some influence on their fellow sister-citizens. They will be chosen on the local level by the UNEM on a voluntary basis, keeping in mind the future impact they will have upon their village environment.

In order to facilitate teaching, each group of trainees, as much as possible, will be made up of women who are of the same socio-cultural levels, slightly literate or having left school early.

The trainees will be provided with room and board for the three month training period. Each group will have a maximum of twenty women. Each woman will be allowed to bring with her one child, under six, who will be cared for in a nursery at the Center. Each three month training period will be followed by a one month break. In a year then, with three sessions, CFAR will train a maximum of sixty women. The three month break will be dedicated to evaluation, preparation of training materials and program readjustments made by the training staff of the Center.

The training provided by CFAR is essentially practical and active. It is intensive so that the trainees can, in a relatively short time, be given the fundamentals of the curriculum. The curricula is composed of several elements: general courses (functional literacy, civic education, management and accounting for small cooperatives, budgeting and family health) and practical courses with specialization (tailoring, dyeing, cooking, hair dressing, home economics, gardening and animal husbandry). These courses will offer a core curriculum with specialized workshops.

In terms of time, the courses will be divided up allowing one-third for general training and two-thirds for practical pre-professional training. The trainees will be required to maintain their living quarters and prepare their food as a practical application of the lessons they will receive in hygiene, nutrition and home economics. CFAR, having been set up on an experimental basis in a Bambara zone, will use as the language of instruction, Bambara, since the women are illiterate in French. The activities of CFAR at Ouelessebouyou will extend only to women of the second region (Koulikoro) who speak Bambara. Eventually, in light of achieved results, similar centers could be created in other regions of Mali, using other languages of instruction. CFAR of Ouelessebouyou could even take trainees coming from other regions of Mali who speak Bambara, as well as neighboring countries (Senegal, Upper Volta) whose languages have a common origin with Bambara.

The trainees from West African states will have scholarships provided by their own countries or by the BWCDF or by other national or international organizations.

After the experimental three years CFAR will begin its operational phase. The BWCDF will continue to assist for three years. At the end of six years, CFAR will become the property of the UNEM and will be self-financing due to investments made in the Center (kitchen gardens, orchards, hen houses, rabbit hutches, sheep pens, stables, craft workshops, etc.). The BWCDF will continue its assistance by seeking out funds other than the USAID grant and by looking for markets through which to vent the exportable products of the Center. Even in this stage the Center will retain its sub-regional flavor.

These women who have completed training at CFAR will always remain in contact with the Center and will always be able to return there for short periods of retraining. These seminars will be set up once a year beginning in the third year of operation and will last a maximum of one month with fifteen to twenty women students. The training and administrative staff of CFAR will be provided by Mali; however, instructors from other countries may be recruited to teach craft techniques or pre-professional courses that are valuable to the training and viable to the country of Mali.

The mobile unit which will function from CFAR and which will come into being the third year, will help to maintain contact between the Center and the surrounding villages. On one hand, it would provide support to the animatrice trained at CFAR in their village activities and on the other hand, would extend the training activities of the Center to the villages as a whole.

In order to do so, the multi-disciplinary mobile unit would act as an outreach. It will conduct nutrition and primary health care demonstration, will give technical agricultural courses and instruction in rural public works, such as well-drilling or hygiene. The mobile unit will remain in a village on an average of one to seven days and will return to the same village at least three times a year.

CFAR must emphasize the practical application of the training that it gives. In order to do so, when the trainees must return home after "graduation", the local union of their village will be given equipment by CFAR in the form of a reimbursable loan. This material, which will be provided in accordance with the needs of the different villages, will permit the "animatrices" to use her new knowledge and allow the local union to undertake the management of community activities. The amounts reimbursed will establish a revolving fund which will be administered jointly by the UNFM and the BWCDF, to continue its work after the experimental phase.

II. Organization Responsibilities For Executing The Project

The Malian government has placed the project under the aegis of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs (National Bureau of Social Affairs).

The UNFM, an organization recognized by the State has been designated as the organization responsible for the implementation of the project. Mrs. DIOP Sira Sissoko, President of the UNFM will be the person responsible for all payments made as part of the project. In her absence, she will be replaced by Mrs. DICKO Massaran Konate, the Secretary General of the UNFM. Furthermore, since the Executive Director of the BWCDF has named a Field Representative, Mrs. Jacquelyn Briggs, the UNFM has named Mrs. DICKO Massaran Konte as a counterpart to Mrs. Briggs who will live in Bamako. A Malian Directress will be appointed to reside at Ouelessebougon to oversee the execution of the project on a daily basis. The National Executive Bureau of the UNFM, composed of twenty one members will oversee the proper execution of the project.

A technical, inter-ministerial coordinating commission made up of representatives of the different national departments and bureaus involved in the project (Public Health and Social Affairs, Planning, Rural Development, National Education, National Cooperatives, International Cooperation and the Governor's Office at Koulikoro) has also been established to coordinate project activities (see organizational chart on following page).

III. Time Table

In its experimental phase, i.e. the first three years, the project will be implemented in three, one year stages. In the first year there will be creation of infrastructure (building and equipment) recruiting and training of the instructional staff, the preparation of training aids and materials and the opening of the Center for twenty trainees. In the second year, CFAR will take in three groups of twenty trainees each, or sixty women, making a total of eighty Malian Rural "Animatrices" trained the first two years. In the third year the activities of the Center will consist not only of the training of three groups of twenty trainees each, including without a doubt trainees from neighboring countries, but also of the dispatch of the mobile unit to the villages.

Listed below are the detailed activities of the first year.

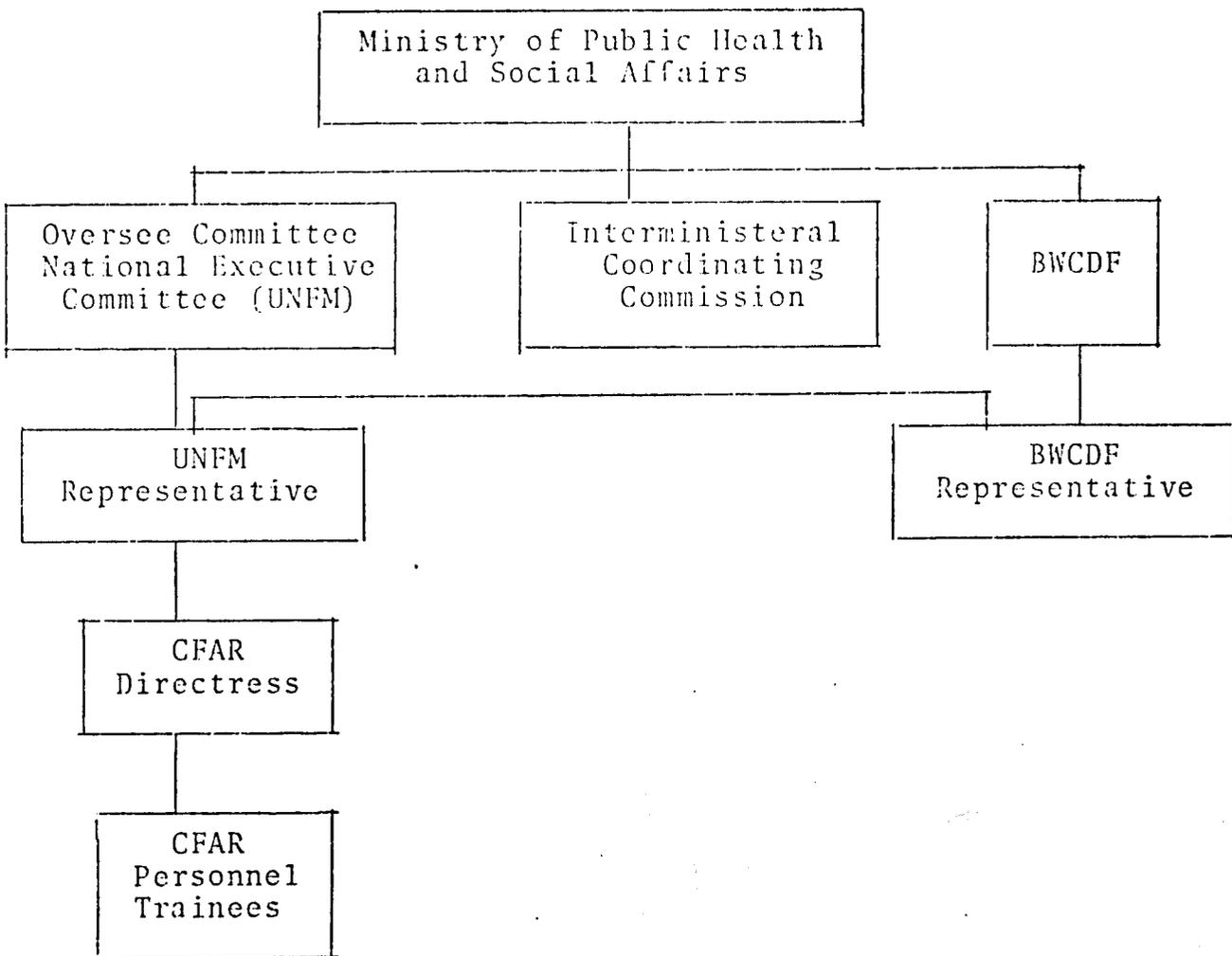
Program Activities - 1978

- 1st Stage - 15 February - 7 March: Discussion, adoption and signing of project document.
- 2nd Stage - 8 March - 31 December: Compile information and determine the opinions of the public, and of local authorities on the project.
- 3rd Stage - 10 March - 30 May : Expansion of outlined activities for the Centers operational structure.
- 4th Stage - 15 March - 25 December: Building construction at Ouelessebouyou
- 5th Stage - 8 March - 30 May : Draw up lists of materials and equipment; order materials and equipment.
- 6th Stage - 25 March - 30 July : Recruitment and training of instructors.
- 7th Stage - 1 August - 15 December: Preparation of the instructional materials and methodology in Bambara.
- 8th Stage - 15 October 20 December: Registration of trainees for first session.
- 9th Stage - 28 December : Inauguration of the Center opening of first training session.

N.B.: The building construction is pending the availability of materials.

UNFM/BWCDF PROJECT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1978

MONTH

discussion, adoption and signing of project document

compile information and determine the opinions of the public, and of local authorities

expansion of outlined activities for the Center's operational structure

building construction at Quelessebougou

draw up lists of materials and equipment

recruitment and training of instructors

preparation of instructional materials and methodology in Bambara

registration of trainees for first sessions

inauguration of the Center
Opening of first training sessions

	Fe	Mr	Ap	Ma	Jn	Ju	Au	Se	Oc	No	De
discussion, adoption and signing of project document	—										
compile information and determine the opinions of the public, and of local authorities		—									
expansion of outlined activities for the Center's operational structure		—									
building construction at Quelessebougou		—									
draw up lists of materials and equipment		—									
recruitment and training of instructors		—									
preparation of instructional materials and methodology in Bambara							—				
registration of trainees for first sessions									—		
inauguration of the Center Opening of first training sessions											—

IV. Objectives

Long-Term

The long term socio-economic objectives of this project are to improve the living conditions of women in rural areas and to increase their monetary-incomes through the conduct of a training project for sixty village women per year in the following areas:

- 1) Family health and children care (hygiene, first aid, identification of symptoms of common illnesses, preventative medicine, sanitary education);
- 2) Increased agricultural production (use of fertilizer, crop rotation, proper use of tools, basic animal care);
- 3) Nutrition and family care (food storage and preservation, basic food requirements);
- 4) Home economics (marketing, management of family budget, village coops); and
- 5) Functional literacy and civic education (roles and responsibilities of public services, organization of community locals).

Short-Term

In the near future it will be necessary to:

- 1) Create and equip a permanent training Center;
- 2) Prepare detailed program curricula and materials for the Center;
- 3) Define the profile of teachers for the Center;
- 4) Train the trainers;
- 5) Recruit the trainees;
- 6) Plan for the creation of the mobile unit; and
- 7) Prepare instruments for evaluating the project.

V. Budget

The financial contribution of the BWCDF, which has a grant from USAID, will be utilized either in foreign currency or in local currency for the purpose of goods and services for the benefit of the project. The yearly contribution by the BWCDF is subject to agreement by the parties and to the availability of funds from USAID. The line items of the budget are established but sums may be modified by written agreement between the parties.

The BWCDF will attempt to furnish to the project, funds outside the USAID grant to realize the success of the project.

The resources furnished by BWCDF for the length of the project will not be less than 777,500 US Dollars:

1st year US \$	250,000	118,750,000 FM
2nd year US \$	227,500	108,062,500 FM
3rd year US \$	300,000	142,500,000 FM
TOTAL	US \$ 777,500	369,312,500 FM

A budget outline appears below:

	\$	
Salaries	71,000	33,725,000
Travel	13,000	6,175,000
Construction	100,000	47,500,000
Equipment/Materials	11,000	5,225,000
Trainee Tuition	1,000	475,000
Other Direct Costs	4,000	1,900,000
Administrative Costs	50,000	23,750,000
TOTAL	250,000	118,750,000

VI. Government Contributions

These contributions are in-kind and services and in cash. The Government puts at the disposition of the project a ten hectare plot of land at 2 000 FM per square meter or a value equal to two hundred million Malian Francs. The Government agrees to facilitate the launching of the project. In addition, it will provide instructors for the project and participate in the preparation of training materials. It will take responsibility for certain recurrent costs whose annual total paid in cash is estimated to be:

Personnel (general services)	1,440,000 FM
Technical personnel	3,480,000 FM
Operational Costs	600,000 FM
TOTAL	5,520,000 FM

VII. Other Contributions

In the context of cultural exchange, training of cadre and search for outlets for goods produced at CFAR, the BWCDF might furnish financial and technical assistance to the UNFM over and above the contribution of USAID and the Malian Government.

VIII. Rate of Exchange

For funds provided under the grant from USAID, to BWCDF, to satisfy the obligations of BWCDF, or USAID, the Government of Mali will make such necessary arrangements so that funds may be converted into Malian currency at the highest legal rate.

IX. Procurement Source

Disbursement of funds will be used exclusively to finance the costs of goods and services required for the project and having their source and origin in the United States unless USAID agrees otherwise, in writing.

X. Repayment

In case of disbursement non conforming to the laws regulating USAID, or not carried out or used conforming to the present letter, the UNFM will reimburse the money to BWCDF.

XI. Taxation

- (a) This agreement and the grant will be free from any taxes and fees imposed under laws in effect in Mali.
- (b) To the extent that (1) any contractor, including any technical advisors, and any personnel of the contract financed under the grant, as well as goods or transactions relative to these contracts and (2) any commodity procurement financed by the grant, are not exempt from taxes, tariffs duties or other levies imposed under laws in effect in Mali. This in effect and conforming to the letter of execution, in the limits of funds projected will be paid or reimbursed with funds other than those provided for under the grant.

XII. Report, Accounting, Records and Audits

The BWCDF will furnish to USAID all periodic reports on the situation of the progress of the project conforming to fixed procedures by USAID, among those:

- (1) A bi-annual report of activities describing the reports of project activities to be submitted six months after the effective date of the grant.
- (2) A bi-annual financial report describing the expenditures incurred in the reporting period to be submitted six months after the effective date of the grant.
- (3) A final report on the project.
- (4) Five copies of each report will be submitted to USAID/Washington AFR/SFWA.

The UNFM will participate in the preparation of above reports and will receive three copies of each. The Union will report to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs of Mali.

The BWCDF and the UNFM will conform to generally accepted accounting procedures by maintaining books and evidence to substantiate charges of goods and services acquired. These records shall be made available to the comptroller General of the United States or his duly - appointed representative. The records must be (1) kept for a period of three years after the date of the last disbursement and (2) for a longer period if necessary for the verification of disbursements unless stated in writing by USAID. USAID, in general follows accepted auditing practices in determining the proper use of grant funds.

III. Communications

Any notice, request, document or other communication submitted by either party to the other under this agreement will be in writing or by telegram or cable and will be deemed duly given or sent when delivered to such party at the following addresses:

UNFM
BP 1975
Bamako, Mali
Telephone: 239-88

BWCDF
c/o USAID
BP 34
Bamako, Mali

1028 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 456-6220

XIV. Modifications

This letter of execution may be modified in writing by the authorized representatives of the parties: the UNFM and the BWCDF, without official amendments to the agreement.

XV. Termination

By giving written notice thirty days in advance, any of the four parties may cancel this letter of execution by agreement of the other parties. Termination will cancel any portion of the grant not already disbursed or obligated to a third party.

IN TESTIMONY OF WHICH, the Government of Mali and the UNFM, USAID and the BWCDF in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement (Grant AID/AFR-G-1273) each acting through its own duly appointed representative, has signed this letter of Execution and in their name, on the day and year, so indicated.

Bamako, Mali
7 March, 1978

Signed by: _____
M. Moustapha Deme
Director General
of International Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Signed by: _____
The Honorable Patricia Byrne
Ambassador of the United States to Mali

Signed by: _____
Mrs. DIOP Sira Sissoko
President
UNFM

Signed by: _____
Ms. Patricia F. Eaton
Executive Director
BWCDF

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Telephone: (202) 466-6220

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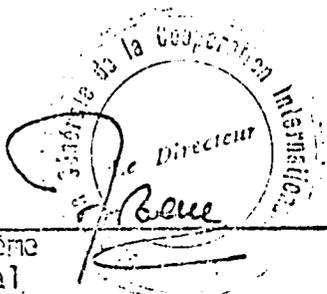
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7 March, 1978

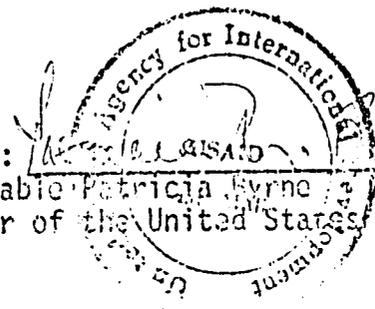
Signed by: M. Houstapha Deme
Director General
of International Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Signed by: Mrs. DIOP Sira Sissoko
President
UNFM

DIOP

Signed by: The Honorable Patricia Byrne
Ambassador of the United States
to Mali



Signed by: Mrs. Patricia F. Eaton
Executive Director
BWCDF

Patricia F. Eaton

The signing of the agreement took place in the office of Mr. Deme (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) with a "packed-house", broadcasted over Radio Mali. At the conclusion of the signing, speeches were made by Mr. Deme and Miss Byrne officially sealing and endorsing the agreement. Madame Diop opted not to speak in lieu of Mr. Deme's remarks. I made the following statement on behalf of the Foundation:

Remarks by Miss Patricia F. Eaton, Executive Director of the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, at the signing of the "LETTRE D'EXECUTION D'ACTIVITE", 7 March, 1978:

Mr. Director General, Your Excellency Miss Ambassador, Mrs. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

We have come to work with the descendants of Soundiata Keita, Kankan Moussa, Askia Mohammed -- the descendants of the great empires of Ancient Africa and of a civilization whose influence has spread over Europe, the Middle East and throughout the continent of Africa.

We as Black Americans or African Americans proudly share in this heritage.

The slave trade destroyed or weakened the economic, political and social fabric of Africa and paved the way for colonialism. Until all of us, including our brothers and sister in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa are free, then, in a sense, we are all involved in the struggle for liberation and self-reliance.

With the signing of the "Letter of Project Execution," we are joining the expertise of our sisters in Mali and the expertise of our sisters in the United States to work together to improve the life of women and their families in rural areas of Mali. This is an essential part of that struggle for liberation and self-reliance.

This effort is unique in our history and is being watched very closely throughout the African world. It is of special concern to our sisters in other areas of the Sahel who will eventually share in this project.

The Foundation has been successful in proposing to and securing from our United States government its financial assistance through AID to create this developmental training project for women in rural Mali. It is necessary that the original goals of this project be accomplished: to increase the participation of and more meaningful utilization of women as a rich human resource in the economic, social and cultural development of Mali. Achievement of these goals will be measured by increased numbers of trained women in health, social and economic activities in local villages. These women will be able to contribute toward the attainment of the developmental goals of the Republic of Mali.

The success of this project and the cooperation between the Union Nationale des Femmes Maliennes and the Black Women's Community Development Foundation establishes acceptance of women as meaningful resources on an international level.

I know, that wherever our great African Ancestors are today, they are very proud of this moment which will go down in history.

I thank you.

Changes in Original Project Proposal

In reviewing the original project proposal (which was the basis for funding) several changes for the first year have been made because of the lapse of time and the re-structuring of the Foundation.

The proposal called for a target group of young rural women ages twelve to eighteen. After recent discussion with several Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Rural Development, the target age was raised to eighteen and above. Credibility is best established by an older, stable woman in the community, since, as a change agent, it is imperative that the village women have respect for her training and confidence in her judgement.

The proposal also called for two components in year one that have been revised due to increased cost estimates for in-country expenditures.

The mobile unit, along with the permanent site at Ouelessebouyou, were the projected training areas; but due to the increased cost of construction for buildings at Ouelessebouyou, the mobile unit has been delayed for incorporation into year three.

Furthermore, because the Center is in its formative stage, it was agreed upon by BWCDF and the UNFM that a mobile unit at this time could detract from the maximum potential of the training site itself. This factor is of particular importance since the UNFM felt that the proposed five months sessions were too long for a woman to be away from her family. The length of training was cut to a three-month session with the woman being allowed to bring with her one child, under the age of six. Care for the children during the day will be provided at the Center.

With regard to curriculum, no changes were made; however, some practical instruction has been included. The proposal called for health/child care, agriculture, nutrition, home management and functional literacy. All of these components remain, but courses in tailoring, cooking, tie-dyeing and hair dressing have been added. These courses will allow village women to have expertise in areas where they can not only increase family income, but act as the village expert in those fields as well.

In perusing the project proposal, it was discovered that there was no mention of the Project Director living in Mali. It simply states that the "project director will spend substantial time in Africa." Due to the uncertainty of the political environment now in Mali, BWCDF is exploring the possibility of the Project Director maintaining the temporary accommodations whenever in Mali. Travel will be based on necessity; at present, trips are anticipated at a minimum toward quarterly visits in order to meet AID reporting requirements. For the remainder of the AID fiscal year (October 1, 1977 - September 30, 1978) for the success of the project, two additional visits by the Project Director are required, with each trip lasting approximately twenty one days.

BWCDF also finds it necessary, in view of the present political upheaval, for the Executive Director to accompany the Project Director on at least one trip in order to put the project in its proper perspective.

Staff projections in the proposal called for three agricultural agents, one health educator, one nurse, four instructors for functional literacy and home management and one female extension agent.

Under the project, the staff for the Center will be chosen by the Malian government and the UNFM; the number has not been decided upon.

BWCDF has hired only the Project Director and any other staff person will be hired locally, to assist the Director in keeping the project running smoothly.

Budget

The in-country expenditure proposal amounted to a total of \$26,000. This included the following expenses:

1) staff salaries, travel	\$ 5,000
2) adaptation of existing building	10,000
3) liaison staff-project/host country	7,000
4) maintenance costs	2,000
5) duty exemption	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	26,000

The project now consists of the following host-country inputs:

1) 10 hectare plot of land for project site	42,000
2) personnel	3,000
3) technical personnel	7,325
4) operational costs	<u>1,200</u>
TOTAL	53,525

Schedule of Activities

After negotiation and signing with AID, the proposal called for hiring the Project Director within two weeks of signing the contract. In actuality the Project Director was hired sometime after that, but, the first Director was asked to leave Mali after only two weeks. The next Director was hired with AID's approval in February of 1978.

Some sort of administrative and financial systems were to be set up under the proposal. The systems will be completed upon the Project Director's return to Mali and the reporting systems will be based on the AID financial and reporting procedures.

In-country activities consist of the following changes:

	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Project</u>
Staff Recruitment	June '76	25 March - 30 July, 1978
Staff Training	July '76	25 March - 30 July, 1978
Preparation of Project Facilities	July - September '76	15 March - 25 December '78
Preparation of Instructional Materials	_____	1 August - 15 December '78
Recruitment/Registration of initial trainees	August - September '76	15 October - 20 December '78
Training session begins	October '76	28 December '78

Donor inputs remain the same; however due to the delay in getting the project underway, costs for the first year are estimated much higher than the original budget (in the proposal).

Facilities development alone has more than tripled. Although this is only an estimate, it is expected that much more than the allotted \$65,000 will be needed.

Equipment has also increased; travel, salaries and administrative figures have been rearranged and amount to less than \$5,000 above the original projections for these combined line items.

The budget projections from the proposal and the actual project follow for all expenditures:

	<u>Domestic</u>	
	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Project</u>
Salaries	91,000.00	21,635.00
Travel	8,000.00	32,750.00
Administration	<u>35,000.00</u>	<u>85,440.00</u>
Sub-total	134,000.00	139,825.00

	<u>In-Country</u>	
Facilities Development	65,000.00	150,000.00
Equipment	20,000.00	29,975.00
Trainee Tuition	20,000.00	3,500.00
Other Direct Costs	<u>11,000.00</u>	<u>7,500.00</u>
Sub-total	116,000.00	190,975.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	250,000.00	330,800.00

A complete breakdown follows:

BWCDF/UNFM TRAINING CENTER

FY 78 - BUDGET

July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978

Total

SALARIES

Salaries

Project Director	7,638.00
Fringe Benefits (12%)	916.00
Secretary	916.00
Consultants	3,565.00
Wormens Compensation	600.00

13,635.00

Allowances

Housing	1,600.00
Settling-in	500.00
Furnishings	5,500.00
Education	-0-
Office Management (rent)	-0-
Communications	200.00
Printing/Reproduction	200.00

8,000.00

TOTAL SALARIES

\$21,635.00

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

Domestic	500.00
International	11,000.00
In-Country	-0-
Storage/Freight	13,000.00

24,750.00

Pre-Departure Expenses	250.00
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Per Diem	8,000.00
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8,000.00

TOTAL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

32,750.00

IN-COUNTRY EXPENDITURES

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

		<u>Total</u>
Construction/Rehab	150,000.00	
TOTAL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT		\$150,000.00

EQUIPMENT

Equipment	8,000.00	
Vehicles	20,000.00	
Spare parts	-0-	
Typewriter	375.00	
Office supplies	850.00	
Educational Materials		
Movie Projector	300.00	
Slide Projector	250.00	
Movie Screen	50.00	
Audio-Visual Aids	150.00	
TOTAL EQUIPMENT		\$ 29,975.00

TRAINEE TUITION

Trainee tuition, supplies	3,500.00	
TOTAL TRAINEE TUITION		\$ 3,500.00

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS		\$ 7,500.00
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TOTAL IN-COUNTRY EXPENDITURES		<u>\$190,975.00</u>
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ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

		<u>Total</u>
Salaries	49,386.00	
Fringe Benefits	2,083.00	
Consultants	9,200.00	
Rent	5,722.00	
Equipment Rental	2,369.00	
Supplies	4,000.00	
Domestic Travel	1,200.00	
Telephone	800.00	
Outside Printing	1,000.00	
Postage Rental, Machine	1,200.00	
Subscriptions, Ref. Publ.	128.00	
Xerox	1,250.00	
Insurance (other than fringe)	1,092.00	
Payroll Taxes	1,360.00	
F.I.C.A.	4,654.00	
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ 80,440.00

SALARIES	21,635.00
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	32,750.00
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT	150,000.00
EQUIPMENT	29,225.00
TRAINEE TUITION	3,500.00
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	7,500.00
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	85,444.00
	TOTAL COSTS
	<u>\$330,054.00</u>

Projections for the Remainder of the First Year

Although the groundwork has been laid there is still much to do in implementing the Center at Oueles-sebouyou.

For the remainder of the 1978 AID fiscal year, BWCDF hopes to have accomplished several concrete phases toward making CFAR operational.

The most obvious of these, is of course, designing and constructing the classroom building on the site. This can only be achieved with USAID/Mali approval since the new estimate is above the allowable cost for construction. Availability of cement is also a factor.

With the UNFM, the Project Director will, upon her return to Mali, discuss the final details of the curriculum design and complete details for the Center's operational structure. Also at this time, lists of materials and equipment will be discussed and drawn up so that these items may be ordered and secured in the United States under the guidelines of AID regulations. These items will be ordered after BWCDF has been properly advised by AID/W Commodity experts.

Recruitment of the instructors is being carried out by the UNFM in Mali and by the time the Project Director returns to Mali, their training should be well underway.

After the training of the instructors, the instructional materials and the methodology will be set up in Bamara.

Hopefully, by mid-October, recruitment of the initial trainees can begin.

BWCDF is presently awaiting acceptance of the invitation extended to the UNFM for a representative to visit the United States and observe women's programs in practice. The proposed length of stay will be approximately two weeks and she will be afforded the opportunity to see women in development and mobile unit systems in action.

The Project Director is expecting to return to Bamako with the UNFM representative. The anticipated time of return to Bamako is mid-June.

BWCDF/Mali Project Director: Jacquelyn Briggs

On February 2, 1978, Ms. Jacquelyn O. Briggs began working with BWCDF as Project Director for the Women's Development program in Mali, West Africa. Her contract was approved by the BWCDF Board of Directors and the AID Contract and Project Officers.

Prior to her departure to Bamako, on February 14, 1978, Ms. Briggs was involved in reading background information on Mali and its cultural heritage. She also spent time studying the background material provided her on the history of BWCDF and of the Mali project including the initial proposal to AID.

She also attended a conference on Human Resources including workshops for women in development.

A skeletal budget was drawn up to be used with the UNFM in our workshops as a guideline for expenditures. Unfortunately, as a working paper, it created some resentment on the part of the Executive Committee because since they had a project proposal in their possession, they were under the false assumption that the entire \$250,000 first year grant was to be spent on the project, in-country.

Since her return, Ms. Briggs has been investigating the potential of introducing innovative techniques to the project training site at Ouelessebougou, including the use of solar and mechanical (windmills) resources for energy, water purification methods outside the conventional boiling and filtering techniques and sources of iodine for purification and diet.

Through the Department of Agriculture she has acquired various materials for practical demonstrations to incorporate into the actual curriculum at the Center.

Although a three year budget has been prepared and submitted to our project officer, real figures cannot be determined until Ms. Briggs has further meetings with the UNFM in Mali to establish actual costs, i.e. construction and materials needed for the Center.

During the duration of the Project, Ms. Briggs will submit quarterly financial and programmatic reports to BWCDF and AID as required under the grant guidelines.

POINTS OF CONCERN

- I. The original, first year \$250,000 project grant was to become effective October 1, 1976. Effective September 30, 1977, AID Grant Officer, S.D. Heishman, gave to BWCDF an official Amendment of Solicitation/Modification of the Grant.

The description stated:

1. The estimated completion date is changed from September 30, 1977 to 30 June, 1978 wherever it appears in the Grant.
2. Paragraph 3, Face Page
Delete "This Grant is made to PAI...." and substitute "This Grant is made to BWCDF...."
3. ATTACHMENT A, Paragraph E. Reports
Both reports listed shall be submitted sixteen (16) months after the effective date of the Grant.

BWCDF is dealing with three fiscal/reporting years/time-tables. The Foundation's fiscal year is April 1 - March 31. AID's fiscal year is October 1 - September 30.

Our project seems to be working on the fiscal/reporting year July 1 - June 30. In view of this, my concern is:

- Since AID works on the fiscal year October - September, our first year grant "expires" June 30, 1978 and therefore, we are not to receive additional funding of over \$250,000 until October 1, 1978. (Voiding year of project implementation). Therefore, our first year of operations will have five (5) quarters and we will need advanced funding from our second year's installment. In order to facilitate funding disbursements, program planning and reporting requirements, we would like to have our fiscal year to be re-defined to coincide with AID's.

II. On several occasions, funds from AID have been very late in coming. Although we have submitted funding request forms in plenty of time, our last two checks (we have only had three disbursements to date) have both been late causing staff not to be paid and delaying scheduled trips to Mali. We would like to establish some system for securing disbursements on a regular basis in order to meet our financial obligations and commitments to the program. Further, these delays have strained our credibility in Mali.

PROGRAM OBSERVATIONS

Despite the current political unrest in Mali, BWCDF feels that the project for Malian women is a feasible one.

It is interesting to note that the wife of the Minister of Security and former influential member of the UNFM under Madame Tall played a very instrumental part in the expulsion of Joy Zollner. It was this Minister of Security who directly expelled Joy and is now under arrest, (along with, I have heard, his wife) for allegedly trying to undermine the government of Mali.

Other interesting notes are:

Madame Traore, the wife of the President of Mali, is no longer President of the UNFM (which was an active position). Now, as the Honorary President of the UNFM, the emphasis on direct political involvement has perhaps been lessened reflecting more confidence in Madame Diop who was not given the title of Secretary General as with Madame Tall -- but the position and title of "President" of the Union. Madame Diop was meeting with the President during the arrests, therefore slightly delaying our meetings with her and our expected departure date.

During the recent arrests of civilians in Mali, BWCDF understands that Mme. Tall has been placed under arrest along with several other women who had served with her.

Ambassador Sima, the Malian Ambassador to the United States, has been very supportive of our project and was extremely helpful during our last trip to Mali, at which time he was on consultation with all the other Malian Ambassadors. Now we hear that he has been recalled and detained/arrested by the government of Mali. His family has been asked to leave the United States at the close of his children's school year.

As a non-political organization, BWCDF does not want, nor seek, to be involved in Malian politics but we do think it is important to be aware of the political climate, both now and in the past.

Reflectively, we can now see that Joy Zollner's report was more reliable in view of the internal power-play between different facets of the government and the UNFM. I see that Joy was "in the wrong place at the wrong time." I also see this to be the reason why my trip in October went so unfruitful; however, less dramatic because Mr. Deme, who is in good standing with the government, intervened.

Madame Diop, prior to being elected as President of the UNFM, served as Mali's UNESCO representative to Upper Volta. I have much more confidence in her administrative and developmental skills. This is one reason why I think that her impending visit, as requested by BWCDF, could be very meaningful to the project.

We have seen many officials with whom we have had to deal directly, change since work began on the project, but we have always been able to deal with whomever necessary in trying to reach our goals and objectives -- having the training center succeed.

We have come a long way since last July. Granted, it has taken time, but now we feel that the groundwork has been laid and we, along with the Malian women, are ready and prepared to move ahead.

However, we need AID's full cooperation and support. The Chinese, North Korean, Polish and Russian (among others) influence is greatly felt in Mali. Although considered "window dressing for communism" by many, the "good-will" presence/touch is not being felt in Mali on behalf of the United States' involvement. While in Mali, many government officials would opt my appointment for sessions with representatives of the aforementioned governments.

Since we are not treated with priority support from the government of Mali (presumably because we are American), we would like to have some form of "priority support" from AID, especially in Washington.

AID/MALI has been nothing but supportive, understanding and encouraging. I would like here to officially thank Mr. Levin, Mr. Golden and the rest of the AID/Mali team for all of their assistance.

The reason that I brought out the above points is that I honestly feel that our program in Mali is extremely beneficial to both the United States and Mali. Do not construe this as BWCDF having any interest whatsoever in any type of American propoganda. However, from a developmental view point -- and without any underlying intentions -- it is quite evident that when you "touch the women, you touch the whole family." (Ask Mr. Moynihan...).

This was the concept at the founding of BWCDF. It is still, now, our concept in Mali.