

USAID REPORTS: FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

Presented below are abstracts of recent USAID reports on food security in Africa. Copies of these reports and other current research studies, sector analyses, special evaluations and state-of-the-art reports describing a broad spectrum of international development experiences are available from USAID's Center for Development Information and Evaluation (CDIE). A complete listing of citations and abstracts of reports available from CDIE can be found in the quarterly CDIE journal, "AID Research and Development Abstracts" (ARDA). The goal of ARDA is to transfer development and technical information to active practitioners of development assistance. To obtain copies of the reports listed below or highlighted in a recent issue of ARDA, write to PPC/CDIE/DI, Attn: ARDA, room 209, SA-18, or call CDIE User Services at (301)951-9647.

Food security equation in Southern Africa

Rukuni, Mandivamba; Eicher, Carl K.
Michigan State University, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, East Lansing, MI;
U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Science and Technology, Office of Rural and Institutional Development, Washington, D.C. (Sponsor); U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Africa, Office of Technical Resources, Washington, D.C. (Sponsor)
MSU International Development Paper. Reprint, No. 5, ISSN: 0731-3438, 1987, iii, 32p., En Document number: PN-AAZ-121

According to this paper, there is a serious imbalance in the food security research under way in Southern Africa: currently, 75% of the technical expertise devoted to researching food security is focused on food availability issues (i.e., food production, storage, etc.), but the authors suggest that at least 50% of the research should address the demand (i.e., food access) side of the equation, in light of the coexistence of malnutrition and food surpluses in the region. The paper identifies priority food security research needs, categorizing them under broad headings: food and agricultural production; marketing and rural infrastructure and storage; income and employment generation in rural areas; food access and nutrition; national food security policy analysis; and regional food security policy analysis.

Ending hunger in Africa: the role for U.S. food aid

Hopkins, Raymond F.
U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Food for Peace and Voluntary Assistance, Office of Programs, Policy and Evaluation, Washington, D.C. (Sponsor)
12 June 1987, 39p., En
Document Number: PN-AAZ-271

Prospects for achieving the goal of President Reagan's Initiative to End Hunger in Africa by

the year 2000 are examined. After reviewing the African food situation, the author offers two suggestions. First, levels and forms of food aid should be related to host government food policy reforms and improved food markets, while remaining flexible enough to meet new situations. Second, concrete practices are proposed for using the Coordinating Committee for sub-Saharan Africa (which was established by the President's Initiative) and the multiyear, highly concessional commitments that are being contemplated. These practices include: (1) using shadow pricing in commodity selection; (2) substituting cash for food (or vice versa) in order to respond to production changes in countries involved in multiyear reform programs; (3) establishing donor/recipient working groups in selected countries to make logistic, pricing and transport decisions; and (4) nurturing incentives, especially by minimizing free food programs.

Famine prevention in Africa: the long view

Eicher, Carl K.
Michigan State University, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, East Lansing, MI; U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Science and Technology, Office of Rural and Institutional Development, Washington, D.C. (Sponsor); U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Africa, Office of Technical Resources, Washington, D.C. (Sponsor)
MSU international development papers. Reprint, no. 3, ISSN: 0731-3438, 1987, iii, 17p., En Document Number: PN-AAZ-119

While this paper acknowledges that identifying the causes of famine in Africa and developing strategies for famine prevention are complex tasks, its overriding concern is that development aid will remain ineffective in changing the current cycle of poverty and hunger as long as programs are focused on short- rather than long-term gains. Inherent in this view are two interrelated problems, which the paper analyzes in turn: conflicts between food production and population growth and between hunger and population growth in sub-Saharan Africa.

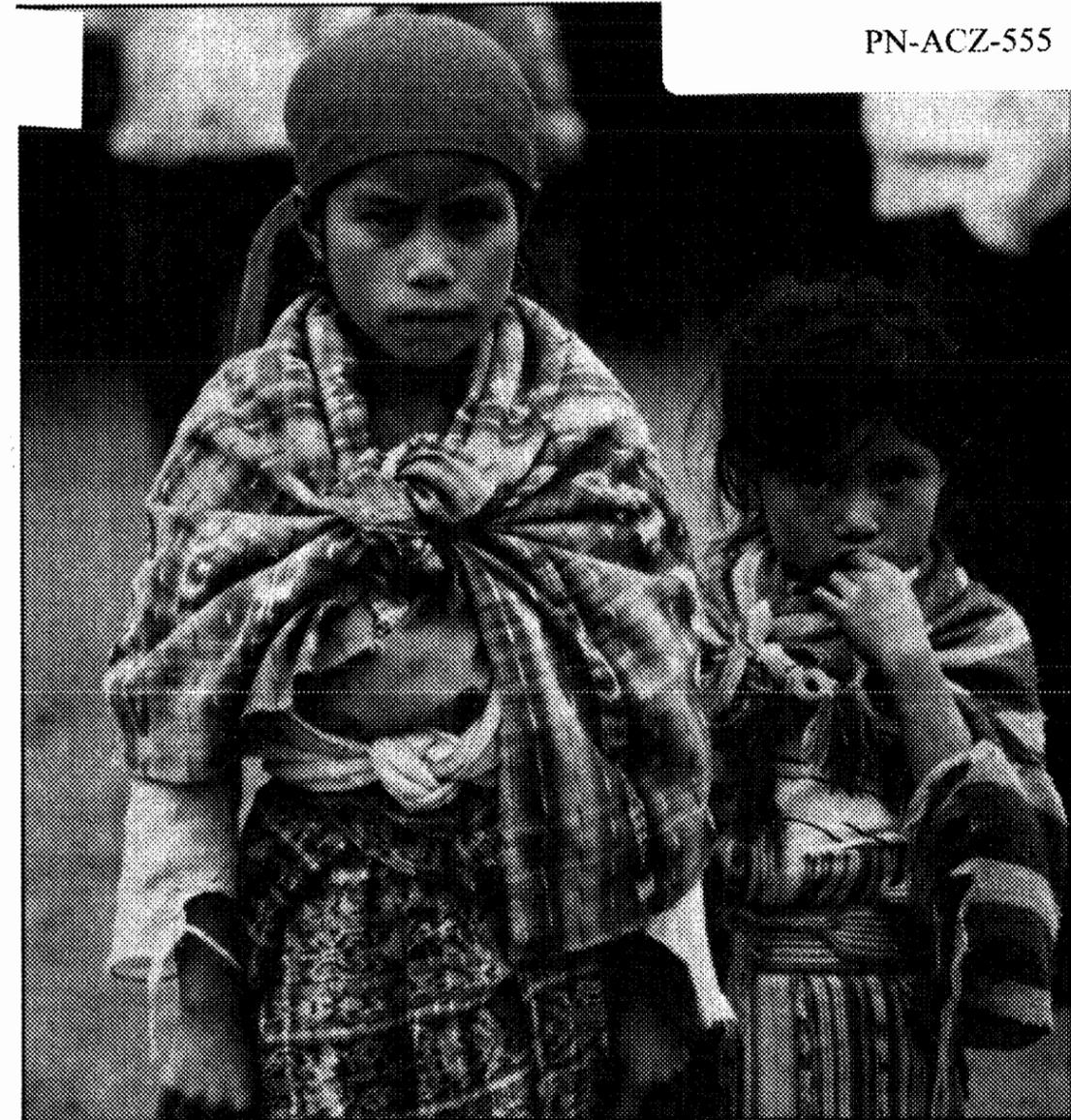
FRONT LINES

THE AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST 1988

"... the front lines' of a long twilight struggle for freedom..." John F. Kennedy

PN-ACZ-555



Bilingualism Extends Education in Guatemala

USAID Heads Interagency Locust Control Effort

Woods Takes Lead on WID Action Plan

Task Force to Combat Desert Locust Threat

by Renee Bafalis

Heighted concern over recent outbreaks of desert locusts throughout North Africa and the Sahel has prompted the Agency to gear up for what some call a potentially life-threatening disaster.

Occurring on a continent where insufficient food production is already a matter of serious concern, one ton of locusts—a small part of an average swarm—can eat, in one day, enough food to feed 2,500 people.

In response to the urgency, Administrator Alan Woods has established an interagency Desert Locust Task Force chaired by Robert Huesmann and operating within the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

"Our job is to coordinate the con-

tinuing U.S. government response to the desert locust infestation," says Huesmann. "The task force includes representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of State, along with USAID's OFDA, Policy Planning Committee and the bureaus for Africa, Asia, Science and Technology, and External Affairs."

USAID's effort is being carried out in conjunction with the affected countries, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and other donors. The control program hopes to reduce potential damage to crops and vegetation throughout many portions of Africa and to limit the further breeding of locusts within the Sahel.

"The U.S. locust control effort in Africa has been an ongoing pro-

gram since 1985," says OFDA Director Julia Taft. "This fiscal year alone, USAID has spent nearly \$17 million on locust control efforts."

That money paid for spraying and communications equipment along with pesticides, aircraft, technical assistance, environmental assessments and satellite-generated "greenness" maps.

"These maps, provided to us every two weeks by the U.S. Geological Survey, show areas of rainfall and plant growth and indicate potential sites for locust reproduction, growth and concentration," says Huesmann.

Locust swarms have been sighted in Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia. Not only does their migration into these countries pose a problem, but in many cases, the areas that are

infested also are involved in civil strife and are inaccessible to international control personnel.

Sudan, where the Minister of Agriculture recently declared an emergency, is braced for what could be a large influx of desert locusts from the west.

U.S. entomologist George Cavin, currently in Sudan monitoring the situation and reporting back to the task force, also points out that new outbreaks in the Ethiopian provinces of Eritrea and Tigray could become an even more widespread problem if not treated.

"These new swarms are nearing the Red Sea," says Cavin. "If they are able to cross it, they could pose a very substantial threat to vegetation in other parts of the Middle East and Asia."

Desert locust control operations carried out in the Maghreb regions in 1987 have kept infestation levels down; therefore, crops were able to mature without being destroyed by the swarms. It is now feared that residual locusts that escaped from the Maghreb have moved into the Sahel region, which is currently in its rainy season, a condition favorable for breeding.

For this reason, a major attempt is being launched by the Desert Locust Task Force to control the

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Anniversary Marks ORT Successes

ICORT III Conference Announced

Under the glare of TV lights at the National Press Club, a group of young children poured buckets containing 10,000 pennies into a container to symbolize the number of lives oral rehydration therapy (ORT) can save in one day.

The ceremony was part of an Aug. 5 news briefing attended by senior USAID officials to commemorate the 10th anniversary of an editorial in the British medical journal *The Lancet* hailing ORT as "potentially the most important medical advance of this century."

At the briefing, Nyle Brady, senior assistant administrator for the Bureau for Science and Technology, noted that USAID is the major donor contributor to the worldwide effort to promote the use of ORT.

"Since 1985, the Agency has made available \$160 million to support 175 different ORT projects in 60 countries around the world," Brady said. "That is 45% of the total resources being made available by all donors. We will continue to provide significant support for this important program."

Brady said that ORT now is available to 60% of the world's children for treating diarrheal episodes, surpassing earlier World Health Organization (WHO) targets of 50% access by 1990. "Real progress has been made," he said.

At the briefing, Brady announced that a major international conference on ORT will be held Dec. 14-16 in Washington, D.C.

The third International Conference on Oral Rehydration Therapy (ICORT III) will focus on sustainability of ORT programs. It will address topics such as financing, health care delivery systems,



At an Aug. 5 news briefing, children pour 10,000 pennies into a container, symbolizing the number of lives that could be saved by ORT each day. Observing are (from left) actor Raul Julia, PAHO President Dr. Carlyle Macedo, USAID Senior Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Science and Technology Nyle Brady, Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio), and Vice Chair of the International Child Health Foundation Dr. William Greenough.

private sector involvement, and the supply and distribution of oral rehydration salts.

"Administrator Woods has taken a keen interest in ICORT III and will personally invite selected developing country leaders to participate in this conference," Brady said. "He is especially eager that the conference highlight successful country efforts that emphasize long-term sustainability of ORT."

[The September issue of *Front Lines* will carry more detailed information on the ICORT III conference.]

Joining Brady at the news conference in speaking about the achievements and goals of ORT was Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio), chairman of the International Task Force of the House Select Committee on Hunger.

"The Agency for International Development estimates that it spent nearly \$50 million on ORT in fiscal 1987," Hall said. "I am pleased at the continuing commitment of the U.S. government to save children's lives by using this simple, effective technology."

Dr. Carlyle Macedo, director of the Pan American Health Organization and regional director of WHO for the Americas, and Dr. William Greenough III, professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and vice chair of the International Child Health Foundation, also spoke at the news conference.

Actor Raul Julia hosted the briefing, which was sponsored by the public interest group Results.

—Jane Sevier Johnson

Woods Sets Plan for WID Action

by Laura Raney

Administrator Alan Woods last month issued a series of action items to be implemented by all assistant administrators, mission directors and senior staff to ensure that women will regularly and effectively be integrated into Agency programmatic objectives.

The directives, said Woods, "are in keeping with my commitment to ensure that the Agency conforms fully with its women in development policies, and that we address specific Congressional interest in women in development training for Agency staff and increase Agency female participant training levels."

While recognizing the strides the Agency has made in addressing gender in its strategies, programs and projects during the last few years, Woods noted that the Agency must institutionalize the integration of women in its overall development program.

"To pursue a development planning strategy without a women in development focus would be wasteful and self-defeating," said Woods. "Wasteful, because of the

(continued on page 2)

WID

From page 1

potential loss of the contribution of vital human resources and self-defeating because development that does not bring its benefits to the whole society has failed."

In January, Woods called a meeting of senior-level staff to explore how to maximize the Agency's efforts to integrate women in development. Realizing that using and expanding women's productive capacity are necessary conditions for sustainable economic growth and development, the administrator directed all assistant administrators to develop individual bureau action plans to establish systems and procedures to institutionalize women in development. Further, these action plans were required to include calendar benchmarks to monitor progress.

"As a consequence of this meeting, every USAID bureau has now complied with the administrator's instructions," says Kay Davies, director of the Office of Women in Development (WID) in the Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination. "Additionally, many bureaus have established working groups to monitor and develop even more far-reaching programs."

As a complement to the bureau action plans, the administrator conveyed to senior staff and overseas missions a set of Action Items to assist the Agency in addressing women in development



Expanding women's productive capacity is a necessary condition for economic growth.

issues. The administrator noted that although more attention will have to be given to these issues throughout the project and program cycle, "the benefits will far outweigh any short-term inconveniences."

The Office of Women in Development will monitor implementation and begin the process of revising appropriate Agency handbooks to ensure that gender analysis becomes a general practice within the Agency.

Raney is special assistant to the director, Office of Women in Development, Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination.

ACTION ITEMS FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

1. All Bureaus are responsible for developing and implementing WID Action Plans that include systems and procedures, as well as calendar-driven benchmarks, to address and monitor women in development issues throughout their programs and projects. Geographical Bureaus are responsible for ensuring that their respective USAIDs also develop such WID Action Plans.

2. All Bureaus and USAIDs will reflect sex-disaggregated data in AID's program documents (e.g., CDSSs, APs), and all new data collection activities will be sex-disaggregated for AID's project, non-project assistance and reporting documents (e.g., PIDs, PPs, PAIPs, PAADs, PIRs, Evaluations).*

3. All Bureaus and USAIDs will ensure that AID's country strategy, program, project, non-project assistance and reporting documents (e.g., CDSSs, APs, ABSs, PIDs, PPs, PAADs, PIRs, PAIPs, Evaluations) explicitly describe strategies to involve women, benefits and impediments to women's participation in development and benchmarks to measure

women's participation in and benefits from development activities.*

4. Specific women in development training should be considered a priority for AID personnel, particularly in the areas of agriculture; private enterprise development, including small and micro-scale enterprise; and natural resource management and environment. This training will include regional and/or country-specific WID training, as well as a required WID component in Washington-based training courses in these specific sectors.

5. Increasing women's inclusion in participant training programs will be considered an important objective. All Bureaus and USAIDs will work to improve the overall number of females in participant training programs.

*When items 2 and 3 are difficult to achieve, Bureaus and USAIDs will ensure that there is a substantive analysis as to the obstacles preventing completion of such efforts and an explanation of how these obstacles will be overcome.

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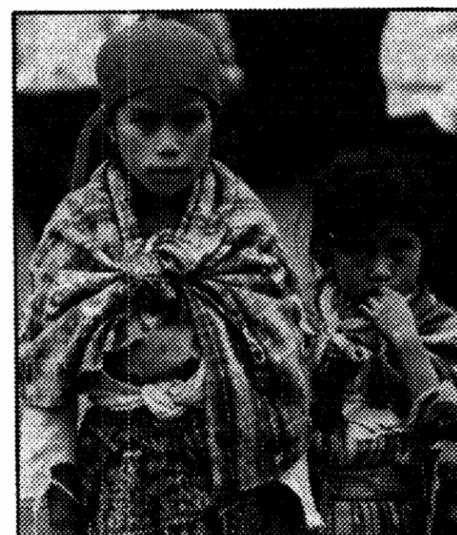
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Cover Photo: In Guatemala, bilingual education is serving the needs of Indian schoolchildren through a USAID-funded project that has brought the bilingual education model to almost 400 rural schools. See feature on page 8.

Self-Help Sparks Conservation in Gambia

by Millie Konan

In the village of Tendaba in The Gambia, a song rises from the rice paddies as women plant rice seedlings. *Step. Bend. Plant. Step. Bend. Plant.* Dozens of women work in the same paddy, their motions accented by the beating of drums. USAID staff, visiting from the mission in Banjul, watch from a nearby dike.

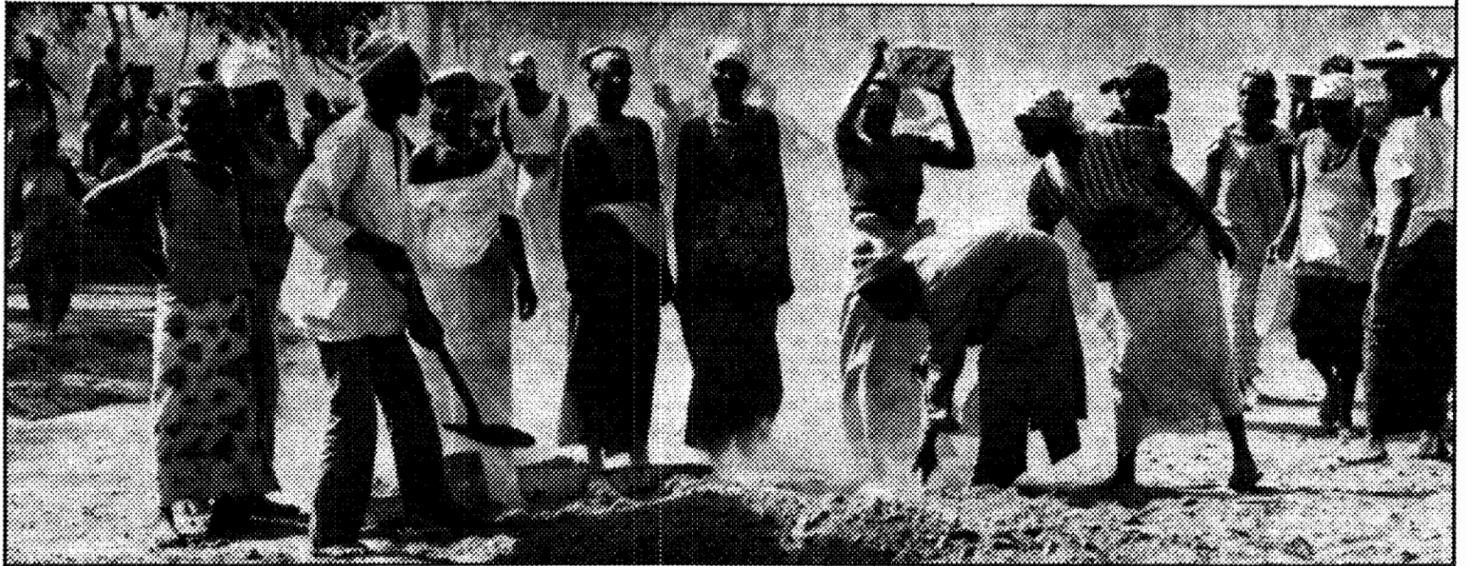
"We feel like celebrating, too," says Mission Director Jimmie Stone. "USAID staff worked closely with Gambians to bring this land into production."

Rice is a major component of the Gambian diet and is produced almost exclusively by women. Some of the rice fields in this area had been barren for 10 years. Salt water had intruded from the river and its tributaries, killing vegetation and rendering the soil useless for cultivation. Local residents abandoned their traditional rice plots and turned to other types of farming.

Then, through the local extension agent, the farmers heard about the USAID-funded Soil and Water Management Unit (SWMU) of the Gambian Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. They requested assistance, and Gambian experts from SWMU came to assess the situation.

SWMU staff discussed options with village elders and agreed on a plan of action that included building a system of earthen dikes. From that time on, the village bustled with activity.

More than 300 villagers worked day after day to build dikes that could block the intrusion of salt water and catch rainwater runoff. Everybody participated. The men shoveled soil into buckets. The women carried the containers of soil to designated areas. Children cared for the babies. Old women brought water and food for



Men, women and children from the village of Tendaba work together to complete dikes vital to reclaiming saline-affected fields for rice planting. In the Mandinka language, this type of work is called *tesito*, which means "help yourself."

workers. Old men broke up large clods of earth that might weaken the dike. In Mandinka, the local language, this type of work is called *tesito*. It means: "Help yourself."

After four months of self-help, the dikes were built. They were hundreds of feet long, 22-feet wide at the base and 4.5-feet in height. The farmers waited for rain, and when at last it came, the land was flooded and drained to remove salt deposits. Then the farmers allowed rainwater to accumulate behind the dikes. Soon the fields were ready for rice planting to begin.

Within a year, many women in Tendaba had harvested two rice crops from the same plot. It seemed like a miracle; barren lands had become productive fields in just a few months time.

Gambian experts in SWMU and USAID staff knew how much hard work preceded such rapid change. "Bringing those rice fields into production represented the culmination of years of effort," notes Harvey Metz, an expert from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service who has worked with the project for five years.

The Agency-funded Soil and Water Management Project began working in The Gambia in 1978. Over a 10-year period, USAID committed \$2.9 million to the project.

In the beginning, The Gambia had neither the institutions nor the trained personnel to deal with soil conservation problems. The project supported the establishment of SWMU, a new unit within the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Experts from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service worked with Gambians to build the institution, integrate it within the ministry and turn it into a practical, service-delivery agency.

"USAID funds were essential, but Gambians made SWMU a success," says Metz. "They worked very hard in unrelenting heat, for long periods of time, to achieve their goals."

With project assistance, Gambians were recruited and selected

for training. Nine traveled to the United States to earn bachelor's or master's degrees in soil science, agricultural engineering, agronomy, resource management and range management. Ten Gambians traveled to Nigeria for a two-year diploma course in agricultural practices and techniques. The students began returning to The Gambia in 1983 and formed the core staff that enabled SWMU operations to shift from expatriate to Gambian control.

SWMU developed technical manuals to guide soil and water conservation activities and worked with other agencies to conduct a comprehensive soil survey to assist in land use planning.

SWMU also organized classes in soil and water conservation at the Gambian College and developed the curriculum for a two-year certificate in agricultural techniques and practices. Since 1985, the college has trained 39 agricultural assistants, many of whom now work on soil conservation issues.

As SWMU grew, it extended training to classroom settings throughout The Gambia. Now, staff members give seminars for extension workers, teachers and personnel of private voluntary organizations. They encourage high school and primary students to organize conservation clubs to stimulate young people to learn about soil and water problems and take action to resolve them.

On his own initiative, Sidi Jarju, the former head of SWMU, even raised money from entertainment events to finance conservation club activities in the schools. "We don't want to rely on government funding," says Jarju. "The spirit of self-help and self-reliance should be promoted among these clubs."

SWMU also helps farmers learn about techniques to improve soil and water management. As SWMU personnel devise solutions to immediate problems, they encourage farmers to organize into village conservation committees that can discuss practical solutions to problems of soil deterioration.

His Excellency Sir Dawda

Jawara, President of The Gambia, commissioned the first Conservation District at Foni Jarrol in 1987, and expressed his hope that conservation activities would spread throughout the country.

"Conservation is an indispensable part of development," Jawara declared. "The achievement of ecological balance is a major problem we must continue to address. It requires our fullest imagination and effort."

Reclaiming saline-affected ricelands is only one of the problems SWMU addresses as demands for its assistance increase steadily. Severe erosion problems threaten many Gambian villages. In the village of Sare Ngai, for example, topsoil, seeds and crops were being washed away on hilly farmland around the village. People were afraid that heavy runoff during the rainy season would carry away homes, too. The village elders were on the verge of moving the whole village to a more secure location when SWMU offered assistance.

Now, two years later, the erosion has ceased. Following a plan developed by SWMU, villagers installed contour berms, rock and brush structures and channel diversions. By helping themselves, the villagers acquired the skills and knowledge to protect their fields and their village.

"Two years ago we were a frustrated people with severe erosion and wash-off problems," reports Falie Balden, the village chief. "Now that we have the berms, those problems have disappeared."

SWMU encouraged farmers to think about the whole watershed and explained how contour farming in the uplands will preserve and protect the improvements they have made in the lowlands.

"Farmers are still skeptical about the benefits of contour farming," says John Fye, the new head of SWMU, "but learning takes time. Eventually, we hope they will recognize that contour farming prevents erosion of precious topsoil, helps retain rainwater and leads to increased yields."

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U.S. and Gambian technical advisers and villagers discuss alternatives for a soil conservation plan.

Deforestation Cause For Global Concern

by Scott Dueweke

In the time it takes to read this article, 162 acres of tropical rain forest, an area equal to 30 city blocks, will be destroyed. This year alone 43,609 square miles of forest, an area the size of Pennsylvania, will fall to the onslaught of slash-and-burn farming, urbanization and logging.

"Tropical forests once covered nearly 4 billion acres, an area nearly twice the size of the United States," says Judith Gradwohl, curator of the Smithsonian Institution's current exhibit on "Tropical Rain Forests: A Disappearing Treasure," which runs through

"Tropical forestry conservation is a priority at USAID. The Agency has 146 projects with tropical forestry components."

Jan. 2 before touring the country. "More than 40% of that acreage has been destroyed, most of it within the last 30 years."

As the amount of arable land shrinks with increasing population pressures, the effects of slash-and-burn farming on the forests will rise dramatically, Gradwohl warns. The population of tropical countries is expected to increase by 1.5 billion by the year 2000.

"Though tropical forests cover only 12% of the earth's landmass, they are home to half of its living plants and animals," says Norman

Cohen, environmental coordinator for USAID.

"As many as 1 million species—up to one-fifth of the world's total—could perish by the year 2000 if current deforestation rates continue."

Tropical forestry conservation is a priority at USAID. The Agency currently has 146 projects with tropical forestry components representing a total commitment of more than \$1 billion in 46 developing countries, according to John Sullivan, director of USAID's Office of Forestry, the Environment and Natural Resources.

The clearing of tropical forests, a significant cause of global warming trends, contributes one-fifth of the 5 billion tons of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere annually. Virtually all the rest comes from fossil fuel use.

The effect of deforestation on the greenhouse phenomenon goes beyond adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, notes Dennis Brennan, former deputy assistant administrator for technical cooperation in the Bureau for Science and Technology and newly designated mission director for Mali.

"Forests absorb both carbon dioxide (through photosynthesis) and radiation," says Brennan. "Deforestation decreases this capacity dangerously."

A unique approach to preserving tropical rain forests is one undertaken by Conservation International. The U.S.-based private voluntary organization arranged a debt-for-nature swap with the government of Bolivia. Conservation International bought \$650,000 worth of Bolivian foreign debt for \$100,000 in return for Bolivia's



By working with developing countries on environmental issues, USAID hopes to help discourage destructive forestry practices.

commitment to protect more than 3 million acres of forest in the Amazon lowlands along the Beni River. This includes 300,000 acres for the Beni Biosphere Reserve and 2.7 million acres adjacent to the area, containing both conservation and sustainable use areas.

The reserve is home to many rare animals and several plant species found nowhere else. Jaguars, the alligator-like Black Cayman and some of the several hundred remaining Marsh Deer are three of the 13 endangered animal species that will find refuge there.

To meet operating expenses, USAID will provide \$200,000 in local currency, and Agency personnel will lend management support to the project, according to Jim Hester, environmental coordinator for the Latin America and the Caribbean Bureau.

By working with developing countries on environmental issues through projects such as this one, USAID hopes to help discourage destructive forestry practices.

"Recognizing that developing countries must change their policies if there is to be an appreciable change in the situation," says Jeffrey Schweitzer, environmental expert in the Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination, "USAID is centering its efforts on policy reform to achieve results."

For example, in Brazil and most of Central America, tax incentives and credit subsidies allow otherwise unprofitable logging and cattle ranching to continue.

"Inappropriate policies such as providing tax breaks for forest-clearing activities and the lack of land tenure for peasant farmers are at the heart of the problem," Schweitzer explains. "As long as farmers in these areas have no vested interest in their land, they will continue to use slash-and-burn techniques."

Between 1979 and 1982, Indonesia sacrificed more than \$2 billion of potential forest revenues to logging concessionaires and allied interests, fueling a destructive timber boom, according to the World Resources Institute. Massive construction of dams,

highways and plantations also contributes to the destruction of large areas of forest.

If these activities continue unabated, the land eventually will become so degraded through soil erosion and watershed damage that it will no longer be able to support even a low standard of living, according to the 1987 USAID report to Congress on tropical forests.

Among the development community, the Agency is the recognized leader in attempting to reverse these alarming trends. In a recent review of the environmental procedures and practices of the foreign aid agencies of the United States, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, West Germany and the Netherlands, the International Institute for the Environment and Development concluded that "USAID was the only agency with systematic, enforceable procedures backed by the staff necessary to carry them out."

In addition, one-third of all official international development assistance in forestry is provided through USAID, according to a 1984 World Bank report.

One USAID project lies deep within the upper reaches of the Amazon basin in Peru. It was originally planned by the Peruvian government as a large-scale colonization project. But USAID, working with the government, reoriented the focus of the project to retain the ecological balance of the forest and meet the economic needs of the 15,000 Amuesha Indians who live there.

Because they are able to continue to hunt, fish and forage in the protected forest, the Amuesha Indians have become major proponents of forest management and conservation. They have even set up a cooperative to harvest timber, using methods that allow the forest to regenerate, causing little permanent damage.

It is this kind of ecologically sound, human-based development that is advocated by USAID as the best hope for ensuring the survival of tropical rain forests.

Dueweke is a press officer in the Bureau for External Affairs.



As many as 1 million species—up to one-fifth of the world's total—could perish by the year 2000 if current deforestation rates continue.

Personality Focus

Laurance Bond

by Nancy Long

The Agency's new director of the Office of Personnel Management, Laurance Bond, looks to his calendar and recalls that on Wednesday, March 30, he was as surprised as anyone else when Administrator Alan Woods asked him to take on his present position.

"I had no inkling that I would be offered this position and thought our meeting that day was to discuss the visit of President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic, who had met with the administrator only the Friday before," he says. Bond, who was then director of the Office of Caribbean Affairs, had prepared the administrator's briefing for the state visit. "I suppose that I would have fallen down had I not been sitting when Woods made his proposal," Bond says.

"But when the boss expresses that kind of endorsement and con-

"I intend to work toward making the Agency a leader and model in equal employment."

fidence," Bond notes, "you're not going to say no.

"I thought then that the director of personnel probably held one of the most difficult jobs in the Agency, and after only three months, I know I was right in that assessment."

Bond describes his position as one that deals with people, their problems, their future with the Agency and, in some instances, their future outside the Agency.

"I look forward to the challenges ahead, particularly with the important opportunity it offers to influence this Agency and where it is going in terms of the types and skills of people recruited," he says.

"Woods expressed concern with how this Agency responded in terms of women and minorities at all levels," Bond explains. "He wanted to demonstrate his seriousness about equal employment opportunities and affirmative action.

"It is a fortuitous time to be in this position," he adds, "with the various task forces studying the organization and with the expected rewrite of the Foreign Assistance Act." Bond expects to help restructure the Agency, changing its composition to better reflect American society. He also intends to look at the skills mix of the Agency to see if it reflects what the Agency needs.

"I want this office to deliver a prospectus of what the Agency will

look like in the 1990s and work toward making the Agency a leader and model in equal employment," he says.

Bond, a foreign service officer, also wants to close the "we-they" gap between foreign service and civil service personnel. "It is imperative that the Agency makes sure civil service support staff feel as integral a part of the team as they are. Those doing what they consider the more exciting work in the field sometimes forget them, and it poses a problem with morale," he says.

"I would want to affect civil service staffers positively," he adds. "But these are all ambitious goals and won't be attained overnight."

Bond, who celebrates his 15th anniversary with the Agency next month, notes that a series of adventures and misadventures brought him to USAID.

Inspired by a history professor, Bond developed a keen interest in politics and public service in high school and, at that time, anticipated a future in politics. When he was 18, Bond left his small hometown in Wisconsin for California, where he enrolled at San Francisco City College, later transferring to the University of California, Berkeley.

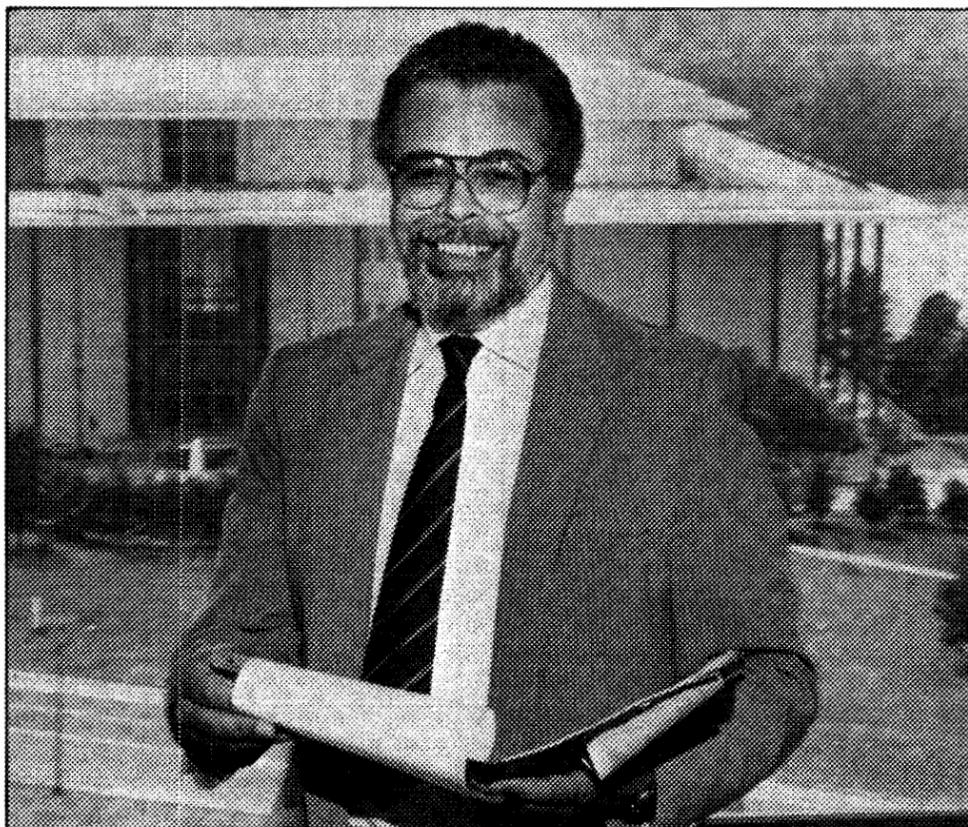
During his undergraduate years, Bond took on almost any job to pay for his schooling and expenses. He worked for Wells Fargo on the night shift from 11:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. reconciling computer balances. He also worked as a janitor, lugged meat for Swift's Meats and cleaned out butter-churning machines for a local dairy.

After graduating in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in political science, Bond took on his first public service assignment as a Peace Corps volunteer, serving in Liberia for two years. On his return from Liberia, he continued work for the Peace Corps as a desk officer for Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Looking back, he says, "the Peace Corps changed my life—there was something about this business that got into my blood."

Realizing that he needed an advanced degree, Bond spent the next two years earning an MBA at Harvard Business School. He calls that experience "one of the most miserable of my life" and admits to being characterized by one psychology professor as a "kicking and screaming student." "I love to learn, but not to study," he says with a smile.

Upon graduation from Harvard in 1971, and with his Peace Corps adventures still vivid in his mind, Bond set out to land a job in international finance or business. He thought even then that if developing countries were to achieve economic growth, private enterprise had to be part of the process.



Laurance Bond: "There were many who took a chance on me and opened up opportunities that have helped my career. I intend to do the same for others."

"I don't know what happened, but after 108 interviews with firms involved in international business, I had no offers," he says. "I am sorry I didn't keep my rejection letters; it would make quite a collection.

"In a way," he continues, "I think I might know why I didn't receive offers from those companies. I had some well-polished ideas about how the private sector could spur opportunities in the developing world, and I may have frightened some of those prospective employers with my 'radical' plans.

"For instance, I emphasized the significance of training local people, something that is now routine with foreign investment firms. I also proposed a plan that included a gradual buyout of a firm's investment by local shareholders. I may have been a bit ahead of my day.

"In fact," he says, "when USAID started emphasizing the private sector, I sat back and nodded yes, 'It's about time.'"

So Bond continued his public service role and accepted a position with Action, the U.S. federal domestic volunteer organization. He managed a small project within the Opportunities Industrialization Centers.

After one year with Action, Bond took a quick step into the private sector, serving as deputy director of the African-American Institute (AAI), a non-profit contract organization that handles travel programs for people who receive international visitors' grants from the U.S. Information Agency and participant training from USAID.

"It was fun for a year," he recalls. "I had the opportunity to plan educational travel for business leaders, students and government officials.

"I would organize a travel package that showed the visitors the breadth of America. I always

scheduled a visit to small-town America, where these foreign visitors were treated royally," Bond says.

"At AAI, I learned the value of educational travel, and I carried that knowledge with me when I came to the Agency," Bond explains. "Those kinds of visits pay dividends far beyond their costs. When I was in overseas posts, I encouraged travel for ministers of governments and other country leaders.

"After 15 months with AAI, I left thinking I had a job with a Fortune 500 company, which didn't come through. I also had an application on file with the Agency and happened to meet someone who worked in the former Bureau for Asia. He set up some interviews for me with USAID people including Ted Lustig and Ray Love, who would soon be my first boss."

In retrospect, Bond says, "I think those companies that didn't hire me probably did me some favors. I could certainly be making a lot more money in the business community but would never be as satisfied as I am with my career with the Agency.

"How many people have stayed overnight in an abandoned foreign legion fort on top of a sand dune in the Sahara Desert or slept under the stars with herders around Lake Chad or had the satisfaction of flipping the switch for electricity for a barrio in the Philippines, bringing electrical power to the village people for the first time?" he asks.

"I remember Lustig telling me 'You'll never be bored here,' and he was right, except for my first three months when I worked on a stack of feasibility studies for a \$15 million water project in the Philippines," he points out.

"But I learned a lot about provincial water development, and

(continued on page 6)

Grant Aids Afghanistan Education

USAID has awarded a \$6 million grant to the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) to provide educational assistance to the people of Afghanistan. A ceremony commemorating the grant signing was held July 28 in the Capitol Hill office of Sen. David Karnes (R-Neb.).

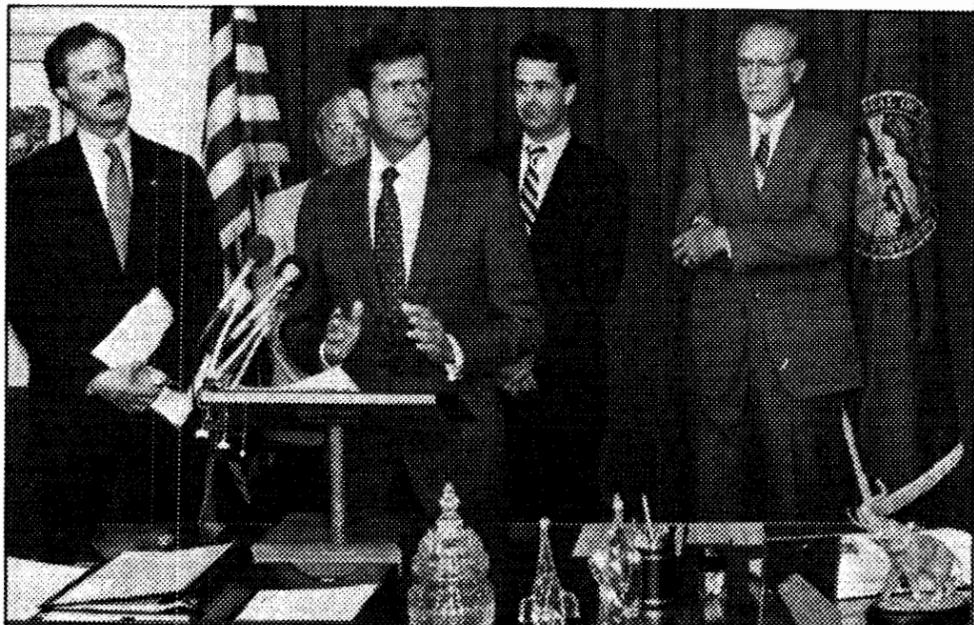
The Education Sector Support Project is part of the Agency's \$45 million cross-border humanitarian assistance program to Afghanistan, which also provides aid in health, food and commodities.

"It is important that the United States and our institutions continue to be a helpful, healing presence in Afghanistan," said Deputy Administrator Jay F. Morris. "Education is essential to Afghanistan's economic progress

and political freedom."

The project is carried out through the Afghan Alliance Education Council in Peshawar, with UNO assistance. More than 100 district education directors—who will train and supervise primary school staff at USAID-supported schools—are receiving management training through the project. Another 600 teachers also have received training, teaching manuals and materials to increase the literacy rate and provide education to 20,000 mujahidin. Project funds have also gone toward supplying primary school kits and the printing and distribution of 120,000 copies of 12 separate textbooks for first through third grades at 1,300 schools inside Afghanistan.

In addition, the project is administering the Afghan Scholarship Program. Twenty-one Afghan professionals are currently spending a year at UNO upgrading and refreshing their skills in such areas as engineering, computer science and management.



In the Capitol Hill office of Sen. David Karnes (R-Neb.) (left), Deputy Administrator Jay F. Morris (center) participates in a ceremony commemorating the signing of a \$6 million grant to the University of Nebraska at Omaha to provide educational assistance to Afghanistan.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is the only university in the United States with a center for Afghan studies. Project Director

Tom Goultierre, who lived in Afghanistan for 10 years, has served as dean of UNO's Afghan Studies Program since 1974.

Bond

From page 5

with that, the confidence factor went up, the learning curve went on a steep climb, and my career with the Agency was launched."

Bond had worked in the Asia Bureau for just under two years when the opportunity arose for him to go to the Ivory Coast or the Philippines. He chose the Ivory Coast and in 1975 was off for three years as a regional project development officer for USAID's Regional Economic Development Services Office for West and Central Africa (REDSO/WCA). "I was there at a time when we were building up our programs in the Sahel," he says.

He returned to Washington as the chief of the Central and Coastal West Africa Project Division, a position he held for four years.

"In 1982," Bond continues, "I was approached by the assistant administrator of the bureau who asked what career path I envisioned. I suggested that I be the director of REDSO/WCA, not actually thinking I would get the assignment."

As fate would have it, Bond was back in Abidjan by October 1982 as director of REDSO and ready to take on some of the most challenging experiences of his life.

"I still think it's the best job in the Agency," Bond says of the assignment. "I worked on policy, managed a program and followed the mandate of REDSO, which is to support our missions in West and Central Africa.

"Over the years, I had the opportunity to meet and know Ivoirians in both an official and unofficial capacity. My work kept me moving throughout the region, covering 17 missions and enabling me to get

an overview of the Agency's program."

Perhaps the most satisfying accomplishment, Bond says, was the movement of 250,000 tons of food aid through seven ports during the drought of 1984-85.

"I take some pride that people in the United States didn't hear about missed food shipments or of starving people in the interior Sahelian countries that also were affected by the drought. The lack of attention to our area was an indication of our success."

While in REDSO, Bond started a yearly celebration, putting to use a hidden talent and bringing an American tradition to a foreign land. Inviting the "stray pups" of the office, members of the international community and a host of Ivoirian friends, Bond acted as head chef and host for a Thanksgiving Day feast for a group that numbered 65 by his last year in Abidjan.

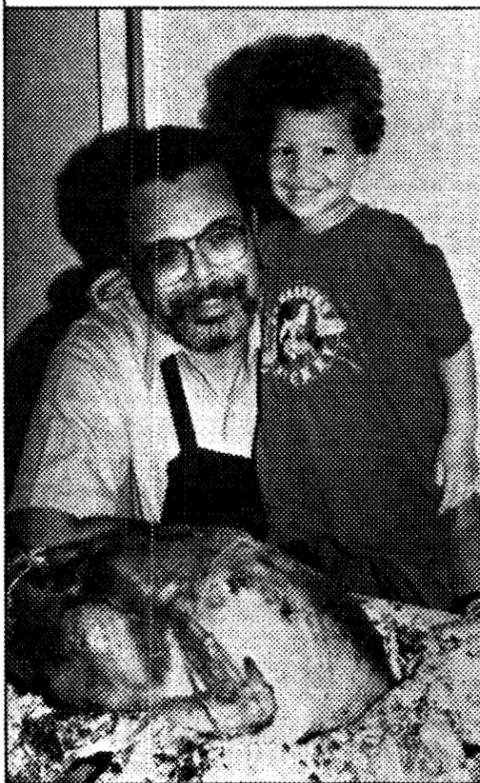
"It's the principal holiday my wife and I like to share with others, and each year it grew and grew," he says. "I did most of the cooking, which included three turkeys, eight pies and pots full of mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes."

Some of the foreign service nationals even pitched in by preparing some of the American dishes at the last holiday celebration.

Bond learned the art of cooking when he was on his own as a college student. "I had always liked to eat and had watched my mother cook, but it became a matter of self preservation when I was on my own."

Bond doesn't let conventions get in the way when it comes to cooking and enjoys experimenting with whatever is available. "It is the result, not the method, that matters," says the chef.

Bond's world travels as an adult stand in marked contrast to his youth in Beloit, Wis., right on the Wisconsin-Illinois state line. Bond remembers being bored as a teen but now appreciates Beloit's small-town atmosphere and is sorry that it is such a distance away. His 82-year-old mother lives in Beloit. "My mother even felt the call to travel and visited us in Abidjan," Bond says. "She was 80, had never traveled outside the states and stayed seven and a half months. She was a grandmother to the mission, and people still ask me about her." Bond's father died at 91 in 1985 and was survived by nine children, 28 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren.



At a Thanksgiving Day celebration at their home, "Chef" Laurance Bond and his son, Martin, pose with one of the turkeys they prepared before guests arrive to share in the feast.

Bond married his wife, Martha, on New Year's Eve in 1979. "Since we'll always be doing something for New Year's, I can't ever be accused of forgetting our anniversary," he notes with a laugh.

Today the Bonds reside in northwest Washington, with Karina Rose, their six-year-old daughter, three-year-old Martin and an 80-pound boxer, Bravo.

In his leisure time, Bond is an avid reader of science fiction and spy novels and has read nearly every book written by John le Carre, Robert Ludlum, Isaac Asimov and Frank Herbert.

But his interests in cooking and reading take a back-row seat to his love for music. "I wish I could have been a jazz musician," he says. "I have such respect for that kind of talent," he adds, noting that his tastes are eclectic and include blue grass and country, classical, soul and rock music. "One of the musical thrills of my life was attending a midnight organ recital at the Kennedy Center about 10 years ago," he says.

Bond beams when he speaks of meeting jazz greats such as Dizzie Gillespie and Duke Ellington at the Monterey, Calif., jazz festival. "I've met politicians, representatives of foreign governments and other dignitaries, but the only time I ever get tongue-tied is when I meet musical greats such as Gillespie and Ellington."

But Bond has no such problem when it comes to discussing the challenges the Agency will face in the future. He promises to work toward accentuating people's skills and talents for the benefit of the foreign aid program.

"There were many who took a chance on me and opened up opportunities that have helped my career," he acknowledges. "I intend to do the same for others."

Office Seeks Innovative Energy Solutions

by Jim Pinkelman

A lot of people undoubtedly remember the Great Blackout of 1965, when much of the East Coast came to a grinding halt after a power failure. Others might remember a similar occurrence in New York in 1977 that left commuters stranded, skyscrapers darkened and residents outraged.

Major power outages that cripple production occur so infrequently in developed countries that people remember them well, almost as if they were natural disasters. But, "in the developing world, those kinds of things are everyday occurrences," says James Sullivan, director of USAID's Office of Energy in the Bureau for Science and Technology.

When the office was created in 1978, energy problems were rampant in the United States and other countries. In the 1980s, the energy crisis has abated to a large degree in the developed world. "In the developing world, however, energy remains a big problem," says Sullivan. "That's why this office exists."

The problems are familiar to any international traveler, he says. "Major hotels in developing countries stock up on candles for use when the electricity goes out," Sullivan notes. "In the Dominican Republic, lights are shut off 12-14 hours a day. Pakistan has frequent power shortages, as does India."

To achieve sustained economic growth and improve the living standard of their people, developing countries must maintain necessary energy supplies, says Sullivan. "Without energy, there is no development," he asserts. "The Agency's goal is to help ensure an adequate energy supply to meet the goals of developing countries in agriculture, rural development, health and other areas."

Energy needs in developing countries are particularly acute because each 1% increase in gross national product (GNP) in a developing country requires an average 1.3% increase in energy input, Sullivan notes. In the United States, a 1% increase in GNP can be achieved with less than a 1% increase in energy output.

"Simple agriculture that relies on animals and human muscle is prevalent in developing countries," he says. "That requires more energy per unit of output than more mechanized agriculture."

In turn, mechanized agriculture requires more energy than manufacturing, which requires more than service or financial industries. "The more primitive the degree of development, the more energy per unit of output is needed," says Sullivan.

In addition, energy prices in developing countries have not decreased as they have in the United States, Sullivan notes. Since 1982, the real price of fuel

oil has increased by 40% in Sudan, by 140% in Peru and by 170% in Ecuador. "Higher costs of energy mean that some developing countries are paying as much as 25% of their foreign exchange earnings for petroleum," he adds.

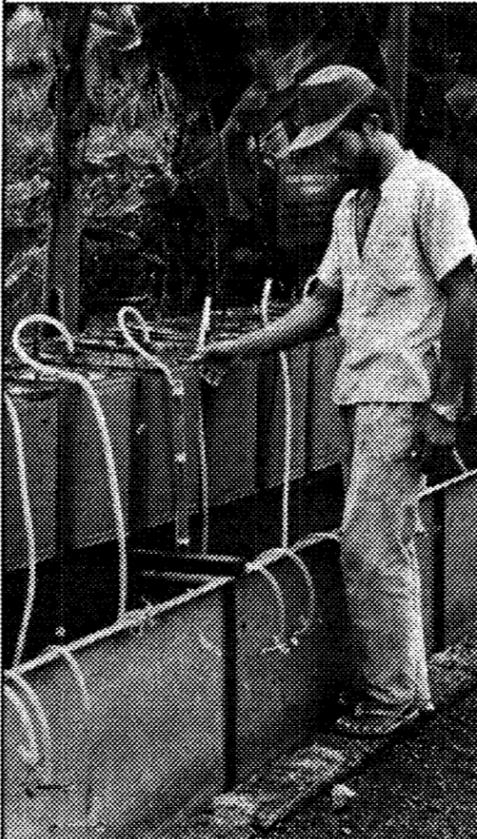
And, overall energy demand is growing at the rate of about 10% a year in the developing world, while supply is increasing at only about 6% a year, says Sullivan. At that rate, countries will have to spend about \$2.5 trillion over the next two decades to build enough generating capacity, or about \$125 billion a year. "There is no way they can do that," he points out.

Sullivan says the job of his office is to work with the missions to search for innovative approaches to help developing countries better manage and apply their energy resources.

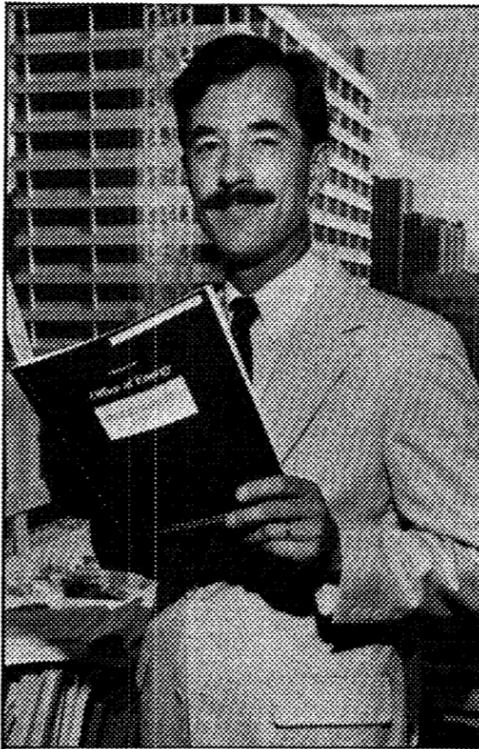
One such approach is private power generation. Public power systems in developing countries can waste 30% or more just in delivering electricity to customers, more than four times the typical loss in a developed country. A significant percentage of that waste is from theft.

Also, subsidized prices are set so low that utilities generate insufficient money to maintain even the systems they have in place, much less build new systems to meet demand. "In the public sector, there is simply no incentive to do any better," says Sullivan.

A number of countries, such as Pakistan, India, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Thailand and Costa Rica, are exploring ways to induce the private sector to invest in power development. "In the United States, about 10% of new



The Agency's Office of Energy works with the missions to search for innovative approaches to help developing countries better manage and apply their energy resources.



James Sullivan: "To achieve sustained economic growth, developing countries must maintain necessary energy supplies."

power coming on line is from the private sector," says Sullivan. "There is every reason to believe that the same could be true in developing countries."

With the regional bureaus and the missions, the office has sponsored a number of policy studies, conferences and training programs to help the government and investors in developing countries devise strategies for private sector power generation, says Sullivan. With the India mission, for example, the office designed the "Pacer Project" to accelerate the commercialization of private energy research.

The office also works with the regional bureaus and the missions to develop a private sector strategy. "We analyze the potential for private sector opportunities in a particular country, assess the policy climate and help the mission devise a plan," he notes.

The Agency recently submitted a report to Congress titled "Power Shortages in Developing Countries" that spells out a private sector energy strategy. Following USAID's lead, the World Bank and other multilateral donors are developing similar strategies of their own, says Sullivan.

Another innovative approach the office has initiated is its Bioenergy Systems and Technology Project. "The sugar industry is in a sorry economic state," says Sullivan. Sugar is, by weight, the largest crop produced in USAID-assisted countries. The world market price for sugar has been under 10 cents a pound for the last few years, a price far below the cost of production.

The office is exploring ways to diversify sugar crops to produce energy and other agricultural by-products to improve the economics of the industry. "Hawaii now pro-

duces almost 10% of its electric power from sugarcane residues," says Sullivan, "and there is no reason developing countries can't repeat that experience."

The office also is looking at rice crops and is working with the U.S. rice industry to duplicate the sugar example. "Relying on biomass for energy is perhaps the best way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere from fossil fuels and thereby reduce the global warming threat from the greenhouse effect," says Sullivan.

Energy conservation is another key component of the office's program. By adopting conservation measures and seeking alternatives to the public sector, countries could cut a projected requirement of 1,500 gigawatts (a gigawatt is 1 billion watts) of electricity by the year 2010 to 700 gigawatts, says Sullivan. That, in turn, would curtail capital expenditure requirements for new power-generating capability from \$125 billion a year to about \$60-70 billion a year, the same amount being spent now, he says.

"Conservation is an essential part of any energy policy," Sullivan notes. "In many respects, it is the easiest and quickest way to reduce demand and save money."

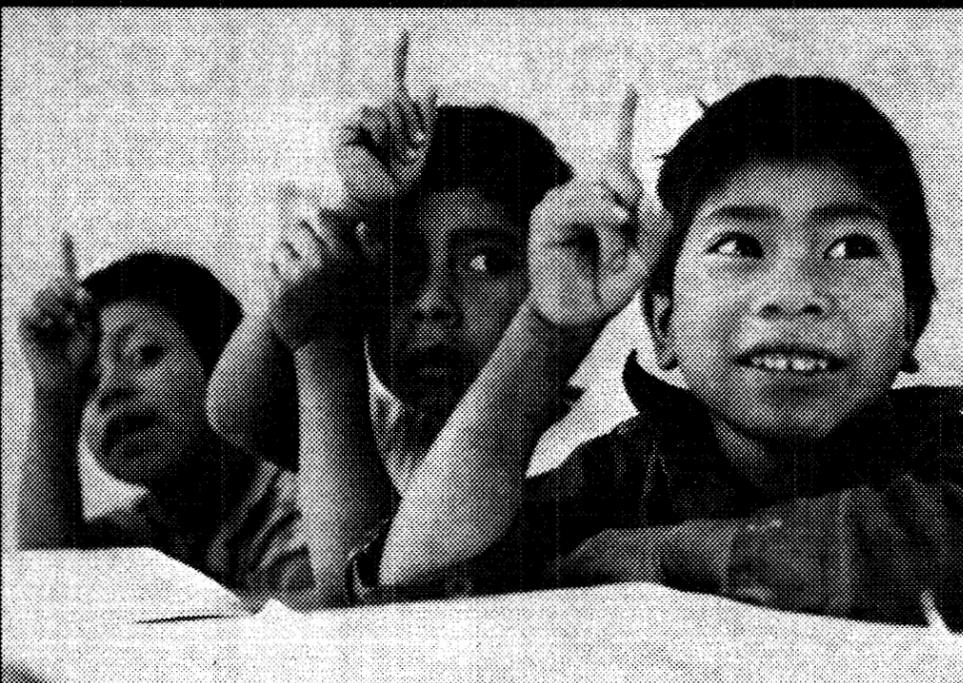
Because developing countries now spend \$8 on power for each \$1 spent on health or education, a small saving in energy could enable a country to double the budget for these other sectors.

In fiscal 1988, the office assisted in carrying out energy efficiency and technology projects in Egypt and Morocco and funded a project demonstrating electricity conservation management. These projects could be applied in India, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and elsewhere, says Sullivan.

The office also funds activities that develop indigenous fossil fuels and the application of advanced energy technology. Under another program, the office encourages the application of solar, wind, geothermal and other renewable resources to overcome energy problems. And, the office provides support for training in energy development and management.

Sullivan stresses the collaborative approach the office is working to develop with other USAID offices and bureaus in developing energy strategy. "Although we have few full-time energy officers in the field, energy projects fit very well into existing Agency and mission programs," he adds.

Energy in its many forms provides services essential for development, says Sullivan. "Unless we consider energy needs, economic growth in the developing countries will be stifled," he adds. "Sound energy policy will help developing countries achieve sustainable growth, which is USAID's goal."



To extend educational opportunity in rural areas, USAID is supporting bilingual education in the grade schools of Guatemala, where 42% of the country's population is Indian and speaks one of 23 distinct Mayan languages.

Bilingual Schooling Aids Mayan Children

by Judy Brace

In the village school of El Caman in the Cakchiquel-speaking region of Guatemala, some 50 preprimary pupils follow their instructor's directions for "hands up, down, forward and backward," first in their native Mayan language and then in Spanish.

They also respond to a series of flip-chart illustrations in Cakchiquel and Spanish. Later, learning Spanish genders, they chorus, "Buenos días, compañero," or "Buenos días, compañera," as male and female classmates come into the room. This is bilingual education in action—a way to better serve the indigenous Indian school population of Guatemala.

Forty-two percent of the country's population is Indian, with a majority living in rural areas. There are 23 distinct Mayan languages, and in the highlands, Indian dialects—not Spanish—are the predominant means of communication.

Education for this indigenous population has had a difficult past, from enforced use of Spanish to limited bilingual assistance. Now, however, there is official recognition that a coexisting bicultural, multilingual society is a valuable national resource.

USAID has been a strong advocate of this evolving policy. For example, the Agency supported a major national congress on linguistics and bilingualism in 1984. That, plus the results of an early bilingual pilot project, allowed government planners to see the benefits of an educational system focused on indigenous needs.

Today, in almost 400 rural bilingual schools, Indian children in preprimary through second grade are learning to read and write their own language and to understand spoken Spanish. In the third

and fourth grades, they learn to read and write Spanish as well, and from fifth grade on, schooling is in Spanish only.

Until recently, the traditional urban-based curriculum, preceded by a single preprimary year of intensive oral Spanish, discouraged rural Indian students from staying in school: Fifty percent dropped out at the end of the first grade, and 80% did not finish fourth grade.

"Our success comes from an educational model that respects the ethnic needs of our children."

In 1980, joint concern to improve this situation resulted in USAID/Guatemala providing the Ministry of Education with funds and technical assistance to develop an experimental four-year bilingual curriculum for preprimary through third grade. The project was designed to test whether three additional, progressive years of bilingual schooling, plus basic reading and writing in the student's native languages, would result in improved pupil attendance, lower drop-out rates and increased academic achievement among the Indian students.

Over the next four years, the 40 schools participating in the pilot project developed bilingual materials and teaching methods in Quiche, Kekchi, Cakchiquel and Mam, the four most widely spoken Mayan languages.

"The evaluation results of the pilot project were very encouraging. We felt so strongly that this was the correct way to proceed with our rural education that in 1984 we presented our position to the newly convened Constitutional Congress," explains Hector Eliu

Cifuentes, director of the National Bilingual Program (PRONEBI). "We worked with them to formalize bilingual education by Government Accord and to incorporate support for bilingual education into the new Constitution of 1985."

Today, Article 76 of the Constitution states that, in zones of predominantly indigenous populations, schooling should preferably be bilingual. The amendment represents "one of the concrete outputs of the pilot project," says Lilibian Ayalde, chief of the mission's Office of Human Resource Development.

With constitutional support clearly outlined, the USAID mission and PRONEBI staff were eager to apply the lessons of the pilot project more broadly and to institutionalize the bilingual approach. Together they designed the Rural Primary Education Improvement project in 1984, with the goal of providing 240,000 Indian children with bilingual education by 1990.

Key to the success of institutionalizing the program has been the continuity of the original pilot staff who lobbied for constitutional support for bilingual education and transformed the pilot project into a national program.

PRONEBI Deputy Director Domingo Chuc thinks that the program was made possible by a combination of political events, USAID encouragement and staff commitment throughout the process. "We felt that our role was to facilitate a change in our educational model to preserve the value of our indigenous heritage," he explains.

had at least a sixth-grade education and were fluent in Spanish as well as their native Mayan language.

"Because they constitute the children's first link between the Indian and ladino—or Spanish—cultures, the *promotores* are critical to the program's success," says Deputy Mission Director Paul White. "Their cultural sensitivity reinforces the value of the children's languages, native dress and customs, and as role models they create a positive environment for continued schooling."

Through the PRONEBI program, professionally trained Indians also are recruited for technical positions to develop bilingual curricula and texts and to train bilingual teachers. For example, the four curriculum development units, one for each of the Mayan languages of the project, are staffed by bilingual Indian technicians.

"Our job is to test and revise the texts developed under the pilot project, to improve the quality of the indigenous language and ensure that the illustrations accurately reflect that culture," says Ernestina Reyes de Ramos of the Cakchiquel language unit.

The units also are responsible for writing the teacher's guides for the texts and the new bilingual fourth-grade materials.

Woven tightly into PRONEBI's program design is its research and evaluation unit. The unit is developing computerized programs for tracking program activities that will provide feedback on promotion, drop-out, repetition and completion rates in the 400 project schools and serve as a valuable planning tool for future program expansion. The unit also provides support for the curriculum development unit through materials evaluation.

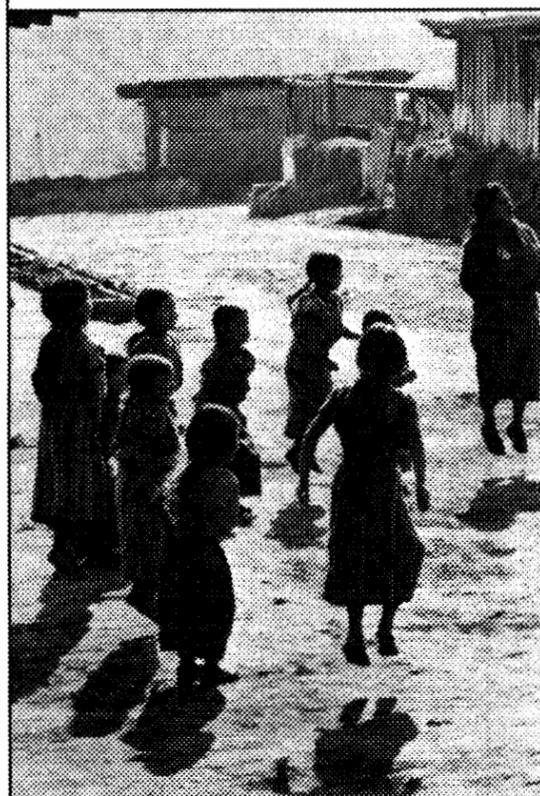
Through the project, USAID also is funding technical assistance to increase the unit's research and evaluation capabilities.

Of crucial importance to the effectiveness of the program is the ongoing guidance that supervisors give the teachers in the use of educational materials and bilingual education methods. Supervisors also are responsible for ensuring administrative support to the rural schools and work with school prin-

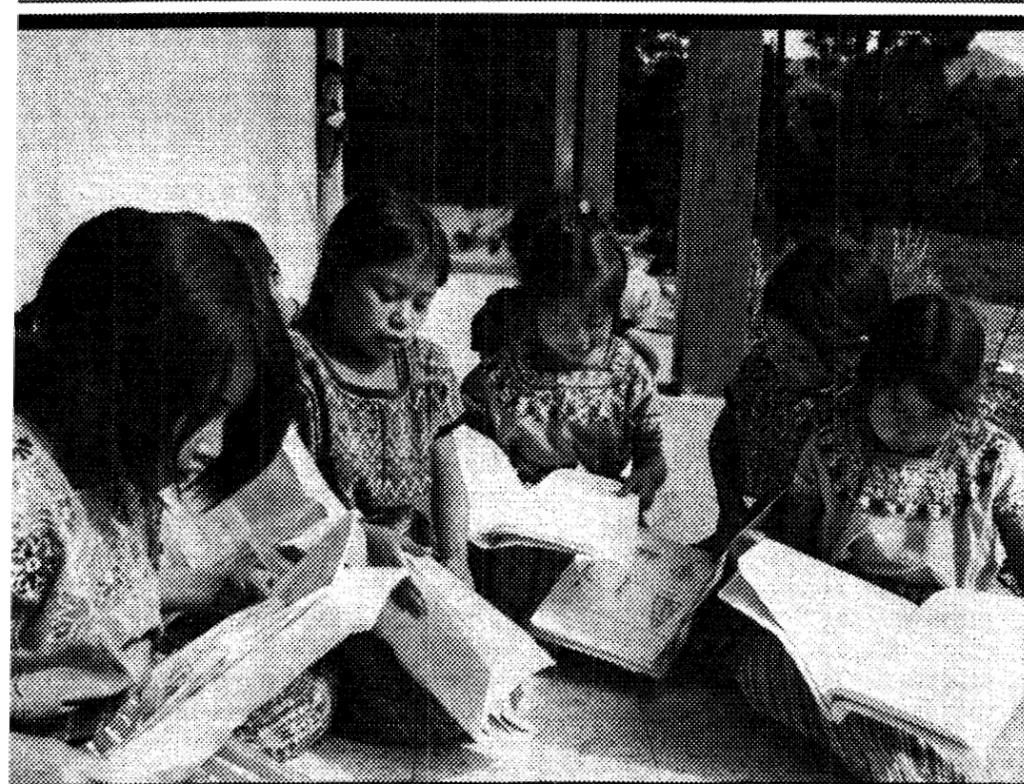
The mission obligated \$13.5 million for administration and supervision, curriculum development, textbook printing and classroom equipment, personnel training, research and evaluation and technical assistance. The government of Guatemala committed just under \$25 million of in-kind support to its new National Bilingual Education Program, the implementing agency.

The new project quickly identified about 400 rural schools in the four focus language regions that could offer bilingual education to preprimary through fourth grade students and another 400 rural schools that could only offer bilingual preprimary. Materials were then distributed to the schools, a supervisory system was designed, and training for teaching and technical staffs was begun.

The program was fortunate to have in place from the beginning a cadre of 1,200 preprimary bilingual instructors or *promotores* who, since 1965, had participated in the one-year bilingual transition to the Spanish-language instruction that followed. The *promotores*



Through the Rural Primary Education Improvement Program, rural schools will receive bilingual education by 1990.



Today, in almost 400 rural bilingual schools, Indian children in preprimary through second grade are learning to read and write their own language and to understand spoken Spanish. In the third and fourth grades, they learn to read and write Spanish as well.

principals to promote community support for the bilingual approach to education. To date, 33 supervisors have completed a university program of Bilingual Education Administration.

"PRONEBI is developing a new image for supervisors through training, educational materials and logistical support," observes Julio Diaz, a mission education officer. "They are part of an exemplary project within the larger educational system."

The fact that the PRONEBI program has the resources to support its teaching and supervisory staffs has made a significant difference in their effectiveness. Teachers have blackboards and chalk, flip-charts, textbooks and guides; children are getting desks and chairs; and supervisors are provided motorcycles, gas and per diem funds, enabling them to visit schools to supervise and assist teachers.

"The project has allowed the Ministry of Education to see how important it is to provide instructional resources to the teachers, the supervisors and the schools," says Gilberto Mendez, education adviser at the mission. "These are the things that directly affect children's learning."



Development project, 240,000 Indian children

bitious training program includes in-service training for the teaching staff as well as training in bilingual education, linguistics, curriculum development and administration for supervisory and technical personnel."

"We have an enormous responsibility to ensure that all our people are adequately trained to do their jobs," says Julia Espana, PRONEBI's consultant for training. "We are providing in-service academic upgrading and training in bilingual education to 980 preprimary instructors.

"This is being done through a 40-day residential program during school vacation and through specially prepared correspondence courses," she explains. "We've given bilingual orientation and training to 1,200 primary teachers and principals, and we have about 800 yet to train."

PRONEBI also contracted with two local universities to offer specialized programs, an 18-month technical program in which 26 staff are enrolled and a degree program in which 27 staff members are studying.

The project also provides for 140

short-term scholarships and encourages ongoing in-service training for all staff.

Although official and institutional acceptance of the bilingual approach is strong, in many locations parents must be convinced that their children will benefit from bilingual education.

"At first parents didn't understand why children were learning to read and write the language they spoke at home," the principal of the San Jose Chirijuyu school says. "When we explained that this would make learning Spanish easier and would reinforce basic skills, they were satisfied."

"Bilingual education has constitutional support in Article 76, it has political support at the presidential and ministerial levels, and it has financial support from both USAID and our government," notes Cifuentes. "But our success comes from an educational model that respects the ethnic needs of our children."

Brace is vice president for Telecommunications and Development Information Services, Academy for Educational Development.

White is particularly gratified by USAID support for PRONEBI staff training. "Professional growth is taking place at every level of the system," he observes. "The am-

Radio Serves to Educate Rural Students

Radio Community Education (RADECO) is setting educational precedents in the Dominican Republic and for other developing countries.

Begun in 1982 as a four-year experiment, this innovative USAID project uses radio to deliver the first four grades of primary education to children in poor, remote communities. RADECO graduated its first class in 1986 and now offers guidance to similar projects in other countries.

Originally managed for USAID by InterAmerica Research Associates, today the Dominican Secretariat of Education administers the 64 RADECO centers in 54 communities.

Communities in the target provinces are motivated to participate in the project by two weekly programs, "Education with the People" and "Teaching Update," offered on the Dominican Radio and Television network. Once the commitment is made, community members elect helpers who are trained to act as teachers. The community also prepares a physical structure in which the students can gather for classes. RADECO provides each center with a radio and teaching materials for the lessons. The students, primarily campesino children, are offered the opportunity to learn to read and write.

Classes are held during the afternoon to accommodate the many children who are expected to spend their mornings working with their parents in the fields.

Internal migration is common throughout the region as campesino families move about to

pick coffee or to harvest cotton and tomatoes. Though the result is a high dropout rate at individual centers, students often can join another RADECO center in their new communities.

Another constraint is limited radio time, which makes it impractical to offer all four grades simultaneously. The program adjusted to that problem by offering two grades at a time: first and third one year, second and fourth the next.

Such flexibility has resulted in thousands of children receiving a basic education and has halted the

rise in illiteracy.

Because radio has limited sensory impact and is a one-way form of communication, RADECO scripts must be carefully prepared to keep the children's attention. RADECO's writers fill the lessons with questions, songs and exercises that evoke verbal, written and mimicry responses from the students. The lessons also combine traditional and national values.

RADECO plans to expand the program's coverage during 1988, creating new centers in the provinces of Pedernales and Elias Pinas. "The ideal would be to create for each region a program that responds to the national needs of education while focusing on local characteristics," according to Project Director Altagracia Diaz de Jesus.

At the dedication of RADECO's new offices and studio last fall in Santo Domingo, Secretary of Education Pedro Caonabo Pichardo noted that the government's primary goal is to provide schooling for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen.

Thousands of schools will have to be constructed and a large number of teachers will have to be hired to make this a reality, he said. "But even building schools and hiring teachers will leave some communities condemned to continue without schools unless technologically aided alternatives can be made available," Caonabo said.

RADECO is the answer for hundreds of these isolated localities whose sparse populations make school construction uneconomical, the secretary said.



Children in the Dominican Republic listen to their daily lesson, which is broadcast over the radio.

Research Focuses on Pest-Resistant Bean



Under the aegis of USAID's Office of the Science Advisor, researchers at Oregon State University in collaboration with scientists in Brazil, Madagascar and Zimbabwe are working to develop a cultivar of the common bean (*P. vulgaris*) with a genetic resistance to pests and efficient biological nitrogen fixation.

Over 70 million hectares of grain legumes are under cultivation worldwide, with an annual production of about 50 million metric tons. Legumes, second only to cereals as a major plant food

"The objectives of bean breeding are to improve yield, disease resistance and nutritive value."

source, represent the primary source of dietary protein in many parts of the world. Among the *Phaseolus* species, the common bean is the most important and is consumed in various forms ranging from immature pods and mature seeds to flour and fermented products.

As with other major crops, the objectives of bean breeding are to improve yield, disease resistance

and nutritive value. Superior varieties capable of attaining high yields under modern farming systems have been developed. However, in many developing countries, beans are cultivated on small family farms with little fertilizer or chemical control of pests. Therefore, development of cultivars with intrinsic characteristics such as genetic resistance to pests and efficient biological nitrogen fixation is desirable to sustain stable yields under stress.

Intercrossing of *P. vulgaris* genotypes to develop breeding populations for various specific objectives is the traditional method of improving common beans. However, other *Phaseolus* species contain many unique traits that are potentially useful but have not yet been used fully, and this was the focus of the progress report presented by David Mok of Oregon State University at the Biotechnology Grantees Conference held recently in Washington, D.C.

Many bean species such as the lima bean, runner bean and tepary bean contain important traits such as pest resistance, better digestibility and biological nitrogen-fixing capability, which are not present in the common bean. The ultimate goal of the project is to incorporate these

characteristics into the common bean using both conventional and unconventional means. The initial approach taken by the scientists was to use interspecific crosses for gene transfer. Direct DNA uptake or vector-mediated gene transfer is not yet possible in this genus.

The first barrier in hybridizing these species is the limited growth of the hybrid embryos. The research team discovered that the extent of hybrid development depends on the parental species combination as well as the direction of the cross. The abnormal hybrid embryos were "rescued" using embryo culture techniques, followed by hydroponic culture.

Hybrid plants thus recovered were tested for resistance to root rot, a prevalent disease complex, and biological nitrogen fixation. Hybrids from runner bean and common bean crosses gave rise to progeny families having a much higher average resistance to root rot, and individual plants within these families appeared to be immune to the disease.

Common beans and tepary beans are usually infected by different sub-groups of nitrogen-fixing bacteria (*Rhizobium*). Hybrids of these two types of beans could be infected by both types of bacterial strains and form effective nitrogen-fixing nodules. Selected hybrid plants were incorporated into conventional breeding programs aimed at combining the desired trait with many other economically important characteristics. The same procedures are being used in col-

laborating institutions overseas to produce interspecific hybrids using indigenous plant materials.

In addition to the practical applications of the findings, many techniques in biotechnology are being used by the research team to study fundamental problems.

The research team also is interested in identifying biochemical markers that will enable it to distinguish normal and abnormal embryos at early stages of development. Using electrophoresis, the researchers were able to correlate embryo types with specific patterns of enzymes.

In the course of analyzing the genetic contribution of each parental species to the hybrid using DNA cloning techniques, the researchers discovered that each bean species contains some unique and recognizable DNA fragments (restriction fragment length polymorphism). This finding opens the way to use interspecific hybrids for direct DNA mapping.

The team of international scientists also is engaged in cell and protoplast cultures of different species of beans. Researchers have made considerable progress in obtaining embryoids from various plant sources. The continuing effort is directed at increasing the frequency of embryogenesis.

An important aspect of the cooperative project is the sharing of expertise between U.S. and overseas institutions. With funding from the Program of Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the scientists' home institutions, the project was able to purchase essential instruments for overseas collaborators, support reciprocal on-site visits, sponsor a hands-on workshop and sustain short-term study visits of graduate students.

Burns Pleads Guilty

William J. Burns, a supervisory financial management specialist in the Agency's Office of Financial Management, pleaded guilty Aug. 11 in U.S. District Court, Washington, D.C., to one count each of theft of government funds, false claims against the United States and tax evasion.

Burns was arrested July 12 and charged with embezzling more than \$1.2 million in government funds over the past six years.

An Agency veteran with 24 years of federal service, Burns was charged with stealing USAID funds, making false claims against the government and engaging in a pattern of racketeering activities. He has been suspended without pay, and action has been initiated to terminate his employment.

The disclosure of Burns' alleged activities came about as the Agency was in the process of strengthening its internal management systems.

Among the steps recently taken to improve the system of checks and balances within the Agency are the initiation of an internal management review of financial functions and a reorganization of financial management functions and personnel, resulting in the creation of a single unit reporting

directly to the administrator.

During a routine security check last December, USAID officials were alerted to the alleged embezzlement scheme by discrepancies between Burns' affluent lifestyle and his income as a GS-11. Investigators were unable to find a plausible explanation for Burns' expenditures, which included a \$335,000 house in Burtonsville, Md., with swimming pool, extensive landscaping and expensive furnishings; five cars, including a Mercedes Benz; jewelry; works of art; and two vacation homes.

The resulting seven-month investigation by the Office of the Inspector General, the U.S. Postal Service and the Internal Revenue Service found that Burns, as a certifying officer responsible for examining vouchers and authorizing disbursements for USAID employees and contractors, allegedly had authorized and funneled 60 government-issued checks since February 1982 through an account in the fictitious name of Vincent Kauffman at a Sovran Bank, where a surveillance camera filmed him making several withdrawals.

Burns then allegedly transferred the money to an account in his own name at another bank.

Locusts

From page 1

infestation levels in these regions, says Huesmann. If the infestations go unattended, the Sahel and the Maghreb could experience the worst plague in more than 30 years.

"Host governments have been forthcoming in their attempts to control outbreaks in their respective countries," says Taft. "Between Jan. 1 and July 12, the government of Morocco treated more than 2.6 million hectares while Algeria's Crop Protection Service treated nearly 2.16 million and Tunisia, 348,502 hectares."

Effective control measures are difficult and costly to conduct in the vast and generally remote Sahel region. Therefore, control efforts must be concentrated on the recognized primary breeding areas, which can mean that many locust populations may remain uncontrolled. But, control efforts are quite often enhanced by other factors, including unfavorable soil moisture conditions for egg laying and further reproduction.

The greenness maps show that rains in the Sahel region are generally late this year and the rain that has occurred has been sporadic. International entomologists think that the lateness of the rains will most likely reduce the number of new generations of locusts produced in the Sahel region from the original projections of three to no more than two and possibly only one generation.

However, USAID anticipates that locusts will continue to pose a major threat to agriculture in Africa and the Near East for at least one to two more years before the infestation is broken, says Huesmann. With the continued response by the host countries and many donor nations to the control needs of the affected nations, a downward population trend may soon be in the offing.

By maintaining present control efforts and with a little help from nature, the potential dire consequences to African agriculture by the desert locust may be averted.

Bafalis is press officer for the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Media Relations Workshop Spurs Action

by Betty Snead

The Media Relations Workshop sponsored by the International Development Communications Office in the Bureau for External Affairs (XA/IDC) was hardly over before participants were putting their learning experiences into action overseas.

Lorraine Simard, USAID program officer in Costa Rica, found the workshop most timely and useful. "Before I even got back to the office, I was notified that I was to be the U.S. press pool officer for Secretary Shultz's visit," Simard cabled back. "Coming as it did immediately on the heels of the workshop, the assignment was not

"We need to be able to communicate our development messages more simply to all levels of society."

only a good opportunity to put what I had learned into practice, but also to get a close-up view of how the press works in such situations."

Conducted in conjunction and cooperation with the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) and the Voice of America (VOA), the workshop was held June 20-23 at the USIA Foreign Press Center in the National Press Center in Washington, D.C.

"The objective of the workshop was to teach participants to plan and operate a USAID mission development communications strategy and program," said Gordon Murchie, XA/IDC office director and workshop coordinator. "Throughout the workshop, we stressed USAID/USIA cooperation in international public diplomacy."

"In the three short weeks since my return to Cairo," cabled participant Pat Yonushonis, USAID development communications specialist in Egypt, "I have already been able to use and incorporate in my daily work a number of the suggestions and ideas presented at the Media Relations Workshop."

Yonushonis attained tangible results by putting into practice techniques learned at the workshop. "In the past, it has been extremely difficult to get Egyptian TV (ETV) coverage of USAID news stories," she cabled. "Usually the ceremonial signing of a USAID grant is televised from a ministry office with coverage of approximately five to 15 seconds and a voice-over by an ETV announcer rather than the ambassador's or minister's actual remarks, with little information about USAID or the grant."

"To capture more significant TV coverage, we concluded that the location of signing ceremonies needed to be removed from ministry offices and taken to a more colorful setting."

Yonushonis arranged for the

ministers of agriculture and public works and the U.S. Ambassador to accompany USAID Mission Director Marshall Brown to rural Tersa village for the signing of three grant amendments totaling \$125 million. There they were welcomed by the governor, 500 farmers and even dancing horses. Held in a brightly colored tent set amidst fertile farm fields, the ceremony took place next to the rural bank through which small farmers receive loans under one of the projects.

"The result—four TV segments on the evening news on July 12 with three of them lasting four minutes," Yonushonis reported. "In addition, the spontaneous

three-minute interviews were shown twice, once in the popular TV show 'End of the Week.' For the first time ever, VOA and BBC carried two-minute and seven-minute coverage, respectively, of the grant signings. In addition to the TV coverage, we received radio time and extensive press coverage, including a page one article in the premier Egyptian newspaper *Al-Ahram*."

The workshop was limited to 15 people. Participants represented 10 countries and included mission contract development communications specialists, direct-hire officers with public information responsibilities, USIA public affairs officers and several Agency managers in Washington.

Workshop sessions focused on photography, publications, news and feature writing, press relations, public speaking, small exhibits, USIA's Worldnet, satellite dialogue and wireless file, radio interviews, exchange programs and the design of a mission development communications action strategy.

Thomas Blank, assistant administrator for the Bureau for External Affairs, and Alexander R. Love, counselor to the Agency, spoke at the first of three working luncheons during the workshop. In welcoming the participants, Blank addressed the challenge of informing the public and targeted audiences about USAID programs.

"USAID is moving very aggressively to tell people about the success stories in development," he said. "We want to continue building constituencies, especially in the private sector and among the general public, to support USAID as it meets the development challenges of today and tomorrow. To do that, we need to tell our story clearly and concisely."

James Dorsey of the *Washington Times* and Michael Mosettig of the "McNeil-Lehrer News Hour" spoke

at the second luncheon on how USAID missions can help American correspondents on foreign assignment.

At the third luncheon, the assistant administrators for the regional bureaus stressed the importance of public affairs.

Citing the problem of explaining economic reform, Charles Gladson, assistant administrator for the Bureau for Africa, emphasized the importance of telling people how they will benefit by restructuring their own societies. "We need to deliver a message that can change society far beyond our program funding in any particular country," he said.

Noting that because such a large portion of the developing world is covered by her bureau, Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East Julia Chang Bloch explained that "telling the USAID story is more of a challenge."

Dwight Ink, assistant administrator for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, commented on problems both in the United States and abroad with what is written and said. "We write too much in Agency jargon," he said. "We need to be able to communicate our development messages more simply to all levels of society."

Before returning to post from the workshop, M.N. Bailey of USAID/Haiti said, "I am going back to the field with super-charged batteries."

Bailey's enthusiasm paid off. Since returning, he has been responsible for media coverage of a ceremony inaugurating a community development project, TV interviews with USAID Training Officer Nicole Jean-Marie and two of 40 students who received undergraduate scholarships through the Presidential Training

Initiative for the Caribbean, and TV coverage of a USAID conference on agricultural development issues.

USAID/Haiti cabled Washington, crediting Bailey's competent handling of activities as being "directly related to the new techniques and skills he acquired or sharpened during the recently held media relations workshop."

For Anwer Khalil of USAID/Pakistan, the Media Relations Workshop was a success "not only in its training aspect but also because it helped me get a clearer picture of my role as a development communications specialist for USAID."

"I am trying to organize the mission's public affairs activities in the light of experiences and learning gained at the workshop," Khalil cabled. "Developing an action plan as suggested at the workshop is in the cards."

Workshop participant Ranta Russell of USAID/El Salvador thinks "communication is the key by which strides in development can be made. The workshop provided an opportunity for communications specialists to learn, to share and to bring back new skills to their respective missions."

"The work USAID is doing is vital, and I think the workshop helped further our ability to communicate the USAID story in the context of our partnerships with each host country."

Highlights of the workshop were videotaped and will be distributed to all missions for use in improving their communications efforts.

The Bureau for External Affairs plans to sponsor this and similar workshops in the coming year.

Snead is a public information specialist in the Office of International Development Communications, Bureau for External Affairs.



Participants from overseas and Washington discuss problems and opportunities in development communications at the Bureau for External Affairs' first Media Relations Workshop, held at the USIA Foreign Press Center in Washington, D.C. Pictured are (clockwise from lower right) Jeanne Tiffit, PPC; Lori Forman, ANE; Samra Al-Shaibani, USAID/Yemen; Anwer Khalil, USAID/Pakistan; Patricia Yonushonis, USAID/Egypt; Lorraine Simard, USAID/Costa Rica; Richard Brown, ANE; and Gordon Murchie, XA, workshop coordinator.

Law Prohibits Pregnancy Discrimination



In the early 1970s, female workers across the country began to challenge employment policies on pregnancy.

In 1972, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission determined that employment policies or practices that negatively affect female employees because of pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions constituted discrimination.

In 1978, Congress amended Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting disparate treatment of pregnant women for all employ-

ment-related purposes. Pregnant employees who are temporarily unable to perform their job functions must be treated the same as disabled employees.

Among the supervisory and managerial actions that violate the law:

- rejecting, solely on the basis of pregnancy, a job applicant who is able to perform the major functions of a job;
- denying a promotion to a qualified employee because she is pregnant;
- using procedures to determine a pregnant employee's ability to

work that differ from those used to determine the performance ability of employees who have been on temporary disability leave;

- requiring an employee who is on leave for a pregnancy-related problem to remain on leave until after childbirth, or for a predetermined time after childbirth. Forced time off for pregnancy-related conditions must be related to inability to perform major job functions, the same as required for other disabilities; and,
- failure to hold open the job of an employee who is on maternity leave on the same basis as for employees who are on sick or disability leave for other reasons.

After the employee is medically able to return to work following maternity leave, leave for childcare purposes should be

granted on the same basis as for other non-medical reasons.

Employees who think they have been denied a job opportunity because of pregnancy can consult an Equal Employment Opportunity counselor. For additional information regarding pregnancy discrimination, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.

—Voncile Willingham

HOTLINE

EOP has established a hotline to provide counseling to USAID employees on any aspect of sexual harassment in the workplace. Counselors can be reached at 663-1341. All calls are strictly confidential.

Safety Week Spotlights Hazards in Workplace

Reducing the number of injuries in the workplace is an ongoing goal of employers. To encourage greater safety awareness on the part of employees, the Agency participated in National Safety Week June 26 to July 2.

National Safety Week is an annual nationwide safety awareness campaign sponsored by the American Society of Safety Engineers to promote safety in and out of the workplace.

During last year's National Safety Week, the Agency printed and distributed a poster of a man, appropriately named "Mr. Achin Hurtz," which displayed the kinds of injuries Agency employees suffered in 1986.

This year, the Agency printed a similar poster of a woman that displayed the injuries reported by staff in 1987. A contest was held to determine the name of the safety poster figure, and "Ms. Misery Ann Paine" was selected. The winner, Leticia Peoples of the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, received a certificate of appreciation and a half-gallon flip-top cooler inscribed "We've put the lid on accidents" as a prize.

Although the number of reported accidents by Agency employees has dropped from 47 in 1986 to 33 in 1987, a higher proportion involve injuries to the back. (See chart.)

Each year, the national safety awareness campaign adopts a different theme reflecting some aspect of safety. This year's safety theme, Chemical Safety Works for Life, emphasized chemical hazards, including the potential dangers chemicals pose in the workplace and in the home.

The Agency presented a series of films during National Safety Week that depicted the safety and health hazards in the office and some techniques for dealing with them. In addition, pamphlets were available that dealt with safety.

—Stephen Gomez

Injury Location	1986 (%)	1987 (%)
Forehead/Face	5	9
Eyes	5	2
Arms	0	6
Hip	3	2
Fingers	16	6
Knees	5	6
Legs	5	15
Ankles	11	6
Neck	5	3
Ribs	0	3
Elbows	0	3
Back	21	24
Hands	0	6
Feet	15	6
Toes	0	3
Wrist	3	0
Ears	3	0
Nose	3	0
Total	100%	100%

NEED TO RESOLVE PAYROLL PROBLEMS?

Employees who want to discuss payroll problems in person should call the Payroll Office at 663-2000 to schedule an appointment.

Because of both space and personnel limitations in the office's new location, room 102, SA-2, "walk-in" appointments can no longer be accommodated.

The new procedure will save time and minimize inconvenience by allowing payroll staff to gather and review pertinent information prior to the meeting. Overseas employees who will be in Washington, D.C., for a limited time can relay the details of their problem and arrange an appointment by cable.

No appointments will be made for the Monday and Tuesday after the end of the pay period.

—Tom Mundell

Goiter Cause Reexamined



Cassava, a large, tasty root that serves as the main dietary staple in the Akoko region of western Nigeria, is preferred because of its bitter taste.

But studies carried out with USAID's support show that cassava may increase the prevalence of goiter, an enlargement of the thyroid gland that harms the body's metabolism and energy level and causes birth defects.

Dr. Felix Grissom of Howard University is working with Dr. O. L. Oke and others at the University of Ife in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, to study the relationship between protein-calorie malnutrition and cassava-cyanide consumption in goiter formation among the people of Akoko.

Their efforts, carried out under USAID's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Research Program, represent the first time the synergistic effects of cyanide cassava and protein-calorie malnutrition have been examined.

Grissom's studies, involving 387 non-pregnant women 21-35 years of age, reveal that 87% consumed cassava three or more times a week and that 36.6% had goiter.

Low dietary iodine was once considered solely responsible for endemic goiter. Later studies showed that consumption of foods with high cyanide levels reduced the availability of iodine to the body's digestive processes and also could lead to goiter.

But the consumption of cyanide and the resulting low iodine levels offer only a partial explanation, says Grissom.

The cassava root contains an inadequate amount of protein, and Grissom hypothesizes that there is a higher prevalence of goiter in protein-malnourished regions com-

pared to well-nourished regions where protein is consumed in adequate amounts.

—Sharon L. Scott,
intern in S&T/RUR

POWER WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

With electricity demand growing at more than 6% a year and the debt for existing power plants accounting for up to 40% of national debt in many developing countries, the power sector is increasingly a barrier to development.

"Power Shortages in Developing Countries," prepared for Congress by the Office of Energy in the Bureau for Science and Technology, addresses those problems. The study examined ways to increase efficiency through conservation and load management, reducing the need for more power plant construction.

The report also described opportunities in developing countries to meet new electricity demand through the private sector.

To continue the focus on problems in the power sector and to explore solutions, the office, in cooperation with missions in the Latin America and Caribbean regions, the national electric utility of Costa Rica, and the Costa Rican Ministry of Energy, will hold a workshop from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.

The workshop, in San Jose, Costa Rica, will include representatives from electric utilities and governments in the Caribbean and Central America. It also will include regional and U.S. private sector representatives who are interested in promoting private or independent power solutions.

For further information, call Alberto Sabadell in S&T's Office of Energy at 875-4056.

House Rejects Inquiry into Nicaragua Aid

The House Foreign Affairs Committee on July 13 rejected a proposed formal inquiry into USAID's handling of a \$47.9 million Nicaraguan aid program.

The "resolution of inquiry," introduced by Rep. Leon Panetta (D-Calif.) in June, would have compelled the Agency to provide thousands of documents regarding its efforts to deliver assistance to the Nicaraguan Resistance and children affected by civil strife.

Instead, Panetta recently told the committee that USAID "should be commended for how it has handled the administration of this program in a difficult political climate" and said a formal inquiry was unnecessary. Agency officials were concerned that such a formal inquiry would be an unnecessary distraction from the task assigned by Congress.

After reviewing key documents and meeting with representatives of the Agency's task force responsible for administering the program, auditors from USAID's Inspector General's Office, Congress' General Accounting Office and Price Waterhouse, Panetta said he was satisfied with the Agency's standards of accountability.

"It is clear from the documentation requested that AID has implemented this entire program in a spirit of openness, allowing for close public scrutiny and review," Panetta said before the committee voted to drop the investigation.

The aid package provides food, clothing, shelter and medical care to the Resistance; funds health programs for children affected by the civil war; and supports a commission set up to verify compliance with democratization and cease-fire agreements.

Agency Marks Constitution

The Agency is marking the beginning of the second year of the celebration of the U.S. Constitution by showing a video film series on the history of the 201-year-old document.

The six-part series will be shown during Constitution Week on Sept. 16, 19, 20, 22 and 23 at 11:45 a.m. in the East Auditorium. The Sept. 21 video will be presented at 10:30 a.m.

For further information, call Eric Sanson, USAID coordinator for the Bicentennial Celebration, at 647-8149.

IG HOTLINE

Use the USAID Inspector General Hotline to report theft or misuse of Agency resources: (703)875-4999.

USAID BRIEFS



Joseph Esposito (left), USAID narcotics affairs coordinator, and Craig Buck, director of the Office of South American and Mexican Affairs in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, listen as Carol Ludwig, narcotics coordinator for the U.S. Information Agency, briefs USAID officials on USIA's anti-narcotics programs at a July meeting at the State Department. The briefing was part of an ongoing series initiated by the Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination to enhance interagency cooperation in the field. Speakers at other recent briefings include officials from the State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics Matters and the National Drug Policy Board. The briefings supplement a bimonthly interagency meeting on narcotics and public diplomacy in which USAID participates.



Marcos Moran (right) of Guatemala shares his experiences in the United States with fellow students participating in the Central American Scholarship Program (CASP) during a recent visit to the State Department where the students were briefed by USAID officials. Moran is studying computers at Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville, Kan. CASP places young Central Americans from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama at community colleges throughout the United States for vocational/technical training. The USAID-funded program, administered through Georgetown University, complements the Caribbean and Latin American Scholarship Program, which includes Central America Peace Scholarships, LAC Regional Training Initiative II, Presidential Training Initiative for the Island Caribbean and the Andean Peace Scholarship Program.

Test Your Ethics IQ

As a regular feature, Front Lines will pose a hypothetical question involving ethics in government. Jan Miller, assistant general counsel and one of the Agency's designated ethics officials, provides the answer.

Q: Les Development, an Agency employee, asks: My newborn son was given one share of General Electric stock as a christening present. General Electric is one of the contractors on a project for which I am project officer. Since it's only one share, I don't see a problem. Do you?

A: Yes, I see a big problem. There is a criminal conflict-of-interest statute, 18 USC-208, that prohibits an employee from participating in his or her official capacity in matters affecting the financial interests of, among others, the employee, the employee's spouse or the employee's minor children.

Even though it's only one share, Les has to disqualify himself from the General Electric (GE) contract. If the interest is not substantial enough to affect the integrity of the employee's services, the administrator can waive the statute.

But the point to remember is that even one share is covered by the criminal conflict-of-interest statute and that, absent a waiver, Les cannot participate in matters affecting GE.

—TV Specials—

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is airing programs in September that may interest development professionals.

A National Geographic Special, "African Odyssey," will air at 8 p.m. on Sept. 5. The hourlong program follows the activities of Mark and Delia Owens, an American couple who conducted conservation research on lions and brown hyenas and alerted the world to the danger facing the wildebeest in Botswana.

"The Forbidden Desert of the Danakil," a survival special, will air at 8 p.m. on Sept. 28. The hourlong program portrays for the first time the lives of the Danakil, a tribe of desert nomads who inhabit the Danakil desert of Ethiopia. Called the most hostile people in the world, the tribe has murdered and mutilated all intruders who have entered their kingdom. In the program, Wilfred Thesinger tells how he braved the Danakil and explored the desert in 1934.

MOVED ON

Michelle Antoinette Banks, PPC/CDIE/PPE
Laura Elizabeth Campbell, S&T/H/CD
Anita Carter, COMP/CS/R
Wilnetta Davis, COMP/CS/R
Veda Dorris, M/FM/PAFD/CMA/F
Robert Freeland, IG/RIG/All
Tracey Fuller, M/SER/IRM/MPS
Yolanda Indora Hagler, PRE/I
Elida Hickman, LAC/DR
Hester Jackson, COMP/CS/R
Carla Maria Johnson, LAC/DR/RR
Bruce Kernan, Ecuador
Jacqueline Lewis, ANE/DP/PA
Beverly Eileen Lincoln, Philippines
Stephanie Lee McFadden, M/PM/FSP/EE
Rhodina McIntosh, FVA/PVC/IPS
Margaret McMaster, COMP/CS/DS
Lisa Pickle, COMP/CS/R
Ernest Preeg, AA/PPC
Patricia Ruiz-De-Gamboa, Ecuador
Donnaceia Catre Scott, PPC/CDIE
Nancy Stecker, COMP/CS/R
Brenda Stewart, PFM/FM/

WHERE? IN THE WORLD ARE USAID EMPLOYEES

WAOD/CAC
Marsha Threath, COMP/CS/R
Melva Dinese Warren, M/FM/PAFD/CMA/F
Yvonne Wheby, LAC/DP
Handy Williamson Jr., S&T/RUR

PROMOTED

John Abood, M/SER/OP/COMS/M, international trade specialist
Annalisa Alford, S&T/MGT, clerk typist
Patricia Allen, S&T/RD, administrative operations assistant
Denise Armstrong, ANE/EMS, information analyst
Genelle Betsey, ANE/TR/ARD/RSEA, clerk typist

Bernard Block, AFR/MGT/MISR, supervisory management analyst
Margaret Cooperman, PPC/PB/CD, program operations assistant typist
Nancy Davis, M/SER/IRM/TS, secretary typist
Jeanne Dougan, ANE/DP, secretary typist
Maryanne Fletcher, EOP/OD, program operations assistant typist
Linda Handon-Davidson, PPC/EMS, administrative operations assistant
Althea Hawthorne, M/FM/WAOD/CAC, payroll clerk typist
Barbara Hoggard, M/SER/MS/EMS, administrative officer
Martha Johnston, S&T/MGT, administrative operations assistant typist
Elve King, PPC/PB/RPA, program analyst
Irene Koek, S&T/POP/FPS, program operations specialist
Laureen Landis, OFDA/AE, disaster operations specialist
Jacqueline Lewis, ANE/DP/PA, clerk typist
Maryann McCrea, PFM/FM/CAD/CAF, operating accountant
Pauline Merrill, M/SER/OP/W/R, contract specialist
J.L. Parmer II, PSC/OD, special assistant, private sector coordinator, office of the director
James Redder, Philippines, financial management officer budget accounting
Daniel Riley, M/SER/IRM/MPS, computer specialist
Constance Robinson, LAC/DR, secretary typist
Janet Carole Rourke, M/FM/CONT, executive officer
Constance Smith, AAM, secretary typist
Orelia Smith, ANE/PD/EA, secretary typist
Willette Smith, XA/PI, public affairs specialist
Angela Tinsley, PPC/PDPR/SP, clerk typist
Ayanna Toure, PPC/PDPR/SI, program analyst
Linda Turner, ANE/EA, secretary typist
Jo-Ann VanVechten, TDP/PEP, program analyst
Vanessa Washington, IG, program operations assistant
Phyllis White, LAC/CEN, secretary typist

REASSIGNED

Hilda Arellano, COMP/FS/ENTRY/T, IDI education, to IDI housing urban development, Ecuador
Dennis Barrett, COMP/FS/DS, regional development officer, to mission director, South Africa

Cynthia Bryant, M/SER/MO/RM/AP, supervisory general services officer, to supervisory executive officer, Lesotho
Malcolm Butler, AA/LAC, deputy assistant administrator, to mission director, Philippines
David Cohen, COMP/FS/R/AIDW, mission director, to director, LAC/CAR
Martin Dagata, AA/PPC, deputy assistant administrator, to U.S. representative, DAC
Viviann Gary, AFR/PD/SA, project development officer, to supervisory Food for Peace officer, FVA/FFP/AFR
David Grossman, PRE/DP, program officer, to housing officer, PRE/H/O
Christine Keller, LEG/CL, congressional liaison officer, to supervisory program officer, RDO/Caribbean
Terry Lambacher, COMP/FS/DS, mission director, to development coordination officer, Africa Regional Office/France
Jerome Lapittus, Honduras, program economics officer, to director, PPC/EA
Gary Mansavage, COMP/FS/R/AIDW, AID representative, to director Afghanistan, AA/ANE
Akim Martinezreboyras, COMP/FS/LT/TRNG, supervisory program officer, to program officer, ANE/EA/PB
Kenneth Milow, S&T/PO, program analyst officer, to supervisory program analyst, PPC/PB/RPA
Eric Vail Sanson, FVA/PVC, special assistant, to program analyst, PPC/PDPR/SP
Frederick Schieck, Philippines, mission director, to deputy assistant administrator, AA/LAC
Howard Sharlach, Guinea-Bissau, AID representative, to project development officer, COMP/FS/R/AIDW
Frank Young, ANE/PD/MNE, supervisory project development officer, to supervisory program officer, Bangladesh
M.R.T. Zeleke, M/PM/PCF/FN, personnel management specialist, to program analyst, AFR/EA/S

RETIRED

Ralph Barnett, RDO/C/E&E, supervisory engineering officer, after 19 years
William Janssen Jr., Egypt/AGR, associate mission director, after 13 years
Robert Johnson, Egypt/DR/UAD, engineering officer electrical electronics, after 9 years
Steven Liapis, Indonesia/OFIN, controller, after 18 years
Campbell McClusky, Senegal/PROG, program officer, after 23 years
Beverly Jo Muir, M/PM/FSP/EE, administrative aide, after 22 years
Jimmy Philpott, Dominican Republic/PROG, supervisory program officer, after 24 years
William Ross, M/FM/PAFD/CMA, financial management officer financial analyst, after 22 years

Years of service are USAID only.

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH BRENT

Joseph Lancaster Brent, a retired foreign service officer, died on June 22 at his home on Jekyll Island, Ga., from the effects of emphysema. He was 84.

Brent joined the Agency's predecessor organization in 1950 as deputy chief of mission to Bangkok. From 1953-57, he served as deputy chief and chief of mission to the Republic of China. Brent was USAID mission director in Morocco from 1959-62 and served as mission director to Saigon from 1962-64.

He retired from the Agency in 1965.

Brent is survived by two sons, Joseph and Robert, and a step-daughter, Ann Jarvis. Condolences may be sent to Joseph Brent III, 3504 Runnymede Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.

TEUNISON CLARK JR.

Teunison C. Clark Jr., a USAID retiree, died May 29 at Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital in Arlington of pneumonia after a stroke. He also had Parkinson's disease. He was 69.

Clark joined USAID in 1960 as a higher education adviser in Vietnam. He served as chief education adviser in Thailand and Indonesia and then as director of technical resources for the Agency's Asia bureau in Washington before retiring in 1979.

Clark is survived by his wife, Mabel, one son and one daughter. Condolences may be sent to Mrs.

Clark, 3800 N. Fairfax Drive, #103, Arlington, Va. 22203.

EARL DIFFENDERFER

Retired foreign service officer H. Earl Diffenderfer, 73, died of a circulatory ailment June 6 at Fairfax Hospital.

Diffenderfer joined the Agency after working with the military occupation forces in the Ryukyu Islands from 1946-1957 for the State Department as information and education director. As a USAID officer, he served in South Korea and Sierra Leone. He also was stationed in Laos as the Agency's area coordinator for the seven southern provinces. He retired in 1970.

Diffenderfer is survived by his wife, Hope, two sons and two daughters. Condolences may be sent to his wife, 1101 S. Arlington Ridge Road, Arlington, Va. 22202.

RALPH SUHM

Ralph A. Suhm, an Agency retiree, died from complications from lung cancer at the South West Florida Regional Medical Center in Fort Myers, Fla., May 19. He was 69.

Suhm joined the Agency in 1964 as a regional excess property utilization officer. Previously, he had worked for the General Services Administration. He retired in 1971.

Suhm is survived by his wife, Alyse, and three sons. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Suhm at 2614 Bayshore Dr. N.W., Matlacha, Fla. 33909.

FSNs Bring Christmas Joy to Cape Verde Poor

The following article was written by foreign service national employees of USAID and the American Embassy at Praia, Cape Verde.

Most U.S. embassies hold a traditional American-style office party at Christmas, a festivity that typically includes all American and foreign service national (FSN) personnel and their families.

Employees at the American embassy in Praia, however, have begun a new holiday tradition by sharing their Christmas party with the poorest of the poor of Cape Verde.

U.S. Ambassador to Cape Verde Vernon Penner suggested the idea in 1986 at a monthly meeting with FSNs from USAID and the embassy. Although such parties had never been held in Cape Verde, the employees agreed. The 1986 embassy Christmas party, held at Children's Village, was an unqualified success.

FSN employees, pleased by the children's delight at the first party, wanted to try again. This time, however, they wanted to fete even poorer children—children who normally received nothing for Christmas.

Some of the American employees expressed doubts about the logistics of a party for all of the children in an entire village. How could money be raised to buy presents and food? Where was a building large enough to hold the event? How would the gifts, food and decorations be transported to the village?

The Americans soon understood that their FSN colleagues were intent on making the idea work and took on the job of supporting the FSNs in any way possible.

The FSNs elected a committee of three employees to choose a site for the party and organize the event.



Cape Verde mission and embassy staff celebrated last Christmas with a party organized by foreign service national employees for the children of Sao Joao Baptista, one of the country's poorest villages.

The employees selected the town of Sao Joao Baptista, about 22 kilometers from the capital of Praia and one of the poorest areas in Cape Verde. Living five kilometers from the sea on the dry, western side of the major island of Santiago, Sao Joao Baptista's inhabitants are fishermen and subsistence farmers.

Agriculture in the area is extremely difficult. The landscape is dotted with volcanic boulders, and residents must walk several kilometers to the nearest well to fetch water. Villagers plant corn and food crops during the brief two-month rainy season. If the rains are good, the corn can be sold and stored.

But when the rains fail, villagers go hungry and suffer the effects of

acute malnutrition. Children with discolored hair and swollen bellies are not uncommon. Many youngsters have congenital birth defects resulting from deficient maternal nutrition.

Having chosen a village, the FSNs began an intense fund-raising drive at the mission. Every employee from the ambassador to the local guards agreed to contribute 2% of his or her monthly salary to the project.

The party was organized in collaboration with local officials. Because the village school building was too small, the FSNs requested the use of the Ministry of Rural Development's rural extension center. Employees spent several hours with the school's two teachers, recording the names of

the 100 students. Presents were wrapped and tagged for each child.

The administrative section of the embassy pitched in as mission drivers and maintenance staff went to the village on their own time to prepare the building, which was not even equipped with electricity.

Excitement grew as the big day approached. On Dec. 22, a caravan of cars left the embassy for the party. On arrival in Sao Joao Baptista, the visitors were greeted by the two teachers, the village priest and the children singing Christmas carols.

As the doors to the extension center courtyard swung open, the Americans were almost speechless. In the middle of the courtyard was a wooden fishing boat, 12 feet long and three feet deep, overflowing on all sides with beautifully wrapped presents.

The boat's mast had been transformed into a Christmas tree full of decorations, and the tables in the courtyard appeared to be breaking in the middle from the weight of all the food that had been brought for these children.

But what is a children's Christmas party without Santa Claus? The embassy at Praia just happened to have its own Santa Claus, administrative/consular officer Bob Kile, who speaks fluent Portuguese. Calling each child by name and spreading Christmas cheer, Kile handed out the gifts. No child was forgotten as Santa called the little ones forward. Gifts included toys, school supplies and candy.

The party ended with a cultural exchange. The children sang folk songs and performed local dances. In return, the embassy visitors sang Christmas carols. Ambassador Penner addressed the gathering, and the priest and the teachers thanked the hosts for what had been a day that 100 poor children will never forget.

Gambia

From page 3

Since 1984, SWMU has worked with farmers to improve 1,100 hectares of erosion-affected uplands and saline-affected ricelands in 40 areas. According to the farmers, these efforts have doubled or tripled agricultural production.

"Farmers show their enthusiasm and commitment by working without compensation to install and maintain soil and water conservation structures," explains Jarju. "They praise Allah and SWMU for such good luck!"

"Progress to date has been remarkable," says Tom Hobgood, former agricultural development officer at USAID/Banjul. "SWMU is planning and implementing sound programs in soil and water management and has the capacity

to deliver services to farmers, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations. It has demonstrated its worth to Gambian farmers and improved public awareness of soil and water conservation practices."

In 1987, the government of The Gambia demonstrated its commitment to SWMU by formally accepting financial responsibility for maintaining the new unit and making all professional and non-professional positions in SWMU regular civil service positions. Budget allocations for SWMU also were increased.

As an institution, SWMU has a firm foundation, but much remains to be accomplished. More than 200 villages are currently waiting for SWMU assistance, a level of demand that far exceeds SWMU's capacity to respond.

A recently approved three-year extension of the USAID project will permit the establishment of five additional substations at strategically selected locations throughout the country. In addition, equipment, training and technical assistance will be provided to strengthen SWMU's activities.

The project's positive outcome contrasts with impressions of the project just five years ago. "When I arrived in The Gambia in 1984," remembers Metz, "it seemed as though nothing much had happened yet. But the first six years of building an organization and training Gambians provided a firm foundation for activities in the field. The idea of soil and water management caught on rapidly, and now support is widespread."

Hobgood echoes this view. "We

had to stick with it to make a difference," says Hobgood. "Creating a new agency and implementing new ways of dealing with conservation simply took years of effort. Our persistence paid off."

"This project illustrates an alternative to high-cost, management-intensive irrigated rice projects. Food production has been increased with low-cost, socially acceptable technologies that Gambians can sustain."

Through its Soil and Water Management Project, USAID has supported the development of a system to maintain and expand conservation activities in The Gambia and has provided a model that other countries may emulate.

Konan is a consultant to the Office of Technical Resources, Bureau for Africa.