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Foster Knight, Chief, Public Administration Division

Monthly Public Administration Division Report for June 1969,
Activity No. 176

Attached herewith are the individual reports of the below listed four sub-activities:

1. Customs Modernization (Knight and Grajeda)
2. Local Government (Morisey)
3. Government Leadership Training (O'Rorke)
4. Urban and Area Planning (Avila)

Highlights for the month of June:

1. The first of a series of regional seminars for municipal officials was held in Chimaltenango June 14, sponsored jointly by INAD and the National Association of Municipalities. It proved a most promising start. Besides some 96 officials who had enrolled in the course, there were many invited guests, including the Governor, the Mayor and representatives of central government agencies. Notable for the active part they played and the influence they exercised were the municipal secretaries who had participated in the USAID-sponsored training programs in the U. S. Similar seminars are scheduled to be held at the two other regional centers, Mazatenango and Huehuetenango during the next three months.

2. Personnel of INAD involved in implementation of the civil service career law have been very busy during the month in preparation for the permanent applicability of provisions of the law on July 1. The classification system was completed, needed forms designed and printed, and basic regulations drafted and approved by the Civil Service Commission. As the introductory date approached, some agitation developed for a year's suspension, but as a result of several high-level GOG discussions, the decision was reached to proceed with scheduled implementation.

3. The \$2.1 million INFOM municipal loan solicitation was put in final shape and taken to AID/W by the Director for review and hoped-for approval. Its materialization was the result of concentrated effort on the part of Mission and GOG personnel involved.

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4. On June 30, the Mission's Public Administration Division passed into history in accordance with the scheduled BALPA reduction program. Its staff has been reassigned to other activities or relocated within the Mission with the exception of the chief, who is being transferred to USAID/Panama.

5. Also as of June 30, the special arrangement was terminated for use of an IAGS cadastral specialist to help monitor the IGN in-put in the Property Tax Development Loan project. The last incumbent, Mr. Frank Avila, successor to Mr. Rudolph Kinchen, is being transferred to the U. S.

Problems:

Phasing out of the PAD has produced a problem or two of some concern. They are as follows:

1. What is to be the future role of the Mission in local government activities? The extent of future support remains uncertain and the Mission's local government contract technician is being put in a difficult position as to what course he should pursue in respect to continuing associations with INFOM, the Association of Municipalities, INAD and the joint INFOM-Peace Corps-USAID South Coast project.
2. Who is to handle future in-coming correspondence and personal inquiries related to public administration activities, past, present and future? Mr. O'Rorke is on home leave for three months, Mr. Morisey is unfamiliar with much of this area and Mr. Knight is going to Panama.
3. Shall the Mission consider a renewal of the special arrangement with the IAGS for the part-time services of an IAGS cadastral specialist, specifically, Mr. James R. McIntire, when he returns to Guatemala in July as IAGS local representative? It is believed that implementation of the Property Tax Development Loan can be materially helped through Mr. McIntire's association with the project, at least for one more year when IGN continuing in-put is most important.

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