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Dr. Peter C. Wright, Chief
Human Resources Division

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Alexander Morisey
Municipal Government Advisor

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

INFOM

Contact has been maintained with this organization. Currently, the formal loan agreement is being developed. INFOM will have to review this agreement and comment on it. Informal discussions have been had with INFOM about implementation of the loan.

INAD

The regional seminars are continuing to function well. Reports were received about some criticism of the seminars in Mazatenango. INAD was informed of this and has made an effort to improve the situation. The contractor visited Mazatenango after the last regional seminar and municipal officials were much more satisfied. In the next session the group will be divided into two groups, secretaries and treasurers. This will be a means of working with smaller groups on a more intensive level and providing information which specifically applies to each group.

During the month of August, Mr. Deane Hinton, Director USAID/G, had a long discussion with students. He answered specific questions raised. Many favorable comments have been received about this discussion and has stimulated discussion at INAD.

ANAM

Contact has been maintained with this group. The legal advisor continues to be the only person devoting time to ANAM. He is now in the office every morning. There is a secretary who remains in the office all day. The legal advisor has expressed interest in additional staff in the form of a student from INAD or a Peace Corps Volunteer. Further exploration of this possibility will be made in the coming month.

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Peace Corps Municipal Development Project

No outstanding development have occurred in this project. The volunteer in Tiquisate and the contractor have discussed various ideas which could help improve municipal financial resources. It has also been suggested that a discussion between Peace Corps and the organizations involved in the program be held to evaluate the current status of the program and its future.

General Observations

The contractor had the opportunity to visit several municipal secretaries during the past month. This proved to be a valuable experience and information on various aspects of the municipal movement was obtained. As time permits, it is recommended that more visits be made to municipalities. Constructive criticism and suggestions for municipal activities can be obtained in this manner. It also gives the contractor the opportunity to explore the thoughts and feelings of people at the local level.

The contractor is making an effort to maintain some communication with Guatemalans who had some contact with the Public Administration Division. The pressures of normal work activities limit much being done in this area but an effort will be made to maintain occasional contact.

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