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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1977

PROJECT: 521-15-190-069 THE J.G. WHITE ENGINEERING CORPORATION

HAITI Irrigation 4792

I INTRODUCTION

Staff level of the J.G. White Engineering Team remained constant during the month of November with personnel stationed in Jean Rabel, Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes.

Work being performed at Jean Rabel continued to be the assistance program in rebuilding the Jean Rabel potable water supply system. The rehabilitation of the irrigation system was again delayed by a complete lack of funding. DARNDR personnel visited the project twice during the month, stating that they anticipated the early transfer of operating funds and the reopening of project activities shortly thereafter.

The USAID - J.G. White contract, numbered above, was extended to 31 December 1977.

II GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Operations at Dubreuil continued at approximately the same pace as reported in October.

Considerable rain felt during this period which affected contract operations on the project.

Emphasis is being placed on completion of the by-pass canal section which will enable the irrigation district to separate erratic spring water flows from the river water supply. When completed, this section of the main canal will ensure control of the quantity of water delivered to the system.

While the dry season has officially begun, the month of November has been unusually wet. Springs are flowing at a heavy rate. These conditions make pumping operations necessary in order to continue with contract work which will link the upper and lower ends of the by-pass section of the canal into the original primary canal. Complicating matters is the fact that the pump required to support the construction work has been broken down and spare parts are not available in Haiti. However, a serviceable pump was borrowed part-time from the Department of Public Works which enabled work to continue sporatically.

Principal roads in the project area have been improved by the Department of Public Works. Most of the water holes in the roads have been eliminated. This should significantly decrease the wear and tear on project vehicles.

Since no operational funds were made available to the project during the month, activities have been drastically restricted to two crews working on the spring section of the main canal and three crews washing construction materials (gravel-sand)

in the Acul River bed. All crews continued to work (weather permitting) during November despite the fact that they were not paid due to lack of project funds. However, morale was noticeably lower than previously.

As previously reported, machinery allocated to the project has been found to be inadequate. While the original concept of minimum of equipment/maximum manpower was worthy of a test in Haiti using the Dubreuil Project as a proving ground, it has been found that a balance must be struck between the two. For example, the Dubreuil irrigation system encompassing an area of 2300 Hectares, consists of a main canal (10 Km) and approximately 35 kilometers of secondary and sublateral canals. Work done to date to rehabilitate this large irrigation system has been largely by hand. To support the hand labour on the 2300 Hectare project, there has been one 3 cubic meter Dump truck, one 3/4 Ton Flat bed pick up truck, two Cherokee Jeeps and one CJ-5 Jeep. Additional equipment includes: a 1/3 cubic meter concrete mixer; 2 pumps (one too large for use); and an electric welder and compressor. This equipment has proved to be insufficient to support canal construction and access road requirements for a project of this size.

To continue with the rehabilitation of the Dubreuil irrigation system, a minimum of equipment is required. Specifically, to support an active development program in the project area, the equipment should consist of the following:

Transport of personnel

- 5 vehicles (personnel carriers).
- 6 motorcycles

Transport of materials

- 3 Dump trucks (3 cubic meters each)
- 1 Flat bed (3 ton truck)

Concrete work

- 4 concrete mixers (1 cubic meter capacity each)
- 1 sand/gravel washing machine

Canal excavation and loading

- 2 front end loaders/back hoes

Work with organizations in the project area continued during the month at a slow pace. Meetings were held at all schools within the area and with parents of children to explain the project and related aspects of the irrigation system. Meetings were also held (in the field) with farmers in the five demonstration areas previously reported to observe improved cultural practices underway. Work with organizations has been hampered by lack of sufficient transportation within the project area.

Orientation of group members started this month. All groups will be contacted and the following material explained to them:

PROJET DE REHABILITATION DE DUBREUIL

SYSTEME D'IRRIGATION ET FORMATION DE DISTRICT D'IRRIGATION

Le système d'irrigation de Dubreuil dessert l'aire comprise entre les rivières de l'Acul et de Torbeck, et s'étend de Dubreuil au Nord, à la route de Bois Landry au Sud. Tous les membres des groupements qui travaillent sur les canaux peuvent voir la distribution d'eau du canal principal aux canaux secondaires. Ceux-ci traversent beaucoup d'exploitations. L'eau est captée des canaux secondaires et répartie dans les canaux tertiaires.

En utilisant l'eau, un bon exploitant sait qu'il peut augmenter le rendement de son exploitation.

Le système d'irrigation de Dubreuil a été originellement construit depuis des centaines d'années. La plupart des planteurs et leur famille, qui, à cette époque, vivaient dans la région de Dubreuil étaient heureux de regarder par les portes de leur maison l'eau claire couler dans les canaux.

Il y a de cela des centaines d'années, il y avait beaucoup de canaux. Les femmes et les familles des exploitants utilisaient amplement l'eau à divers usages – bain, lessive, cuisine, boisson etc... Ils étaient heureux de voir l'eau claire couler dans leurs champs. Ils savaient qu'à cause de l'eau, ils pourraient augmenter leur récolte. Ils utilisaient l'eau pour les chevaux, les vaches, les porcs, la volaille. L'eau leur apportait une heureuse vie. A Boval, Ducis, Gérard, St. Félix, Béraud et partout dans la région irriguée par ce système, les gens tiraient plus de profit de leurs cultures.

Malheureusement, l'entretien du système par ces exploitants laissaient à désirer. Ils ont laissé le bétail détériorer les berges des canaux. Ils n'ont pas enlevé les plantations et les broussailles qui croissaient au long des canaux et à l'intérieur. Quand ceux-ci se sont remplis de roches et de sédiments, ils ne les ont pas retirés. Bon nombre d'exploitation ont été privées d'eau par suite de ces problèmes, et ne produisaient pas suffisamment. Les familles sont alors obligées, pour leurs usages domestiques d'aller chercher l'eau loin de leur habitat. Ils avaient moins de nourriture à manger sur leur table.

Alors, il y a de cela vingt ans le Gouvernement d'Haiti décida d'aider les familles de la région de Dubreuil à reconstruire leurs canaux. Beaucoup d'exploitants vivant maintenant dans la région de Dubreuil se souviennent du travail réalisé à cette époque en vue de restaurer les canaux. Les récoltes devenaient plus fructueuses.

Le Code Rural François DUVALIER leur était expliqué. Le Code Rural expliqua que le Gouvernement et le peuple utilisant le système avaient à la fois des responsabilités pour l'entretien, la réparation et le fonctionnement du système. Le Gouvernement nomma des syndics pour le contrôle et la distribution rationnelle de l'eau.

Les leaders locaux, les représentants du DARNDR et de l'USAID ont compris que les exploitants doivent utiliser l'eau correctement pour produire plus de récolte. Afin de les aider à utiliser rationnellement l'eau, l'Agronome Charité JEAN, responsable de la Section Agricole et le Technicien en Agriculture Fritz REGIS, vulgarisateur, ont travaillé avec les membres des groupements en leur apportant les nouvelles techniques culturales susepetibles d'augmenter leur production. Ces nouvelles pratiques comprennent le travail en groupe, les semences à haut rendement, les bonnes facons culturales, le sarclage et l'usage d'engrais d'insecticides, octroi de crédit et mode de récolte, d'emmagasinage et de commercialisation.

Maintenant, les exploitants travaillent en équipe dans la construction des canaux. Ils seront responsables de l'entretien de ces canaux durant plusieurs années et aussi de l'utilisation rationnelle en fonction des besoins culturaux

Le Gouvernement d'Haiti contribua en argent, matériel, machine et personnel technique pour aider avec succès les gens de Dubreuil. Les membres des groupements ont contribué en donnant bénévolement d'abord 1/5 de leur travail du service de la communauté et ensuite 1/5 de leur salaire à la formation de leur District d'Irrigation. Cet argent est déposé à la Banque Nationale aux Cayes.

Chaque exploitant et sa famille vivant dans la région et touché par le système d'irrigation doit coopérer pour faire un succès de la réhabilitaiton de Dubreuil et de la formation du District d'Irrigation. Une telle coopération pourra encore apporter plus de produits, l'eau disponible à toute la famille et plus de nourriture sur leur table et une vie meilleure.

COOPERONS POUR RENDRE NOTRE VIE MEILLEURE!

Resumé of Basic Problems

Project 521-15-190-069

Reference: Letter to James Purcell — 8 November '77

From an administrative viewpoint three major problems have troubled both the Dubreuil and Jean Rabel rehabilitation projects. They are listed and briefly commented upon in the following sections "A" through "C".

It should not be assumed that in any way these three problems are equal in magnitude, section "A" is far and away the most critical and with the proper solution, "B" and "C" plus the multiple minor project problems will be practically self-solving.

The enclosed break-down of comments on A B & C plus minor project problems refers to the Monthly Activity Reports, November 1975 through August 1977.

" A "

Funding

Both Dubreuil and Jean Rabel projects have seriously suffered from improperly managed and insufficient funding.

The history of funding difficulties for these projects is well-known and it is not necessary in this resumé to review the background.

Not only have the two projects suffered from delays or shortages in operating funds but the Agronomes, Engineers & Technician employed by DARNDR receive their salaries and supplimentary allowances weeks to months late. These DARNDR employees will, to press for monies due them, leave the projects and go to Port-au-Prince where at times they have remained for weeks.

To have efficiently managed and operating these and other projects, G.O.H. must arrange funding so that their direct-hire employees are paid promptly and in full.

Secondly, operating funds must be available to the projects on a smooth and regular basis. It would be recommended that local project bank accounts be established, as at Les Cayes. Sufficient funds should be originally deposited to carry a project for a minimum of three months of estimated operating costs. At the end of the second month, the bank account would be reimbursed for past expenditures, in effect a revolving fund based upon an estimate of 3 month's expenditure.

Financial arguments opposing the concept of local bank accounts and revolving funds are based on the loss of interest/and or use by the National Bank. There are two sound responses to this argument, one, delays in receipts of project funding can be shown by experience to have cost far more than the valve of any accrued interest. Two, should the National Bank wish to retain project funds at the main bank, credit facilities could easily be establish at the branch bank serving a project area.

The entire point being — that for efficient project operations sufficient monies must be available when and as needed at the local level.

" B "

Counter-Parts (DARNDR employees)

A review of the Monthly Activity Reports indicates two major problems. Resolution of the first, money shortages, will also resolve the second shortage, in time, that of man-power.

The Dubreuil project was promised a total of 30 DARNDR personnel, some assigned 100% others part time and still others as trainees. This quota was never filled. The same situation occurred at Jean Rabel with lesser numbers.

It appears from the experience at Dubreuil & Jean Rabel that DARNDR simply does not have sufficient personnel, experienced or inexperienced, to staff a number of projects.

This is a situation that money can correct, if not immediately then given time. There are many qualified Haitian engineers, agronomes and technicians employed abroad who would be delighted to return home could they be assured of suitable employment and regular salaries. Return of a portion of these expatriates would alleviate the current shortage. Improved salaries would encourage students to enter the agricultural fields.

" C "

Communications

This item which appears to have expanded into a major issue should never have become a problem. In seeking the cause, one can fault the various personnel changes, mostly at USAID and DARNDR with ensueing lack of continuity.

The roles of AID - DARNDR - contractor were discussed at several meetings early in the contract period. Unfortunately written minutes were not kept of these meetings and many persons attending are no longer available for consultation. The position of the contractor has always been clear, to the contractor, at least. He has been employed to advise and assist DARNDR, and reports progress and problems to both USAID and DARNDR.

This clear-cut function however was changed slightly by requests from USAID that the contractor establish some project financial controls, particularly on monies received directly from USAID. Another functional change occurred when shortages of DARNDR specialists appeared and contractor's personnel stepped in to fill a temporary void. These perhaps minor functional changes were accepted appreciatively by DARNDR project management at Dubreuil. At Jean Rabel however DARNDR counter-parts, rightly, wish to assume their complete authority, and have done so.

DUBREUIL REHABILITATION PROJECT

Cayes, 15 December 1977

From : Eng. Hugues Bien-Aimé

To : Project Direction

Subject : November 1977 Report

The works at Dubreuil during the month of November were slow until the last week of November because of lack of transportation the Dump truck has not been repaired. We are asking the Director to take care of that for the project success.

Works incurred:

a) Profile of Berault Canal
0 + 000 to 1 + 900

b) Cleaning of Burin I Canal
0 + 000 to 000 + 900

c) Topography work to Burin I Canal
Nivelling 0 + 000 to 2 + 010

While at Dubreuil connection works for the main canal have started up stream and down stream, 40 cubic meters of masonry were constructed but materials like sand, washed and screened gravel were stock piled on the river bank can not be hauled because of lack of transportation.

Hoping to receive Direction's advice in a not too long time.

(S) Hugues BIEN-AIME
In Charge of Work Sites

DUBREUIL REHABILITATION PROJECT

Cayes, 19 December 1977

To : Dubreuil Project Supervision

From : Chief Section Rural Motivation/ Nerva L. Cassion

Subject : November Report

The Rural Motivation Section of Dubreuil Project at the beginning of November stopped its contacts with the groups for reasons stipulated in the preceding report. Having heard that arrears salaries were going to be paid in a very short time, we call the presidents of groupments to a meeting at Gerard to plan the section's future activities which will be a) motivation of group members to form a cooperative for saving and credit or a popular funds to incline the peasant being a group member or not, to save his money which will enable him to find credit for his plantation; b) to follow up the collect for social capital amount; c) to reorganize the hiring of laborers for Dubreuil different working sites. Unfortunately since then nothing has been done because up to now nothing has changed in Dubreuil.

No financial report was available from Dubreuil at this time. The November financial statement will be included in the December report.