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Instituto Universitário da Beira Interior

PURDUE PROJECT

Monthly Report to AID/Lisbon, November, 1981

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Preparation for, participation in, and follow-up of the annual project review with Dr. D. W. Thomas, head of Purdue's International Programs, have occupied most of this month.

This activity provided the stimulus to review and revise Project activities at all three locations. Here at the IUBI, members of the Textiles group basically accepted what had been worked out earlier with Prof. Behery (which, was based on the Colloom report) and requested additional long term training. Members of the Management group requested substantially more long term training.

Rough dollar estimates made by AID/Lisbon indicate a reasonable possibility of accommodating the revised request of the 3 Institutes. It also appears that the escudo budget at the IUBI is sufficient to fund their proposal; however, if the term of the LTA is extended and/or the total length of the program extended, it appears that additional escudos will be necessary. Additional funds also will be necessary if a major effort is to be undertaken with regard to developing Teaching/Learning Resource Centers.

Meetings of representatives of the Institutes, AID and Purdue with Ministry personnel were useful in exchanging information and ideas and in analyzing project performance and prospects. Emphasis was given to careful Planning of both short term training and short term advisors. In my opinion, the IUBI staff, especially in Management, needs to take an increasingly active role in both the planning and execution of STA activities.

Considerable discussion was devoted to long versus short term training. Differences of opinions remain.

General and specific project objectives (as set forth in the contract) were

discussed and there was general agreement that they are still valid. Given the emphasis of these objectives on research and extension activities, the question was raised as to what incentive exists for staff members to conduct extension and non-thesis-related research. Ministry representatives expressed the hope that the law could be changed in order to officially recognize these activities. At the same time, they argued that research and extension are not unrecognized under present regulations and suggested that the Institutes should request additional funds, if needed, for research and extension.

The IUBI has engaged in various extension-type activities and it is my opinion that a modest on-going program of extension could be established relatively easily. Relations with industry, trade groups and other organizations are good. What is needed is one or more persons who have the interest and time to assume leadership in developing an extension program.

English language training is still a problem at both IUBI and IUTAD. I am convinced that the combined demand of IUBI and the city is sufficient to provide a full time teaching load ^{for} at least one person.