PD-AAN-656

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: August 22, 1979

REPLY TO ATTN OF: J.A. Vasile Regional Telecom Technician (RTT) Jvasile

SUBJECT: FINAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS STATUS REPORT
per paragraphs 2,3 - Contract AID/lac C 1285, Project No. 527-9424
(State 136-00-1-01) Narcotics Control.

TO: Contracting Officer, Office of Contract Management, AID
Senior Narcotics Control Officer, AmEmbassy, Lima
S/NM TSD
AID Reference Center AID, WashDC

I. SUMMARY

1. General

1. During the contract year RTT completed six new telecom studies in four countries, three in Colombia and one each in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay.

2. New Telecom studies and routine project inspections required 11 trips with 103 days travel away from post at Lima.

3. Telecom Project Status in Peru, Bolivia and Colombia will be summarized below. No information is available to RTT related to results of telecom proposals completed for Ecuador and Paraguay.

II. Peru

A. PIP Telcom Project

1. Programmed installations have kept pace with equipment deliveries. Local antenna tower fabrication was contracted for and deliveries made ahead of receipt of U.S. provided commodities.

2. Installations standards are excellent and transmission performance of project telecom commodities is good.

3. A remote control system for remote HF-SSB long range communications with five regions was placed in operation providing higher message capacity than formerly. The system had been inoperative for four years due to faulty engineering design which was corrected by RTT.

4. Inefficient HF antenna plant is being replaced with propers antenna towers and dipole antennas on a programmed basis.

5. Projections for telecom system long range improvements provide Telex service beginning FY-79 and orderly evolution of HF and VHF facitilites through FY-80.

POL:NCU:JVasile:ezp

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-76)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-112

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

6. Sufficient technical personnel adequately trained in installation and maintenance of project telecom equipment is available.

7. GOP funds are not available for implementing a preventive maintenance schedule. U.S. funding of travel, per diem, and regional test facilities for this purpose has not been proposed. All repairs are of failed equipment, usually U.S. funded.

8. Telecommunications management of installations programming, project development and systems improvement depends heavily on well qualified U.S. technical assistance. Former U.S. technical assistance was definitely poor and accounts in large part for marginal systems in service.

B. Guardia Civil Project

1. The same comments apply as for the PIP project relating to installations quality of narcotics telecom project equipment, and on equipment provided in previous years.

2. GC has a satisfactory in house capability for equipment installation and tower and antenna construction. Through RTT expediting and guidance project implementation has kept pace with receipt of commodities and transmission performance of installed equipment is good.

3. Telecommunications management is completely dependent on U.S. technical guidance and no GOP funds are available for preventive maintenance operations.

4. Project projection for FY-79 and FY-80 involve $200,000 of telecom commodities. Well qualified U.S. technical assistance will be required for effective implementation of the projected programs.

III. Bolivia

A. DNSP Project

1. All available equipment in country, including eight Southcom SC-150 HF-SSB transceivers formerly considered obsolete, are installed and operating on five channels. Transmission performance is excellent and installation quality is of high stantandards.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

2. The acquisition of two additional frequencies, 9282 KHz and 11400 KHz for HF-SSB service has greatly improved transmission performance and extended service to border narcotics operations at least one year ahead of programmed schedule.

3. Technical staff is well qualified for equipment installations and tower construction. Telecom management is adequate to implement project projections for FY-79/80 with little TDY U.S. technician guidance as in the past year.

4. DNSP has authorized recruitment of 2 additional technicians in time for their preparation to participate in projected FY-79/80 installations and preventive maintenance program.

5. Down time in teletype point-to-point operations was the result of non technical factors, such as non payment of telephone lines connecting ENTEL teletype channel to DNSP.

B. Customs Project

1. The study provides preliminary telecom commodity requirements and policy proposals for Customs participation in narcotics operations in Bolivia. A revision of the proposal may be necessary upon determination of Customs proposed contribution to the program.

2. The Customs telecommunications technician is very well qualified technically to implement the proposed project.

IV. Colombia Projects

A. OAG Telecom Project

1. Colombia telecom project suffers from poor U.S. technical assistance in the past and poor Embassy coordination in the present. Some examples follow:

a) Teletype point-to-point circuits implementation was delayed in the OAG project for 18 months under former U.S. Telecom Technician. Implementation of four channels was effected on TDY efforts of RTT within 6 months.

b) Installation of an HF-SSB Base station had been made on the 11th story of a 26 story building with inefficient antenna 1 meter from building exterior. The unsuitability of the quarters for telecom or narcotics operations was never suggested by former telecom technician. OAG adquired

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

suitable quarters within three months of RTT comments and suggestions. Four teletype point-to-point channels are in operation there. However, coordination of Embassy funding for suitable towers for HF and VHF antennas lags, and neither is installed in spite of equipment on hand.

c) Equipment in Embassy possession has not been transferred to AOG except on insistance of RTT following TDY recommendations.

d) Of two telecom technicians one was promoted out of the telecom services immediately following completion of a Motorola training course in the U.S. His replacement is a lawyer totally unqualified technically. Recruitment of two additional technician in accordance with Pro-Ag terms has not been accomplished.

2. Project Telecom Commodity Projections have been submitted for FY-79/80. Included in these projections is a Siemens Automatic Teletype Switching Terminal. Foreign source waiver will be required to procure this item. Memorandum to Francis Perry, INM/TSD, dated July 18, 1979 provided justification for the waiver.

B. Customs Project

1. This project is in the Pro-Ag stage. The Telecommunications system proposed by RTT is included in the Pro-Ag and funding of $430,000 by GOC is provided in FY-79 for proposed telecom commodities.

2. The telecom proposal includes a Siemens Automatic Teletype Switching Terminal similar to that programmed for OAG and the same requirement for foreign source waiver may apply in spite of GOC funding.

3. Technical personnel requirements for Bogota and two regional telecommunications repair facilities are also included in the Pro-Ag. The Bogota telecommunications chief is well qualified technically to implement the project provided technical staffing in accordance with the Pro-Ag is accomplished.

C. Colombia Narcotics Special Study.

1. For this study RTT prepared the telecommunications annex at three levels of funding of approximately $3, $2, and $1 million. A fourth level of funding is the program level over two years, FY-79/80 as previously projected.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

2. On the advice of the Ambassador separate Automatic Teletype Switching Terminals were provided for independent agency switching at OAG and Customs. A single 40 line terminal has the technical capability of switching functions for both agencies independently of each other and is recommended if agreement for sharing of the service and location of the terminal unit is resolved. In view of GOC Customs funding of this unit it may be advisable to seek OAG concurrence on sharing and location at Bogota Customs telecom center.

3. Telecom equipment for Military Aircraft was not specified in the annex because such equipment must be compatible mechanically and electrically with the aircraft in which it will be employed. Usual INM specified commercial equipment would not be suitable. Funding of $427,000 was proposed for this purpose with specifications and procurement left to the Military.

V. Comments

1. RTT has been pleased to serve INM in five countries over the past year and hopes the services rendered effectually promote the Narcotics Program objectives. However, in view of advanced age future services can be provided only on a less demanding scale of travel and less than full time, if desired.

2. Colombia and Peru require the technical assistance of highly competent telecom technician fluent in Spanish who in addition can manage, program and expedite projects diplomatically.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY