

MEMORANDUM

TO : TA/UD, Mr. William R. Miner DATE: November 20, 1974

FROM : AA/TA, Curtis ^CFarrar

SUBJECT: Draft Publication, "The United States Urban Development Experience, A Selective Analytical Compendium"

I have thought about this too long. My conclusion is that we should not issue the report. Any fault lies mainly with us, and not with the performance of the contractor. I think the problem is in the conception of the project.

Our focus should be on what U.S. problem solving capacity is relevant to the urban problems of the developing countries. We do not need to sell others on the relevance of our own experience in this field, any more than we do so in other fields. If we are rejected by some because our experience is deemed not relevant, there are others who will want to take advantage of our knowledge and abilities.

Some of the difficulties with the report are pointed out in Mary's memo. While some of these can be fixed, I think we would still have a basic problem in that what the report is trying to do cannot be accomplished in a single volume, and probably not in a U.S. Government document.

Please come up with a course of action to end the project that will

- a) minimize costs;
- b) get whatever beneficial results we can without further investment of funds;
- c) limit embarrassment to the Agency and the contractor.

You may want to have a few people, in or out of the Agency, read the report and advise on what should be done. My only criterion would be that they be people with broad experience working with and in LDCs.

Your course of action should be discussed with the lawyers, the contract officer, and TA/PM.

Please consider whether selections out of the document might be published separately for somewhat different purposes.

I would like to have your proposals in about two weeks, if possible. Before we act, I plan to discuss this informally with the Auditor General.

cc:

AA/TA:SButterfield

TA/PM:CRFritz

AA/TA:MKilgour

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : AA/TA, Mr. Curtis Farrar

DATE: December 17, 1974

FROM : TA/UD, William R. Miner 

SUBJECT: Compendium and Filmograph of U.S. Urban Development Experience

References: Your memorandum of November 20, 1974 and our meeting of November 22, 1974

TA/UD acquiesces in your decision to conclude this project without realizing the ultimate goal of disseminating its products, the compendium and filmograph.

We do so even though we still believe that the project was well conceived and that the products are worthy of dissemination. We believe also that, while the total U.S. experience cannot be reported in a single volume -- if for no other reason than the fact that there is no consensus of what that experience has been! -- the compendium and filmograph do present selective and important aspects of that experience in a manner which reveals the strengths and weaknesses of our problem-solving capacity. Above all, they describe our manifested and continuing determination to do better. We believe that many in developing countries would benefit from their dissemination.

Nevertheless, we believe that no purpose will be served by further review, advice, and discussion, nor do we see much merit in manipulating further the contents of the compendium for possible other purposes. We wish to conclude the project as quickly as possible.

Toward this end we have discussed your decision with TA/PM, SER/CM, and GC/TFHA. They foresee no serious problems. TA/PM concurs in our plan to complete the project with an informal PAR. We are cautioned to put the project file in proper order, in case the project is audited. SER/CM advised us that clause 30 in the General Provisions (AID 1420-41C, 7-72) of the contract provided that all data were AID's property and that no part of the compendium or the filmograph could be published without AID's written consent. It was suggested that the contractor be notified of AID's intention not to publish, and be reminded of clause 30 cited above.

GC/TFHA noted that the so-called freedom of information law requires AID to make the compendium available on request. At the same time clause 30 of the contract provided protection for AID against the possible use of the data or the products of this project by the contractor without AID's consent.



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We propose, therefore, to take the following steps in order to carry out your decision:

1. Complete an informal PAR.
2. Put the project file in order for possible future reference and use.
3. Write to thank the contractor for having performed satisfactorily, to advise that the compendium and filmograph will not be disseminated as planned, and to note that the contract precludes any use of the products or their contents without the written consent of AID.
4. Explain on general inquiry that it was an administrative (management?) decision not to disseminate the compendium and filmograph.
5. Record on receipt specific requests for copies of the compendium, and make an interim reply which indicates the decision not to disseminate the compendium.
6. After a suitable interval (90 days?) for a possible follow-up request and in order to assess demand, make available a draft copy (so designated) of the "final" version of the compendium. Draft copies should be prepared as attractively and as inexpensively as possible, and should be distributed only in response to specific requests for the compendium. (Note: There has been no printing of the "final" version of the compendium, and there is only the original negative of the filmograph in TA/UD's possession. Frequent use of the filmograph in this condition will cause it to deteriorate rapidly, and cost will prohibit the making of prints.)

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval of the action plan outlined above.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

December 20, 1974

TO : TA/UD, Mr. William R. Miner

FROM : AA/TA, Curtis Farrar *CF*

SUBJECT: Compendium and Filmograph of
U.S. Urban Development Experience;
Your Memorandum of December 17,
1974

Course of action approved. I'd suggest
a regular PAR - rather than an informal
one - though perhaps I don't fully under-
stand the difference in this case.