



During this period the SUNY/PARC program's level of work continued to increase, with very intensive work, requiring the hiring of additional staff and consultants, in the following areas:

I. Departmental Parliamentary Brigades

- "Bring your problems out of the streets and into the Congress."
 - With the assistance of SUNY/PARC eight of the nine Departmental Parliamentary Brigades have developed their Legislative Agendas. One of these Brigades represents the conflictual and controversial Department of Cochabamba which until now has occupied the news and preoccupied the US government with its violent clashes between coca growers and Bolivian security forces. The fact that the Cochabamba Brigade has been able to develop a Legislative Agenda that is not dominated by the problem of coca production is a highly significant and important move toward demonstrating to the citizens of Bolivia that all legitimate interests of the public can and should be brought into the Congress for their consideration and debate.
- "Where's the Pork?"
 - One of the features that makes US democracy work is the pork barrel system. The lack of a pork perk for members of congress in Bolivia has led analysts to doubt the effectiveness of the uninominal deputies. There is, however, a possibility for a uninominal to bring home the bacon, albeit through a more circuitous route involving the executive branch: through negotiation, backed by the Minimal Departmental Agenda, he or she can either tap into the project fund of the Prefect, or can reach the National Budget through the Vice Ministry of Parliamentary Relations. During the first week of June, members from the Brigades which have developed their Agendas met with the Vice Minister to coordinate activities for the follow up of their Agendas. This was the first time such coordination was attempted on this level between the executive and legislative branches, and will be followed by further meetings between the Oruro and Potosi Brigades with the executive branch.
- Transparency. At present, both the money assigned to each particular Brigade for its operation, and the use of these funds, are unregulated. With the assistance of SUNY/PARC, the second vice president of the House is presenting for approval of the House leadership, a Regulation for the Administration of Brigade Financial Resources.
- Technical Instruments. After a year of field testing, the Brigade Clerks with the assistance of SUNY developed the final version of Brigade Meetings Regulations and the Guide for the Development of Regional Brigade Agendas, both of which documents were officially delivered to the Congress by the Director of USAID/Bolivia.
- Informing the Public. After 6 months of field tests, the Oruro Brigade is now in the process of systematizing formats and schedules for its series of interactive radio programs to inform constituents about its progress in complying with the commitments made in its Legislative Agenda. The

model developed will be adapted for use by the other 8 Departmental Brigades.

II. Public Hearings of Congressional Commissions and Brigades

- Follow up to previous Hearings. With the assistance of SUNY/PARC, the Clerk of the Commission on Government published an information Bulletin summarizing the results of the 12 Public Hearings held on Public Security and another Information Bulletin on the Child and Adolescent Protection Code; and the clerk from the Constitutional Commission published an information Bulletin on the results of a Public Hearing held on the proposed constitutional reforms relating to the rights protected under the newly passed Criminal Procedures Code.
- New Hearings. One new Public Hearing was held, by the Santa Cruz Brigade, concerning the need to modify clauses in the new CPC concerning pre-trial arrests. As a consequence of this Hearing, a reform Bill was drafted and sent to the Congress for its consideration on the Committee level.
- Formal Training. A course on the management of Public Hearings was given by the specialized consultants of SUNY/PARC and the GTZ covering topics on the drafting of Information Bulletins and relations with the media.

III. Assistance to Uninominal Deputies.

- EDCs: Three new EDCs and one follow up EDC were organized with SUNY/PARC assistance. UD continued to experience pressure from participants to undertake activities that exceeded their mandate as deputies and that were difficult if not impossible to comply with.
- New Mechanisms: REDIC. This interest group based model was applied in two more districts during this period.
 - In the District of El Alto, La Paz, the REDIC concerning the conflicting interests of environment/neighborhood organizations and industrial groups concerning environmental problems. There was no agreement reached in the meeting, which led to the UD taking to the radio to inform his entire constituency about his efforts, a positive development which makes the problem known and involves a much wider segment of the voters in this District.
 - In the Santa Cruz District, a REDIC brought together a number of private economic interests among cattle growers, vegetable and fruit producers and the apiary industry, with government ministries and officials who committed a number of their technical and financial resources to assistance to these struggling economic groups.
 - In a follow up activity to the first REDIC held in the PANDO, the Prefect was removed which led to a delay in the implementation of the commitments made in that REDIC, but work on solving this problem continues.

IV. Civil Society: Understanding and Exercising Political Rights

- Base groups: Three NGOs in the Departments of La Paz, Potosi, Cochabamba and Chuquisaca were contracted during this period to teach rural and urban in base groups their civil rights, the obligation that representatives have to receive their demands, and the mechanisms now provided by the

Congress to exercise these rights, e.g. Public Hearings, Brigade Meetings, EDCs and REDICs. The training will culminate in the organization and participation by these groups in one of these relational mechanisms.

- Publications: Besides the three documents mentioned above (Guide on Drafting Agenda Minima Regional, Regulations for Brigade and Committee Public Hearings), also published by SUNY/PARC with official approval of the Congress to help citizens exercise their rights were:
 - i. Congressional Directory for the New Congress, 2002-2007
 - ii. Triptich on Citizen Rights and the mechanisms for citizen-congressional relations.

V. Assistance to Women Legislators:

- Documentary: SUNY funded the production of a 25 minute video concerning the history and accomplishments of the women's movement in Bolivia which was presented at an international conference sponsored by the League of Women Voters in Florida.
- International Conference held in La Paz with the participation of 2 women California State Legislators, Martha Escutia and Gloria Romero, on measures to increase the effectiveness of women Legislators.
- A national panel discussion with the participation of gender oriented NGOs on the creation of alliances between civil society gender groups and women legislators.
- Creation of a support group of activist legislators within UMPABOL.
- International contacts to seek support for the creation of an EMILY's LIST in Bolivia.
- Two workshops on following up the Gender Oriented Legislative Agenda developed by UMPABOL

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