
Front Lines



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ■ MARCH 1994

HOPE

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in Bolivia



MARCH 1994

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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USAID Hot Shots

Who said it wouldn't be fun?



Doug Stephan (left), program host on the Independent Broadcasters Network and Public Affairs Specialist Mike Marlow (right) share a laugh with interviewees, Chief of Staff Dick McCall and Administrator Brian Atwood, during a radio interview broadcast nationally on 176 stations.



Photo Credits: Cover, Graeme Bridges and pages 2 and 3 (top); Clyde Mc Nair, inside cover and pages 4 (top) and 5; Jay Byrne page 3 (bottom); Jaycee Pribulsky, pages 4 (bottom) and 7; Lynn Patterson/Pro Mujer, page 8; Paul Armstrong, page 11.

Cover Photo: USAID's Shelter and Urban Development support program helps fund Housing for People and Empowerment (HOPE), an ANC-affiliated non-governmental organization that supports the grassroots community development of housing and infrastructure in South Africa. See story on page 2.



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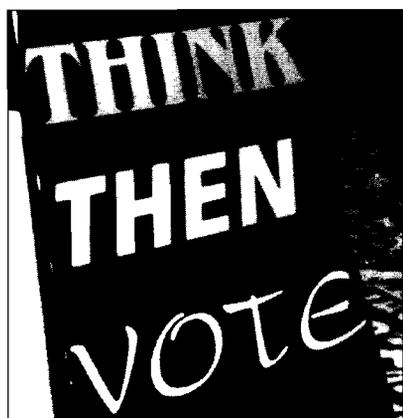
Front Lines

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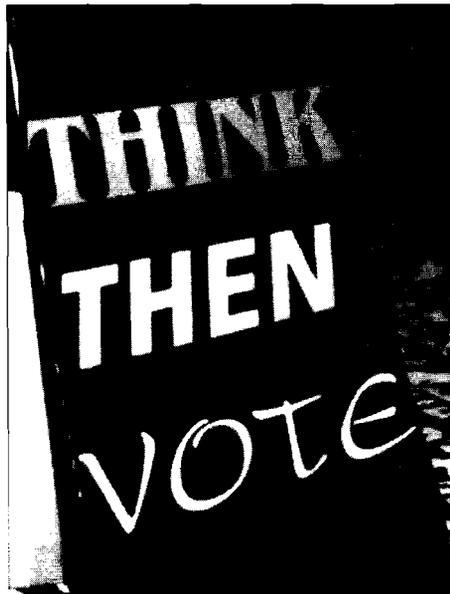
Atwood Answers

- 13** April 1994
USAID calendar

The dawning of democracy

Atwood leads delegation to southern Africa

Administrator Brian Atwood traveled to southern Africa in late January and early February for a 12-day mission to emphasize the Clinton administration's commitment to strengthen-



"Think Then Vote" is a slogan for the South African elections.

ing democratic institutions and supporting free elections in the region.

Assistant Administrator for Africa John Hicks, General Counsel Wandra Mitchell, Southern Africa Director Keith Brown, Special Assistant to the Administrator Jennifer Windsor and Chief of Press Relations Jay Byrne accompanied Atwood.

The administrator visited Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa, where he met with African National Congress (ANC)

President Nelson Mandela to discuss the preparations for South Africa's April 26-28 elections.

At the meeting with Mandela and ANC Party Chairman Thabo Mbeki, Atwood announced an additional \$10 million of U.S. support for the electoral process, in response to Mandela's request to President Clinton last December. These funds will be used for voter education and to assist with the establishment of the Independent Electoral Commission, which is responsible for managing the electoral process in South Africa.

Mandela said he appreciated the U.S. support and added that the campaign is creating tremendous enthusiasm, with thousands of people attending town meetings. The real challenge will be to translate this enthusiasm to voter turnout on election day, he said.

In Mozambique, Atwood urged Prime Minister Mario Machungo and other high-level government officials to accelerate the demobilization process and conform to a timetable that will permit elections in October, as currently scheduled. The administrator also met with National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) Secretary General Vicente Ululu, who said that RENAMO is fully committed to the peace process and will adhere to the letter and spirit of the peace accords.

The delegation's visit to Botswana coincided with a summit meeting in Gaborone hosted by Botswana President Quett K. Masire and included Mandela, South Africa President F.W. De Klerk and President Robert G. Mugabe from Zimbabwe. The leaders discussed regional actions to resolve the military crisis that recently erupted in Lesotho. Atwood congratulated Masire for bringing the group together to work out the regional dispute and complimented Masire and the people of Botswana for maintaining an open and participatory democratic state.

In Botswana, Atwood addressed the Southern Africa Development Community



Atwood and the USAID delegation to southern Africa visit a classroom at Finetown/Wheeler's Farm, a black informal settlement community in South Africa.

(SADC). He told the gathering of more than 300 delegates from 30 countries in the region, "We are nearing a monumental and pivotal event in history, the parliamentary elections in South Africa . . . This event will entail far more than campaigns and ballots. It will be an opportunity for the peoples of South Africa, but also the peoples of southern Africa."

At the SADC meeting, Atwood reiterated the United States' commitment to assisting the people of southern Africa as they work toward peace and stability. He noted that the SADC itself "is a demonstration of the potential for cooperation" in the region.

The administrator emphasized U.S. support of regional cooperation and announced a U.S. government special initiative for southern Africa to develop new programs and strategies to broaden and strengthen economic cooperation and promote sustainable growth in the region. "The guiding principle of this initiative will be maximum African involvement in planning, designing and implementing development programs," Atwood stressed.

Atwood outlined six initial objectives of

the U.S. initiative for southern Africa:

- Support the development of the indigenous private sector;
- Promote a more open environment for trade and investment;
- Encourage a more rational and efficient

use of regional infrastructure;

- Expand regional collaboration in human resource development;
- Strengthen democratic processes; and,
- Support a regional conference, to be held after the elections in South Africa.

The proposed regional conference will build upon the Development Assistance Committee meeting held in Namibia, to broaden the discussions of key problems that limit regional economic growth. This conference would engage public sector officials, donors, non-governmental organizations, business leaders and foreign investors, Atwood predicted.

"The imminent emergence of a free and democratic South Africa will only strengthen the prospects for overall growth and development in the region . . . the time has come for the region to benefit from the transformation. It is an era of a new southern Africa," Atwood said. ■



The delegation visited an elephant management program in Botswana that receives support from USAID/Botswana. Young elephants are later transferred to public game parks.



Spriggs to head Namibia office

Edward Spriggs was sworn in as USAID representative to Namibia on Dec. 16, 1993.

Spriggs, a career senior Foreign Service officer with 20 years of experience in international law and development, directs an \$11.3 million economic assistance program for Namibia that covers basic education, adult literacy and training, democracy and governance, and natural resources management.

The goal of USAID's program in Namibia is to

promote the economic and social empowerment of disadvantaged Namibians through access to relevant education and training.

Located in southern Africa,

Namibia gained its independence from South Africa in 1990 and is one of Africa's most successful multiparty democracies.

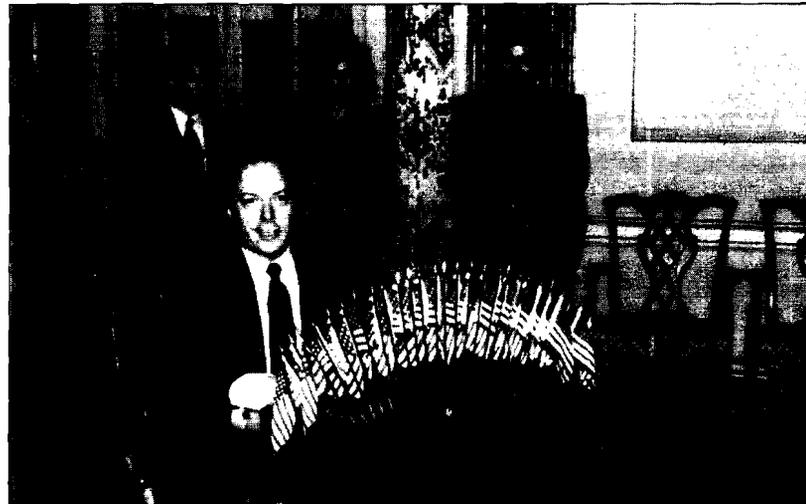
Spriggs joined USAID in 1979 after

several years in a private international law practice. From 1979 to 1982 he served in

Kenya as the regional legal adviser for East Africa. In 1982 he left the legal arena to become director of USAID's East Africa Affairs Office in Washington. He later served as USAID deputy assistant general counsel in Washington and as the agency's regional legal adviser for southern Africa in Swaziland, where he helped establish the U.S. human rights and legal assistance programs in South Africa.

Spriggs received a bachelor's degree in economics in 1970 from the University of California and a J.D. degree from New York University's School of Law in 1975.

Spriggs and his wife, Pearl, have three children. ■



Byrne sworn in to direct Management

Larry Byrne was sworn in as USAID's assistant administrator for management in a ceremony at the State Department on Nov. 22, 1993. At the ceremony in the Ben Franklin Room, Byrne is with his family, (from left) son Jason, daughter Alexis and wife Leslie, who is a first-term U.S. representative from Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

Before joining USAID, Byrne was national practice director in Washington for the Hay Group Inc., a worldwide consulting firm. In the 1980s, Byrne served as director of personnel evaluation for the U.S. Department of Energy and deputy director of the President's Task Force on Management Reform in the Office of Management and Budget. He also has served with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Byrne has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Utah.



Jessalyn Pendarvis opens the 1994 African-American History Month Commemorative Program.

Program highlights African-American History Month

On Feb. 3, in honor of African-American History Month, USAID, the Department of State and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) co-sponsored a commemorative program featuring Dr. Benjamin Payton, president of Tuskegee University. The University Concert Choir, which earlier sang at the National Prayer Breakfast attended by President Clinton, thrilled the audience at the State Department with a spirited performance

before returning to Alabama.

This year's program focused on the empowerment of African-American organizations, present and future, and the central role that Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) play in this process.

Jessalyn Pendarvis, director of USAID's Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, opened the event by emphasizing that USAID, the Department of State and ACDA need to continue their commitment to the HBCUs to "reach pools of largely untapped talent.

"These institutions educate tomorrow's leaders to make a world of difference," she said. ■

Van Dusen honored

Ann Van Dusen, acting assistant administrator for the Bureau for Global Programs, was honored by the Senior Executives Association Professional Development League at its ninth annual Executive Excellence Awards breakfast held on Jan. 25 at the National Press Club in Washington. She is only the second USAID employee to receive the award.

Van Dusen was one of four recipients of the Executive Achievement Award, which recognizes career executives "who, through their outstanding leadership, have accomplished a special achievement which has significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of a federal program." The awards ceremony recognized seven Senior Executive Service

members out of 8,000 nationwide.

Van Dusen was honored for her leadership as director of the Office of Health, especially for its child survival work. She headed a \$1.5 billion health program to reduce high infant and child mortality rates in the developing world.

Van Dusen established a management information system that, for the first time, determined the global efficiency of health programs designed to save children's lives. The monitoring system she established assesses the impact of the programs.



Marylouise Uhlig (left), board of directors chair of the Senior Executives Association, and Joseph Califano Jr., honorary chair of the awards selection committee and former U.S. secretary of Health, Education and Welfare from 1977 to 1979, present Ann Van Dusen with the Executive Achievement Award.

Infant mortality rates now have decreased in virtually all USAID-assisted countries, translating into hundreds of thousands of lives saved.

Among the finalists in the competition was Terrance Brown, director for policy and program coordination. ■

Humanitarian



Assistance

Continuing crisis in Sudan

For over a decade, Sudan, the former "breadbasket of Africa," has suffered from drought, famine and civil warfare. On Feb. 4, the Sudanese government threatened basic humanitarian principles with air attacks on the civilian populations in eastern and western Equatoria, a region in southern Sudan.

Dick McCall, USAID chief of staff, characterized the February air attacks as "unconscionable assaults." He said the attacks "demonstrate a total disregard for the lives of innocent people residing in these areas and undermine ongoing humanitarian relief efforts."

At an earlier press briefing in Washington, Douglas Stafford, USAID assistant administrator for the Bureau for Humanitarian Response, warned that new fighting in southern parts of the country, along with a severe drought, may cause the worst famine in Sudan since 1988 when 250,000 people died.

Stafford said that the lack of cooperation from the Sudanese government combined with an unreliable transportation system—there are only 25 miles of good roads in southern Sudan—continues to threaten the ongoing relief effort.

Approximately 2.5 million people are considered to be vulnerable to the food crisis. The crisis also has the potential to force about 200,000 Sudanese to become refugees in the neighboring countries of Uganda, Kenya, Zaire and Ethiopia.

The United States, through USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID's Office of Food for Peace, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State Department's Bureau of

Refugee Programs, provided \$100 million in relief assistance to Sudan last year and nearly \$60 million so far this year.

The United Nations, in coordination with non-governmental organizations within and outside the framework of Operation Lifeline Sudan, continues to deliver emergency assistance by airlifts, airdrops, barges, trains and truck convoys. Operation Lifeline Sudan was designed in 1989 to coordinate international humanitarian relief to Sudan.

Fighting between the government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) began in 1983 when the southern-based rebels called for more influence in the government and protested the government's efforts to spread Islam throughout the Christian and animist south. In 1991 the SPLA split, causing increased fighting between the SPLA factions and against the government. ■

—By Jaycee Pribulsky

Learn what the pros know about disaster

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) responds to an average of 65 disasters each year and fields at least 10 assessment missions to various disaster sites, from the recent earthquake in Sumatra to the tragic conditions in Bosnia.

Last year, OFDA developed an initial disaster assessment training course for USAID personnel likely to go out on disaster assessment teams. In the past, OFDA staff or other USAID personnel have learned the intricacies of conducting assessments through on-the-job training. In other circumstances, OFDA has relied on consultants, non-governmental organizations or the United Nations to perform disaster assessments.

"Now for the first time, OFDA has begun conducting training workshops on how to do a disaster assessment so that we can enhance the professionalism and precision of our response and work better with assessment teams from other donor organizations," OFDA Director Nan Borton said.

Thirty-six people attended the second OFDA-sponsored course last October at the Shrine Mont Conference Center in Orkney Springs, Va. Participants were from OFDA, USAID's Office of Food for Peace and the New Independent States Task Force, the State Department's Bureau of Refugee Programs and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, participants were invited from the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) in Brussels, the U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs and two U.S. private voluntary agencies, World Relief and World Vision.

The training course was an opportunity for new OFDA and other USAID personnel to learn what to look for when conducting a disaster assessment, how to analyze the collected data and how to prepare recommendations for a U.S. government response.

During the six-day course, participants learned the warning signs of acute malnutrition and various infectious diseases,

what the standard daily food ration is, and what factors to take into account when addressing the water and sanitation needs of a disaster-affected population.

Experts from the Centers for Disease Control and the Federal Communications Commission were among the many speakers.

OFDA plans to continue conducting such courses for new staff and invited participants. One of the participants, Francois Beullens from ECHO, thanked OFDA for inviting outsiders and said, "It demonstrates how much the European Community has to learn from the United States about responding to disasters."

If you are interested in attending a future OFDA initial disaster assessment course, please contact Liz Lukasavich at (202) 647-7435. The next course is scheduled for June 1994. ■

—By Dennis King

Population



& Health

Reducing "Hidden Hunger"

USAID/Manila and the Office of Nutrition in the Global Bureau are working with the government of the Philippines to actively promote the government's national plan to eliminate the "hidden hunger" of vitamin A, iron and iodine deficiencies.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos declared, "We believe that spending for our people's health and nutritional well-being is an investment which will bring us closer to the road of economic recovery."

The Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition has as one of its goals reducing micronutrient deficiencies—or "hidden hunger." Last summer, a national advocacy meeting was held to combat micronutrient malnutrition at which Ramos and the Philippines secretaries of health and agriculture met with key national personnel in the health field to advocate a more aggressive strategy. A national Micronutrient Day was held on Oct. 19, 1993, and iodine and vitamin A capsules were distributed throughout the Philippines.

A recently formed "national micronutrient action team" in the Philippines actively solicits involvement

Population challenge needs to be met with more than services

The rate of population growth is expected to continue unabated, with world population doubling over the next century to reach 10 billion by the year 2100, John Bongaarts, director of the Research Division of the Population Council, said at a recent Secretary's Open Forum in Washington.

Tim Wirth, counselor of the Department of State, opened the discussion by stressing the Clinton administration's commitment to facing the global challenge of population stabilization. Judith Bruce, senior associate at the Population Council, said that there are a number of challenges with very specific solutions.

One of the best-known solutions to the challenge of eliminating unwanted pregnancies is to expand the coverage and quality of family planning services. Encourag-

ing cooperation between partners is also important. "Though the risks of childbearing cannot be shared, contraception can. Men can be drawn in through media messages," Bruce said.

Services alone are not enough, Bruce emphasized. Increasing girls' school attainment, enhancing women's livelihoods, improving child health and strengthening

women's rights in marriage are vitally important factors in a woman's decision to bear children. "In the poorest 28 countries, only 30 percent of eligible girls are in school," Bruce said. "As education levels increase, the desire for more children decreases," she added. ■

—By Victoria Jaffe



Counselor Tim Wirth (left), John Bongaarts and Judith Bruce of the Population Council, lead a panel discussion about stabilizing population growth.

from local, national and international private voluntary organizations, research institutions and the private sector, particularly the food industry, to overcome these micronutrient deficiencies.

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports, with assistance from the Nutrition Center of the Philippines, has developed teaching manuals and other materials that

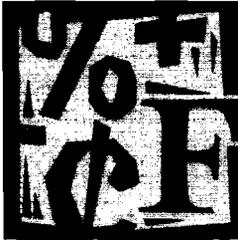
incorporate nutrition and micronutrients into the school curriculum.

The government also is working with USAID, UNICEF and the private sector to launch salt-fortification operations. The government's dialogue with the Flour Millers Association and salt producers is leading to expanded food fortification.

Plans are under way to tap into the OMNI (Opportunities

for Micronutrient Interventions) project for additional support. USAID's Office of Nutrition has also sponsored a three-month training course operated by the Program Against Micronutrient Malnutrition. ■

—By Lynnda Kiess, Johns Hopkins Health and Child Survival Fellow, Office of Nutrition



Banking on a better life in Bolivia

Saturday morning dawns in El Alto, a sprawling outgrowth of La Paz that has become Bolivia's third largest city. The median strip of Avenida 16 de Julio is overflowing with people buying and selling all manner of goods. A man threads his way through the crowd hawking Bibles written in Aymara, the language spoken by 25 percent of Bolivia's population. Women in traditional skirts and bowler hats sit on piles of worn blankets urging passersby to try their fruits, vegetables, knit goods or household wares. Others offer dried coca leaves, coffee bean shells used to make a cheap but potent brew, and some of the region's 132 potato varieties.

The scene is repeated on other days in other sites. This is the typical market or "feria" serving small-scale producers, consumers and vendors in Bolivia's informal sector. Each activity is so small and the competition so great, that it seems miraculous that anyone can make a profit, much less a living.

A communal (village) banking program run by Pro Mujer, a U.S.-Bolivian non-governmental organization is enabling many women sellers in the market to succeed even under these difficult circumstances.

Communal

banks are now a common feature of poverty-oriented development strategies in many countries. The banks typically receive their initial capital in grants from outside donors and offer small loans to borrowers who wouldn't qualify for commercial loans. These solidarity groups of borrowers guarantee one another's loans in return for a waiver of collateral and other requirements.

In 1992, Pro Mujer established its first communal banks. The banking program was initiated as a sequel to ongoing training programs in empowerment for Bolivia's most disadvantaged women. The empowerment training laid the groundwork by increasing the confidence of women in their own abilities—both in the marketplace and at home.

One year later, in March

1993, about 1,600 women in El Alto and five nearby rural communities had completed Pro Mujer's original 22 sessions in empowerment and more than 800 women enrolled in the 18-session course in basic business skills and communal banking.

The business course, funded by a \$213,000 grant from USAID, culminates with the establishment of communal banks for the graduates. Each bank has 14 to 43 members organized into solidarity groups of four to eight women. Loans begin at \$50, may rise to \$311 in three years and are repaid at an interest rate of 2.5 percent per month, slightly higher than the commercial interest rates. Repayments have been close to 100 percent.

The program's early success may be attributed in large measure to the training in



Microentrepreneurs in Bolivia, who honed their skills with help from Pro Mujer, display blankets for sale.

business skills and empowerment. Many women, after their business skills training, reported that they had learned for the first time how to calculate net earnings, to differentiate earnings from capital and expenses and how to estimate costs. Many acknowledged that they had not known before whether they were actually earning anything and, if so, how much.

A number of women, after discovering that they were, in fact, losing money or making very little, changed their businesses. Tomasa Tronco, for example, used to make jackets

but came to recognize that she had too much competition and was making too little profit. She and her husband then began to manufacture shoes instead, thereby doubling their earnings. With this increased income, she said now they "hardly feel the payments" on their loan.

Circumstances are less auspicious for Natalia Camacho, with a housebound husband and a 10th child on the way. But the program improved even her prospects. She had been scraping by, sometimes even losing money, as a food vendor and was hard pressed to repay her first loan. With her

second loan, she decided to switch to selling used auto-parts, a business familiar to her because it had been her mother's work. Working two days per week, she now makes a profit each month.

The women also enthusiastically explained how they had learned to become more competitive, especially by cultivating good relationships with customers. They also said that by using capital to buy larger quantities of stock at lower unit costs, they can pass some of the savings along to customers and gain a competitive edge.

Pro Mujer's banking

activities are making a major contribution to improving women's living standards. The Pro Mujer trainers emphasize not only the need to reinvest business proceeds (as do other communal bank programs throughout the world), but also urge borrowers to invest in education and health for themselves and their children. Pro Mujer loans increase the likelihood that borrowers will benefit both economically and socially. ■

—By Janet Lowenthal, international consultant and former member of the Pro Mujer Board

One company's privatization leads to broad reforms

As a result of USAID's work on the privatization of ONAPHA, Burundi's state-owned pharmaceutical industry, individuals, hospitals and clinics have readier access to basic medications and intravenous fluids at more affordable prices.

This privatization enables Burundi's treasury to hold onto more hard currency, since it will no longer be necessary to import intravenous fluids. Local investors already have bought several thousand shares of the company. A search continues for a foreign technical partner to pick up 25 percent of the equity, streamline the operations and complete the fluids production project.

USAID officially launched the Burundi Private Enterprise Program in 1990 as a four-year effort focusing on policy reform to encourage the growth of free markets and private enterprise. The mission's approach to private sector development involves dialogue with the

government of Burundi, as well as with the business community. The program centers on good governance as the major incentive to increase private investment.

To assist the Burundi government in the divestiture of state-owned firms, the question became, How could USAID be most effective with modest resources and short-term technical assistance?

The answer demanded patience, strategy and collaboration. After research and analysis, the mission discovered that what was missing were results. USAID then suggested that a team of government officials, businessmen, accountants and bankers select a firm, perform the requisite analyses and carry the transaction through to sale.

USAID's private sector strategy seeks to form businesses at all levels, to relieve the government of excessive

responsibilities for surveillance and control and to create a legal and regulatory environment conducive to modern business operations. This strategy won wide attention when the mission's private enterprise officer was invited to present a

The program centers on good governance as the major incentive to increase private investment.

paper last year at the Adam Smith Institute's Seventh Annual Privatization Conference in London, an event attended by donors, accounting and investment firms and senior civil servants from economic and planning ministries from around the world.

"Burundi provides an unusually instructive case,

where one company's privatization is helping to leverage much broader reforms," said Penny Farley of USAID's Global Programs Bureau.

To date, the Burundi government has liquidated 10 firms and sold nearly as many. In addition, Burundi has succeeded in conducting democratic elections and in effecting a peaceful transfer of political power to the opposition party.

USAID project officer Rich Newberg reaffirmed that now "economic progress must bolster Burundi's political achievements. USAID will be there to help." ■

—By Donald Hart, private enterprise officer, USAID/Burundi

WHERE



Moved On

Arnstein, Edward Robert, TDA/P
Bowling, Gregory, COMP/YOC/
COOP
Truss, Jacqueline, R&D/OIT/PP

Promoted

Haman, Chiemi Lynn, IG, paralegal
specialist
Miles, Sandrica, IG/RM/GS, office/
automation assistant
Nelson, Ryan Theodore, COMP/
YOC/COOP, student trainee
accounting
Smallwood, Bradford, IG/I&S/IPS,
investigator

Reassigned

Almaguer, Frank, EUR/RME/D,
mission director, to foreign affairs
officer, M/HR/OD
Barberi, Kenneth, El Salvador, IDI
(administration), to COMP/FS/
REASSGN
Brady, Donald, COMP/NE/OJT,
IDI (administration), to Russia
Crawford, Paul, REDSO/WCA,
supervisory agricultural develop-
ment officer, to supervisory
program officer
Dailey, Thomas, Jordan, supervisory
program officer, to COMP/FSLT
Dichter-Forbes, Phyllis, ASIA/DR,
supervisory general development
officer, to foreign affairs officer,
AA/M
Elser, Eleanore, Republic of South
Africa, executive assistant, to
COMP/FS/REASSGN
Fikes, Elise, NIS/TF/DIHR,
administrative operations assistant
typist, to POL/PAR
Franckiewicz, James, Egypt,
engineering officer, to supervisory
engineering officer
Pangle, Mable, RIG/A/Cairo,
auditor, to IG/A/FA
Reese, B. Donald, Jordan, supervi-
sory private enterprise officer, to

supervisory program officer
Sherwin, Michael, A/AID, senior
adviser, to deputy assistant
administrator, AA/M
Stader, Robert, Panama, commod-
ity management officer, to
supervisory executive officer
Wingert, Stephen, Costa Rica,
deputy mission director, to mission
director
Wooten, John, Senegal, supervisory
project development officer, to
program officer, Republic of South
Africa

enterprise officer, 10 years
Nelson, Yvonne, M/HR/POD/CD,
administrative operations assistant,
20 years
Owens, John, AA/M, deputy
associate administrator, 32 years
Perry, Frederick, COMP/FS/
REASSGN, development
coordination officer, 14 years
Rollis, R.T. Jr., COMP/DETAIL
SUP, director, 13 years

Years of service are USAID only.

Retired

Cobb, Richard, AA/AFR, foreign
affairs officer, 25 years
Curtis, Michael, COMP/FS/
REASSGN, supervisory executive
officer, 33 years
Ireland, Michael, Senegal,
supervisory executive officer, 27
years
Kamens, Gerald Lee, AA/M,
special assistant, 29 years
Koehring, John, FA/MC, foreign
affairs officer, 33 years
McLaughlin, Ulysses, FA/FM/A/
OE, budget assistant, 30 years
Moyers, Loubert Reese, COMP/
DETAIL SUP, supervisory private

IG Hotline

Use the USAID Inspector
General Hotline to report
fraud, theft or misuse of
agency resources:
(703) 875-4999

Obituaries

Colleen Belle Green died
Nov. 18, 1993, at George
Washington University Hospital
in Washington at age 67. After
serving with USAID for 32
years, she retired in August 1990.

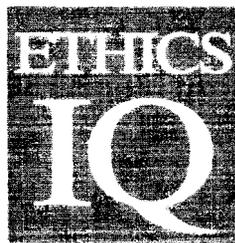
Roger Grenier died in late
December 1993 in Punta Gorda,
Fla. He served as a malaria
specialist with USAID in Iran,
Nepal, Ethiopia and Haiti. He
was awarded the agency's
Meritorious Honor Award
during his Nepal assignment.

Eugene William Moore
died on Dec. 20, 1993, at his
home in McLean, Va., at age
65. Moore joined USAID in
1961. He worked in the Food
for Peace Office in Washington

and served as an interna-
tional development
specialist in Zaire,
Rwanda, Korea, Cote
d'Ivoire and Italy until he
retired in 1985.

Thomas O'Connor
died on Feb. 13, 1994, at
age 63 in Pattaya City,
Thailand. He joined the
agency in 1959 and
served in Washington,
Greece, Turkey, Cyprus,
India, Vietnam and
Thailand, where he retired
in 1986. O'Connor was a
graduate of the National
War College and a former
USAID vice president of
the American Foreign
Service Association.

Test Your



*Robin Byrd, USAID attorney and
amateur ornithologist, has been
asked by a popular bird-watcher's
magazine to write an article on
various species of birds he has
spotted overseas. The magazine
offered Robin a \$350 honorarium
plus expenses for the article. Can
Robin write the article and accept
the payment?*

Answer:

Yes. The article doesn't relate to Robin's official duties, and the Department of Justice will not seek enforcement of the statute banning honoraria pending a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on the statute's constitutionality. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether to grant the government's petition to hear the case this spring. Please review USAID's general notice dated Feb. 18, which details the rules on receipt of honoraria. ■

By Paul Armstrong

The next stop is Vietnam

A new era in U.S.-Vietnam relations began Feb. 3 when President Clinton lifted the 19-year trade embargo against Vietnam, ushering in a return of U.S. businesses to that country.

Last year former USAID/Vietnam friends decided it was time that they, too, return. So it was that two USAID employees, REDSO/WCA Executive Officer Steve Wallace and USAID/Manila Executive Officer Bill Wanamaker, accompanied by Denver resident Dick Arndt, and I met in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, in October 1993. For Steve and Bill, this was a nostalgic trip into the past. They had served in Vietnam until shortly before Saigon fell in April 1975.

The easy entry into the country, with very few airport formalities, surprised us. Signs along the airport road still read "Saigon," a name also found on the \$1.50 T-shirts for sale throughout the city—even those with Ho Chi Minh's picture. While all official maps carry the words Ho Chi Minh City in English and Vietnamese, the reference to Saigon continues in popular usage.

We first visited the city square, next to the Rex Hotel. The Hotel de Ville, an impressive building of French colonial architecture, faces the square. Nothing had changed except for a benign statue of Bac Ho (Uncle Ho) seated like a Western Santa Claus with a young child in his lap. We adjourned for drinks at the picturesque roof garden of the Rex, where stuffed tigers and live birds enhanced the atmosphere once dominated by Western news correspondents.

We walked past the old USAID complex, now a residential compound, decorated with laundry streaming out of windows. Most notable was the absence of the high walls, which allowed a view of the entire building.

I found it hard to believe there was an economic embargo at the time of our visit. The familiar red and green displays of

Coke and 7-Up were everywhere, along with ample supplies of Wilson sporting goods, Snickers bars, Hertz and Avis signs. However, if you looked closely at the soft drink cans, you saw that all American-brand soft drinks were distributed by Singaporean exporters.

American music and videos are popular along with two favorite night spots, Apocalypse Now and the Hard Rock Cafe. The almost total absence of animosity and the good humor of the Vietnamese people surprised us.

Even at the War Crimes Exhibition (a name change from the former Museum of American War Crimes), friendly guides answered questions in front of some relatively grisly photographs.

We found our visit to the former U.S. Embassy building, now partially used by the state-owned Oil Exploration Corporation, both memorable and unexpectedly exciting. Steve and Bill were struck by the size of the trees, which were kept trimmed at the time of the Tet offensive and after. They now towered almost to the tops of the seven-story building.

Access to the grounds was clearly limited, but, typical of a resourceful former GSO [General Services Officer], Bill remembered a back entrance. We soon

marched cheerfully past sleeping or indifferent guards, on a successful incursion as far as the former embassy swimming pool. There a young man, charging 100 dong admission, stopped us. Loudspeakers blared out U.S. and local rock tunes. The large stone seats bordering the pool were clearly marked "U.S. Embassy" even after 18 years—a tribute to some efficient, but long-forgotten stencil artist.

One final reminder of the former USAID presence in the country came upon us by accident. While on a tour of the former Presidential Palace, which featured an evacuation helicopter still waiting on the roof and two large circles denoting where two bombs had been dropped on the palace in 1975, we toured the basement, where former President Thieu and his advisers had a command post from which they coordinated the ARVN contribution to the Allied military campaign. Amid wall maps and communications equipment, we found several familiar USAID "handclasp" emblems. ■

Armstrong is a supervisory auditor with USAID's Office of the Regional Inspector General for Audit in Singapore.



The former USAID compound in Ho Chi Minh City.

Communications@Internet@USAID.Gov

Information and communication technology is an integral part of USAID's ongoing reinvention exercise under Administrator Brian Atwood's leadership. Computer technological advances contribute to the agency's ability to function effectively and maintain its leadership in international development.

To meet its technical needs with limited financial resources, the agency is:

- placing computers at virtually every work station;
- linking these computers through the USAID E-mail network;
- establishing full external "connectivity" via the Internet;
- cleaning up and organizing electronic filing systems through the A.I.D. File Access System (AFAS);
- initiating a comprehensive Information System Plan (ISP);
- creating an electronic catalog of technical assistance and services accessible to the USAID field missions; and,
- developing data and information bases accessible to the general public via the Internet.

These activities, while contributing to a more effective use of resources, also reflect national efforts such as Vice President Gore's National Performance Review (NPR recommends a government-wide electronic bulletin board system) and the National Information Infrastructure (NII is a seamless web of communication networks, computers, databases and consumer electronics).

USAID has entered the information age, the age of global competition, the age of electronic connectivity. However, it is also an age of reorganization and reinvention and an age of reduced budgets. An agency with a mandate to work cooperatively with other nations is rethinking its mechanisms for assistance delivery.

USAID "connects" with private voluntary organizations (PVOs), host

country colleagues and university researchers via an electronic highway. Alan Kreger and Kathy Rose from the Office of International Training use the Internet to help gather reporting information on 12,000 participant trainees throughout the United States. Rose's office automatically downloads 40 percent of its data directly from the Internet into a central database where it is used for analysis and reporting. She said this has saved the office from hiring two additional data entry people each year.

James Beebe, chief of the Policy and Planning Division in the Global Bureau's Agriculture Office used a combination of USAID's E-mail and the Internet E-mail to contact colleagues and transfer documents in preparation for his recent trip to southern Africa.

The Center for Trade and Investment Services uses the Internet to communicate

with people in the U.S. private sector about investment opportunities in host countries.

Dennis McCarthy, deputy chief for agriculture in USAID/Kenya is enthusiastic about being able to communicate with one of his major contractors, the University of Missouri, over the Internet, allowing him to cross time zones and overcome poor telephone lines.

Glenn Rogers, USAID regional program economist in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, has used his CompuServe account to coordinate technical meetings with universities and organizations in Europe. Rogers said their E-mail network of U.S. universities, U.S. non-governmental organizations and the Club du Sahel could result in savings of \$5 million to \$10 million per year in Africa alone.

(continued on page 13)

Atwood Answers



Question:

What will be the future of the International Development Intern (IDI) program in light of USAID's rightsizing and reinvention of the agency? What plans are being made to find viable overseas assignments for IDIs and other non-tenured Foreign Service employees for the short term?

Answer:

USAID must constantly be in the business of renewing itself. The IDI program has from its inception served as the principal vehicle for recruitment of future Foreign Service leaders. Almost half of this year's Senior Management Group started their USAID careers as IDIs. This program is central to the rejuvenation of the USAID work force, and we are committed to its future. In January, I approved the hiring of 25 IDIs in FY 1994. The agency should have its first FY 1994 class in June. The number of IDIs to be hired in any particular backstop will not be determined until the Office of Human Resources has had an opportunity to analyze the rightsizing reports and can identify the agency's most critical shortages within the various personnel backstops. ■

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3  Easter	4	5	6 Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad*	7 U.N. World Health Day	8	9
10 Pan American Week begins	11 Security Overseas Seminar (703) 302-7269 ----->	12	13 Teaching English* ----->	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23
24 National Science and Technology Week begins	25 Security Overseas Seminar (703) 302-7269 ----->	26	27 Encouraging Resiliency in Foreign Service Children*	28	29 National Arbor Day	30

*Classes held at Overseas Briefing Center, Arlington, Va. Call (703) 302-7268 to enroll.

Internet

(from page 12)

The Southern Africa Food Information and Resource Exchange (SAFIRE), jointly conceived by USAID and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), links 25 sites in six African countries with the United States, Italy and Switzerland. SAFIRE's primary objective is to assist the drought-stricken countries of southern Africa through coordination of donor and host country humanitarian assistance efforts.

USAID has been a leader in electronic

connectivity. In January 1990, the Office of Information Resources Management (IRM) established the Local Area Network (LAN) system, and today staff in the Washington area as well as most of the field missions are connected by E-mail. In October 1993, USAID expanded its E-mail capacity on the Internet to access PVOs, NGOs, universities, collaborators, other donors and contractors.

In 1994, Internet services will allow USAID staff access to libraries, documents, and data and information bases worldwide. USAID's information will, in turn, become accessible to the rest of the world through

the Internet.

So, imagine an electronic TDY that doesn't have to bear the cost of round trip airline tickets and per diem. Or a virtual problem-solving project team made up of a local PVO, a U.S. university, USAID/ Washington and field personnel and a host country farmers' organization, all communicating electronically. Or a global electronic conference.

USAID is poised to expand its leadership role in this electronic age. The future is today! For more information, contact Ron Grosz at (703) 875-4632. ■

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