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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY  
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

SEP 14 1983

ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, NEAR EAST

FROM: NE/TECH, Kenneth Sherper *AT*  
NE/ME, Gerald Kamens *GK*

SUBJECT: Cooperative Marine Technology Program for the Middle East, Phase II

Problem: Your signature is required to (1) authorize this project in a life of project amount of \$2,695,000 from ESF regional cooperation funds and (2) approve negotiation of a cooperative agreement with the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC) to carry out project activities for the Cooperative Marine Technology Program for the Middle East, Phase II. Initial funding in FY 1983 would be \$1,000,000.

Background: The Cooperative Marine Technology Program for the Middle East was the first major AID funded regional cooperation project. Initial funding of the \$4,238,000 project began in late FY 1980. The project consisted of seven trilateral research sub-projects in shore processes, biological productivity, lakes management and aquaculture, involving a number of US, Egyptian, and Israeli institutions under the overall management of the NJMSC. A project evaluation conducted at the beginning of 1983 concluded that the project was generally successful in meeting its technical objectives and as successful as could be expected in fostering regional cooperation, given the exogenous political problems with which it had to contend. Some of the sub-activities, however, were much less successful than others in achieving these goals.

The NJMSC submitted a proposal for a follow-on project which would have continued all the sub-projects. The NEAC met on May 29 and decided that additional field input was necessary before a decision could be made. Field views were solicited and the NEAC met on June 30, agreeing to accept a revised proposal based on the three most successful of the sub-projects. The NJMSC submitted a revised proposal on July 20 which was approved by the NEAC on August 25. Funding will be provided in at least three increments over the three year life of project, subject to:

- 1) Availability of funds in accordance with the AID OYB/allotment process.
- 2) Satisfactory technical performance by the NJMSC and its US, Israeli and Egyptian partners.
- 3) Satisfactory progress in meeting the cooperative objectives of the regional program.

Project: The project will directly support U.S. efforts to foster scientific and technical cooperation between Egypt and Israel. It will assist the process of the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel and the development of ties between the two countries as well as conduct scientific research in the marine sciences area which will

be useful to both countries. It is anticipated that the intensity and extent of the cooperation between the Egyptians and Israelis will continue to grow and that the U.S. role will continue to diminish.

The following three sub-projects will be carried out for the three-year period of the project:

1) Coastal Management and Shore Processes in the Southeastern Mediterranean.

Coastal erosion in Egypt and Israel has become a serious problem since the Aswan Dam became operational and trapped silt which would normally add to or stabilize the coastline. The sub-project will continue a study which is 1) identifying and quantifying the driving forces which shape the coastal zone, influencing the erosional/accretional budget of coastal sediment and 2) providing engineers and planners with the best estimates of design conditions and of erosional/accretional trends.

2) Biological Productivity of the Southeastern Mediterranean in the Post Aswan High Dam Period.

The operation of the dam has caused a significant decline in commercial fisheries in the Southeastern Mediterranean. This sub-project will continue efforts to gain a deeper understanding of the physical, chemical, and biological factors which influence the primary productivity of the area. The objective is to have better information on the nearshore and offshore marine ecosystems, and more rational management of fisheries.

3) Monosex Production of Tilapia.

Tilapia is an important food fish which tend to over-populate their ponds, creating undersize fish. This sub-project continues research on the production of all male hybrid tilapia, which will alleviate this problem and produce larger fish.

In addition, phase-out costs not to exceed a one-year period (\$152,000) will be provided for the Israeli and U.S. costs of the "Culture and Nutrition of Commercially Important Fishes" (sufficient funds remain in the Egyptian budget of the first marine technology project to cover the Egyptian costs). This sub-project is a combination of the three other aquaculture projects in the first project.

Implementation: The NJMSC will be the recipient of cooperative agreement funds and will have fiscal and overall management responsibility for the project. The NJMSC will conclude sub-agreements with and provide sub-grants to Texas A & M university, where the chief scientists and technical director is located, the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological

Research Ltd., Alexandria University and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology. Other U.S. institutions involved are Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Auburn University, and Louisiana State University. Pursuant to Handbook 13, CH. 1B 2E, your specific approval is required to accept an unsolicited proposal.

Notification to the Congress: Congress was notified on July 26, 1983 of our intent to obligate funds for this project. The 15 day waiting period expired on August 10, 1983 with no objections expressed.

Evaluation: The NJMSC will be tasked to produce an evaluation plan and a logframe prior to the FY 1984 disbursement. Evaluation will be based on cooperative as well as technical project objectives.

Project Funding: The project will be fully authorized but incrementally funded over the three year life of project. This would permit regional funds to be used for other equally important projects and would provide a way to incorporate the results of project monitoring prior to continuation of the project.

A cooperative agreement will be utilized by AID in undertaking this activity. AID intends to reserve for itself a position of substantial involvement as the activity unfolds in the form of the project monitoring mentioned above to determine progress toward achievement of the project's objectives. Accordingly, pursuant to the policy guidance of AID Handbook 1, Supp. B. Ch. 25 E.3, a cooperative agreement is the appropriate vehicle for the activity. This agreement will be negotiated by SER/CM.

Recommendation: It is recommended that, by signing the attached project authorization, you 1) authorize funding for the proposed project in the amount of \$2.695 million of which up to \$1.0 million will initially be obligated in the cooperative agreement and 2) approve negotiation by AID of a Cooperative Agreement with the NJMSC to carry out the approved activity based upon the NJMSC unsolicited proposal.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

ASSISTANT  
ADMINISTRATOR

PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

Name of Country: Near East  
Regional

Name of Project: Cooperative Marine  
Technology Program  
for the Middle  
East, Phase II

Number of Project: 298-0190

1. Pursuant to Part II, Chapter 4, Section 531 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act") I hereby authorize the Cooperative Marine Technology Project for the Middle East, Phase II (the "Project"), involving planned obligations of not to exceed Two Million Six Hundred Ninety Five Thousand United States Dollars (\$2,695,000) over a three-year period from the date of this authorization, subject to the availability of funds in accordance with the A.I.D. OYB/allotment process to assist in financing the foreign exchange and local currency costs of the Project. The planned life of the Project is three years from the date of the initial obligation.

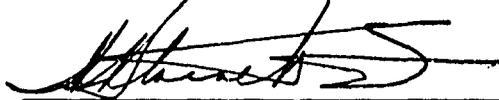
2. The Project consists of three follow-on sub-activities involving cooperative research between Egypt and Israel in: (a) coastal management and shore processes in the southeastern Mediterranean, (b) biological productivity of the southeastern Mediterranean in the post-high dam period, and (c) monosex production of tilapia.

The Project will also finance phase-out costs of the following activities carried out in Phase I: (a) controlled reproduction of commercially important marine fish, (b) intensive fish culture and nutrition; (c) fish nutrition and pond culture.

3. A cooperative agreement with the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC) may be negotiated and executed for this Project by the officer(s) to whom such authority is delegated in accordance with A.I.D. regulations and Delegations of Authority subject to the following essential terms and conditions together with such other terms and conditions as A.I.D. may deem appropriate.

a. Source and Origin of Goods, Nationality of Services

All goods and services financed by A.I.D. under the Project shall have their source and origin in the United States, Egypt or Israel, except as A.I.D. may otherwise agree in writing. Ocean shipping financed by A.I.D. under the Project shall, except as A.I.D. may otherwise agree in writing, be financed only on U.S. flag vessels.



W. Antoinette Ford  
Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Near East

19 SEP 1983

Date