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*Lebon project file*

# Auditor General

## MEMORANDUM REPORT ON EXAMINATION

OF THE  
AID GRANT  
TO THE

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'HOPITAL

ALBERT SCHWEITZER IN LAMBARENE

Audit Report Number 3-625-76-39

Issue Date MAY 20, 1976

Area Auditor General Africa  
Agency for International Development

TO : Mr. John W. Kochring  
Regional Development Officer, Yaounde  
DATE: May 20, 1976

FROM *Rolland J. Deschambault*  
*H. E. Cramel*  
Rolland J. Deschambault, AAG/AFR, Nairobi

SUBJECT : Grant to the Association Internationale De l'Hopital  
Albert Schweitzer in Lambarene (Project No. 625-11-550-809)  
Memorandum Audit Report No. 3-625-76-39

## I. INTRODUCTION

In fiscal year 1974, the U.S. Congress appropriated a total of \$1 million for a grant to assist in the construction of facilities and operating costs of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital (Hospital) in Gabon. The grant was made to the Association Internationale de l'Hopital Albert Schweitzer in Lambarene (AISL), a Swiss organization responsible for the Hospital.

## II. RESULTS OF AUDIT

Although the Grant Agreement was signed in March 1974, no disbursements have been made; and there was nothing in the RDO/Yaounde files to indicate that the funds will soon be used.

The original plans of AISL was to raise \$6 million, of which \$2.5 million was to be used for construction of surgery, recovery ward, polyclinic, maternity and pediatric facilities. The remaining \$3.5 million was to be used for operating the Hospital for approximately 5 years. AISL is having problems raising funds, and has not been able to start construction. In November 1975, newspapers in Gabon and Ghana reported that the Hospital would have to close because of insufficient funds. The Government of Gabon later agreed to provide financial support to the Hospital.

AISL has also had internal problems which might affect its ability to raise funds. A dispute as to the composition of the Board of the newly created Dr. Albert Schweitzer Hospital Foundation, a Gabon registered organization created to operate the Hospital, resulted in the resignation of four members from AISL and the Hospital Commission.

It appears that the appropriation was premature and that AISL is not in a position to use the obligated funds.

### Recommendation No. 1

AFR/SFWA, in consultation with RDO/Yaounde and the American Embassy/Libreville, should advise AISL that unless AID and AISL can reach an agreement on a firm date to use the funds, AID will take the necessary action to deobligate the funds.

### III. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

#### Background

The U.S. Congress appropriated \$1 million in Fiscal Year 1974 to be used to assist the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene, Gabon. The grant was made to the Association Internationale de l'Hopital Albert Schweitzer in Lambarene, a Swiss organization responsible for the Hospital. The Grant Agreement stated that the Albert Schweitzer Hospital needed new surgery, X-ray and laboratory facilities; a new hospital ward; as well as funds for operating costs. The Grant Agreement stipulated that the funds provided by AID could be used for any of these purposes.

#### Scope

We reviewed the project status to determine if there were definite plans to use funds obligated for this project.

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