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AFGHAN LEGAL TRAINING PROGRAM

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THIRD GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS

3p.

REPORT ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD

June 1975 - December 1975

This report covers the introductory intensive English language training program at Georgetown University June to August 1975, the Orientation in the U.S. Legal System at the Georgetown University Law Center in August 1975 and the first semester of study at the George Washington University National Law Center, August 25 to December 3, 1975 as well as the Christmas vacation Seminar for the third group of participants.

There are nine participants in the third group. Two are professors in the Faculty of Islamic Law, one is a professor in the Faculty of Law and Political Science and the rest are judges, prosecutors or administrators in the Ministry of Justice. A list of the participants follows:

- AZIZ, Abdul: Professor, Faculty of Islamic Law, Kabul University
- EMAM, Anisa: Prosecutor, Ministry of Justice, Kabul
- FAZEL, Fazel Rahman: Prosecutor, Ministry of Justice, Kabul
- NURSAI, Dr. Ata Mohammed: Professor, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Kabul University
- RAHMANI, Najibullah: Director, Foreign Relations Department of the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Kabul
- RASHID, Abdul Rasheed: President of Secretariat, Department of the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Kabul
- ROSTAIY, Mohammed Hossein: Public Prosecutor, Parwan Province
- YOUSOFI, Abdul Jalil: Professor, Faculty of Islamic Law, Kabul University
- YOUSOFY, Sayed Karim: Legislative Department, Ministry of Justice, Kabul

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THE GEORGETOWN PROGRAM

The intensive language program at Georgetown University was useful, but most of the members of the group did not seem to have profitted very markedly from the two months of intensive language training and the accompanying training in legal terminology. This seems to have been due not so much to the quality of instruction, which is considered good, but to the class schedules of Georgetown and distance from GWU not allowing time for the participants to establish regular interaction with the program office. As a result, they came to our office relatively rarely and did not have the general guidance that is particularly needed during the early part of their stay here. We were not able to make any regular comparative judgements on their English improvement until the fall semester began. It was apparent then that additional steps had to be taken to strengthen their English and provide closer guidance. Interaction with the GW Law School from the beginning is also highly desirable.

The Georgetown Law Center orientation course was brief and concentrated and, as pointed out in earlier reports, details are hard to grasp for the participants.

For these reasons, we have decided, after discussion within the University and with A.I.D. Washington, to put the Afghan participants of the fourth group into a special intensive English language program at the George Washington University. A program of legal English and of orientation in the American legal system, specially tailored to the needs of the participants, will accompany the language training. George Washington University now has a special department of English for foreign students and the needs of the Afghan participants can therefore be met easily. One of the professors who has worked with the first three groups will handle the legal orientation.

THE PROGRAM OF THE FIRST SEMESTER

As pointed out in previous reports, the fall semester is a period of adjustment on the part of the participants to instruction in English and to the Socratic method. The course load therefore has to be light. The participants took only one regular course, most of them Criminal Law and Procedure, some Torts. The regular courses were accompanied, as in the past, by special seminars. In addition, all participants attended a special seminar on Law Reform in the Middle East given by the Project Coordinator. The special seminar on legal research and writing was started for the third group in the fall semester 1975 and continued during the spring semester 1976, thereby giving the third group early experience with American research methods and tools. Continued special English instruction will be dealt with below.

Because of his interest and experience in public administration, Dr. Nursai asked that a program be arranged for him which stressed that field. Accordingly, Dr. Nursai attended a course and a seminar in the Public Administration Department. The course was a general introductory graduate course, the seminar dealt with the administrative problems of developing countries. Dr. Nursai also participated in the special seminars on legal research and writing and on Law Reform in the Middle East.

THE PROBLEM OF ENGLISH

The third group was somewhat more uneven in the knowledge of English than the second group. It was therefore decided to continue English instruction on a once weekly basis during the fall and spring semesters at least. We were able to obtain the services of a student at the National Law Center who had experience in teaching English to foreigners. She emphasizes legal English and writing skills both of which the participants need. For this English instruction the participants are divided into two groups thus allowing for more individual instruction.

THE PROBLEM OF DEPENDENTS

In contrast to the second group where only one participant had his wife and children join him after his arrival, three of the participants in the third group have their families here in Washington. In two instances, the families arrived with the participants. While the desire of participants to have their wives and children with them is understandable, families do create

problems, particularly if children are brought here. Baby sitters are not always readily obtainable and if the wife works, the participant is often forced to miss classes or seminars because someone has to be home when the children return from school. It is strongly suggested therefore that the participants in the fourth group be discouraged from bringing their families. If wives do plan to come, they should join their husbands later so as to allow for the period of adjustment to our university life to occur without the distraction of househunting and the pressure that accompanies this.

OUT-OF-TOWN SEMINARS DURING CHRISTMAS VACATION

As in prior years, A.I.D./Washington arranged for the participants to attend seminars in various parts of the country. These seminars provide the participants with an opportunity to visit other parts of the country and to come into contact with Americans in different sections of the United States. All participants appreciate these trips and gain a much better perspective of the size and diversity of the United States.

CONCLUSIONS

The training program for the third group has benefitted from the experience gained with the first and second groups. Consequently a number of improvements have been and are being made. During the reporting period these improvements included a seminar in legal research and writing at the beginning of the program and continued instruction in English with emphasis on legal terminology and writing skills. Overall, the same general pattern has been followed in the academic work as was established with the earlier groups since this pattern appears to meet the needs of the participants. Wherever possible the participants take Law Center courses with the same professors as did the other groups. As a result, a small part-time academic staff is being built up (and gradually enlarged where feasible) which is gaining increasing experience in meeting the special needs of the participant

Herbert J. Liebesny

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