

**Memorandum**

Date January 20, 1987

From Maurice Glatzer, Program Analyst, Program Evaluation Branch (PEB), Division of Reproductive Health (DRH), Center for Health Promotion and Education (CHPE)

Subject Foreign Trip Report (AID/RSSA): February 8-13, 1987, Bridgetown, Barbados-- Review Status of Contraceptive Inventory and Prepare CPT'S

To James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director, CDC
Through: Assistant Director for Science, CHPE 

SUMMARY

- I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL
- II. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS
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SUMMARY

At the request of USAID/Bridgetown, I reviewed the status of the contraceptive inventory at International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)/Caribbean Office. In addition, I prepared the 1989 Contraceptive Procurement Tables (CPT's) for submission to AID/Washington, Office of Population. I was pleased to see that a physical inventory had been taken at the end of 1986. This resulted in some rather substantial adjustments in counts.

Although part of the scope of work for this brief consultancy was to discuss the potential for holding a contraceptive logistics workshop in the region, Monica Peters, the IPPF project director, was travelling and not available during my visit. Also, a sudden change in schedule required Neville Selman to be out of town. I did speak with him by telephone. There seems to be no doubt about the need for a workshop, but the exact content is in doubt; i.e., concerning the present reporting system or just a generic logistics program.

Because this project (538-0039) is terminating in December 1988, my recommendation is to hold a generic logistics workshop and have the countries involved place contraceptive logistics management within the scope of the Regional Drug project. As I have indicated in previous trip reports for this project, unless added attention is given to the contraceptive logistics component of this project, visits such as this one are of very limited value.

I. PLACES, DATES, AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL

Bridgetown and Oistins, Barbados, from February 8-13, 1987, to review the status of the contraceptive inventory, prepare 1989 CPT's, and discuss the logistics workshop.

II. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

A. USAID/Bridgetown

1. Neville Selman, Health and Population
2. Gail A. Goodridge, Health and Population

B. IPPF/Caribbean Office

1. Geoffrey Yearwood
2. Jean Scott

III. BACKGROUND

In May 1986, I visited the IPPF/Caribbean Office to review contraceptive inventory and reporting and to prepare CPT's. Issues discussed and recommendations made at that time were reported in my trip report dated August 7, 1986. Because of numerous errors in inventory recordkeeping noted at that time, I strongly recommended an end-of-the-year physical inventory be performed. In fact, a recommendation for an annual inventory had been made during earlier visits beginning in 1982. An end-of-the-year physical count was taken in December 1986.

We also discussed briefly the possibility of holding a contraceptive logistics workshop sometime in 1987. Discussions on the subject during this visit were somewhat limited by the absence of Monica Peters, IPPF project director, although I did discuss the issue briefly with Gail Goodridge at USAID and Geoffrey Yearwood at IPPF.

My discussions with Geoffrey Yearwood and Jean Scott centered around continuing lack of data on which to base estimates for the CPT's and data which is also required to forecast contraceptive requirements on a country-by-country basis in the future.

IV. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

My first activity was to review inventory records of the IPPF/Caribbean Office. There had been a physical inventory taken in December which resulted in substantial adjustments in counts. No explanations for the differences are given. It is my feeling that most differences are due to the fact that this is the first such inventory since 1983.

In a January 12 telephone call to Neville Selman at USAID, I explained that in order to do a proper job on the CPT's, I would need to have available on arrival specific usage information from each country, such as 1986 end-of-the-year inventory at central warehouses and clinics, total distributions from the central level and issues from clinics, etc. Although Mr. Selman apparently passed that request on to the IPPF staff, telephone calls had not been made and no such data was available! Jean Scott did make calls, after I asked that this be done. The calls did generate some of the information required. There is no understanding of the importance of such information on the part the staff of each country's family planning program, and I see no evidence of an "active" stance to get such information by the IPPF office.

I prepared the CPT's with the little information available and was able to determine that: (1) A large quantity of Femenal likely will have to be transshipped or destroyed in another year, and (2) \$50,000 set aside in the grant extension should be used to buy condoms, since the distribution of condoms from the Oistins warehouse doubled in 1986 to about 550,000 pieces. Although distribution was about 50/50 for colored and noncolored condoms, IPPF states that the preference is for noncolored. CPT's are prepared as if AID is to continue providing contraceptives in the region after termination of this project in December 1988. I left the CPT's with USAID for formal submission to the Office of Population. The tables were forwarded in draft form to S&T/POP from CDC on February 26.

I held discussions with Gail Goodridge at USAID about the possibility of holding a contraceptive logistics workshop as had been mentioned in May of last year. There are several directions such a workshop could take, depending on how AID and IPPF intend to handle contraceptives in the region in the future. Are the individual countries to be supplied directly by AID or will AID not be providing contraceptives after December 1988? Will the countries be expected to handle contraceptives as a part of the Regional Drug program now being implemented? When the answers to these questions are known, a workshop can be focused on: (a) contraceptive logistics principles, or (b) the current information/reporting system put in place in 1983, or (c) how the Regional Drug Information System is to work. CDC is prepared to assist in the workshop.

My recommendations are as follow:

1. IPPF and USAID should hold a 3-day logistics workshop, which would focus on the principles of a logistics system and requirements for data in program management and evaluation. Such a workshop can be held regardless of the future direction of the regional program.
2. Use the \$50,000 set aside for contraceptives in the IPPF grant to purchase condoms. What little data is available indicates such a need.
3. IPPF/Caribbean Office should distribute the Conceptrol vaginal foaming tablets that are in stock as soon as possible.
4. USAID should work toward inclusion of the family planning commodities for each country into the Regional Drug Service in the future.


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