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Trip Report

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Travelers: Dr. James W. Lea, INTRAH Director

Country Visited: COTE D'IVOIRE

Date of Trip: July 23 - 27, 1987

Purpose: Planning and Review with INTRAH/WC/

Program for International Training in Health
208 North Columbia Street
The University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 USA

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A. PERSONS CONTACTED/MET

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dr. James Lea, INTRAH Director, visited Abidjan, Ivory Coast, during the period July 23-27, 1987, for purposes of reviewing the Zaire program, other INTRAH Francophone Africa projects and office operations with INTRAH/WCA Director Pape Gaye and other WCA staff. The original trip purpose included traveling on from Abidjan to Kinshasa, Zaire, for discussions with USAID mission officers and officials of PSND, AZBEF and other organizations of program and budget issues identified by the mission. However, mission clearance for Dr. Lea and Mr. Gaye to visit Zaire was not granted.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Wednesday July 22	Departed Raleigh-Durham.
Thursday July 23	Arrived Abidjan.
Friday July 24	Dr. Lea and Mr. Gaye met with Dr. Sarah Clark, Regional Population Officer, REDSO/WCA. Dr. Lea and Mr. Gaye met at INTRAH/WCA to continue review of Zaire and other WCA projects. Telephone discussion with Dr. Lois Bradshaw, Population Officer, USAID/Zaire.
Saturday July 25	Continued review of INTRAH/WCA projects. Meeting with Dr. Don Lauro, Columbia University Regional Representative.
Monday July 27	Telephone debriefing with Dr. Bradshaw, USAID/Zaire. Telephone debriefing with Dr. Clark, REDSO/WCA Departed Abidjan for USA.

I. PURPOSE OF TRIP

The primary purpose of the trip was to carry out Zaire Program status discussions with INTRAH/WCA Director Pape Gaye and his staff in Abidjan and, subject to USAID/Zaire concurrence, to proceed to Kinshasa for discussions with USAID/Zaire and officials of PSND, AZBEF and other organizations. The trip purpose also included review and planning discussions with INTRAH/WCA staff.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A. The history of INTRAH's training assistance efforts in Zaire--from exploratory visit, through needs assessment and development of projects with PSND and AZBEF, to the current status of INTRAH's Zaire program--was reviewed in detail, past strategies were critiqued, and possible future directions and contingency plans were developed.
- B. The schedule and progress of the PAC-II/Africa evaluation team was reviewed.
- C. Discussions were held with INTRAH/WCA staff Dr. Penda Seck, Ms. Irene Gaye and Mme Adelaide Boileau for Dr. Lea's information on the WCA program and administrative and personnel matters.
- D. The current status of INTRAH efforts throughout Francophone Africa was reviewed in detail.
- E. At REDSO/WCA's request, briefing and debriefing were held with Dr. Sarah Clark, REDSO/WCA Regional Population Officer.

III. BACKGROUND

In September, 1986, INTRAH initiated training development projects with PSND and AZBEF, the principal government and non-government family planning organizations in Zaire, in support of the USAID mission's bilateral MCH/FP projects. Both projects, but especially the PSND project, have had complex and challenging histories, with frequent scheduling and other workplan changes which required an extraordinary degree of flexibility on the parts of INTRAH, IHP and the USAID mission. In July, 1987, the mission cabled ST/POP requesting that all project activities in Zaire be put

on hold until senior INTRAH staff from Chapel Hill and Abidjan could visit Kinshasa to review the projects and make whatever adjustments were indicated. Following several communications with the mission, Dr. Lea traveled to Abidjan in anticipation of proceeding to Kinshasa with Mr. Gaye following review and planning meetings with the INTRAH/WCA staff.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Dr. Lea arrived in Abidjan on the afternoon of July 23. On July 24, the first business day of the visit, Dr. Lea joined Mr. Gaye at INTRAH/WCA in a comprehensive review of the Zaire program. At the request of REDSO/WCA, Dr. Lea and Mr. Gaye met with Dr. Sarah Clark, Regional Population Officer, to discuss program status in Zaire, Mali, Ivory Coast, Togo and other WCA countries. Later in the day, telephone contact was made with Dr. Lois Bradshaw, Population Officer at USAID/Zaire. Dr. Bradshaw proposed that Dr. Lea and Mr. Gaye delay their trip to Kinshasa until August 5-7, 1987. Dr. Lea met with Dr. Penda Seck, INTRAH/WCA Clinical Training Consultant, and other INTRAH/WCA staff.

On Saturday, July 24, Dr. Lea and Gaye continued their review of WCA projects. Dr. Lea reviewed computerization of office administrative and program operations with Ms. Irene Gaye, Consultant. Dr. Don Lauro, Columbia University Regional Representative, visited the office.

On Monday, July 27, Dr. Lea again spoke by phone with Dr. Bradshaw in Kinshasa to request concurrence for a Lea-Gaye visit that week to meet with mission personnel. When told that a heavy mission activity schedule would not permit the visit, Lea decided to conclude his West Africa visit. He participated in the INTRAH/WCA regular weekly staff meeting in the afternoon and departed Abidjan for the U.S. that evening.

V. OBSERVATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OBSERVATIONS/CONCLUSIONS

1. There are undoubtedly problems affecting INTRAH's Zaire projects. Their source and magnitude are not really clear, since signals from PSND and from USAID/Zaire are not always consistent.
2. The INTRAH/WCA office in Abidjan is functioning well in the face of substantial work load, largely due to the quality and dedication of the office's professional and support staff.
3. INTRAH's important relationship with REDSO/WCA continues to be strong, collegial and mutually supportive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INTRAH should schedule a senior staff visit to Zaire as soon as mission concurrence can be obtained.
2. INTRAH/Chapel Hill should make every effort to continue to provide timely and effective technical and administrative support to INTRAH/WCA.
3. INTRAH should make every effort to sustain the current quality of its relationship with REDSO/WCA, bearing in mind that Dr. Clark will be completing her tour in mid-1988.

APPENDIX A

PERSONS CONTACTED/MET

REDSO/WCA/ABIDJAN

Dr. Sarah Clark, Regional Population Officer

USAID/Zaire

Dr. Lois Bradshaw, Population Officer (By telephone)

INTRAH/WCA

Pape Gaye, Director

Dr. Penda Seck, Clinical Training Consultant

Mme Adelaide Boileau, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Irene Gaye, Consultant

Columbia University

Dr. Don Lauro, WCA Regional Representative

Citibank/Abidjan

Mr. Magit Diop, Vice President