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MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution
FROM: ANE/PD, Peter Bloom
SUBJECT: Regional Cooperation: Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in the Near East - Phase II Asia and Near East Project Advisory Committee

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The ANPAC meeting to review subject proposal submitted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 1986 at 10:00 ^Rp.m. in Room 6660 N.S. Enter through 6660.

Participation in accordance with ANE Bureau guidelines is invited.

Attachments: Issues Paper
*Project Proposal

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Issues Paper
Regional Cooperation
Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases
in the Near East

I. Background

On December 1, 1981 AID entered into a five-year Cooperative Agreement with the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for the implementation of the Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in the Near East Project. The purpose of this project was to promote cooperative research and scientific exchange between Israel and Egypt on vector-borne diseases. Research under the original project focused on the following three diseases:

- Rift Valley Fever;
- Malaria;
- Leishmaniasis;

NIAID has submitted a proposal for a Phase II project to continue this cooperative research program. Research carried out under this second phase program would continue on the three diseases discussed above. In addition, NIAID proposes to add research modules in the following areas:

- Filariasis;
- Rickettsial Diseases;
- Sinai studies -- this module would focus on the epidemiology and control of the proposal's five vector-borne diseases in the Sinai.
- Rapid Diagnosis, Molecular Biology and Monoclonal Antibodies -- this module would focus on new technologies for the detection and treatment of vector-borne diseases.

As in the original project, the principal investigators under this new proposal will be Ain Shams University in Cairo and Hebrew University in Jerusalem. NIAID would continue to administer the program and provide technical assistance and training. The new proposal also seeks to involve other research entities in Egypt, Israel and the U.S.

The total amount proposed for this new cooperative research effort is \$6,878,666. NIAID's proposed five-year budget is attached.

On August 18, 1986, the Project Review Committee met to review NIAID's proposal for the second phase of the Epidemiology and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases Project. At this meeting several issues and questions were raised regarding the level of funding, the rationale for various research modules and activities, and the project's contribution to regional cooperation and research goals.

The PRC met with NIAID staff involved in implementing the Phase I project and designing the Phase II activity on August 28, 1986. As a result of this meeting, a number of issues related to project design were resolved. However, the following issues and concerns remain for ANPAC consideration.

II. Issues and Concerns

Issue #1: Level of Funding

Discussion: The PRC was concerned that the proposed level of funding over the five-year period (\$6,878,666) not only exceeds what AID is likely to have available, but, of equal importance, does not demonstrate the phasing out of AID assistance, particularly with respect to the last three years of the project. The PRC felt that a decrease in the overall funding level with declining AID support in years three, four and five would be required.

Options considered for achieving this lower level of funding were to either 1) eliminate entire disease modules, or 2) reduce the scope of research activities within each module.

Recommendation: That AID provide up to \$5 million over the five year LOP (the amount for FY 87 to be determined once the budget allocation for Regional Cooperation is known) with a declining input of AID resources in years three through five. ANE/TR has proposed the following two options for achieving reduced funding levels. Option A is preferred.

Option A: Fund up to \$5 million LOP costs for modules in the following order of priority:

1. Rickettsial Diseases (eliminating all funding of supplies of equipment for P-3 and P-3 level facilities in Egypt and Israel)

2. Leishmaniasis (2 years only)
3. Filariasis
4. Rift Valley Fever (2 years only)
5. Malaria (2 years only)
6. Rapid Diagnosis, Molecular Biology, Monoclonal Antibodies
7. Sinai Studies

If further cuts in the project budget are required, the latter two modules may be either eliminated or funded only for the first two years.

Option B: Fund all seven modules proposed, at proportionately lower levels. AID financing would not exceed \$5 million over the LOP.

NIAID should be advised that exact project activities and budget levels for these activities can be negotiated once we have a clear idea of the anticipated funding allocation for this project.

Issue #2: Project Contribution to Regional Cooperation Objectives and Role of Additional Research Institutions

NIAID's proposal does not clearly specify how the project will improve and provide new opportunities for cooperation between Egyptian and Israeli institutions and researchers. While the proposal identifies a number of new participating institutions, it does not state how these institutions will collaborate with the two major institutions involved in the project (Ain Shams and Hebrew University). More information on the role of these institutions is needed to assure that their participation results in new substantive cooperation and not merely a transfer of supplies and equipment.]

Reccomendation: That NIAID provide AID with additional information on how the proposed project activities and the participation of additional research institutions will improve and expand cooperation between participating countries.

Concern: Safety Procedures: Research on rickettsial diseases can be dangerous if proper safety precautions are not taken. AID runs a "political risk" in sponsoring such research if it is not fully controlled. Repercussions from contamination could be severe. Research on these diseases will be undertaken in high-level containment laboratories and NIAID has assured us that they will adequately train research personnel and provide long-term technical assistance to researchers in Cairo. However, the PRC questioned whether these precautions were adequate to prevent possible environmental contamination.

Table 1

Five Year Budget Worksheet

		FY'87	FY'88	FY'89	FY'90	FY'91
Ain Shams University	Personnel	\$224,620	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000
	Equipment	92,200	70,000	70,000	70,000	20,000
	Supplies	94,450	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
	Domestic Travel	64,790	60,000	60,000	60,000	50,000
	Regional Travel	30,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Other Direct Costs	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Overhead	51,606	41,500	41,500	41,500	41,500
	Total	\$567,666	\$521,500	\$521,500	\$521,500	\$471,500
Hebrew University	Personnel	\$259,000	\$261,000	\$261,000	\$261,000	\$261,000
	Equipment	89,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	20,000
	Supplies	89,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
	Domestic Travel	13,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Regional Travel	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Other Direct Costs	18,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
	Overhead	49,800	41,700	41,500	41,500	41,500
	Total	\$547,800	\$508,700	\$506,500	\$506,500	\$456,500
NIAID	Resident U.S.					
	Scientist	\$134,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$ 40,000
	Module Support	67,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	30,000
	Administrative Travel	29,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Meetings	74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	50,000
	Training in U.S.	90,000	76,000	76,000	76,000	50,000
	Total	\$394,000	\$385,000	\$385,000	\$385,000	\$200,000
	Total	\$1,509,466	\$1,415,200	\$1,413,000	\$1,413,000	\$1,128,000

GRAND TOTAL (5 Yr.) \$6,878,666