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PDABZ-907

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TO - AID/W TOAID A 340

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DATE REC'D.	907
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DATE SENT	Oct. 19, 1971

FD 20225

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FROM - BOGOTA

SUBJECT - Public Safety Telecommunications Projects

REFERENCE - A) AIDTO Circ A 1667
 B) Evaluation of AID Public Safety Program in Colombia, June 1969 (SECRET)

1. In connection with ref B above, the Mission Public Safety Telecommunications Advisor prepared an up-to-date comprehensive report on the Colombian police telecommunications system. The report dealt in depth with the past, current and future requirements of the program as well as accomplishments up to that point and was prepared in such detail as to not only satisfy requirements of the program evaluation but also to serve as the type of status and planning document requested by ref A above. Consequently, reference is made to this report for basic data on our Public Safety Telecommunications Project, with the following up-date.

2. Basic planning for improvement of National Police telecommunications capabilities has not changed over the past two years and, with the exception of certain minor deviations justified by ref B above, has not essentially changed from the recommendations of the original Public Safety Telecommunications Survey of Colombia. Timetables for implementation have necessarily been altered due to decreases in Public Safety Telecommunications advisory personnel ~~requirements~~ and failure of the GOC in certain instances to meet scheduled target dates. These alterations are not a major magnitude at this time and have not resulted in basic planning changes.

3. Under the Administrative Radio-Teletype (RTTY) Network activity, the estimated duration of AID commodity support was extended by one year and \$35,000 to expand the traffic handling capabilities of the Bogota communications center and provide for integration of DAS and Ministry of Government communications systems with those of the National Police.

OTHER AGENCY

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This equipment, consisting primarily of teleprinter tape reperforator and tape transmitter components, is now scheduled for in-country delivery December 1971, after several procurement delays. Technical assistance in this area will now obviously be required through FY 1972.

4. Under the Urban Radio Communications activity, the estimated duration of AID commodity assistance was also extended one year and by \$4,000 U.S. in order to improve response time of the Bogota radio patrol dispatch center by providing an automatic document conveyor system. The National Police have accepted all PSD recommendations for improvement in this center, including construction of new housing facilities, expansion of incoming telephone capacity, revision of complaint card format, automatic machine analysis of accumulated data, division of the city into more efficient radio frequency districts and patrol beats, etc. The major remaining area of response time delay is in utilization of messengers to pick up complaint cards from the telephone operator's room and manually walk them to the radio dispatch room. The feasibility of local procurement of an automatic conveyor system was explored with negative results and it was determined, thru the FY 1971 ProAg, that AID would provide \$4,000 U.S. for procurement of such a system from the U.S. The associated PIO/C is currently being prepared and delivery in-country is expected during the 4th quarter-FY 1972. ~~AID procurement is expected to be completed during the 4th quarter-FY 1972.~~ In addition, the GOC has procured a new "Autofone" UHF radio system for police patrol and intra-city communications (Bogota) at an estimated cost of \$410,000 U.S. Delivery is expected by end CY 71. It consists of 120 mobile units with associated base station and repeater equipment plus 30 base stations and 25 portable units for communications between headquarters and precincts. This procurement is in accordance with Public Safety-National Police Project Agreements to expand radio patrol facilities in the major cities of Colombia. Upon arrival and installation of the new UHF radio system, the excess VHF radios presently in use in Bogota will be transferred to other major cities of Colombia. This transfer will include the 70 "General Electric" VHF mobile radios and 6 base stations provided by AID/Public Safety.

5. The Rural Tactical AM Radio Network activity was completed on schedule with more than 1500 AID-provided AM radios being installed in 13 of the 22 departments or states of Colombia. This activity, as originally planned, is completed. Development of associated logistical support facilities continues. Surveys are being conducted by GOC to determine similar communications needs in other states and GOC procurement action has been initiated for some 50 low-power SSB radios (Stoner) for use in frontier areas. The selection of Stoner was contrary to PSD technical recommendations and was made apparently on purely a cost comparison basis.

6. The new logistical support plan proposed by Public Safety Division (Depot-Regional maintenance concept) and associated reorganization of the National Police Communications Section has been painfully slow in developing. Three of the proposed four regional centers have been constructed and staffed but are not functioning as true regional support centers due to lack of central depot organization, lack of officer-level personnel both quantitatively and qualitatively, and failure to develop needed implementing authority to overcome reluctance of individual Department Commanders to recognize a regional authority. As a result, the Public Safety Division

has recently persuaded the National Police to completely revise the original "resolution" providing for the depot-regional maintenance concept and to prepare more detailed and more effective authorization and implementing instructions. First drafts have been completed and rewrites are in process. AID technical support and some small commodity input will now be required in this vital area through FY 1973, as a minimum.

7. Training has been and continues to be a major endeavor of PSD and is, of course, directly and vitally related to our major concern of developing a professional and capable communications organization within the National Police. The technician training center established under PSD auspices is currently graduating its second class of 16 students from the one-year basic communications technician course. In addition, many short-term specialty courses have been conducted, both at that center and at the University of Javeriana under the AID-sponsored training contract with the Electronics College of that institution. Six National Police officers are currently attending a formal 5-year electronics engineering program under that contract, with the first officer scheduled to graduate July 1972. This program is the key to obtaining ultimate goals in the PSD communications activity, as it will provide the urgently needed nucleus of engineers from which a professional communications organization can develop.

8. In summary, PSD telecommunications plans and programs continue essentially as outlined in the original OPS survey with modifications described in ref B, above. Certain activities have been broadened, as outlined above, and timetables adjusted to meet changing circumstances; however, basic plans remain the same and new major endeavors in the telecommunications activity of PSD are not anticipated at this time.

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