

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

DATE: 8/30/88

MEMORANDUM

TO: AID/PPC/CDIE/DE, room 209 9A-18
FROM: AID/SCI, Victoria Ose *VO*
SUBJECT: Transmittal of AID/SCI Progress Report(s)

Attached for permanent retention/proper disposition is the following:

- AID/SCI Progress Report No. 5.189
- PK ltr dtd 18 Dec 86
- ~~PK ltr dtd 28 Dec 87~~

Attachment

5.187

NJALA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(University of Sierra Leone)

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES • PMB FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE • WEST AFRICA

18th December, 1986

Dr. Irvin M. Asher
Director
Science Program
Office of Science Advisor
USAID
Washington, D.C. 20523
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Asher,

PROGRESS REPORT FOR USAID INNOVATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
PROJECT NO. 939-5012

In accordance with the signed project agreement (Limited Scope Grant Project Agreement) document signed on 8/13/85, between the United States of America, acting through the Agency for International Development (AID), and this University of Sierra Leone (USL); interim progress reports are required every six months, except for the last six months period which will be pre-empted by a final report.

A report for the first six months was not written due to many logistic problems i.e. delays in ordering equipments and materials and getting expendable funds from the US accounting center in Abidjan, etc. This report will serve for the first two reporting periods. We have been able to make limited progress on the field in identifying infected individuals at different stages of development of the disease, with various clinical manifestations, and with varying intensities of infection in different age groups. We hope to use sera from these patients to carry out the Western Blotting Technique comparing patients of the same age group with different intensities of infection and clinical manifestations of the disease to those exposed and living in the same community but not infected.

Secondly, the renovation of the laboratory has begun and is on going; which will serve as the main research laboratory facility on the Njala University College campus. No actual laboratory work has been done since the orders were only placed on September 15, 1986 by the USAID Office in Freetown and we expect them to be arriving anytime. In addition, the Western Blotting Technique has been considerably improved and is now more sensitive and offers some hope to be utilized under field conditions because of its simple applicability. This improvement was carried out in the laboratory of our collaborators Dr. B. M. Greene at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. I visited the laboratory from July 11 to August 15, 1986, to observe and learn the new improved methodology. During my visit, I discussed our problems with our collaborators and they made pertinent suggestions on ways of carrying out some meaningful and innovative research amidst these persistent problems of doing basic research in developing nations. We expect them to visit the research site sometime in January/February, 1987 for further discussions on the work.

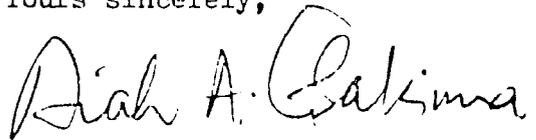
8/25/88

Work utilizing the new methodology will begin as soon as the equipments, reagent, chemicals and other materials ordered arrive.

Finally, there has been long delays in getting the orders through and it will be one year and some months since the time this agreement was signed on August 13, 1985. By the time most of the equipments arrive, we would have experienced a year or more before the commencement of the actual laboratory work. We are requesting for an extension period of one (1) year for the completion date and submission of the Final Project Report.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Aiah A. Gbakima, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator,

SIERRA LEONE

cc: USAID - Freetown, Sierra Leone (2)
Dr. B. M. Greene (2)

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