

Message Text

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO; PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG; VIENNA FOR UNIDO.

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SUBJ: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 042239

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE IS MISSION'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTEL IN SAME LETTERED SEQUENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ROLE OF UNDP UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. (SUBPARA A).

THE RESREP IN BOLIVIA IS A CAREER UN CIVIL SERVANT WHO HAS SERVED HERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ENERGETIC. HE STRIKES US AS A FORCEFUL MANAGER OF NDP ACTIVITIES AND AS AN EFFECTIVE COORDINATOR OF ALL OTHER UN SYSTEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR EXPRESSING QUITE FRANK OPINIONS TO GOB OFFICIALS AND TO BE WILLING TO ACCELERATE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TERMINATION OF PROJECTS WHICH ARE NOT BEING WELL SUPPORTED. HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS HOME OFFICE APPEARS TO BE GOOD.

2. THE RESREP'S PROGRAMMING OR COORDINATING ROLE IS MUCH LESS SIGNIFICANT VIS-A-VIS IBRD AND IMF ACTIVITIES. INDEED, HE HAS COMPLAINED THAT VISITING IBRD TEAMS DO NOT REALLY SEEK TO UTILIZE UNDP'S RESIDENT CAPABILITY. HOWEVER, HE HAS DEMONSTRATED CERTAIN CREATIVITY IN DEVELOPING PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS WHICH COMBINE TECHNICAL

AND CAPITAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS BOTH WITHIN UUN SYSTEM (E.G., A RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM INVOLVING THE UNDP, FAO, IBRD) AND BETWEEN UN AGENCIES AND IDB (E.G. UNDP-FINANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING GEARED TO AN IDB LOAN, AND A UNDP/FAO/IDB PROJECT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM).

3. UNICEF DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE. HOWEVER, RESREP STATES THAT UNICEF SUPPORTS UNDP PROJECTS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. FURTHERMORE, IN ADDITION TO ITS TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN COOPERATION WITH MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION, UNICEF HAS BEEN DEVELOPING INTERESTING SECTORAL AND REGIONAL APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IN WHICH UNDP HAS BEEN ACTIVE, SUCH AS A COMBINED UNICEF/UNDP RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN TWO DEPARTMENTS OF BOLIVIA AND ASSISTANCE TO GOB'S PLANNING MINISTRY ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL NUTRITION PLAN.

4. COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. (SUBPARA B). GOB HAS ESTABLISHED THREE DIFFERENCE POINTS OF COORDINATION WITHIN HOST GOVERNMENT (I.E. MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTRY OF COORDINATION AND SOON-TO-BE ESTABLISHED INSITTUTE OF EXTERNAL FINANCING, IN OR UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE) TO WHICH EXTERNAL DONORS CAN GO AS A GROUP INDIVIDUALLY ON A RANGE OF PROGRAMMING OR IMPLEMENTATIONAL ISSUES. SYSTEM IS NOT YET WORKING VERY WELL. MEANWHILE, FIELD REPRESENTATIVES OF EXTERNAL DONORS ARE NOW MEETING MONTHLY, ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP. IN ADDITION, EACH DONOR IS ASSIGNED LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR CONDUCTING INTER-AGENCY WORKING LEVEL REVIEWS OF SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT SECTORS. UNDP RESREP, IN THIS SETTING, IS A CREATIVE MEMBER OF EXTERNAL DONOR GROUP; AND, AT TIMES, HAS TAKEN LEAD: (A) IN STIMULATING THE GOB TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE STANCE IN ESTABLISHED MECHANISM FOR COORDINATING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, AND (B) IN SEEKING OUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING UPON THE WORK

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OF ONE EXTERNAL AGENCY WITH COMPLEMENATRY OR FOLLOW-ON ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER (E.G., UN SUPPORT OF A GOB TRAINING INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED WITH AID ASSISTANCE).

5. COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS. (SUBPARA C). OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE UNDP AND THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING HAVE CONDUCTED A QUICK, RATHER SUPERFICIAL REVIEW OF THE ONGOING UNDP SUPPORT PROJECTS. NEITHER THE MINISTER NOR RESREP PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY. REVIEW WAS AT INITIATIVE OF MINISTRY OF PLANNING. NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS WERE TAKEN AS RESULT OF REVIEW. RESREP STATES THAT, NOW

THAT UNDP OFFICE IS FULLY STAFFED (HIS DEPUTY HAS ARRIVED) AND
MINISTRY OF PLANNING IS SETTLING DOWN AFTER TWO CHANGES OF MINISTERS
LAST FALL, UNDP WILL UNDERTAKE FORMAL ANNUAL REVIEW OF UNDP
SUPPORT PROJECTS.

6 APPARISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS. (SUBPARA D). USAID/UNDP LIAISON
PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED IN RECENT MONTHS. RESREP IS
SENDING US, FOR COMMENT, PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR UNDP FUUNDING.
HOWEVER, GIVEN ESTABLISHED FIVE-YEAR UNDP PORGRAM, DOES NOT
APPEAR TO BE MUCH SCOPE IN EAR-TERM FOR INFLUNCING SIGNIFICANT
RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS WITHIN UNDP PROGRAM. ON OUR SIDE, USAID IS
PROVIDING RESREP WITH COPIES OF DRAFT PROJECT AGREEMENTS, PROPS, IRRS
AND

CAPS TO ASSURE FULLEST OPPORTUNITY FOR DETAILED PROJECT-BY-PROJECT
CONSULTATIONS ON TIMELY BASIS. WE ALSO CONSULTED, RELATIVE TO SUMMARY
OF DAP, WHICH CONSULATION, TOGETHER WITH SIMILAR CONSULTATIONS
ON SECTOR ASSESSMENTS, PROVIDE A MEANS TO REACH OVERALL
AGREEMENT ON STRAGEGY FOR MAJOR SECTORS. (ALSO SEE PART B ABOVE).

7. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. (SUBPARA E). IN GENERAL, GOB FINANCIAL
AND PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTIONS APPEAR SATISFACTORY FOR PROJECTS
INVOLVING DECETRALIZED AGENCIES OR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (E.G.,
ENFE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING INSITITUTE, MINING AND METAL-
LURGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE); BUT PROBLEMS ARISE WHEN: (A)
PROJECT IS DEPENDENT UPON CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION (E.G., ANIMAL
HEALTH IN THE ORIENTE); (B) PROJECT IS LOCATED IN OUTLYING REGIONS
OF COUNTRY WHERE LIVING CONDITIONS MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO
ATTRACT AND RETAIN QUALIFIED BOLIVIAN TECHNICAL PERSONNEL (E.G. IN
UNDP/FAO ABAPO-IZOZAG) PROJECT IN WHICH IN 1973 ALONE THERE WAS A
33 PERCENT TURNOVER OF SUCH PERSONNEL AND IN WHICH UN FEARS THAT
VIRTUALLY ALL THOSE RETURNING FROM SCHOLARSHIP STUDY ABROAD, WHO
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WOULD BE EXPECTED TO IMPLLEMENT THE DEVELOPMENTAL PHASE OF PROJECT,
WILL RESIGN ON COMPLETION THEIR CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION).

8. EXAMPLE OF PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL PROJECT IS RAILWAYS
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION, WHICH LAID BASIS FOR IBRD LOAN TO
NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM (ENFE) AND REMAINS INTEGRAL ELEMENIN LOAN
IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH PROVISION CONTRACT SERVICES TO ENFE ON
REORGANIZATION, RATIONALIZATION, AND REHABILITIATION OF SYSTEM.
PARTICULARLY WEAK PROJECT IS IMPROVEMENT AND EVELOPMENT OF HYDRO-
LOGICAL AND METEREOLOGICAL SERVICES WHICH SCHEDULED FOR PERIOS
1972-1976; BUT, AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, IS OW PLANNED FOR
TERMINATION MID-

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