

INTERVIEWS: SW

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IBRD, Washington, D. C.

December 3-4, 1971

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MEETING OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP

In January 1971 a meeting had been called at the Board Room of the World Bank, Washington, to allow representatives of nations, international organizations, and private institutions to discuss the desirability and feasibility of establishing a consultative group for financing of international agricultural research. In May 1971 representatives of the same agencies came together and actually established the Consultative Group which is organized by the World Bank in consultation with UNDP and FAO.

This was the first meeting at which the Consultative Group was faced with a set of recommendations from its Technical Advisory Committee and which were ready for funding.

The chairman of TAC, Sir John Crawford, briefly reviewed the recommendations of TAC, which included coverage of core support for all of the present four institutes, interim funding for the International Potato Center, enabling funds for the organization of ICRISAT, and a proposal to proceed with the organization of the Animal Disease Laboratory in East Africa and further study of the need for an animal production research center in Africa.

Total funds required were about 16 million, of which some 13 million were in sight at the beginning of the meeting. In a report on a conference with Lowell Hardin and Arie Kruithof on December 13, details are given of suggestions for allocation of new funds pledged by Germany, Denmark, Belgium and the World Bank.

The purpose of this diary is to record the comments made by representatives of various agencies at the December 3 meeting of the Consultative Group, in the order in which the representatives spoke:

1. Ford Foundation. David Bell said that the Ford Foundation would make available in 1972 the sum of \$3 million to be used in a flexible manner, that is, Ford is willing to abandon the \$750,000 limit to any one institute provided the total involvement of Ford does not exceed \$3 million.

2. United Kingdom. Ralph Melville announced that the United Kingdom would provide in 1972 \$360,000 for IRRI and \$228,400 for IITA.

3. Belgium. The sum of 20 million francs (about \$420,000) was pledged for 1972 but no indication was made of proposed allocations. This was left for later discussion with the Secretary of the Consultative Group.

4. Denmark. For 1972, Denmark will provide \$250,000 but no indication was given of proposed allocations. This is to be determined through discussions with the Secretary of the Consultative Group.

5. Netherlands. CIAT will receive \$125,000; IITA will receive \$125,000; and IRRI will receive \$100,000 to cover partial costs of its new project in Indonesia. In addition, the Netherlands expects to make available, possibly through special arrangements with the Peruvian government, the sum of \$180,000 for the International Potato Center.

6. Canada. It was announced that IITA will receive \$750,000 for core support; CIAT will receive approximately \$550,000 for support of the swine and cassava program, and CIMMYT will receive approximately \$550,000 for work on triticales in cooperation with Canadian universities.

7. UNDP. Meyer Cohen informed the group that UNDP had provided approximately \$1,700,000 to CIMMYT for a three-year project on high lysine maize. This contributes in part to core costs at CIMMYT.

8. Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Harrar said that the Foundation intends to provide up to \$3,000,000 per year for the institutes toward core costs and to do so on an "indefinite" basis with funds to be available in a flexible manner. In addition, the Foundation is considering the transfer of its International Potato Project to the International Potato Center.

9. Inter-American Development Bank. Clarence Pierce announced that the Bank has provided \$100,000 per year each to CIAT and CIMMYT toward the costs of training of Latin Americans.

10. United States. Joel Bernstein announced that USAID is prepared to provide \$720,000 to CIAT; \$925,000 to CIMMYT; \$750,000 to IITA (plus \$280,000 for capital); and \$750,000 to IRRI, all for core operating costs. In addition, USAID will provide \$100,000 to the International Potato Center toward its program in 1972.

11. Asian Development Bank. Dr. S.C. Hsieh, Director of the Projects Department, said that over the past four years the Bank has lent some \$600 million for development of which 17 percent has gone for agricultural projects.

A technical assistance grant to Ceylon has provided \$400,000 for a regional experiment station out of a total loan of \$9 million to that country.

The Bank has provided \$300,000 for budgetary support over a two-year period for the Asian Vegetable Center in Taiwan.

The Bank is interested in supporting upland rice research at IRRI and costs of training at IRRI, but no specific amounts were mentioned.

12. Kellogg Foundation. Dr. N. C. Fahs, Program Director, mentioned that Kellogg will provide \$230,000 to CIAT in 1972.

13. International Development Research Centre (Canada). Dr. J. H. Hulse, Program Director for Agriculture, Nutrition and Food Sciences, said that IDRC will assist in the development of international activities in three ways: (1) direct program support such as the \$73,000 scheduled to go to IRRI in 1972 for work on multiple cropping; (2) provision of extramural advisory services, including support in June, 1972 of a CIAT conference on cassava and support of work on utilization and biological value of triticales; and (3) support of specific work in Canadian universities which are cooperating with international centers.

14. Germany. While not firm, it is expected that the sum of 5 million in Deutschemarks will be provided but the necessary legislation is still before Parliament. The total, which amounts to approximately \$1.3 million, will be allocated in ways to be determined with discussions with the Secretary of the Consultative Group.

15. Switzerland. The delegate said that Switzerland will participate in an amount to be decided late in 1972. Presently Switzerland has a preference for new institutes.

16. Sweden. Mr. H. Granquist, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that Sweden intends to include an item for support of the international agricultural research institutes in its budget which is in a late stage of preparation. At this time he was unable to indicate either the form or the size of the contribution which Sweden would make. Nevertheless he said that he does expect that Sweden will participate in 1973.

17. Norway. Mr. T. J. Ulvevadet, First Secretary, Embassy of Norway, said that Norway still strongly favors the Consultative Group approach and is particularly interested in new institutions. He emphasized the need to establish more direct contacts between Norwegian institutions and the international centers. Norway is particularly interested in Africa and India and hopes to have funds available for use in 1973.

18. Japan. IRRI will receive approximately \$48,000 from Japan in 1972 primarily for scholarships. In addition, Japan is contributing the cost of two or three staff members who are on assignment in IRRI.

19. World Bank. Richard Demuth reported that the World Bank is prepared to provide up to \$3,000,000 for costs of the international institutes which cannot be met by other donors. As he added up the figures informally, it appeared that with the new contributions of Germany, Denmark and Belgium, that not all of the World Bank reserve fund of \$3 million would be needed in 1972. And, as indicated in the diary covering the conference on December 13, with Arie Kruithof and Drs. Hardin and Pino, it finally appeared that approximately \$1 to \$1½ million of Bank money would be required.

France was the only donor country which did not speak at all with regard to provision of financial support.

The various papers related to the meeting, including the agenda, list of participants, and the report of the Technical Advisory Committee upon which the Consultative Group acted, are in SW's files under "Consultative Group."

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