

STRENGTHENING EMERGING CENTERS
OF LEARNING

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Recent political and social developments abroad have underscored the validity of the Foundation's premise that the training of future leaders is of the greatest importance to steady progress for the developing countries. The close working relationships which the Foundation has established with certain emerging foreign universities have been useful in the professional development of local and regional leadership.

The officers have thoroughly reviewed university development overseas, drawing upon long experience and many associations in emerging countries. This study makes clear the great need to reinforce university patterns and the Foundation's favorable position to be of assistance. Indeed, earlier Foundation support to schools or faculties within certain institutions under study provides the basis for a program of broader scope directed to the development of the total university.

It is fully recognized that The Rockefeller Foundation can only hope to act as a catalyst in the university development effort. Financial and other needs reach dimensions that can be satisfied only through aid from a multiplicity of sources. But careful and long-range planning accompanied by the wise application of modest funds can establish patterns which may be further developed and expanded by national agencies or international bodies with large resources for foreign assistance. The evidence is growing that Foundation assistance has permitted accomplishments which have attracted other agencies prepared to invest in projects of demonstrated merit and great potential.

Equally clear are the calculated risks in the proposed university program: there is no guarantee of political stability within the developing states. These risks are worth taking, however, and the Foundation's effort may actually contribute to political stability.

The priorities for university development are now becoming clear. Four institutions have already been introduced into the plan: the Universidad del Valle, the University of East Africa, the University of Ibadan, and the University of the Philippines. Two others are being assisted on a pilot project basis: the University of Khartoum and a group of universities in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Universidad del Valle, Colombia, long under observation by the Foundation, has received various sorts of aid for a period of over ten years. Selected originally as a site for the reinforcement of medical education in Latin America, the University has since begun to improve, expand, and integrate its several faculties. Directed by able, experienced, and aggressive young leaders and supported enthusiastically by Colombians, the institution is already internationally important in the field of medicine and is moving forward in nursing education and practice, and in rural public health. A strong faculty of arts and sciences is in prospect; the faculties of economics, engineering, and architecture are developing well, and there are definite prospects for strengthening the humanities. The University is hoping to move to a new campus on the outskirts of Cali. The site is excellent, and sufficient land is available to permit campus planning and development to meet current and long-range needs. The University would expect to finance the new campus through local contributions, both public and private, through grants under the Alliance for Progress and other agencies, and long-term, low-cost loans. The growing interest on the part of other international agencies in the Universidad del Valle suggests that Foundation support could be amplified and extended with resultant accelerated progress.

The University of East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika) is a most imaginative experiment in educational federation among three states in various stages of independence and development. Recognizing that the costs of higher and professional education are beyond the resources of the individual partners, the three have decided to pool their assets for maximum attainment. The senior partner in terms of university tradition is Uganda, the home of Makerere College. Kenya is the seat of the younger Royal College, and Tanganyika, which created a law faculty two years ago, is beginning to establish educational faculties at the university level. Medicine, nursing, agriculture, and the arts and sciences will be offered at Makerere; arts and sciences, engineering, and veterinary science at Nairobi and Kabete in Kenya; and arts and sciences, law, and subprofessional agriculture in Tanganyika, principally in Dar es Salaam.

The Foundation has aided the University of East Africa in its early development and has selected this institution for future assistance. Recently leaders of the three universities and top government officials met

at the Villa Serbelloni to discuss the future of the University. It is believed that in the long run the improvement of this institution can play a major role in the future progress of the country in which each College is located, despite the changing social and political patterns in East Africa. Even though these countries may one day agree to terminate the present arrangement in favor of full-scale national universities at each site, initial association will have had many benefits.

Foundation officers are contributing to the development of the University of East Africa both through assistance from New York and through staff on assignment to the University. The prospects for the University's future are enhanced by the effective leadership these men can give.

The University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in an independent state of West Africa, presents a special opportunity for a variety of sound and reasonably rapid educational developments on a broad front. Established by colonial interests, the University at Ibadan is now under capable Nigerian leadership with a growing African staff. It has elements of strength in medicine, nursing, agriculture, arts and sciences, economics, government, and area studies. These are now at a critical point and can be expected to become stable and strong if afforded early and wise assistance. The University has turned to The Rockefeller Foundation for substantial aid to various facets of program. In recent months the Foundation has expanded its assistance in the form of "human capital." One member of its staff is serving as Dean of Social Sciences and Chairman of the Department of Government. Currently the number of Humanities and Social Sciences officers and appointees on assignment to Ibadan is larger than the Humanities and Social Sciences staff in New York. The Foundation has also made available specialists in medicine, agriculture, and virology. Since Ibadan has and will doubtless continue to receive aid from various international agencies, it is possible for the Foundation to apply its assistance in a highly selective fashion.

The Republic of the Philippines is in a strategic position to assume a leading role in educational developments in Southeast Asia. Moderately populated, centrally located, and with substantial resources, the country has great potential. The Filipinos are internationally sophisticated, with Western orientation and strong Latin sympathies.

The University of the Philippines, with its campuses in Quezon City, Manila, and Los Baños, is a firmly established institution whose past performance has fallen short of its potential. The Diliman campus in Quezon City near Manila is spacious; the plant is generally good; and the agricultural school at Los Baños is steadily improving. The medical school in Manila is less than first class. The faculty of the University is young, ambitious, and able, and President Carlos P. Romulo is providing vigorous and imaginative leadership.

The number of competent Filipino scientists and scholars is steadily increasing, as is national interest in the further improvement of educational institutions. There is growing interest also in making the University of the Philippines an Asian center of education, and properly developed the University could serve the needs of many students from other countries in Southwest Asia with obvious and far-reaching benefits.

A Foundation officer spent July and August on the Diliman campus advising President Romulo on the University's humanities and social sciences work. Plans for a Medical Center to be shifted from Manila to the Diliman campus are moving forward with the advice and counsel of an officer from the Medical and Natural Sciences program. A more effective relationship between The International Rice Research Institute and the College of Agriculture is developing, and the two agencies are strengthening one another.

The Sudan is one of the largest countries in Africa, is sparsely populated, and has tremendous potential. The University of Khartoum has become an organic part of indigenous Sudanese culture and could become a leader within the Arab-Islamic area of culture and a center which would attract growing numbers of students from abroad. The University has recently been going through a period of change; there is now evidence that the government intends to provide additional support for the improvement of plant and the quality of the several faculties. Visits by Foundation officers and some modest but carefully placed assistance have led to the conclusion that the University of Khartoum may in the not-too-distant future qualify for inclusion in the University Development Program of the Foundation.

Many years ago, The Rockefeller Foundation had an important role in the establishment of the pattern of medical education in Thailand. In recent

years, Foundation assistance has been provided for projects at the University of Medical Sciences, the Kasetsart University of Agriculture, the Veterinary Faculty and other sectors of the University of Chulalongkorn, and Thammasat University. The four institutions are located in Bangkok and together they carry the principal university curricula. It is believed possible to work with them in such ways as to help bring their programs into closer contact and to help form a university development pattern involving the full academic complex. An officer from the Medical and Natural Sciences program has been assigned to the University of Medical Sciences and will provide continuing leadership on the ground while officers from other programs are vigorously exploring prospects of growth and development.

Thailand is an appealing prospect for university development. Its geographical position, political significance, and the Western orientation of the Thais are all favorable factors. National investments in plant and facilities are substantial and significant, and reasonably rapid progress might be expected with such assistance as the Foundation might provide to critical projects. Recently, Thailand has become of increasing interest to our own government, and the program of assistance of various sorts from AID and other agencies could serve to make international selective Foundation aid especially effective.

Other universities overseas, which might become eligible for consideration for assistance at some future date, will be visited and observed by Foundation officers until their long-range possibilities are further clarified. It is apparent that The Rockefeller Foundation can expect to work only with a limited number of carefully selected institutions, possibly nine. Its efforts would be directed at helping to create stable and progressive programs of excellence which would contribute to national needs in scholarly and scientific areas. Included would be the training of educators, scientists, and scholars to meet the requirements for teachers at various levels throughout the country; the preparation of medical, legal, agricultural, and other professional personnel to serve public needs in private or official capacities, and to carry on essential research directed to the economic, social, and technologic needs of the country.

The universities selected for developmental support by The Rockefeller Foundation should be considered not only for their role in the attainment

of national goals, but also on the basis of their potentials for regional or international contributions. There are many countries whose small size, limited resources, or stage of development make it impracticable to attempt to support a full-scale university system. Countries such as Bolivia, Paraguay, Togo, Dahomey, and others will inevitably be dependent on various forms of external assistance during the foreseeable future. To obtain adequate numbers of qualified personnel for national purposes, they must either enter into an educational federation with other countries or depend upon the educational facilities of larger and richer nations. Even if desirable, it would not be possible to train all such persons in Western institutions, and many can be accommodated within the region if local institutions are inadequate. The University Development Program of The Rockefeller Foundation would expect to keep such needs under continuous consideration and encourage each institution assisted to respond to the needs of the region in which it is located.

The private college or university is little known in many of the underdeveloped countries. Where such institutions have been established, they are often among the most valuable national resources. Their flexibility and freedom from political influence give them a position of special importance, and their progressive programs justify consideration for support. Examples of private institutions which have in the past had Rockefeller Foundation assistance are the University of the Andes in Colombia and the Institute of Higher Education in Monterrey, Mexico. Others might qualify for assistance because of their unique positions and contributions to scholarship.