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Enclosure No. 2

Report of Visit to the Public Health College
and Training Center at Gondar

February 22-25, 1961

On February 22, Ato Abraham Besrat and I went to Gondar to visit the school. Dr. Han acted as our guide and host during most of the visit. We were provided an opportunity to visit all of the school itself and all of the training centers in the Gondar area.

Two hours of instruction in nutrition was provided for the junior and senior classes of health officers and for the senior class of community nurses. The nature of the instruction given is indicated by the lecture outline which is attached. It is suggested that it be made available to the staff at the school and other interested persons.

The possibility of Ato Abraham Besrat's services being made available to the school on a regular basis was well received and it was suggested that he give approximately 15 hours of instruction in nutrition to the health officers during the first two weeks in July each year with emphasis on the use of readily available Ethiopian foods to meet the nutritional requirements of adults and children of various ages.

This proposed loan of Ato Abraham Besrat's services by the college at Alemya was discussed with President Kindell and he expressed a willingness to make such an arrangement if formally requested by the Ministry of Health. He wanted it understood that research done by Ato Abraham during the summer months should be considered as a part of his research program at the college so that the institution would be properly credited for any contribution which develops. This arrangement sounds very good to me and I would recommend that you initiate action on this matter as soon as the details can be worked out with the Ministry. There is an understanding between Dr. Han and Ato Abraham and it is expected that a similar verbal agreement might be reached with the Nursing School at Asmara during our projected visit. Dr. Kindell does not want to set a precedent which would lead to his staff leaving Alemya for the summer to seek other employment. It would, therefore, be inadvisable to put Ato Abraham on the payroll of the Ministry of Health for this activity. On the other hand, it would be desirable to take care of all travel costs and a per diem allowance while he is away from Alemya.

It might be helpful if you could arrange to talk with Dr. Kindell or Mr. Nicholson on this matter in the next few months.

As a result of our visit to Alemya it was concluded that a program in food analysis and tests of biological value of proteins can be instituted by Ato Abraham very soon after he arrives at Alemya. To operate most effectively, however, he needs to have a new laboratory furnished and be provided with certain basic items of equipment. These items have been

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discussed with Dr. Kindell and efforts are being made to obtain funds for their purchase from ICNND or NIH. I will endeavor to keep you informed of our success. If this laboratory is set up and becomes operative as I expect it will, the needed information on the nutritive value of Ethiopian foods will become available in the next few years. I expect to remain in contact with Ato Abraham and to assist in any way I can with supplies, etc. whose acquisition will delay his program. The new library at Alemya, now under construction, will soon house the \$40,000 (US) worth of books and journals provided by support from the Rockefeller Foundation. The climate for research in this field is now good at Alemya and I think you will have much useful information and consultation from this source.

To continue the report on the Gondar trip, we visited the center at Amba Giorgis where the building is now completed to the square. A very fine water supply is being developed which will provide ample spring water delivered to storage barrels by gravity flow. It will serve the center and the entire community and overflow can be expected to provide water for irrigation of a vegetable garden. The entire compound, including the spring, should be fenced against animals and villagers.

The training there is excellent. The classroom work is much better when interspersed with this "laboratory" exercise on Fridays. Dr. Han's personal hygiene campaign in the local school is enjoying success due in large part to the cooperative attitude of the school principal. Instruction by the health officers and community nurses in hygiene and sanitation in the school classroom is a commendable feature of the program. I don't think it is being pursued effectively at the health center at Debre Marcos which was visited earlier.

The health centers at Dabat, Gorgora and Kella Duba were all visited briefly. This internship training appears to be a wonderful example of the effectiveness of "on the job training." Each center was well managed, reasonably clean and well organized especially the centers at Gorgora and Kella Duba. At the present stage of development these centers all appear to have more space devoted to offices than necessary. These centers have a unique opportunity to influence community development generally. The extent to which they have food producing projects in operation was somewhat disappointing. Vegetable gardens could be added to provide produce for the center's kitchen and to provide an example of the approach to nutrition which should be advocated by the health center personnel. Most centers have sufficient water to raise good vegetables even in the dry season. Likewise, a poultry project would provide eggs and poultry for the staff table. When a clinic patient cannot pay his fifty cents for services, produce such as chickens or eggs might be accepted. Upon request agricultural extension personnel would provide improved breeds of chickens for use in these centers, and information on the growing of vegetables and fruits. Cooperation with extension agents should be encouraged since it will lead to spreading their "gospel" to the large number of citizens who visit the clinics.

In my opinion, the training and use of health center personnel is being done in a most commendable fashion. The success of the program is in large part due to the efforts of the dedicated staff at the school. They are working long hours to provide the maximum of instruction with the minimum facilities. The enthusiasm and devotion is being imparted to the students. The training program has provided a means of supplying the type of personnel best qualified to solve health problems in a minimum time. If an effort is made to keep personnel current by periodic refresher courses and continuous distribution of new information and objectives, this personnel should bring about striking improvement in the health and welfare of the people.