REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969049
By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

CIAL USE

OF STATE

(38)

Memorandum of Conversation

1970-4-21, Iryani, US, [redacted] Economy

DATE: April 21, 1970

SUBJECT: Yemen

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Gene Stoltzfus, International Voluntary Services, Washington, D. C.
Miss Gladys Frazier, AID/NESA/NE
Mr. Brooks Wrampelmeier, NEA/ARP

COPIES TO: NEA
NEA/ARP (2)
INR/DDC (10)
AID/NESA/NE (2)
PC/NANESA - Mr. Jeanneret (1)
AmEmbassy JIDDA
USINT SANAA

(18)

26 APR 1970

1970 APR 23 PM 12 26
COPYFLO-PBR

POL YEMEN

Mr. Stoltzfus came by at Mr. Wrampelmeier's suggestion for a debriefing on his January 1970 trip to Yemen where he spent three weeks visiting Taiz, Sanaa and Hodeidah. Mr. Stoltzfus stated that he had been well received by YARG officials and that the Yemenis had been very enthusiastic about the idea of a possible volunteer project in Yemen. Some YARG Ministers had even informally offered to provide vehicles, housing, and internal transportation expenses to volunteers. Consequently, he believes the climate is good for establishing a modest multinational volunteer program in Yemen. Initially a 3-5 man team is contemplated. He believed priority emphasis for such a program would be in agriculture: improving irrigation and water resources, wheat improvement, extension work, and eventually repairing or rebuilding small retention dams in the highlands. There exists in the Tihama coastal plain a large variety of potential agricultural projects. Mr. Stoltzfus said he had also considered the possibility of providing volunteers as teachers of English in the Yemeni school system. He is not giving this project high priority at the present time because of the potential political sensitivity of mingling such teachers with radical Arab teachers recruited outside Yemen.

(1)

Mr. Stoltzfus confirmed that the IVS has suggested that the International Secretariat for Voluntary Services (ISVS) in Geneva take the initiative in canvassing its member organizations to determine

NEA/ARP:BWrampelmeier:bdf
(Drafting Office and Officer)

FORM DS-1254
2-65

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969049
By CM NARA Date 6-12-03

whether there would be sufficient interest in developing a multi-national volunteer program in Yemen. He noted in passing that IVS itself had few funds for such a program, but would be willing to help recruit volunteers in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Mr. Stoltzfus commented that compared to the current economic stagnation in Southern Yemen, Yemen is where the action is. He was much impressed with many of the young Yemeni technicians whom he encountered and remarked that many moderate intellectuals and businessmen formerly located in Aden were moving to Yemen because of unfavorable political and economic conditions in PRSY. He had been very favorably struck by the way in which the USAID-built Taiz water plant was being maintained by its Yemeni staff. The wells drilled by AID have apparently run dry (he did not know why) but the Yemenis were drilling new ones and had imported pipe and other materiel for this purpose. YAR officials concerned with this project had mentioned problems of supply, saying that some parts ordered from a supplier in New York had not been received. He also found that the AID-built Taiz-Sanaa road is being maintained in good shape.

Mr. Stoltzfus considered the Chinese-built Sanaa-Hodeidah road to be a first-class construction job. He thought that the Chinese were popular among the Yemeni populace, partly because of their honest dealings with local villagers employed on the road construction. Among more sophisticated and senior-level Yemenis, however, there appeared to be greater suspicion of the Chinese. In general, he had marked a strong desire by Yemeni officials to balance their heavy dependance on the communist states by developing better relations with Western powers. However, there had been some friction between the Yemenis and the West Germans over implementation of the West German agreement to carry out certain projects in Yemen. The Yemenis, for example, apparently felt the West Germans were being unnecessarily dilatory about getting on with their promise to asphalt the Taiz-Sanaa road.

Mr. Stoltzfus commented only briefly on his trip to Saudi Arabia. He left with the impression that the Saudis were little interested in obtaining the services of trained volunteers. On his departure Mr. Stoltzfus left with Mr. Wrampelmeier copies of his reports and recommendations concerning possibilities for volunteer programs in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.