

NOTE: Reference is made to DCS-300- / ,

The US Department of Defense, with the help of a University of California Food Science expert, is taking a critical look at a former yucca flour mill near Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The critical look is in the form of a feasibility test aimed at determining if the plant can be profitably converted to the commercially saleable manufacture of military field rations and ~~commercial~~ dehydrated foods.

The feasibility study is being conducted by Dr. Clinton Chichester, Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Food Science, University of California, Davis, California. He is being assisted by Ernest Burton, Engineer, also of UC at Davis, ~~and~~

The study is being financed ~~xx~~ by the Advanced Research Projects Agency, under the Department of Defense. The study is also under the auspices of the Nutrition Section, Office of International Research and the National Institute of Health. Total cost ~~is~~ of the study is \$16,000, including \$5,000 for laboratory equipment, ~~xx~~ funded by ARPA, plus an additional \$1,000 from the Bolivian Government.

The "La Guardia" yucca flour mill, as it was originally intended, was built by USAID in 1954-55 and turned over to the Bolivian Army in 1962 as an incomplete plant. The Bolivian Army Engineer Command and USARMIS to Bolivia finished it, and it went into intermittent operation.

In 1964, Dr. Chichester visited the plant at the suggestion of the then Commander-in-Chief, US Armed Forces ~~Commanding Officer General US Army~~ Southern Command, General Andrew P. O'Meara. The General's suggestion was that the plant might possibly be adapted to the production of dehydrated foods for either military or civilian consumption. At this time, the feasibility study was suggested as a way of determining if the plant could be adapted as a general dehydration plant for both military field rations and civilian markets.

~~The early stages of the study took some practical turns.~~ The University of California team first adapted the existing oil-burning boiler to wood. They then re-wired the entire plant, removing deteriorated wiring and relays; changed the airflow in the three dehydrators; installed a quality control lab; improved the vital water supply; established methods of waste disposal; and converted the diesel-electric plant for both 115v and 220v current.

The prime objective of the feasibility study is economical; that is, to see if the plant can ~~produce~~ economically, for the Bolivian government, produce a military field ration of dehydrated foods and at the same time, produce marketable dehydrated foods for civilian consumption to help defray the cost

of the field rations. *also train ~~one~~ of Bol Army's order 3
dets as qual control lab operator. He is Lt. Hugo France.*
The ultimate objective is to make the Bolivian military fieldable, for ~~any~~ comm.

As neither the Bol mil, nor other LA armies now have... example, to combat guerrillas. ~~It is estimated~~ A packaged field ration would

free them for full-time fighting instead of leaving them to forage for food

most of the time in the field. *Another objective is to provide
surrounding farmers here in Bol's most fertile area, with an*

Beyond the immediate feasibility of conversion, Dr. Chichester plans to try to assemble a field ration acceptable to the Latin American palate, and at the same time, to indicate to the Bolivian Government how they might produce dehydrated foods for public sale to help pay the cost of the military ration.

*easily accessible market, for their products rather
than having to truck them to Cochab & La Paz.*

(Note: Complete info on this, and other ARPA projects, available through the Assistant Director of ARPA or through Arnold E. Schaefer, Nat'l Institute of Health, Nutrition Section. Dr. Chichester and Mr. Burton are consultants to Mr. Schaefer.)

The study consists both of physical changes in the plant and the test dehydration of small portions of various vegetables and meats.