

May 16, 1985

Dr. Myles K. Ren,  
Executive Director  
IHAP, New York, N.Y.

Dear Myles,

I am scheduled to depart here this afternoon, and will take the plane from Paris to Ndjamena on May 27 to enter on my advance-man role for IHAP in Chad.

Before leaving I want to communicate several thoughts about which I am concerned enough to want to bring to your personal attention. As you know, despite Len Maynard's herculean efforts, the Chad program is very vulnerable from the personnel standpoint. Quite apart from the availability of backstopping personnel after Len's departure, which I hope will be on the way to solution before he leaves, the decision of Peter Parr not to accept the position of Chad Representative after me has left us in a very difficult position.

As of now I will prepare the ground and send appropriate reports to you as soon as possible after my arrival in Chad. Then, when I am officially notified that our grant has been approved, I will ask that Peter Coates be hired and despatched to join me in Chad as soon as practicable. Len is fully aware of this plan. Thereafter, however, it is not my intention to call forward any of the six candidates for duty upcountry at Oum Hadjer until such time as I have been notified that my replacement as IHAP Chad Representative has been recruited and brought on board. My reasons are as follows: If, for example, two or three men are brought forward to Chad but no successor for me has been hired, and my tenure expires, then only Peter Coates would be left in Ndjamena to provide support to our exposed personnel upcountry, as well as to carry out all administrative and liaison duties in the capital. This would be unfair to them, could lead to very real problems given the precarious conditions in Chad and, last but not least, could damage IHAP's image and reputation. We would not be vulnerable in leaving Peter alone to hold down the office and fly our flag in Ndjamena, but I believe it would be very unwise to field upcountry teams until we have assured continuity in their support from Ndjamena which, I am sure, will require the presence of two IHAP representatives.

My successor, once firmly identified and hired, need not proceed to Ndjamena until shortly before my departure, or could come forward immediately as his situation permits, but the important thing is to solve this continuity problem before permitting our upcountry people to get themselves out on a limb. I hope you will agree that wisdom, prudence and the protection of IHAP's professional reputation support this view.

With all best wishes and hopes  
for the success of the program,

OGDEN WILLIAMS

sincerely

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Ogden Williams