

AIRGRAM

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION

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FROM : ICA/W

SUBJECT : Degree Training and Training in Excess of
One Year of University Contract ParticipantsREFERENCE :
(Check one before
each address)PAGE 1 OF 3
DATE SENT MAY 30, 1958
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1. ICA/W's attention has been drawn from time to time to difficulties experienced by the USOM's in interpreting the provisions of M. O. 1300.1 with respect to training in excess of one year, generally for the purpose of obtaining an academic degree. Recently, the Office of Institutional Projects Abroad of the American Council on Education, representing the university contractors, also asked ICA/W for reconsideration of our policy with respect to training for degree purposes.

2. Accordingly, the problems surrounding degree training per se have been carefully restudied. As a result, the Director has approved criteria which should enable the contractors to operate effectively and yet assure conformance to the general objectives of the training program. Under these criteria training for academic degrees is authorized when:

- a. The training is consistent with and assists in the furtherance of U. S. objectives in the area or country.
- b. The degree is necessary for academic purposes.
- c. The host country's academic institution agrees to re-employ the participant after training.
- d. The participant agrees to serve the host country's academic institution after training.

3. Consideration has also been given to the manner in which these criteria are to be applied and by whom; i.e., whether by the USOM or by the Contractor. Actually, it is ICA/W's hope that there will be very close and friendly coordination between the USOM's and the contractors with respect to the totality of their operations, but such is particularly

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necessary with respect to participant training in view of the fact that the training of participants under the university contract mechanism must be related in a general way to training under the regular ICA participant training program. However, it still seems desirable to amplify how the criteria are to be applied to assure a common understanding.

Criteria (a) "That training is consistent with and assists in the furtherance of U. S. objectives in the area or country." Essentially, only an instrumentality of the U. S. Government, in this case the USOM, can certify that this criteria has been met. The USOM should take full responsibility for assuring that the information called for by the bio-data form is fully presented and, in particular, should state the proposed duration of the training program and the academic degree to be obtained, if any. Where a degree is to be obtained, the proposed duration of the training should reflect the judgment of the University Chief of Party as to the length of time necessary to earn the degree. Bio-data should be transmitted to ICA/W well prior to initiation of the training program. The ICA/W action officers will notify the Office of Contract Relations here in those instances where training in excess of 12 months is required and where the contract provisions require specific ICA/W concurrence in such cases. The Office of Contract Relations will then forward authorization to the U. S. contractor with a copy to the USOM.

Criteria (b) "The degree is necessary for academic purposes." The determination as to whether a degree is or is not necessary for academic purposes is a technical judgment to be made by the contractor.

The contractor, in developing work plans, should take due care to estimate the numbers of participants to be sent to the States for degree earning purposes, the estimated length of time such will take, etc., in order that such plans may be accurately reflected in the costing estimates submitted to the USOM. It is at this point, i.e., in the program development phase, where the two interested parties should discuss this matter while the contractor should be left free to function in the operational phases.

Criteria (c) "The host country's academic institution agrees to re-employ the participant after training."

Criteria (d) "The participant agrees to serve the host country's academic institution after training."

It is essential that these two criteria be understood and accepted by the host country's academic institution and the individual participants. The manner in which these criteria are to be applied and reduced to written understandings should be jointly determined by the USOM and the contractor. The USOM should take all appropriate steps vis-a-vis the government concerned.

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4. Where USOM's transmit bio-data on prospective participants, ICA/W will take this as evidence that the conditions of the foregoing criteria have been met.

5. ICA/W will consider on a case-by-case basis requests for extensions made on behalf of participants who have already initiated their training programs. The matter of extensions to participant training programs already in operation was also mentioned by the Office of Institutional Projects Abroad as an operational problem of some concern to it. ICA/W has in reply emphasized the desirability of determining well prior to the departure of the participant for the United States, the period of time which may be required and thus limiting the number of requests for extensions to the minimum possible. In general, ICA/W will need assurance that extensions requested in the future for the purpose of obtaining a degree meet the criteria set forth in the preceding paragraphs before granting approval. ~~Extensions~~ Extensions requested because of the participant's difficulty in adjusting to a new environment, or by the need for special study, or to make up for courses taken overseas but disallowed by the American university, or extensions to permit further study by especially able participants, etc. - - - - of a type impossible for the USOM or the contractor to foresee - - - - are in a different category and will be carefully considered on the merits of each case and with USOM recommendations in hand.

6. The Office of Institutional Projects Abroad has been informed of the contents of this communication.

7. Non-academic participants under the university contract program (those not intended to fill academic positions in their home country), as well as participants under the regular training program, will be the subject of a later communication.

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