

The two fold purpose of civic action programs would be very beneficial to Operation Snowcap. One is the obvious turning around of public opinion. This would greatly enhance our early warning system in the village adjacent to the base and in the remote areas where these operations could be started. Secondly the intelligence gathering would be enhanced. In general basic knowledge of small cities or villages would greatly enhance our future operational planning. Also periodic visits would project changes or trends. More specifically by having a private area for examining, informants could be developed and continued to be debriefed with periodic visits or provide a cover to travel to Santa Lucia. As it is now we land in the town square and talk openly to people in front of the townspeople. To my knowledge, nothing of significance has come of this approach.

I have discussed the logistics of such a program with both Don Pringle and John Berrena, DEA medics assigned to Operation Snowcap/Peru. Both Pringle and Berrena, having had experiences in Central America and Southeast Asia, state that the civic action programs could be done on one day basis periodically thru the valley if the proper medicines were provided. As it stands now other than the major trauma medicines and equipment, the medicines that have been used in Santa Lucia have come from donations or out of pocket. The medicines needed for this type of civic action program would be children's medicine, vitamins, personal hygienic products (such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste) deworming and parasite medicine. Apparently within NAU and DEA budgets there is not money for these types of projects.

After my tour I contacted AID/Health Unit and Nutrition Section and set up a meeting with Charles Mantione section chief. On 15 March 1990 DEA medic John Berrena and myself met with Mantione to explore any possibilities of funding or taking part of any existing program that AID has. Mr. Mantione explained that currently no such programs exist. Mr. Mantione invited Gerardo Arabe into the meeting due to his long time experience in this area and his knowledge of outside programs. Mr. Arabe suggested that maybe a voluntary group would be able to donate the needed medicines. Mr. Arabe advised us that a Ms Judith Ann McElwee R.N. from Medical Missions, Milford Ohio was currently in Lima to meet with local project heads on the other projects. A meeting was set up for 3:00 p.m.

At the 3:00 p.m. meeting I explained to Ms McElwee the basic program that we wanted to start. She explained that she started a voluntary organization to distribute medicines that large companies had excess of or due dates prohibited sale of. Her program has grown to the point where she has

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to turn some of the donations down and has actually thrown some out. Ms McElwee has requested a list of needed medicines so as to advise us if her organization could help. Medic Berrena is preparing the list.

I believe that this approach, if approved, would serve our purposes, enabling the proper medicines being obtained yet avoiding an official project. In this manner a low key inhouse program could be put into place that would benefit Operation Snowcap and other USG anti-narcotics programs.

cc: G/S Charles F. Kiefer
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