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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR POLAND

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. In Poland, as in many other European countries, the Government has clear views on the utilization of fourth cycle IPF resources to support its own development plan, namely the 1986-1990 draft plan for socio-economic development. The preparation of the fourth programme follows a process of dialogue between the UNDP European Office, representing the international system, and the Government. On the Government side, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-ordinated the programming exercise with the participation of the State Office for Technology and Development, which is the designated co-ordinating authority for UNDP activities, the Planning Commission and various technical ministries.

2. Since the Government had already decided the concentration of the small UNDP resources when the amount of Poland's IPF became known, it was felt that the submission of a Resident Representative's Note would be neither necessary nor appropriate. The European Office was in agreement with the Government about the best utilization of UNDP resources, and the views of the United Nations system organizations were elicited by circulating among them the draft country programme document.

II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

3. The new programme proposal is fully relevant to Poland's development objectives. In conformity with the Government's prime objective of stimulating

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economic growth, the programme is designed to focus on increased production in the key sectors of agriculture and industry, the latter by strengthening and accelerating technological development and applied industrial research. Projects in these two sectors account for 63.4 per cent of fourth programme resources.

4. The emphasis in the fourth programme on research-based production follows successes in employing this approach in the third country programme, particularly with regard to projects in the agricultural sector (triticale and milk production projects). Only about 15 per cent of fourth programme resources are allocated for the continuation of two previous programme projects under new phases, one being the triticale project. An important characteristic of this project is that it not only has a potential for follow-up investment but it is hoped that it will result in breakthroughs which can be applied in other countries. The second project proposed for continuation, on occupational safety, is important in view of the process of rapid industrial transformation of the economy that necessitates reform in work conditions.

5. It is also to be noted that several of the projects are linked to regional activities in the same areas in a mutually supportive manner. These are well exemplified in the country programme document.

6. The most significant feature of the country programme is that 63.2 per cent of IPF resources is allocated towards training Polish nationals in a variety of fields under the training components of projects and umbrella training projects. This is in line with UNDP's mandate to invest in human resources as a critical element in any development effort. By so doing the country programme also places strong emphasis on enhancing self-reliance in the development effort.

7. Equipment is the second largest expenditure component, representing 28.7 per cent of the programmed IPF. The provision of specialized and up-to-date equipment to Poland is justified as it is expected to result in greater efficiency in the production process, the principal objective of the 1986-1990 draft plan for socio-economic development.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

8. As for the management of the country programme in the third cycle, reviews of the country programme will be held annually in the fourth cycle or as required by the experience with implementation.

9. As there are only eight projects in the fourth country programme, annual tripartite reviews will normally be scheduled to review the degree of attainment of project objectives, and any problems hindering timely implementation. They constitute an effective monitoring technique in the absence of a local field office. Internal and in-depth evaluations will also be conducted on a selective basis.

IV. RECOMMENDATION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

10. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the country programme for Poland.