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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR KUWAIT

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. In contrast to the normal five-year programming period, the third country programme for Kuwait was initially designed for only three years. The programme was extended for an additional one and a half years because the Government deemed it necessary to have the beginning of the fourth country programme coincide with the first five-year national development plan. Consequently, programme formulation was well-rooted in the continuing analysis and discussions which had been going on at various levels of the Government concerning to the country's future economic development. The Resident Representative benefited from these fully while drafting his note, in which he advocated the orientation of the fourth country programme to (a) the development of human resources, (b) the continuation of agricultural research activities which had begun during the third country programme cycle, (c) the development of livestock and strengthening of veterinary services, (d) an in-depth study of the industrial sectors with a view to identifying future technical assistance needs, (e) applications of computer science, along with the requisite training, and (f) strengthening the public administration system.

2. The note was favourably received by the Government, as reflected in the results of the meetings of the Resident Representative with the Ministry of Planning and the representatives of sectoral Ministries. The Government, which fully funds the UNDP technical co-operation it receives under the 100 per cent cost-sharing formula, chose to construct its request for UNDP assistance around the continuation of projects related to the macro-economic management of the country and certain specialized consultancy requests. As soon as the magnitude of future Kuwaiti resources can be better assessed and thus permit finalizing the

five-year development plan, it may be possible to cover more of the mutually identified technical co-operation areas of concentration through greater UNDP involvement than currently appears feasible.

II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

3. The fourth country programme provides for an extension of important ongoing projects in statistics and in demography with the Central Statistical Department, as well as the further development of economic and social planning capabilities in the Ministry of Planning. These three projects, together with a few others scheduled for completion during 1987-89, have accounted for \$2.45 million the total outlay of \$3.38 million for the fourth country programme.

4. There are six new proposals with a total outlay of \$931,000 involving short-term consultancy services and limited-duration resident experts covering such diverse fields of assistance as media-related information research, agricultural producers' co-operatives; consultancy services to the veterinary department, in port management training and applied education and training, in such areas as curriculum development, laboratory organization and instructional television.

5. Thus, UNDP will use its comparative advantage by recruiting highly specialized experts in a wide variety of areas, while simultaneously strengthening the capability of the Government to gather and manage vital economic and social data, as well as to utilize such information for reaching large-scale development-oriented decisions.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

6. In the actual implementation of the projects, every effort will be made to achieve to the greatest possible extent a shift away from direct support in the role of United Nations experts and to lay more emphasis on counterpart training than has so far been the case.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

7. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the Country Programme for the State of Kuwait, while taking note of the hiatus described in paragraph 1.
