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INVESTIGATION INTO SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH SYSTEM

Review meeting with jim Mullin at end of his visit

Saturday 4 September, 0900-1230

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REVIEW OF COVERAGE OF BACKGROUND STUDIES IN FIRST DRAFT

1.1 Reports to which special attention is needed over and above response to the general issues raised in the one-to-one and group discussions:

HEALTH

Supplement the Kaiser report with information about the relatively new training programmes in the field

HIGHER EDUCATION

In order to get an adequate report in the short time left there should be:

(a) A check on the reliability of available statistical sources (FRD Indicators, NATED figures);

(b) Requests to universities, through officials responsible for the administration of research, for existing statements on policy positions on research;

(c) Consultation with Vishnu on his availability to assist in the completion of the report in the time left, or his suggestions for doing so.

(If further help is needed, Dave Kaplan has suggested the name of Fundy Pillay at UCTJ)

AGRICULTURE

While proceeding with the production of a report by the development group, arrange for further views on the relative importance of subsistence agriculture in South Africa.

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MISSING AREAS OF RESEARCH

MATTERS NOT COVERED IN DRAFTS

The following were identified during the week's discussions as items not covered in the first drafts. Unless stated, in all cases the information would be useful as part of the background review for the mission, whether included with the reports or made available on arrival.

LOCATION OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH CAPACITY

Limited work was done during the MERG mission - check report and accessibility of any useful background documentation;

John Sender, DEP, Jonathan Leap of LSE project may know of location of resources in government departments;

FOREIGN FUNDING OF RESEARCH TRAINING

To be considered as precursor of foreign aid programme to a democratic government. Possible sources:

- IIE (via Anne ??);
- IDRC review of research funding (Marc's garage)

Note that an approach via the major foreign-funded programmes as an indicator of funding for research but not training may not work as a large proportion of funding is via small projects

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Information might be gleaned from:

the IDRC Urbanisation? mission report;

Planact; Helen Zille ?, subject to taken alternative views

BUSINESS SUPPORT TO MARKET RESEARCH/SOCIAL SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

The first draft dealt with these matters in sufficient detail for present purposes of the briefing of the mission

STRATEGIC REVIEWS BY GOVERNMENT / COMMISSIONS OF ENQUIRY

Ask Moira Maconocie to help locate and obtain

. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RESEARCH MECHANISMS

Consult Moira Maconocie for help, else Fanie Cloete

ARMSCOR

This should be included in more general information on military technology. Possible sources include:

US State Department review (via Stremlo); MRG;

Jackie Cilliers; Abdul Minty; Ben Fine

(Dave Kaplan has suggested a publication 'Technology 100'

as a source of information - it should be obtainable via

Roy Marcus the Synergy Consultancy in Johannesburg)

To include any other nuclear activities (eg uranium

enrichment programme). Possible sources include:

Nuclear Alert.

STRATEGIC REVIEWS BY INSTITUTIONS

All researchers to identify and obtain as important documentation such reviews where they exist, together with any statement of decisions taken that will affect the structure, composition or orientation of the institutions, together with any statement of decisions taken that will affect the structure, composition or orientation of the institutions;

The accessibility of such documents and reviews should be noted in the background reports

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Possible sources:

EMG; GEM; EDA

'Environment' should be seen as broadly covering both natural resource management and assessment of the impact of humanity on environmental conditions, and how regulatory processes are set up and where they obtain their information.

STRATEGIC STUDIES

A copy of the paper on this topic to be sent to JM, provided there are no restrictions on its distribution

SABS

Add to CSIR study

CSS/CENSUS

Get input from appropriate sources on these matters as science-related activities

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Get summary of educational research. Possible sources:

EPU; Harold Wolpe; Researcher at Wits EPU recommended by Ivy Motsepe

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Information should be collected concerning professional associations, for the background review. Aspects to focus on include: club; policy activities; lobby groups; research groups. This could be done by sending a circular along the lines sketched out below.

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2.2 LETTERS TO ELICIT INFORMATION

2.2.1 GENERAL LETTER TO ELICIT INFORMATION ON DEFINED SUBJECTS

'Within the sector assigned could you identify the institutions, groups organisations which are active within this field within the research system;

Can you describe their roles, mandates and access to resources;

Can you describe the interactions that do or do not exist among the various groupings in this sector; a

Is there available any documentation evaluating the performance of these institutions, and if so please summarise their results;

Have any of these institutions conducted strategic reviews of their directions, and if so what is known of their actions to adjust to the new realities. If documentation is available could you summarise their results;

Please supply any of the documents for our records.

If you feel that you can only respond in part, could you sketch out the boundaries of what you feel confident about;

Are there areas about which you know information is not publicly available;

THE MISSION (Composition; Timing & Duration; Blocking out programme)

2.2.2 CIRCULAR TO ELICIT INFORMATION ABOUT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Can you describe your society, its goals, objectives and size;

Could you summarize the roles which you feel you perform;

Have you participated in any activities designed to contribute to the formation of research policy or to affect the support of research. If so can you supply any relevant documents;

Has your society begun to reflect on any activities to reflect on the implications for your discipline and its members of the transition of South Africa to a democratic, non-racist, non-sexist state;

Can you give an indication of the source of funding (membership fees; journal sales and subscriptions; grants from government; or other sources;

Do you have a journal.

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3. OVERVIEW AND PRESENTATION OF BACKGROUND REPORTS

3.1 CONTENT

The studies, together with information relating to the supplementary questions defined, must be reproduced and ready for distribution from Johannesburg by 15 October. Enquiries should be initiated now to ascertain whether or not there are courier services which can deliver to all the countries from which mission members are coming.

If necessary a statement can be inserted in relation to any of the reports to the effect that an activity is under way in the field in question with such-and such terms of reference and that it is intended that documentation will be available to the mission when it comes.

The overview would be a relatively short piece, consisting of:

A brief synopsis of the political situation;

. An indication that the study has tried to contact institutions across the whole gamut;

Give an impression of the overall characteristics of the system as seen from here, with more detail emerging in the studies;

orientation to minority ?

security and military affairs ?

lack of transparency;

shifting priorities?

lack of resources

informality of structures;

management difficulty in getting adequate input/insight? in to the policy process

character of transitional period?

There should be: political context; agenda of issues;

organisational chart of government, and of democratic side

. - a topography of the institutional structures.

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THE MISSION

4.1 COMPOSITION

The mission - with JM as chair - would consist of 5 from outside South Africa, matched with five from inside. The external component will be composed i order to achieve a variety of balances. Possible members:

Dr. Gilia Castilio
Lydia Makhubo;
Dr. Moise Mensah;
Dr. Thomas Odiambo;
Thandiko Mdume;
Franscisco Sagasti;
Geoff Oldham;
Sarendra Patel;
Callestus Juma

The internal component should consist of people from senior levels as far as possible, who can participate fully in the examination of institutions. Given the role of the mission and its report as .an input into a larger and broader process, the participation of people from universities - or other institutions - need not prejudice the work of the mission by introducing any conflict of interest. The problem of securing the right kind of people for as long as two weeks might be mitigated with a certain amount of splitting of the mission, although this should not involve more than two teams working simultaneously, and any such splitting should come later rather than sooner in the mission.

4.2 TIMING

The preferred dates for the mission are 9-23 November, or else 16-30 November if the IDRC's timetable does not allow Mark to be here for the earlier dates. If November is not possible we should look to the second half of January.

4.3 WORK PATTERNS AND SCHEDULE

Half-days are the minimum block that should be assigned to any interview that will be effective. Some interviews might need a whole day.

It should be made clear to the institutions being visited that there will not be time for lab-trips or ritual occasions.

We should ask institutions for lists of their members who will be participating, and if necessary trim the numbers to prevent unwieldy meetings.

The schedule should leave space each day in the evening for work on processing the results of the days interviews - the objective is to be in a state to reach consensus on as much of the report as possible on the 'last working day of the mission (the last Friday) - this wouhi be in order to

facilitate the production of a report from the mission within three weeks of the end of their visit.

Journeys between centres should be scheduled overnight (late evening, early morning) to avoid loss of working time.

Notetakers for interviews should be available (internally recruited), with at least two per regional centre visited. There should be at most one note-taker present in any meeting, and the pairs should alternate between note-taking and writing up notes in order to provide the mission each evening with the record for the day. Skill in taking records are of paramount importance, but the note-taking should be seen as an avenue for the transfer of knowledge concerning science policy which should be part of the function of the mission, and people should be recruited accordingly.

A list should be compiled of all institutions, groups, individuals who should be interviewed by the mission, and an attempt should then be made to map the list against the work periods blocked out below, within the constraints defined.

WEEK 1:

Sunday 2 p.m. Political Briefing; Organisational matters; debriefing

Monday to ,

Friday 2 working sessions per day (1 morning, 1 afternoon)

Saturday 1 (morning) and possibly 2 (morning and afternoon) working sessions

Sunday Review and assessment of the need for any splitting of the mission

Monday to

Thursday 2 working sessions per day, or additional through splitting if necessary

Friday Mission works on making as much progress as possible on the report

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5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

5.1 BACKGROUND REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact of researchers as follow-up to Group meeting;
Arrange for filling gaps in reports and for the missing information to be obtained;
Discussion with CORE on collection and production of final reports to specified format, and question of bibliography;
Work on Overview;

5.2 IDRC ROLE IN DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

Discuss with IDRC handling of documentation submitted . by institutions, and acquisition and handling of required documentation;
Letter from IDRC to heads of research institutions - - discuss content and handling
IDRC to confirm availability of courier to distribute documentation on 15 October

5.3 REVIEW & PLANNING

Review of Mullin visit;
Report for Engagement Workshop on project
Review of visit and consultation with COSATU, SANCO on next stages;
Collection of names of institutions, organisations or . groups to meet mission and mapping out of schedule;
Consultations on SA component of mission, and identification of note-takers;
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