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Meetings with Dr. Tumenova regarding partnership process, workplan and trips for 1997/98

1. Meeting with Governor Vitally Matte

- The new Governor met with Dr. Tumenova and myself for one hour. During the meeting I reviewed the scope and purpose of the partnership, accomplishments to date, preliminary plans for the 3rd year, and requested his support. We discussed the broad range of initiatives that have developed as a part of the partnership including the DOD shipment, Counterpart's grant for the Nursing Association, AmeriCares, SFPG's support of the Semey-Houston Prevention Center, Kodak's contribution of projectors, and of course the important role the GBGM has played in both our partnership and in general. We spent a considerable amount of time talking about the discussions held at the November meeting at Kurchatov. He and I had a substantive discussion about what we really do and don't know about the long-term health effects of environmental exposure to the radiation from the nuclear testing program. I shared several papers with him. We also discussed the lessons learned from the US nuclear program (e.g., Nevada and Hanford) and those from Chernobyl. I invited him to attend the conference in Atlanta and of course extended an open invitation for him to come to Houston. He assured me he would continue to support the program and asked me to visit with him on each of my future visits. (NB - on Friday evening we received word that he had been replaced and that he would now become the governor of Ust-Gaminogorsk. Subsequently he has become the governor of East Kazakstan and has begun the liquidation of the Semipalatinsk Oblast! All's well that ends well!)

2. Partnership graduation:

- Since we do not know if the partnership will be continued after May or September of 1998 we discussed several issues raised by AIHA during their February meeting regarding project "graduation" or phase out. Since neither TMH/BCM nor GBGM wishes to terminate the partnership alternative plans for maintaining the relationship were held. It was agreed that we should focus on completion of the work targeted during the initial three-year plan and conduct an evaluation and assessment of the partnership activities accomplished to date. This evaluation process would provide AIHA the information they desire and the partnership information upon which to determine its independent course of action should AIHA/USAID funding cease in 1998.

3. Partnership general issues

- This past year we had a total of 38 visits from Semey to Houston and 19 from Houston to Semey.
- Armin will set up meetings for the Semey delegation to the AIHA Annual Conference in Atlanta with CDC's Cancer Control Division, the American Cancer Society, The CDC's Health Effects of Radiation Group, and representatives of the National Center for Health Statistics.
- Armin gave interviews for the TV and Newspaper. Questions focused on health care cost, number of physicians per population, Length of Stay comparisons between US and Kazakhstan, leading cancer types, etc.
- Met with a cardiologist for a followup to our previous meeting regarding inclusion of cardiovascular training in future partnership activities. Explained that this was certainly an area of interest but would have to wait until the primary objectives of the first three years were addressed.
- We also provided funds for each hospital's paper supplies for duplication related to the partnership activities.

4. Evaluation/Outcomes

- Each trainee will be asked to prepare a profile report that describes the results and impact of their experience(s). This will include training trips to Houston, participation in AIHA annual meetings, AIHA nursing conferences, AIHA management programs, etc. The report will focus on translation and adaptation of what they have learned to their settings (new systems, LOS, etc) in Semey. It will also attempt to look for quantifiable indicators of the impact and dissemination to other individuals and settings in Semey.
- A select panel will be convened to review the reports and interview participants (if required) and prepare an overall evaluation report. Several options for accomplishing this were considered. Each group that is going to make a visit this coming year from the US will be asked to evaluate the program and information addressed by the objectives of the partnership. A final panel review comprised of Dr. Tumenova, Tuletaev, Nugmanova, Raizov, and Zhunusov. If funding were available we would suggest Sara Rozin, Terry West and Dr. Weinberg travel to Semey to participate in this final partnership review.

10970200. Leukemia treatment discussions focused on an assessment of the following

- Blood bank for leukemia treatment
- Supplemental grant of 35k from GBGM for pediatric program

- Pediatrics visit to be scheduled for the late summer or early fall to deal with a program focused on the treatment of ALL

10970280. Women's Health Program issue continues to gain an increasing amount of partnership attention. The areas of training and exchange have or will focus on the following areas

- Breast Cancer and Pap testing initiative
- OB-GYN program
- Infertility issues
- Family planning
- Oncologic concerns

10970360. Hospital safety and infection control will be the subject of the AIHA Annual Conference in Atlanta with CDC. We will continue to work at the partnership level to followup on the training and materials we have provided to both the nursing personnel and physicians.

10970440. Clinical Labs & Pathology the upcoming training in Houston will stress the need for continued implementation of standards and protocols throughout the system of hospitals involved in the partnership and serve as a model for the other facilities in the region. Potential consolidation of services and use of non-partnership programs will also be explored.

Bakhyt and I approved the allocation of approximately \$33,000 for rapid diagnostics. This is the result of a comprehensive plan for utilization by each of the partnership facilities. Training of course has been considered and accomplished to support this request. The benefit to the patients in the service area will be dramatic.

10970520. Endoscopy donations of an Olympus fiberoptic scope by TMH. If budget permits we would consider sending someone to Houston for additional training. The decision was reached to locate the scope at the Oncology Institute.

10970600. Cancer registry - Dr. Zakir Kamarli who is the Director of the Research Institute of Oncology and Radiology in Kyrgyzstan has expressed an interest in replicating the Cancer Registry program. Unfortunately, he was leaving for Israel via Tashkent on April 19th to participate in a conference and unable to meet with us. We have agreed to have him participate in the July meeting in Semey.

An evaluation of the security needs for the registry were raised and reviewed. A set of action items and equipment will be sent to AIHA for approval. The upgrade of the computer will also be scheduled for this coming year.

Gulmyria will look into the feasibility of restoring old data that was deleted from their old program. Currently they have about 8000 cases being followed, 6000 still living, and 2000 deceased.

During the meeting in July preliminary discussions will be held to address the steps required adapting the system for national implementation. This will also include data on the cost of operating the system (paper, personnel, computers, etc) and training (for implementation, verification and maintenance.)

10970680. Continuing Nursing Education is progressing well with the Nursing Association. Continuing Medical Education should be worked on in this third year. Although we have done it - the process of linking CME through establishing a process within each institution and for regional needs has not yet been implemented.

10970760. Conferences for 1997-98 like health effects of nuclear testing held in November of 1996 will be scheduled around appropriate US travelers to Semey. These will include at least one on the Cancer Registry, Cancer Treatment and Management, Pediatric Oncology, Women's health, and a follow-up to the Health Effects of the Nuclear Testing.

10970920. Nursing association update included a visit and meeting with the leadership, viewing a videotape they had produced, review of the newsletter, learning center (which now includes our materials, those from AIHA, some from the Houston-Semey Prevention Center project, etc.) The membership continues to grow and strengthen the role and services provided to the patients and support of the physicians. A debriefing meeting (breakfast - between their arrival and departure) was also held in Almaty with the group returning from the Kiev Nursing Conference.

10971000. AmeriCares and WHO conference - Dr. Espenbetova had successfully departed and was now in the US for her presentation at the conference in Indiana. Following that conference she will complete her visit in Houston.

10971080. OHMED - We had arranged for Greg Oztemel from the Russian office to meet us in Semey on April 16. Unfortunately he was unable to make the appropriate connections. He did however contact us. A subsequent meeting was held with the company in Houston following our trip.

10971160. American Hospital of Istanbul visit and agenda were developed. The areas include; hospital construction and renovation, training for intensive care personnel, patient referrals, and possible attendance at the TMH/BCM conference in June.

10971240. Discussion of possible education, training and research agenda from the Kurchatov meeting in November -

- ✓ Met with Bakhyt and Yuri Cheripnin and reviewed CDRF proposals and EU funded project which I am not sure they were aware of - called the INTAS project. (Fritz Steinhausler of University of Salzburg is

a PI and he is collaborating with some Italian biomarker scientists, etc. to attempt to reconstruct doses to the Kazakhstan population. Later found this based in the NASc.)

- ✓ MENW/MEIR - Glen Reeves AFRRRI program again was discussed. The request is awaiting approval from AIHA/USAID to support travel of a four-member team. A specific objective and trip should be listed in the 1997-98 workplan.

10971480. In addition to our direct programming in Semey the GBGM is planning a conference on social issues for later this year. We checked on the status of the video being produced for Dr. Howerton with Vera/Bakhyt. All is going well. They do however need to set a new date for the meeting.

10971560. Semipalatinsk-Houston Prevention Center (Santa Fe Pacific Gold) presented us with both copies of the video series and newspaper series on prevention and health promotion. These continue to be extremely well done and well received. There is a need to find funding to expand this effort. I will contact SFPG to see what their level of interest is now that they have merged with another company. Also I need to get copies of PSA and Slicks for them to use and air from the national organizations here in the US. ACS etc. has agreed to provide them I just need to remember to get them.

Provided additional funds for continuation of the TV and Newspaper health promotion series (\$500 @ for TV, \$400 @ for newspaper supplement).

10971640. BCM telemedicine for CME will be launched this coming fall. We will explore the availability of a satellite downlink to Kazakhstan.

10971720. Gen. Zajtchuk has developed a mobile unit for real time clinical examinations and use for such things as mammograms, Pap, etc. Some day this technology could prove very useful in Kazakhstan.

Almaty meetings:

1. Had a one-hour meeting with former governor Jakianov. He explained his new role as head of the newly created agency for the control of strategic resources. He requested some detailed information as a follow-up to his meetings in Austin with Governor Bush and other state officials (ADW has sent the requested materials). Madame Jakianova also requested some information from Mrs. Bush, which is pending. He is still very interested in making contact with the Baker Institute at Rice University. We also discussed several approaches to extending the type of assistance we had provided to Semey to national efforts in Kazakhstan.
2. I spoke with the Peace Corp director in Almaty. He had requested our input into the safety of sending personnel to volunteer in the

Semipalatinsk region. He appreciated the explanation provided by Dr. Peterson in our office. He is planning on providing assistance in economics, English and environmental health. (ADW send contact information from NIEHS)

3. Meeting with USAID staff (Tuesday 10am, Friday 2:30pm) regarding the following issues:

- ✓ USAID evaluation of AHIA
- ✓ USAID Restoration of 2-300,000
- ✓ Timeframe for final year
- ✓ Future interest in continuation of the partnership beyond September 1998 but unclear as to the mechanism (AIHA etc.)
- ✓ Glenn Reeves AFFRI program request by the Kazakstanis and us to support travel to put on a course. They requested information, which has been sent.
- ✓ Turkey "bridge" training initiative
- ✓ Shkolnik's upcoming visit to the US supported by DWSA
- ✓ MOH discussion regarding follow-up to the Kurchatov conference and interest in adapting the Cancer Registry as a national system
- ✓ Peace Corps request for information regarding safety
- ✓ Safety of flights to Semey
- ✓ Polygon 29-August project

4. Meeting with Ambassador Elizabeth Jones (Friday 3pm)

- ✓ Followed up on my meeting with Minister Shkolnik and his upcoming visit to Washington. This would include his request for assistance that I discussed with Bill Taylor at the State Dept. in DC earlier this year.
- ✓ Discussed the level of interest in considering a coordinated response to the opportunities presented following our workshop this past November in Kurchatov on the Health Effects of Environmental Radiation Exposure in Kazakstan. I reviewed the evaluation by the US team with her. The Ambassador's recommendation is that she thought we ought to pursue this but she could not support it within the currently allocated funds. She suggested I coordinate through Cheema and that I follow-up at State Dept. with Bill Taylor.
- ✓ Reviewed the concept of a "bridging" activity with the American Hospital of Istanbul (former Admiral Bristol Hospital with which we have had an affiliation for the past 12 years) and our

partnership activities. It is clear to us that the American Hospital of Istanbul offers an additional, cost effective training venue for our Semipalatinsk colleagues. While adhering to Western standards, the hospital provides a setting more closely resembling the medical and cultural setting in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. She agreed that this would be a good idea as long as it didn't redundant training that was already available in Kazakhstan through other initiatives like ABT's. I assured her it wasn't.

- ✓ Lastly, she reiterated their interest in our continuing the partnership activities.
- 5. Meeting with Minister Shkolnik did not take place as planned. Apparently his office expected us the week before. We did however connect with his assistant and began plans for seeing him when he comes to the US.
- 6. Meeting with Minister Devyatko (Eric Musin met in his place since he was unable to return from an out of town trip in time). Issues discussed included the following:
 - ✓ BCM Telemedicine
 - ✓ Evaluation of Kurchatov workshop in November
 - ✓ Law/regulations re: benefits to those effected
 - ✓ EU funded project which they were aware of - called the INTAS project however they were not familiar with the WHO Europe efforts to make recommendations to them regarding minimizing the concern for the radiation risk to the people from the nuclear testing program
- 7. Meet with Herbert Behrstock regarding an United Nation's initiative.