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INFORMATION PAPER ON THE STUDY TOURS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF RIVER BASIN AND LAKE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, JUNE 1967 AND SEPTEMBER 1968

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Origin and Purpose

1. In accordance with item 35 of the Commission's Work Programme for 1967-1968: "Fellowship and Study Tours", the secretariat organized jointly with the United States' Agency for International Development two such study tours, one in June 1967 and the other in September 1968. These tours were arranged in order to enable officials engaged in river basin and lake development projects in the East, West and North African countries to visit and view lake and river basin projects in the United States of America.
2. The role of national and international river basins in multipurpose economic and social development is now so well recognized and has been the subject of several resolutions by the ECOSOC of the United Nations. In effect, in one stroke river basins and lake systems offer opportunities for regional physical planning affecting agriculture, transportation, energy, water resources for industry and domestic use, population distribution and the tourist industry.
3. For policy-makers to gain some understanding of these possibilities and the economic, technological and organizational pre-conditions for exploiting them, study tours have been included in the secretariat's approach to lake and river basin development in Africa. A study tour combines the advantages of audio-visual impact and of enquiry and discussion (an optimum still rare in educational processes).
4. Apart from educational and persuasive value of visually comprehending the technological feasibility and socio-economic benefits of planned lake and river basin development, of seizing hold of orders of magnitude of costs in relation to benefits, of the organizational implications of maintenance and management, there are at least three other aspects of growing importance in Africa for which study tours could be of great benefit.
5. The first is to demonstrate to the participants the material benefits in quantitative and qualitative terms derived from the co-operation between the riparian countries sharing an international river basin. The second is the growing experience of the consequences to human, animal and plant ecology of concentrating or controlling large bodies of water within continental

land masses and, in particular, of the changing degree of awareness of these factors (in particular of the development and propagation of water-borne and water-related diseases) and the consequently increasing sophistication of methods of prevention or inhibition. The last but not least is the consciousness of the complex of scientific knowledge, technological skills and sociological and managerial expertise brought to bear on the optimum exploitation of river basins and lakes and the educational and training facilities which made these available.

Organization and Attendance

6. In collaboration with the office of Technical Co-operation (OTC) and through the Government of the United States of America the US Agency for International Development (USAID), made arrangements for officials from the West African sub-region to visit the USA from May 18 to 3 July 1967.

7. The following countries were invited to participate in this study tour: Cameroon, Chad, Dahomey, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta. In addition to country participants, a senior official was invited from each of the three international River Basin Commissions in Western Africa, namely: the Chad Basin Commission, the Niger Basin Commission and the Senegal River Basin Commission.

8. Similar arrangements were made for the second tour for officials from East and North African sub-region to visit the USA during the period of 12 September - 10 October 1968. The following countries were invited to participate in this study tour: Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, the United Arab Republic and Zambia.

9. In the first tour, eleven participants from Chad, Dahomey, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta visited lakes and river basin projects in America. In the second tour, five representatives from Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, the United Arab Republic and Uganda participated in a similar visit to America.

Programme of tours

10. The programmes for both study tours, conducted in 1967 and 1968 are almost identical. Participants of both tours visited the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) where they were briefed on this pioneer achievement in integrated river basin development and discussed with the personnel the aims and objectives and the economic impact of these projects and visited the sites of some dams and hydroelectric power stations.

11. Problems related to the development of international rivers were discussed with the "International Boundary and Water Commission". This Commission which was set up by a treaty between Mexico and the United States is responsible for the division of waters of the Rio Grande and the Colorado Rivers between Mexico and the United States.

12. In California, the groups visited the water supply department of Los Angeles and the Metropolitan water district of South California. Discussions were also held with the Corps of Engineers in San Francisco and the California State Department of Water Resources.

13. The two groups continued their journey to Denver, Colorado, where they visited the headquarters of the Bureau of Reclamation, where they discussed its main functions and visited its hydraulic laboratory.

Evaluation and follow-up activity

14. The present series are designed to lay down the foundation of familiarity with technological, economic and social possibilities and problems handled at the highest level of human knowledge and skill.

15. It is intended to supplement the present series by narrower based arrangements relating more to projects than to policy. These will include more detailed study tours by smaller groups of specialists in relation to specific proposed projects; refresher courses of a theoretical as well as practical nature, for specialists to be associated with projects on which agreement has been reached; assignment of selected African officials to departments dealing with economics and finance, general administration, maintenance, legal problems, etc., of river basin authorities, and so on.

16. In this respect, the secretariat has been communicating with the Governments of the countries which participated in the two study tours requesting whether their representatives have identified any follow-up action in respect of any aspect of the subject of the study tour, offering assistance and support.

ANNEX I.A

ANNEXE I.A

Study Tour in the USA

18 May - 3 July 1967

Voyage d'études aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique

18 mai - 3 juillet 1967

<u>Country/Pays</u>	<u>Name/Nom</u>	<u>Address/Adresse</u>
Togo	Ayeva, Paul	Service hydraulique, Lomé, Togo
Niger	Cisse, Amadu	Service du Génie rural, Niamey, Niger
Nigeria/Nigéria	Dikko, Y.A.	Executive Secretary, Niger Dams Authority, Independence Building, Lagos, Nigeria
Chad/Tchad	Gami, Isseini	Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre des travaux publics, Fort-Lamy, Tchad
Dahomey	Houegban, Augustin	Service du Génie rural, Porto Novo, Dahomey
Mali	Keita, Lamine	Directeur de l'hydraulique et énergie, Bamako, Mali
Cameroon/Cameroun	Komguem, Job	Bureau de l'hydraulique, B.P. 701, Yaoundé, Cameroun
Senegal/Sénégal	Dr. N'Diaye, Moktar	Ministère d'énergie hydraulique, Dakar, Sénégal
(Nigeria)/(Nigéria)	Ogunsulire, E.O.	Secrétaire exécutif, Commission du Bassin du Tchad, B.P. 727, Fort-Lamy, Tchad
(Dahomey)	Vieyra, Désiré	Secrétaire administratif, Commission du fleuve Niger, B.P. 729, Niamey, Niger
Upper Volta/ Haute-Volta	Yameogo, Jean-Gustave	Service hydraulique et équipement rural, B.P. 330, Ouagadougou, Haute-Volta

ANNEX I.B

ANNEXE I.B

Study Tour in the USA

12 September - 10 October 1968

Voyage d'études aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique

12 septembre - 10 octobre 1968

<u>Country/Pays</u>	<u>Name/Nom</u>	<u>Address/Adresse</u>
Ethiopia/Ethiopie	Ato Assefa Defaye	General Manager Awash Valley Authority
Somalia/Somalie	Mr. Abdul Aziz Ali Mahomed	Water Division Ministry of Public Works
Sudan/Soudan	Mr. Yahia Abdel Mageed Ahmed	Assistant Under Secretary Executive Member, Permanent Joint Technical Commission for Nile Waters
UAR/RAU	Mr. Mohammed Abdel Ghani El Masri	Irrigation Inspector & Director Technical Office, Egyptian Technical Organization for Nile Waters
Uganda/Ouganda	Mr. Denis KABEGA	Commissioner for Water Department