

dozers, graders, scrapers, vehicles—in various roadbuilding programs in Turkey; roadbuilding equipment—vehicles, bulldozers, machine tools, et cetera—for highway maintenance programs in Peru. Other projects and programs are receiving vitally needed items and equipment to further AID objectives in developing countries.

Since its inception, the program has been strongly supported by both the legislative and executive branches. The policy statement relative to optimum use of excess property in AID programs appearing in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 was further strengthened by revised (1965) language which states that “* * * excess personal property shall be utilized wherever practicable in lieu of the procurement of new items for U.S. assisted projects and programs.” Former Administrator Bell’s strong directive of April 13, 1964, and subsequent guidance relative to establishment of excess property units in USAID’s abroad are prime examples of the continuing executive support accorded to our programs within AID. Each regional bureau has designated a regional excess property officer to coordinate and increase regional acquisition of excess property for utilization in AID programs.

We have received continued assistance, cooperation, and support of General Services Administration and Department of Defense personnel. The Army-AID-GSA Memorandum of Understanding of March 1962 relative to operation of the advance acquisition (sec. 608) program formalized the required joint actions under the domestic program.¹

Our relationships with the domestic donable property program for State agencies have been consistently good. Since 1962, the relatively small group of excess property utilization officers in the three domestic AID excess property regional offices have maintained cordial and mutually cooperative relationships with representatives of the State agencies for surplus property.

In practice, the surplus donation program and our programs can and do work productively side by side. During the past year this mutual cooperation has expanded and matured. We have maintained direct communication with top State agency representatives, and we are not aware of any complaints regarding our operation of the program during this period.

ADVANCE ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Shipments of excess property and equipment acquired and processed under the advance acquisition program have about doubled each year since its inception. Section 608 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 was designed to overcome the twin obstacles (short matching period and unknown degree of serviceability) to much fuller utilization of excess property by authorizing AID to acquire available excess property in advance of a specifically identified program requirement. Section 608 authorizes AID to—

- (a) Repair or overhaul, preserve, store, pack, crate, and transport such property as the need arises, and
- (b) Use \$5 million from appropriate funds as a revolving fund to pay all costs related to these actions. This revolving fund is

¹ The document was supplied for the subcommittee files.