

The next step is a recently adopted (midyear) innovation. Every 15 days, MR/GPR/W sends copies of all GSA Form 122's to Saigon for 30-day priority screening. This Vietnam priority is absolutely overriding; it applies to all acquisitions, including any that were made to satisfy some other mission's specific requirements.

Domestic excess property items are rarely reserved for particular missions prior to their first cataloging, for, apart from Saigon's screening of the Form 122's, most missions rely on the catalog to inform them of new availabilities. The three domestic EPRO's issue a consolidated catalog triannually, the issuance taking place a month after the date as of which the inventory is listed. Listed by EPRO, the items carry no condition codes, but they do list accessorial changes. Nominally, the mission pays nothing for the item itself, but must pay a flat 15 percent of the original acquisition cost to the MR/GPR for its services. These services include: reimbursement of the EPRO's inbound transportation expense; rehabilitation (if any); storage; and other incidental costs, exclusive, however, of packing and outbound transportation. (Thus is the revolving \$5 million fund maintained.)

After receiving the catalog, the mission may submit a purchase order for particular items, sending it to MR/GPR/W; but commonly, it will first request a freeze upon whatever it seeks, again sending the request to MR/GPR/W. If the items are still available, MR/GPR/W will direct the EPRO to freeze them for the mission. Such freezes have been broken only rarely in behalf of Saigon, though they can be. Typically, the freezes are followed by the mission's purchase order, then by shipment to the mission. The cost of packing and outbound transportation is—for domestic 608 excess only—ordinarily another flat charge: merely 3 percent. Far and away most domestic excess (and virtually all such domestic excess Direct Acquisition program fell so low that, if the same level is to be maintained in the future, Direct Acquisition will assume only minor overall importance, Domestic Direct Acquisitions totalled about \$1.1 million in FY66, with Vietnam taking the lion's share, \$868,000, or nearly 80 percent of AID's total domestic Direct Acquisition.

The Direct Acquisition program is dependent upon the mission's obtaining a copy of the particular GSA regional catalog listing the item. MR/GPR/W instructs GSA which of the ten regional catalogs are to be sent by GSA to what mission, so that few, if any, of the eighty AID missions receive copies of each GSA catalog. (It is understood that Saigon receives all.) The flow shown in Exhibit III presupposes that the subject mission received the subject catalog.

The mission does not request the item directly of GSA; rather, it submits its request via the EPRO which has jurisdiction over the GSA region. The request is also, in effect, directed to the EPRO, for the EPRO has the authority to approve or disapprove it. Upon receipt of a mission request, the EPRO gets in touch with the regional GSA office and, if the item is still available, freezes it. Again, physical inspection by EPRO personnel normally follows the freeze. At this point, the EPRO may disapprove the mission's request, although such disapproval is not necessarily fatal to the acquisition. (The item may be acquired for the mission by the EPRO under the Advance Acquisition program, perhaps because the 608 route is cheaper.)

If the EPRO approves the mission's request, the transaction is then between the mission and GSA, again using Form 122. The GSA packs and ships at