

94 AID'S MISMANAGEMENT OF THE EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAM

constituted \$546,000. The next largest item was wire, \$154,000. In total, these two items constituted \$700,000 a year, but the prospect of improved local transportation (the only cost being whatever situs excess can be utilized not only saves money (the only cost being local transportation), it saves much time and effort, particularly procurement effort.

Unfortunately, the prospect of additional situs country excess is as limited as it is attractive. The amount of DOD excess generated in Vietnam is large; but one can estimate roughly that at least 90 percent of the excess in the property disposal yards is junk, and although some part of this junk might be salvaged, the amount may be too minute to justify the sorting effort. Since the DOD itself utilizes much of the remaining tenth, declared excess is still less. The new Army policy of listing that usable remainder will surely operate to improve AID's utilization. Nevertheless, this new policy does not countermand the older one of retaining whatever is repairable, pulling it out of Vietnam and sending it to Okinawa for repair. It is this latter policy which severely limits the magnitude of prospective improvements in the Mission's utilization of situs country excess. Another limiting factor is the impossibility of one individual's knowing all AID's needs in Vietnam.

Nevertheless, an increase of \$250,000 in situs country utilization may well be the equivalent of an improvement in other excess utilization of, say, \$500,000. At the very least, the former avoids the delays in consumption which are incident to all in-bound transoceanic shipments, and avoids making port congestion worse.

4. *Generic Problems of Excess Property*

a. *Background.*—A number of problems concerning the utilization of excess property by the Bureau of the Far East are not under the primary control of any one organization within AID, or for that matter, any organization external to it. Some of these problems are attitudinal; others relate to the overall economy, for example, AID's status policy and other aspects of policy and procedure, first source of supply."

In keeping therewith, among the Comptroller General's four general recommendations, one was that AID:

"... require a written certification from responsible individuals that, for each purchase of new property, either no suitable excess property was available or available excess property was not used for a stated reason."

It can be argued that in the field, as distinguished from Mission headquarters, the problem of utilizing excess property is less one of apathy than of ignorance and lack of attention. To be sure, some field personnel are indifferent, or even antagonistic, to the use of excess. Perhaps more often, however, they are uninformed—in part because they are so busy with other matters.

So far as research has disclosed, no AID-wide effort has ever been made to acquaint all professional Mission personnel, particularly technicians, with the