



# XIX PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

## XXVI REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A.

September-October 1974

Provisional Agenda Item 13

CSP19/21 (Eng.)  
20 August 1974  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

### REPORT ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

The XXII Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization approved Resolution XXV entitled "Regional Assistance for the Rehabilitation of the Public Health System of Nicaragua," the operative part of which reads as follows:

1. To express its solidarity with the Government of Nicaragua in its efforts to solve the problems created by the earthquake of December 1972.
2. To urge Governments to take the necessary measures for giving effect to Resolution EB51.R43 adopted by the Executive Board of the World Health Organization. (Annex I)
3. To request the Director to continue the assistance he has been extending to the Government of Nicaragua with a view to completing by the earliest possible date the reconstruction of its health establishments, and to promote cooperation in a spirit of solidarity for the achievement of these aims.

In accordance with the third operative paragraph of this resolution and the recommendation contained in Resolution XVIII of the 70th Meeting of the Executive Committee of PAHO, the Director selected five architectural firms with extensive experience in the construction of health establishments, and in a letter dated 3 January 1974 to the Minister of Health of Nicaragua, Dr. Col. Fernando Valle López, he offered the services of consultants for preparation of the functional program and preliminary designs of the General Managua Hospital, the School of Nursing and the National Health Center, which are major components of the program for the rehabilitation of the health system of the country. The Minister of Public Health accepted the assistance offered and selected the architectural firm of August Perez and Associates, which is located in New Orleans, to provide the advisory services.

On 10 March 1974 two consultants from the above-mentioned firm, together with the Regional Adviser in Hospital Planning and Administration, began a study visit to the city of Managua for the purpose of collecting the information available on health services, city planning, building codes, construction costs, and the building sites initially assigned by the Government of Nicaragua for the construction of the above-mentioned establishments. The group of consultants visited the Minister of Health, Dr. Valle López, and held several meetings with high officials of the Ministry and of the Junta Nacional de Asistencia y Previsión Social (JNAPS), which has been entrusted by law with the responsibility for managing hospitals in Nicaragua. After inspecting the building sites, ascertaining how hospital services were used, and collecting all possible information, the architects visited General Anastasio Somoza, President of the National Committee for the Reconstruction of Managua, together with the Minister of Health. The consultants provided information on the work they had done and drew attention to the difficulties they had observed, in particular in one of the building sites. These difficulties were immediately solved by the President of the National Committee for the Reconstruction of Managua and the Minister of Health. Unfortunately, it was necessary to assign the health center a different site from that originally selected.

Subsequently, the firm of architects sent PAHO/WHO Headquarters the pertinent report, which was reviewed by the Departments of Medical Care Services Administration, Health Services, and Special Technical Services, before being officially submitted to the Government of Nicaragua. During the course of this review, it was noted that it was necessary to supplement and make some important changes, especially in the report on the Managua General Hospital and that on the Nursing School. As soon as these changes were made, the Adviser accompanied the principal architect of August Perez and Associates to Managua to submit to and discuss with the health authorities the main aspects of the project with a view to finally reaching a satisfactory solution. The project was found entirely adequate and the Minister therefore decided to submit it to the local Representative of IDB in the National Planning Office. Those present on that occasion accepted the project in principle, and it was agreed to proceed with the arrangements with a view to submitting the project officially.

PAHO/WHO has also appointed a consultant in Managua for a period of six months, which may be extended. This consultant is an expert in the administration of medical care and hospital services and, together with the Country Representative, can provide the Government with specialized assistance in programs for the rehabilitation of the health system. At present, he is preparing personnel training programs with a view to initiating at an early date introductory courses on hospital administration, and at the same time he has also been working on hospital policy and procedures.

The Director submits the foregoing information to the Conference at the request of the Delegate of Nicaragua who, at the seventh plenary session of the 72nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, requested ". . . that the agenda of the forthcoming Conference include an item on the work of the Organization for the reconstruction of the health system of Nicaragua."

**EP51.R43 Health measures related to the earthquake in Nicaragua**

The Executive Board,

Having heard the reports of the Director-General and the Regional Director for the Americas on the devastating effects of the earthquake in Managua, capital of Nicaragua, which has caused a high mortality and morbidity and has seriously affected the economy of the country;

Having heard a detailed account by the member of the Board designated by the Government of Nicaragua of the consequences to human life and health of the earthquake and the vital, immediate reconstruction measures required to assist the country in continuing its urgent task of caring for the injured and rehabilitating its health services;

Having been informed of resolution 1733 (LIV) adopted by the Economic and Social Council inviting organizations of the United Nations system " to devote the largest possible volume of financial, technical and other resources, within their respective programmes, in cooperation with the Disaster Relief Coordinator, to meeting assistance requests from the Government of Nicaragua relating to the planning and implementation of reconstruction work contemplated in its initial emergency programmes and subsequent rehabilitation programmes ",

1. REAFFIRMS to the people and the Government of Nicaragua its profound concern over the catastrophe caused by this disaster and its terrible impact on human life and health;
2. TAKES NOTE with appreciation of the immediate international assistance rendered in the emergency phase as reported by the Director-General;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General:
  - (1) to arrange to take early steps to send a high level advisory mission to work out with the Government of Nicaragua a detailed programme for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the health services in Managua;
  - (2) to launch, through both its headquarters and the Regional Office for the Americas, an appeal to all Member States for voluntary material and financial contributions for:
    - (a) the construction of a national university hospital; and
    - (b) the construction of a national health centre to make possible the implementation of the health activities of the centre destroyed by the catastrophe;
  - (3) to provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the necessary data for the inclusion of health assistance in the appeal that the Secretary-General will launch for the overall rehabilitation programme for Nicaragua; and
  - (4) to ensure appropriate coordination of the assistance of WHO with that of other organs of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Disaster Relief Office, UNDP, IBRD, UNICEF, as well as the Inter-American Development Bank, and the League of Red Cross Societies and other organizations concerned.

(TRANSLATION)

MC-Nicaragua-4800

3 January 1974

Sir:

I am pleased to refer to your letter No. 1822 by which you were good enough to express, on behalf of the people of Nicaragua, your thanks for what we did at the XXII Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO about the agenda item entitled "Regional Assistance for the Rehabilitation of the Health System of Nicaragua."

As you know, PAHO is keenly interested in assisting the Government of your country in preparing a project which covers both the National Health Center and the Teaching Hospital. To that end we have been in touch with a number of architectural firms which, because of their qualifications and experience, are fully capable of undertaking such activities as functional programming, preliminary plans and architectural designs up to the level of preliminary projects and are drawing up a list of the necessary equipment, fixtures, and furnishings. With this background information, you can estimate the total cost of the project, which will be submitted to the Inter-American Development Bank for consideration of its financing.

I am pleased to send you herewith a list, with details, of the five architectural firms: Ryan Advisers, Inc., of the United States; Percy Thomas, Partnership, of England; Tahal Consulting Engineers, Ltd., of Israel; Valdetaro and Nadalutti of Brazil; and August Perez and Associates of the United States. In our opinion, all these firms are suitable and their standing guarantees serious work.

I should be very grateful if you would indicate which of them you consider most suitable, for the interests of your country, so that it can be contracted without delay.

I take this opportunity to renew, Sir, the expression of my highest consideration and esteem.

Abraham Horwitz  
Director

... Attachment

Dr. Col. Fernando Valle López  
Minister of Public Health  
Ministry of Public Health  
Managua, D.F., Nicaragua

<p>1. RYAN ADVISERS, Inc. 530 Wisconsin Avenue Washington, D.C. 20015</p>	<p>2. PERCY THOMAS, PARTNERSHIP 14 John Dalton Street Manchester M26JR, England</p>	<p>3. ARCHITECT CHARON c/o The Embassy of Israel in Washington Att: Mr. Hanan Olamy</p>	<p>4. VALDETARO AND NADALUTTI Rua Mexico 98, Salas 811-13 Rio de Janeiro, GB, Brasil</p>	<p>5. AUGUST PEREZ AND ASSOCIATES 2609 Canal Street New Orleans, La. 70119</p>
<p>8 months consultant: 4 - Nicaragua 4 - Washington</p>	<p>*8 months consultant: 4 - Nicaragua 4 - Manchester</p>	<p>12 months consultant: 8 - Nicaragua 4 - Israel</p>	<p>4 months consultant: 3 - Nicaragua 1 - Brazil</p>	<p>4 months consultant - Nicaragua The project would be finalized in New Orleans.</p>
<p>Supplies Secretary Translation</p>	<p>Translation</p>	<p>Secretaries Printing</p>		
<p>8 months SIC \$ 9,600 Per diem (6 months) 6,300 4 fares, round trip 1,368 Supplies 500 Secretary 1,000 Translation 1,500</p>	<p>8 months SIC \$ 9,600 Per diem (4 months) 4,200 12 fares, round trip 7,200 Translation 1,500</p>	<p>12 months SIC \$14,400 Per diem (8 months) 8,400 4 fares, round trip 5,200 Printing 1,500</p>	<p>4 months SIC \$ 4,800 Per diem (3 months) 3,150 3 fares, round trip 1,860 Translation 1,500</p>	<p>4 months SIC \$ 4,800 Per diem (4 months) 4,200 4 fares, round trip 792 Miscellaneous 1,500</p>
<p>Total: \$20,268</p>	<p>Total: \$22,500</p>	<p>Total: \$29,500</p>	<p>Total: \$11,310</p>	<p>Total: \$11,292</p>
<p>Availability: 14 Jan. 1974</p>	<p>Availability: January 1974</p>	<p>Availability: 1 month after receiving an official letter</p>	<p>Availability: March 1974</p>	<p>Availability: January 1974</p>
<p>Experience: This firm has taken part in and prepared the complete programming of 40 projects, most of them hospital projects and the remainder health-related projects. The projects in which it has participated include a survey of hospitals in Costa Rica and the programming of three hospitals in that country and in Mexico.</p>	<p>Experience: Has planned and built 16 hospitals and health- and education-related institutions. In the Western Hemisphere, it was responsible for the modernization of the Public Hospital in Kingston, Jamaica.</p>	<p>Experience: Tehal Consulting Engineers, Ltd. has planned and designed 11 hospitals in Israel and other hospitals and health institutions in Africa.</p>	<p>Experience: Has planned and designed more than 20 hospitals in Brazil including the Teaching Hospital in Riberão Preto. Has also served as short-term consultants to PAHO in El Salvador, Ecuador, and Paraguay.</p>	<p>Experience: Has planned a number of hospitals, the total value of which amounts to \$101,500,000; details are given in the attached letter.</p>

\* Tentative: Prior visit to Washington.

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TRANSLATION

MANAGUANIC 38/36 NIC GOVT 1-15 1430 VIATRT

DOCTOR HORWITZ  
OFSANPAN  
WASHINGTONDC

REPLYING TO YOUR COMMUNICATION MC-NICARAGUA-4800 OF 3 JANUARY OUR GOVERNMENT  
HAS CHOSEN THE FIRM AUGUST PEREZ AND ASSOCIATES STOP  
WE HOPE THAT THIS ARQUITECTURAL FIRM CAN SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO NICARAGUA  
IMMEDIATELY

VALLE LOPEZ  
SALUBRIDAD  
NICARAGUA