

THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM  
TO FISCAL YEAR 1958-59

The Puerto Rican Technical Cooperation Program is carried out jointly by the United States Government and that of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

This program developed from "Point IV" of former President Truman's inaugural speech, in Washington, January 20, 1949, in which he offered the United States' technical and scientific knowledge to the world's "underdeveloped" regions and countries.

About a year after that speech, in February, 1950, Puerto Rico's Governor, Luis Muñoz Marín, offered Puerto Rico's cooperation in that important aspect of the United States' international policy.

To implement the program of technical cooperation, the Federal Congress in May, 1950, passed the "International Development" which was signed by President Truman, and so converted into Public Law 535, on June 5 of the same year.

Governmental Functioning

The program was first administered in the United States by the Technical Cooperation Administration, created for the purpose within the Department of State, by President Truman through his executive order of November 8, 1950. At present the program is administered by the International Cooperation Administration.

Significant of Puerto Rico's participation is the fact that its legislative Assembly assigned \$50,000 for the island's participation in the program of Technical Cooperation, even before the U. S. Congress

had passed the law giving federal funds to Puerto Rico's participation, in the early days, was administered by the Planning Board, and in 1951, 1952 and 1953, the Legislature again voted \$35,000 for it.

The Puerto Rican Office of Technical Cooperation remained under the Planning Board's jurisdiction until June 30, 1954, when it was transferred to the Commonwealth's Department of State under Law No. 39, of May 27 of that year. The change was made in accordance with a recommendation to that effect in the Governor's message on the budget, as well as a similar recommendation in the Planning Board's Six Year Fiscal Program:

Agreement with the I.C.A.

During the past three years, the Program of Technical Cooperation has been operated within the terms of an agreement between the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the International Cooperation Administration. On its expiration in the middle of 1957 the agreement was revised and again signed in Washington. The new agreement is for three years, and under its terms Puerto Rico has assumed greater financial responsibility than before for the training program.

Since its inception in May, 1950, the Program has constantly grown in importance. In 1950-51, 145 trainees visited Puerto Rico; the number grew to 236 in 1951-52; the following year it was 303; successively it grew to 595 in 1953-54, to 781 in 1954-55, 878 in 1955-56; 1,007 in 1956-57 and 1,115 in 1957-58. During the fiscal year 1958-59, 1,098 trainees and visitors came to Puerto Rico under the program. During

the nine years of the program's functioning, a total of 6,220 trainees and observers have come under it to Puerto Rico.

The foreign participants in the program have come from 118 of the world's countries, among them: all the Latin American Republics; the Caribbean countries; and such far regions as Algeria, India, Indochina, Indonesia, Formosa, Japan, Thailand, Ceylon, Nepal, Pakistan, Lebanon, Liberia, Jordan, Israel, Iran, Iraq, Greece, Yugoslavia, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Iceland, Holland, Germany, France, England, Denmark, Belgium, Burma, Korea, Malaya, New Guinea, New Zeland, Belgian Congo, Ghana, Uganda, Tanganyika, Portuguese Africa, Madagascar, Nigeria, and many others.

Fields of Interest.

In this bilateral activity, Puerto Rico serves as an observation and training center for officials and technicians from foreign countries interested in gaining from the Commonwealth's experiences in various governmental and private activities.

Among the fields of interest in which Puerto Rico offers instruction are: Planning; Public Administration; Housing Projects; the establishment of Communities on and Aided Self Help Basis; Fiscal Programs; the Preparation and Administration of Budgets; Public Health; Medical Technology; Vocational Training and Courses; Education in its Various Aspects; Agricultural Development; Hydroelectric Development; Cooperatives; Agricultural Extension Service; Hydroelectric Development, etc.

As shown by the table below, more than half of the trainees and observers have come to Puerto Rico from Latin America.

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Latin America       | 3,104     |
| Caribbean Area      | 906       |
| Europe              | 141       |
| Africa              | 208       |
| Near East           | 344       |
| Far East            | 891       |
| Canada              | 6         |
| United States       | 507       |
| Hawaii              | 6         |
| Virgin Islands      | 11        |
|                     | <hr/>     |
|                     | 6,124     |
| More than one visit | <u>96</u> |
|                     | 6,220     |

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