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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: April 21, 1970

1970-4-21, Ryani, US, ~~Foreign~~ Economy

SUBJECT: Yemen

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Gene Stoltzfus, International Voluntary Services,
Washington, D. C.
Miss Gladys Frazier, AID/NESA/NE
Mr. Brooks Wrampelmeier, NEA/ARP *Wu*

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Mr. Stoltzfus came by at Mr. Wrampelmeier's suggestion for a debriefing on his January 1970 trip to Yemen where he spent three weeks visiting Taiz, Sanaa and Hodeidah. Mr. Stoltzfus stated that he had been well received by YARG officials and that the Yemenis had been very enthusiastic about the idea of a possible volunteer project in Yemen. Some YARG Ministers had even informally offered to provide vehicles, housing, and internal transportation expenses to volunteers. Consequently, he believes the climate is good for establishing a modest multinational volunteer program in Yemen. Initially a 3-5 man team is contemplated. He believed priority emphasis for such a program would be in agriculture: improving irrigation and water resources, wheat improvement, extension work, and eventually repairing or rebuilding small retention dams in the highlands. There exists in the Tihama coastal plain a large variety of potential agricultural projects. Mr. Stoltzfus said he had also considered the possibility of providing volunteers as teachers of English in the Yemeni school system. He is not giving this project high priority at the present time because of the potential political sensitivity of mingling such teachers with radical Arab teachers recruited outside Yemen.

Mr. Stoltzfus confirmed that the IVS has suggested that the International Secretariat for Voluntary Services (ISVS) in Geneva take the initiative in canvassing its member organizations to determine

NEA/ARP: BWrampelmeier: bdf

(Drafting Office and Officer)

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