MEMORANDUM

October 22 1984

TO: William C. Doherty, Jr., Executive Director

FROM: Richard Hough, Consultant

SUBJECT: AIFLD proposed Campesino Organization Project in Ecuador

As you know, the subject project (OPG) was approved by the U.S. Mission while I was in Quito a few weeks back; however, as reflected in the attached cable, there are funding problems. In effect, what we have is a contingent approval by the U.S. Mission with the primary responsibility for obtaining project financing of about $811,000 spread over a three year period largely left to AIFLD staff in Washington working principally—or at least initially—with the Latin American Bureau of AID.

I have had some rather extensive conversations on the project with middle-level LA Bureau people, as per paragraph 3 of the cable. The consensus view of these individuals is that we should take the funding issue directly to the senior level of the Bureau (Rivera/Brown) for resolution. They contend that in light of the present shortfall in funding against USAID/Ecuador current program request of $25 million, the only place that decision can be made (and funds obtained) is in the Assistant Administrator's office, and perhaps eventually in the office of the AID Administrator.

Given the unanimity of view of Bureau staff on this question, I would opt for a meeting with your direct involvement, as soon as one can be conveniently arranged with Rivera and/or Brown. I would appreciate your thoughts (and agreement) on this course of action.

We need a few days however to get the project proposal translated into English before setting-up a meeting. Meanwhile, let's talk about the project this week.

In this regard, I would note that we have a considerable stake in this OPG. It is not only that we have a major investment in time and effort in developing it, but also that it represents an almost limitless, over-ripe opportunity to organize campesino organizations and develop a genuine agrarian union movement in Ecuador. In short, I believe we should pursue the funding of this project with all vigor.

RH: nw
cc. S. Haddad, J. Holway, M. Verdu