NEWS From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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GEORGIA TECH TO HELP EGYPT   January 11, 1982

STIMULATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY   For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, Ga. -- Georgia Tech's industrial extension program has been selected as the model for a similar service being established in Egypt to improve industrial productivity.

This project, funded at $6.6 million by the Agency for International Development (AID) and the government of Egypt, is probably the largest industrial development effort in modern Egyptian history.

Tech's Engineering Experiment Station is sending three industrial engineers and an information specialist/librarian to live in Egypt for the next several years. During this period, the team of researchers will guide the Egyptians in setting up their Industrial Application Technology Program (ITAP).

"When Georgia Tech's part of this project is completed, the Egyptians should be prepared to continue the ITAP on their own," says Bill Larson of the Station's Technology Applications Laboratory. "We're going to help them organize and operate the service, give them on-the-job training in the U.S., and assist in developing a library of information resources related to industrial productivity."

Georgia Tech's industrial extension program in Georgia operates through a network of eight regional field offices which are staffed by resident engineers. The ITAP will set up outreach posts throughout Egypt to provide technical assistance to industrial companies.

The service not only will improve industrial practices currently in use in Egypt but it also will introduce new technologies deemed adaptable to the country's economic climate.

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To facilitate this process, the Georgia Tech team will arrange for expert consultants in Egypt and the United States to work on specific industrial problems which are experienced by a broad range of Egyptian companies. Tech also will organize training programs in Egypt and America for selected industrial managers and Egyptian staff members of the ITAP.

The Georgia Tech information specialist will assemble the center's inventory of technical information. This phase of the project is critically important since economic development experts have found a definite correlation between the availability of technical information and a country's industrial productivity.

ITAP isn't Georgia Tech's only research and development program active in Egypt at the present time. The Institute's School of Computer and Information Sciences will direct a five-year, $4.5 million project to develop a computerized national information system for Egypt.

This program will make it possible for Egyptians to tap into a technical information network at small minicomputers located around the country. Technical data will be assembled and upgraded in the categories of agriculture, energy, industry and natural resources, medicine and health care, and science and engineering. ITAP is expected to oversee assembly of the industry and natural resources information inventory. These programs are attempts to institutionalize the resources necessary for maintaining a technological economy.

The ITAP contract was signed by representatives of Georgia Tech and the Egyptian government in Cairo on November 30. Representing Tech at the ceremony was J.W. Dees, director of the Institute's Office of Contract Administration, and Ken Maddox, head of Tech's International Programs Division.

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