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SUMMARY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS ON

ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED IN MAKING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON

OPERATIONAL GRANTS PROPOSALS

On January 14-15 the Review Committee considered in great detail the four operational grants applications from Missouri, Kansas, Albany, and Utah. On the basis of approximately nine hours of deliberation, many important issues were explored which relate to the basis on which decisions can be reached on operational grant applications, including both the amount of the award and the terms and conditions associated with the award. This document summarizes the discussions, concentrating on the emphasis given in the discussions to the relationship of the particular parts of an application to the whole Regional Medical Program and to the need to encourage decision making and priority setting on the regional level. In the course of these deliberations other issues were also identified but no summary of these will be attempted in this document since they are considered by the Staff to be somewhat peripheral to the main issues faced by the Council in reaching decisions on the operational grants before it at this time.

The Committee noted that approximately \$22 million of the \$43 million committed to grantees for the Regional Medical Programs for FY 67 would probably be spent by July 1, 1967, leaving a carryover into FY 68 of \$21 million. However, there was no confirmation as to what additional funds would be forthcoming in FY 68 for the Division. Since the four operational grants, if funded as requested, would take a sizable amount of the funds available, the Committee discussed equitable means of allotting the funds so that funds would remain available for regions which were to request operational funds later in FY 68, if their programs warranted support.

Of particular concern to the Committee was the criteria to use in determining a level of funding for a regional program, and allied to this concern was the question of how fast funds should be provided (i.e. how quickly should funds be provided a region to achieve ultimate level of support deemed satisfactory by the Committee.)

The Committee agreed that since awards are not to be made on a formula basis, there must be some way of determining how much is reasonable for a region, based on the application submitted. After much discussion it was suggested that where parameters are not completely defined, or where funds are limited so complete support cannot be given, those aspects of the program which the region believed to be most essential should be supported first, with the remainder to be supported as experience indicates that the gap areas have been identified and as more funds become available. There was unanimity that if there are aspects of a proposed regional program which are clearly supportable, and after giving consideration to the total availability of funds, the Committee should recommend support without delay.

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