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Economic Committee Papers - Brazil - Draft Country Paper

BRAZIL - Draft Country Paper

34. In Brazil, a prominent need is to reduce the unit costs of education and to make education an instrument of economic development. Expansion of the system must, therefore, be accompanied by reforms to make it more efficient and productive; without improvement in the quality and quantity of output, large scale investment and the rapidly increasing operational expenditures required by expansion would not be productive.

35. To achieve these objectives, substantial financing will be required for expanded and improved teacher training, widespread adoption of new educational media, more and better textbooks, development of improved curricula at all levels and types of education, a re-orientation of secondary education away from pre-university studies, and the creation of post-secondary technical and agricultural, diploma level, studies which are now almost non-existent.

36. In addition to contributing towards an improvement of the quality and efficiency of selected segments of the education system, there is also need to finance an expansion of programs designed to meet specific manpower needs of the country, particularly those required to support the Bank's proposed lending program in Brazil. As the Bank's economic studies on Brazil indicate, there are shortages of trained agricultural personnel, and there is need for greater emphasis on education and manpower training in the industrial sector; education lending by the Bank should complement the Bank's proposed lending programs in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

37. The reform needs and manpower requirements in Brazil are so great that a single external aid agency would be seriously handicapped in attempting to provide all the requisite resources and leverage to help to meet them. The Bank has, therefore, to cooperate with US AID and IADB to develop a common strategy of development in this sector. The proposed lending of \$10.0 million in FY 1971 should be followed by further lending in 1973 and 1975.