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LAST REPORT UNDER CONTRACT NO.02/163

CLEARANCE OF DANICA'S EQUIPMENT

On receipt of information on documentation from Kraus Mafei, on 29 August, I forwarded it to UNDP. I also asked Mr Almen to translate the equipment list to have everything ready for the clearance procedure. By 5 September all documentation was ready for clearance to start as soon as the equipment arrived on 16 September

However, that same week I received a call from Hanseatic, informing me that they were Kraus Mafei's representatives and were in charge of transporting the merchandise that was due to arrive on 16 September. They also offered to do the clearance, but I explained that the UN representative that was entitled to do the clearing was UNDP and that they had their own broker. After that officer from Hanseatic stated that they would only transport the goods from São Francisco do Sul port instead of Paranagua Port where the goods had been sent. I stated that would create problems and would delay the whole procedure. They insisted on the fact that they would only do the transport from São Francisco do Sul port and did all kinds unprofessional threatening that otherwise the goods would lose the guarantee since they were the only firm that was licenced to transport Kraus Mafei's goods. I explained again and again that that would cause delays which would consequently increase storage charges, but no chance. They also contacted Danica and continued doing their lobbying with them. When Danica contacted me I explained everything and for a few days it seemed that Hanseatic had understood and would let us carry on with our work unhindered.

Nevertheless, when the goods arrived, on 16 September they started their lobbying with UNDP. First they offered their services and then demanded documentation that is only forwarded to brokers so UNDP explained that they had their own broker. Unfortunately, Hanseatic continued with their demand that they would only transport the goods from São Francisco do Sul. (It would be interesting to note that the distance between Paranagua and São Francisco do Sul is ONLY 180 kms). And after a week of endless fruitless discussions UNDP decided to do as Hanseatic wished since precious time was running.

On 23 September the goods were moved from Paranagua Port. That also suffered delays on account of the irregularity of moving goods from one Port where they had been sent to another port so nearby. As goods' clearance can only be done when the goods are at a Port we had to wait for them to be at the other port to start the clearance with the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The goods arrived on São Francisco do Sul port on Thursday 03 October and documents for clearance were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday 7 October. At that Ministry, documents need to go through three different sections, taking an average of three working days on each section, so if one wants things done quicker one has to keep phoning. I did so constantly and thanks to that in the middle of the second week, when the documents should have been about to be released, I was informed that they had been sent back to UNDP on account of the irregularity of having two ports for the goods. Both UNDP and myself explained the demands of Kraus Mafei's representative and they finally agreed to clearing the documents. The papers were then sent again on 22 October. This time everybody was on the alert and the goods were finally cleared on 25.10 and that same day the broker sent them to São Francisco do Sul custom authorities. Nevertheless the same questionings and explanations took place at Sao Francisco do Sul port on account of the fact that they had never dealt with imports from United Nations and

they did not want to recognize the agreement between United Nations and the Brazilian government. Discussions went on for another two weeks and the goods were finally delivered only on 22 November.

In view of the above, I think it should be fair if Kraus Mafei paid for at least half of the clearance costs, since in normal circumstances the procedure would not have taken longer than two to three weeks and we would have had a good reimbursement such as we had for Sector Co project. Needless to say Mafei should reconsider having such an impractical and unprofessional representative who for a small distance caused so many problems and wasted precious time of all the people involved.

PAYMENTS FOR UNIDO MP PROJECTS

Apart from clearance of Danica's equipment, I also provided assistance regarding payments for Mr Tamas Grof's project MP/BRA/01/168 by which I notified the firms that were due to receive payments and explained how they should go about writing their receipt so that UNDP would pay them. In each case I contacted UNDP and if they said they had not received the MOD authorizing payment, I sent them my copy by fax. Then after a period of about a week I contacted the firms to see if everything was in good order and if it was not, I phoned UNDP to see what had caused the delay. In fact UNDP does not effect payments if I do not clear them. Even this past week a receipt sent to UNDP by Sulpol (MP/BRA/01/168) was wrongly routed within UNDP and the official who received did not know anything about it. Fortunately, when I heard of the delayed payment I contacted her and confirmed it was a UNIDO project and the MOD was already with the Accounts Dept and the problem was solved.

The firms I helped during the past months were Menoncin, Ez, Unifrio and Sulpol.

Mr MILAN DEMKO'S MISSION IN BRASILIA

I made appointments and reservations for Mr M Demko's mission in Brasilia and accompanied him and consultant Mr C Almen to Prozon at the Ministry of Environment.

Last but not least, I would like to thank UNIDO staff in general and Mr M Denko in particular for all the support provided whenever I requested help or information.

Brasilia, 13 December 2002/TChT