

Foreign Service Grievance Board

March 26, 1973

TO: Director, Office of Personnel and
Agency for International Development

SUBJECT: Record of Proceedings No. 73-5S-AID-25 Remedial
Order in the Case of **GRIEVANT**, FSHi,
(separated)

In January 1973 **GRIEVANT**, who was separated from A.I.D. in June 1972, transmitted a formal grievance directly to the Foreign Service Grievance Board. Since this complaint had not been first processed through the informal procedures as required by regulations, the Board forwarded it to the Director, Office of Personnel and Manpower, for the final informal review. The Agency's reply was received in February 1973, the Board accepted jurisdiction over **GRIEVANT'S** case and then ordered an appropriate inquiry.

The inquiry consisted of a thorough review of all the material submitted by **GRIEVANT** in support of his grievance, and the Agency's final informal review; an examination of material from Mr. Carr's administrative file; an examination of the AID Manual Order pertaining to the Medical and Health Program; and telephone conversations with the Claims Section of the State Department's Medical Division and with the A.S.D. Travel and Transportation Branch,

GRIEVANT'S grievance is two-fold. First, he objects to the Agency's refusal to allow his subsistence cost (per diem) for 10 3/4 days of outpatient/convalescent treatment of "Zovinc AID-financed surgery which he had undergone in Rome, Italy, on June 1, 1972, prior

to the A.I.D. payroll during the period; therefore, he is entitled to per diem, under AID Manual Order 454.1, attachment 5, para. SSS.4-3. Mr. Carr is asking only \$12.00 per day, not full per diem, since he stayed with friends during his convalescence.

In the second part of his grievance, **GRIEVANT** challenges an A.I.D. auditor's exception which allowed him only \$2.40 instead of a \$10.00 expense which he claimed on his travel voucher for the purchase of \$1,000 worth of traveler's checks in connection with his official separation travel from **REDACTED**.

The Board's inquiry revealed that **GRIEVANT'S** medical problem was diagnosed while he was on assignment with USAID in **REDACTED**. A local orthopedist had recommended surgery and estimated

In part two of **grievant's** Grievance, the Board referred to the regulations regarding allowable travel expenses (Alp M.O. 550.2, section 141, para, f) and it has *foaiiC* no limitation on the amount of fees for purchase of traveler's checks such as that imposed upon **grievant** by ar. A.I.D. auditor.

CONCi/JS10"?:

On the basis of the foregoing., the Board rejects that portion of **grievant's** grievance which relates to his claim for per diem. As for the other part, - the Board orders the Agency to reimburse **Grievant's** for the \$10.00 expense for the purchase of \$1,000 worth of traveler's checks, in the absence of any regulations which limit the amount of reimbursement allowed for such fees, as the A.I.D. auditor had done. Also, the Board feels that the amount of traveler's checks which **grievant's** purchased, is not excessive in view of the length and circumstances of his travel.

Certification of compliance with the Board's order should be submitted to the Board within the next 30 days.

Villiers S. SirrJcin
Chairman Foreign,
Service Grievance Board

cc: **GRIEVANT**