

# AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE BULLETIN

SPRING 1958

## AN INTERVIEW: AFSC WORK IN EUROPE AND ISRAEL

Consultation with staff members overseas took Charles Read, AFSC's foreign service associate secretary, to Europe and Israel for two months last fall.

Some of his observations are reported in the interview below.

**Q.** Three AFSC staff members worked recently in Yugoslavia. What were they doing?

**A.** They were working with Hungarian refugees in camps. Our three staff members were on short-term assignment to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. That was the only agency recognized for work in Yugoslavia. Since most other groups were busy with the emigration of refugees from Yugoslavia, we addressed ourselves to other needs of the refugees while they were waiting for emigration possibilities. So our staff members tackled the immediate welfare needs.

**Q.** Now the refugee problem in Yugoslavia is solved. Is that correct?

**A.** Yes. Virtually all the Hungarian refugees that went to Yugoslavia — nearly 20,000 — have been moved to other countries.

**Q.** How many settled in Yugoslavia?

**A.** About 630.

**Q.** Do Friends have any other plans to continue work in Yugoslavia now that this project is complete?

**A.** Yes. We are giving help to a Center for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. Our first step was to arrange for the director and a doctor of the Yugoslav Center to visit similar institutions in Austria. Going a step further, we have sent a British Quaker occupational therapist to join their staff for six months. The staff of the Center is most anxious to have her help and advice.

Beyond the help to the Center, we hope to have the continued participation of Yugoslavs in our Conferences for Diplomats and our Seminar programs.

**Q.** What is the AFSC doing to meet refugee needs in Aus-



Robert Worth

A mother in an Italian village feeds her child food given by American manufacturers and sent abroad by the AFSC. Other gifts of clothing and material aids are also sent to Italy.

tria? They're no longer in the headlines, and we are inclined to forget.

**A.** Austria has refugees who have been there for many years as will be some of the newer refugees who came from Hungary last year. We assist individuals and families from both groups. We have loan programs that can help a craftsman or professional man or farmer get started in business or employment. When people seek to settle in new communities, they need a good deal of help and counseling which our staff members can give.

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## QUAKER UN PROGRAM PRESSES PEACE ISSUES

1958 will be a crucial year in United Nations disarmament negotiations. There is a growing demand that the major powers conclude some agreement as a concrete step toward lessening tensions and creating conditions of peace. Through the Quaker UN program, whose offices are in the shadow of the impressive UN headquarters on the East River in New York City, the AFSC will work in a variety of ways for this first step to a more peaceful world.

In late 1957, Sydney Bailey, director of the Quaker UN program, reported that there had been a setback as a result of the suspension of the London disarmament talks that lasted through the spring and summer. He felt then that "for the time being at any rate, the Soviet Union is not greatly interested in serious negotiations on disarmament." Early this year, however, the Russians, in spite of their startling developments in the missile field, were pressing for a new UN commission on disarmament, meeting in public per-

manent session. Russia has consistently asked for an agreement to ban nuclear tests, without waiting for agreement on other disarmament questions.

To keep abreast of the events as they take place in the United Nations and to bring Friends' concerns for world peace, disarmament, good will and understanding to the international body, the Quaker UN program was organized in 1947. Contact has been maintained with United Nations delegates and members of the Secretariat through work of staff in New York, as well as through the Quaker International Centers in Paris, Geneva and elsewhere.

The program is sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee under arrangement with the Friends World Committee for Consultation which has UN status as a non-governmental organization. The offices are located on the sixth floor of the Carnegie International Center, across the street from United Nations Plaza on 46th Street. Quaker

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## . . . communication is vital . . .

Philadelphia, Pa.  
March, 1958

Dear Friends:

One of the advantages the AFSC enjoys from its nationwide and world-wide network of offices and its far-flung correspondence is an extensive, though informal, system of communication.

Letters come in to Philadelphia daily bringing words of cheer and encouragement, suggestions and criticisms, and frequently concerns or ideas for new Quaker endeavor. In turn, we can occasionally offer suggestions to our wide-spread "family."

Communication is vital for a healthy society, though language barriers and semantics continue to plague us. While we work hard to create better tools for communication we need to seek the bases for deeper understandings that are increasingly a prerequisite for survival.

The AFSC seeks to foster this rapport among the world's diverse inhabitants in a number of ways. Personal contact builds mutual appreciation of cultural and religious values. Thus we arrange and encourage international work camps and seminars for youth and conferences for adults.

Regional office programs and contacts enable us to emphasize the responsibility of all American citizens to act on vital issues. When they cannot do it themselves, we seek on their behalf opportunity to express religious concerns to harried government officials. This is a part of the essence of freedom and democracy.

Occasionally the AFSC speaks publicly, reflecting a deep

corporate concern. Thus, in a recent six-point statement the AFSC called upon the United States to abandon the race for military superiority and, instead, put its "faith in the strength of freedom and the power of righteousness."

We also said, "This new approach would involve enormous risks. But they are not as great as those involved in continuing to balance on the knife edge of terror. Recognizing man's capacity for evil, we must seek to reinforce his God-given capacity for good."

We hope such statements will focus attention on the issues with greatest human significance and encourage others to speak their convictions. (Copies of the statement are available on request.)

In this nuclear age we must be right and morally sound in whatever we say, or do, or think. The margin for error has disappeared. So every one must keep prayerfully before himself the urgency of bearing some relevant responsibility in the complex interplay of international affairs.

You can help the AFSC with your volunteer assistance and counsel. Can we help you?

Sincerely your friend,

*Lewis M. Hoskins* Executive Secretary

### Help for Latin Americans

A second workshop on problems of Spanish-speaking people was held in Austin, Texas, in February. The AFSC-sponsored programs were supported by grants from a foundation.

The second workshop was held for professional workers and businessmen and had both Anglo and Latin Americans as participants. The first workshop was planned to help professional workers understand more of the cultural characteristics, mental attitudes, customs and historical background of the Spanish-speaking residents.

Among the problems recognized by the workshops were those of agency orientation toward Anglo-Americans, communications between cultural groups, bilingual education, majority opposition to integration, jobs and housing, and minority leadership needs.

Interest of agency personnel led to organization of a conversational Spanish class for these workers and plans for workshops for other community groups.

### Days Of Discovery Packet

The Educational Materials for Children program has published Packet III of "Days of Discovery." (25 cents each) Materials for the period from February through May are included. They cover holidays and events such as Valentine's Day, Passover, Easter, Mother's Day and special birthdays. Among the projects for children is one for making and filling ditty bags for children confined by illness. Materials suggest ways of sharing seeds with American Indian children and books with mi-

grant children. A new project encourages stamp collecting to help build wells in India.

### Visual Aids

QUAKER VISIT TO POLAND—A black and white slide set reporting on the 1957 Quaker Mission to Poland. The 23-minute presentation has commentary by William Edgerton, a member of the delegation.

LOVE IS THE FIRST MOTION—An historical slide set describing the AFSC and those who have worked with it. A taped commentary runs 23 minutes.

### BEQUESTS

The AFSC has friends that the organization may never know.

But friends of this kind have their own personal satisfactions. They know the AFSC and are content to be known by it when their bequests are revealed.

A recent bequest was made known to the Committee when the mails arrived with a check for \$2,500. It was partial payment of a sum expected to reach about \$10,000.

The donor lived in New York City, but as far as can be determined, she was not related to any office of the AFSC during her lifetime. Yet, she was sufficiently informed to suggest a use of the funds.

Her will asked that the funds "be used or applied for the rehabilitation of European children." If at any time "such use . . . be deemed impractical" the board of directors may apply it to other purposes, "whether similar or dissimilar."

The finance committee recommended its use for work in Germany and Italy and with Hungarian refugees.

Some donors, known to the Committee, surprise the organization in their final bequests. Such was the case of the donor who had regularly contributed \$5 to the Committee for 22 years. She gave the organization \$33,000 in her bequest. She had worked abroad for the Service Committee after World War I.

### New Publications

ANNUAL REPORT—A 16-page booklet describing the work of the AFSC during 1957. A four-page condensation is also available.

WORK AND STUDY FOLDER—An illustrated folder describing summer and year-round programs for college-age young people.

FACT SHEET—(February Issue)—A one-page "newspaper" giving times, places and costs of youth projects scheduled for the coming summer.

EAST-WEST SEMINARS—A flyer giving details of international student seminars in the United States.

## AFSC WORK IN EUROPE AND ISRAEL

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**Q.** What about the thousands of refugees in Germany—people who've been there since World War II. Are Quakers continuing programs there?

**A.** We work with refugees in Germany, but we are doing some other things also. As in Austria we are helping refugees relocate and settle in areas of industrial and commercial employment. This has become a far-flung undertaking. There is interviewing to be done in Bavarian camps. We must coordinate job opportunities through our Munich office and make job placements there and through offices in Stuttgart and Cologne.

**Q.** Does the AFSC have other programs in Germany?

**A.** Our School Affiliation Service is an active undertaking not only in Germany but also in France, England, Holland, Italy, Japan and, of course, the United States. Using Germany as an example, it is apparent that the SAS helps German and American students and teachers to understand each other better, but it also enables Germans to understand their neighbors better. Both students and teachers participate in exchange visits and also take part in international conferences which the SAS sponsors.

We are very pleased by the response to this program on the part of the European school authorities. The interest continues steadily.

### Centers Continue

**Q.** What other interests do you have in Germany?

**A.** A continuing interest of ours is the neighborhood centers, which we have sponsored since 1947. They continue to develop and deepen their roots in the communities they serve. We are progressively withdrawing our financial support but with the assurance that the work will continue to be supported from local resources.

**Q.** The reports from the Quaker Mission to Poland of last summer have been enlightening. Will those contacts be followed up?

**A.** Yes, as far as circumstances permit. We hope to hold a seminar in Poland this summer—as we did last summer. A further extension of our work will be the Quaker work camp in Poland for which we are now arranging. This will be the first in 10 years.

**Q.** Do you expect any Poles to par-

ticipate in AFSC programs in other countries?

**A.** We are, of course, looking forward to Polish students taking part in seminars elsewhere in Europe. We are also inviting some to come to the United States for seminars here. We hope that some of the Polish foreign service officers will take part in our Conferences for Diplomats, as they have in preceding years.

**Q.** Overseas work camps seem to have great attraction for young people. What is the outlook for this summer?

**A.** We are planning camps again in Europe, Israel and Japan. About 100 American volunteers will go to them. Many other young people of many nationalities will participate in the various countries.

### Staff Is Enthusiastic

While I was in Europe I found our staff enthusiastic about the prospects for the coming year. They only regret that they cannot accept all the applicants who'd like to come. It would take a much bigger program to do that.

**Q.** The AFSC is sending sizable amounts of material aid to Italy. Did you see how they are used?

**A.** Yes, I was much impressed by the important contribution which the material aids make, not only in ameliorating the physical needs of the communities but also in developing a sense of individual responsibility for community problems. In the Italian communities, which we are helping with clothing, food and material gifts, local committees select the recipients on the basis of need, rather than of family relationship, political or religious affiliation. The care with which these committees work is indeed outstanding, and the scrupulous records which they keep enable them to account for every single item which is distributed. Thus, the goods are an invigorating factor both in broadening participation in community affairs and in creating a heightened sense of civic responsibility.

The kinds of material gifts have played an important part in self-help endeavors in various communities. In Sardinian villages I saw rooms, otherwise unusable, which had been made into attractive classrooms through the use of the paint which AFSC has sent. Linoleum contributed to AFSC by American manufacturers covers the floors of clinics, helping in the mainte-

nance of sanitary rooms for the examination of patients. The yard goods which the Committee has sent are used for training classes in tailoring and sewing, and the clothing which is produced by the classes is, in turn, distributed to needy persons in the communities.

**Q.** We have earlier mentioned Conferences for Diplomats. Just what are Quakers trying to achieve in the conferences?

**A.** This past year we held three Conferences for Diplomats, two in Europe and one in Asia. Our purpose is to bring together people in diplomatic service of various countries, inviting them to participate as individuals rather than as representatives of their countries. In these meetings they can consider fundamental problems common to all the world's people. By having such meetings free from the public attention, which usually attaches to gatherings of diplomatic representatives, we seek to offer an occasion in which they may discover ways in which national interests and international responsibilities can be brought into harmony.

### The Common Factor

**Q.** In the variety of services offered by AFSC around the world, what do you consider to be the common denominator?

**A.** In my view the great factor common to all AFSC work is that at our best we seem to succeed in touching the lives and spirits of people in many countries. We engage in various avenues of service, some involving the meeting of material needs of people, others seeking to foster an understanding between peoples of different groups and nations. Regardless of the particular type of program, our staff in many instances has been able to encourage, to support, and to extend the outreach of persons and groups who are engaged in constructive work in many parts of the world.

**Conferences for Diplomats in Europe and Asia permit free and unpublicized exchanges between persons with varied views on world issues.**

Lloyd Bailey



## QUAKER UN PROGRAM

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House, which serves as the residence of the program director as well as a place for quiet, off-the-record discussions with UN delegates and staff, is located nearby on East 48th Street. Facilities at Quaker House do not permit large gatherings, so meetings there are generally small, involving a luncheon, a tea or an intimate dinner gathering.

Staff members spend considerable time in conversations with delegates in the corridors and offices of the UN headquarters. They attend meetings of UN committees dealing with matters of particular interest to Friends. Information gathered in this manner is digested, interpreted and passed on to interested groups and persons, aiding them to keep abreast of significant UN affairs. The short and long-range effect of the staff's work is impossible to assess. They do not, as Sydney Bailey recently said, "adopt rigid positions on controversial political, economic and social issues." They do operate, however, on the assumption that "a religiously inspired and realistic approach by non-governmental organizations is an essential ingredient in the complex process of international decision-making."

Each year as the General Assembly is in session the regular program staff is augmented by Friends from the United States and abroad. During the 1956-57 sessions, staff had the assistance of Marguerite Czarnecki, assistant clerk of France Yearly Meeting; Duncan Wood, a British Friend, who is the designated Quaker representative on leave as director at the UN European office, Geneva; William Barton, secretary of the British Friends Service Council; Arthur Dorland, honorary



Leo Rosenthal

**Members of the Quaker International Team at the United Nations arrange many opportunities to explore the issues of peace with delegates.**

chairman of the Canadian Friends Service Committee and Errol Elliott of the Five Years Meeting of American Friends.

During the recent session, the Quaker international team consisted of Kiyoshi Ukaji, Japanese economist and clerk of Japan Yearly Meeting; Stella Alexander, newly appointed secretary of the East-West Committee of London Yearly Meeting; Harry Beer, principal of Pickering College, Ontario, Canada; and Ferner Nuhn, a writer, of Pacific Yearly Meeting. The staff was especially fortunate to have Kiyoshi Ukaji attending a portion of the first year in which Japan had taken her place as a member of the United Nations.

### Help Given Visitors

Another major function of the Quaker United Nations program is in helping visitors get an appreciation of the United Nations by assistance with guided tours through UN headquarters, briefing sessions, seminars and conferences on international affairs. Visitors

to the Quaker program range from high school students to delegations of pastors from churches and meetings. Groups of college students come through one of the various activities arranged by AFSC's College program. Friends visiting the United States from abroad or distant states often drop in during a day spent in New York. From September 1956 through December 1957 a total of 940 persons came in contact with the QUNP through one of these ways. Some groups may charter a bus and spend a day or two in New York visiting the United Nations, making use of QUNP staff and facilities in order to make their visit more meaningful. A group of 37, mostly from Iowa and adjoining states, came to New York for three days on such a tour last fall.

### Special Seminars Held

During 1956-57 the Quaker UN program experimented with special seminars organized for delegates and members of the Secretariat. One recent seminar had a scientist to talk to a small group of delegates on the dangers of radiation.

The staff will continue to work in quiet ways for peace. Bringing persons from conflicting groups or delegations together in the quiet atmosphere of Quaker House may be beneficial in seeking solutions to difficult problems. As the program helps visitors to understand the complexities of the United Nations, citizen support for the organization will grow. As staff members keep a close watch on developments at the debates and committee meetings in UN headquarters, they will continue to perform a valuable function in pipe-lining information to and from Friends and others concerned with the central problems of peacemaking.

American Friends Service Committee  
20 S. 12th St., Philadelphia 7, Pa.

**T**HE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, a Quaker organization, attempts to relieve human suffering and to ease tensions between individuals, groups or nations. We believe there is that of God in every man, and that love in action can overcome hatred, prejudice and fear.

Our work is open to anyone regardless of race, religion or nationality. We depend upon your contributions. Checks may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee at any of its offices.

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