

# AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE BULLETIN

SUMMER 1959



Summer institutes and camps combine world affairs study with restful recreation to give hundreds of attenders a "vacation with a purpose." —photo by Alex Morisey

## AFSC PERSEVERES FOR PEACE

☛ Peace education programs of the American Friends Service Committee must be described in many ways to encompass their rich variety, but they all have a common concern for peace.

An international affairs institute in Houston, Texas, may contrast sharply with a one-day community conference in Pennsylvania, but both confront the community with an opportunity to examine in greater depth issues of war and peace.

A recent three-day meeting in Houston had as speakers members of the Soviet and Indian delegations to the United Nations, and a member of the Canadian Parliament.

Because of "patriotic" pressures, the invitation to the Russian to speak to a women's society in a local church was withdrawn. The chagrin of the pastor and many of the women was expressed by one of them: "We criticize Russia for not allowing freedom of speech, but let's all face the fact that our freedom to speak has been denied today."

At the Houston institute, a Hungarian refugee made an impassioned attack on the Soviet Union and the Russian diplomat. A moving and effective reply was made by the member of the Indian delegation. He cited the oppression of his own country, his own imprisonment, the victory that India won in attaining independence while

at the same time winning a relationship of friendship with Britain. He said this could not have been done in bitterness, and that those who suffer from oppression cannot really win unless they win their oppressor as well as their independence.

Later the Indian was surrounded by the Hungarians, and the man who made the attack told an AFSC staff member that he had not intended to be disruptive.

### Conference Gives Lift

A conference sponsored by the Council of Churches in Punxsutawney, Pa., with the help of the AFSC church peace education program, faced objections from fundamentalist leaders but drew a registration of 150 persons. Twenty churches in the community of 10,000 were represented. An attender wrote after the conference: "I had experienced a particularly dry season and so much needed the lift I received yesterday. All the way home last night and today too, the closing words keep ringing in my ears. Gratefully . . ."

Quaker agencies find it difficult to put in writing observations on their work and purposes, but they keep searching for better ways. The truth, it would seem, is always hidden in the

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## Bell Heads Staff After Wide Service

☛ Colin W. Bell, who has given leadership to Quaker projects on three continents, has been named executive secretary of the American Friends Service Committee.

Since 1955 he has been AFSC associate executive secretary for general administration. For five years before that he was director of the Quaker International Center in Geneva, with official United Nations observer status on behalf of the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Beginning in late 1943, he spent 3½ years in China as a member of the Friends Ambulance Unit. He was chairman of the FAU China Convoy for 18 months. He then came to Philadelphia as director of all AFSC programs in Asia.

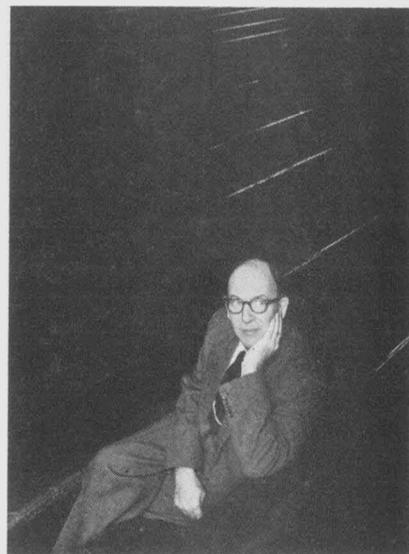
In 1948 he became administrator of the AFSC relief operation for nearly 250,000 Arab refugees in the Gaza strip, a project undertaken at the request of the United Nations.

Colin was born and brought up in Liverpool, England, and graduated from Liverpool College. Originally a Presbyterian, he has been a member of the Society of Friends for a number of years.

For 14 years he was associated with the British Home Stores Company. As buyer and executive he traveled widely over the world. Joining the Friends Ambulance Unit in 1942, he drove an ambulance during the London blitz and afterwards engaged in emergency work in English hospitals.

With his wife, Elaine, and three children, he lives in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

—photo by Matt Herron





## IDENTIFYING AFSC IDEALS

• This is a condensation of a talk given by Henry J. Cadbury, chairman of the AFSC Board, at the annual meeting of executive staff, members of the Board, and regional chairmen.

ANYONE CONNECTED WITH THE AFSC is called upon from time to time to try to identify its ideals. This is best done in action, but for purposes of "communication" it must be sometimes attempted in words. One naturally hesitates to indulge in verbal description of anything so intangible and so delicate as the genius of a religious movement, and yet one cannot always refuse. There is a story of an AFSC worker to whom a beneficiary complained, "Why don't you preach what you practice?"

Within the councils of the Committee dilemmas of definition and policy emerge. Is it a relief or humanitarian organization exclusively? Is its main sphere at home or abroad? Lately the question has been, is its goal so exclusively reconciliation that policies that produce tension must be excluded? Does it aim at professional employees or is its purpose the inculcation of the ideal of amateur participation?

All these questions permit of a "both-and" answer. They wrongly suggest an inflexible addiction to a single tradition instead of the ideal of preferring pioneering to conformity.

There is another use of the word "identifying" which may be suggested. That involves not so much evolving *ad hoc* definitions for the present but comparison of our actual practice with past classical standards. These prior standards are not to be thought of as consciously formative. The Service Committee proceeds from point to point "as way opens." It is rather in retrospect that one observes its repetition or exemplification of precedents earlier and otherwise defined. This prevents subservience to formulated norms. It means independent coincidence.

Great teachers of the past have usually not demanded blind obedience to their teachings. They welcomed only free conviction among their followers which coincided with their own standards. Socrates tried to make his pupils arrive at judgments quite on their own. Jesus said, "Why don't you judge of yourselves what is right?" Mahatma Gandhi always discouraged persons from adopting his teachings or practice unless it was done by independent individual acceptance of the same point of view.

Personally I happen to be well acquainted with two historical religious movements. One is early Christianity, the other early Quakerism. Therefore I have an incurable tendency in thinking of the AFSC to compare it with one of

these. Living in the twentieth century and involved as I am in this century's problems as they confront us, I find myself comparing these earlier standards. In doing so I think of them more often after our Committee has made its decisions and had its experience than before. In other words, we are not so much imitating the earlier standards as discovering subsequently that we coincide with them.

Let me illustrate this briefly from the teachings of Jesus. The simple and direct teachings in the earliest gospels show a homogeneous character. They are concerned with human conduct. Christian history and theology and ecclesiastical concerns have often obscured this aspect. The very exalted claims later made for Jesus have done a disservice to this legacy of his social teaching. Apparently he himself was little concerned for his own authority. He offered advice to those he conversed with, and he expected them to accept it, not because he offered it, but because they consented to it of their own conviction. He relied on "self-evident truths," as a famous American document would phrase it. So it seems to me the AFSC has no other ground for hoping to influence people or to make friends—not Friends—than their voluntary acceptance of our standards.

Another striking feature of Jesus' teaching is his apparent silence about concepts of justice. He believed each man should do right. He did not construe duty as preventing others from doing wrong. Although the parable of the Good Samaritan mentions robbers who attacked an innocent traveler and left him "half dead" and a priest and a Levite who left "the scene of the accident" without helping, Jesus' interest was not so much in preventing evils or punishing criminals as in the emergency benevolence of the Samaritan. Such emphasis differs from much of present day concern. It is to the sociologist a stumbling block, and to the professional reformer, foolishness. One-sided perhaps, Jesus stakes his hopes on the multiplication of active good will. He is an exponent of love in this sense, of unilateral and radical and intelligent sacrificial service. On retrospect one finds that all through its history the AFSC has also made this central in its policy.

Many other parallels can be safely and modestly drawn. Enough has been said to illustrate this meaning of the word "identification." It is the happy recognition of the coincidence between standards of conduct and service in our time and the substance of the underlying philosophy behind the classical records of earlier representatives of religious and social concern.



—photo by USIS

## MONTGOMERY LEADER VISITS INDIA

Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King traveled during February in India at the invitation of the Gandhi Peace Foundation and with the sponsorship of the AFSC. Dr. King is president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He led the successful bus boycott in Montgomery.

In the photo, Dr. and Mrs. King are shown during a press conference in New Delhi. At right is Jim Bristol, director of the Quaker Center in Delhi.

Dr. King was particularly interested in studying the Gandhian non-violent movement and met many of the movement's leaders as well as Prime Minister Nehru and other men in government.

Dr. and Mrs. King were accompanied by Dr. L. D. Reddick, professor of history at Alabama State College, who traveled under other auspices.

## COUNSELING ROLE BASIC TO REFUGEE PROGRAM

By JULIA BRANSON

• Julia Branson is AFSC Head of Mission in Austria. From Vienna, center of the Committee's work with Hungarian and other refugees in the area, comes this description of one staff role in the program.

✂ The work of an integration counselor is to assist refugees to become established in Austria. The basic task is to find out what their major problems are, and then to assist in meeting them if that lies within our power, or to refer them to Austrian or international agencies.

Most refugees are already registered with their denominational agency or with the International Rescue Committee. Since these agencies, in addition to handling emigration, have contracts with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United States Escapee Program, they are the channels through which refugees may profit from programs of these groups.

We often call a specific case problem to the attention of the agency and press for the working out of a project which might, for example, be presented to USEP for a grant. If a refugee, particularly an older person, stands no chance of emigrating, it is possible for USEP to give a grant of \$500 per fam-

ily member to secure housing or perhaps to help in the establishment of a small business. Such referrals do not mean that we turn over the case to the agency; it means continuing to work with both agency and client.

Many refugees come to us asking for clothing or bedding. If there is need, the counselor writes out an order to our distribution center and gives it to the client, who goes to the center and has the order filled. A great many cases, after investigation, get orders for furniture. In the course of handling these requests, we often find deeper problems, perhaps serious health situations or bad job placements. There have been instances of individuals who were eligible for Austrian pensions, officers in the old Austrian-Hungarian army, for instance, and we have helped in such cases.

### Small Loans Made

Integration counselors handle small loans up to 2,000 Austrian schillings (about \$75) and there are many reasons for giving them. Loans have been given to attend a drivers' school in order to get a driver's license, or to get



A Quaker loan helped these refugees start a plastic raincoat factory.

—photo by Nancy Lawrence

the tools of a trade, or to travel to a job already secured.

Our great advantage is that we can make decisions and act quickly and do not have to wait for some higher authority to make the decision. Other agencies not infrequently refer cases to us for quick action.

Once we have rendered some small service to the refugee, he is very apt to come back to see his counselor, perhaps with a new difficulty or perhaps just to talk over plans. These talks may be more important than any other service rendered. There has been much relief available to the Hungarians and it has been easy to get. We are trying to help them see that the time may come when they must stand on their own feet. We think that for many of them it has come.

## PEACE PROGRAMS

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next committee meeting, or meeting for worship, or retreat, or round-up. Searching and re-examination of the AFSC role continued at a recent round-up of peace secretaries and national office staff.

Pendle Hill's quiet Friendly atmosphere seemed to induce deep spiritual and mental contemplation. Secretaries from 11 regional offices offered insights from a background as varied as the geography of their scattered locations and the special concerns of the constituents.

### Two-Year Emphasis

The thinking also helped restate the purposes of the AFSC Peace Education Program. Special emphasis during the next two years, they agreed, must be placed on the politics and economics of peace. Their objectives will be to (1) make clear that cold war policies and programs have failed, (2) challenge people to withdraw their allegiance and support from cold war

policies, and (3) develop concepts of the economics of peace which must replace the economics of war.

Both current and projected programs suggest the way these objectives will be pursued. The Committee sponsors a variety of educational events and tries to assume a pioneer role in the peace movement. Conferences, institutes, and camps emphasize personal encounter as an effective way to communicate the peace message. The national office helps to schedule a variety of speakers who have a relevant message.

During April, Philip Noel-Baker, Quaker member of the British Parliament and distinguished authority on disarmament, covered a "circuit" of engagements arranged by AFSC offices in Cambridge, San Francisco, Pasadena, Des Moines, and Dayton. He spoke also for a series of AFSC International Affairs Seminars in Washington.

Vera Brittain, a British pacifist and author, spoke on the West Coast for the offices in San Francisco, Pasadena, and Seattle, and at engagements arranged by the Middle Atlantic Regional Office. Seven regional offices scheduled speaking dates for Earl

Reynolds, who protested nuclear tests by sailing his boat, "The Phoenix," into the restricted Pacific area last summer.

The peace literature program serves staff and constituency with printed materials. Articles, pamphlets, and books are prepared by the AFSC or secured from other sources. Six times a year subscribers get a "Peace Packet" of literature assembled to highlight current issues. ("Peace Packets" may be ordered from Peace Literature Service, 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa. Price \$2.50 a year, single packets 50 cents.)

### AFSC Best-Seller

Of the pamphlets published by the Committee, *Speak Truth to Power* continues as a best seller. A total of 80,000 copies have been produced in four printings since 1955.

Other programs with church and labor groups emphasize self-help through existing community channels.

The church program, working largely through local and state councils of churches, has reached more than 90

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cities and towns. Currently the program is trying to stimulate volunteer community leadership to cooperate with the new emphasis on peace education coming from the National Council of Churches. The NCC project is an outgrowth of the World Order Conference held last year in Cleveland.

A recent conference of about 90 labor leaders, representing 21 unions in the Chicago area, examined the issues surrounding labor and the cold war. Spontaneous interest among some attenders at the Chicago conference re-

sulted in an offer to serve as an advisory labor committee for the regional office.

Another service to labor includes regular mailings of commentary on current issues and a Herblock cartoon which reaches about 800 trade union publications.

The pioneering spirit of AFSC work for peace is exemplified in a new project which will use drama as a vehicle for the peace testimony. Scheduled for production this fall is a "docudrama" version of the pamphlet, *Speak Truth to Power*. Docudrama is a technique combining concert reading with a minimum of acting. A company of readers, directed by Bert Bigelow, skip-

per of the ketch "Golden Rule," will make a coast-to-coast tour next fall.

How well the AFSC does its work may never be adequately judged since, for the most part, intangibles resist measurement. It may be necessary to rely on an affirmation such as that spoken when the Nobel Peace prize for 1947 was presented to the AFSC and Friends Service Council, London. Gunnar Jahn, chairman of the Nobel Committee, spoke of Quaker service "founded on the faith in the victory of spirit over force. . . ." In concluding he said the lines of a poem by Arnulf Overland: "The unarmed only has inexhaustible sources. Only the Spirit can win."

### Aid Sent Algerians

Two shipments of material aids totaling 40,000 pounds have been sent to Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco. The gifts include shoes, children's underwear, soap, men's clothing, and quilts. The first 25,000 pounds arrived in Casablanca March 10; the same day another 18,000 pounds left New York for Tunisia.

This aid to the 170,000 refugees, concentrated on the borders of the two newly-independent countries, is being given in cooperation with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The materials will be distributed in the two areas through the Red Crescent Societies.

### Summer Projects Try New Ideas

Young people joining AFSC summer projects in 1959 may find themselves pioneering new techniques for treating the mentally ill. In Ypsilanti, Michigan, a pilot project in milieu therapy will be inaugurated at the State Hospital with the aid of AFSC volunteers.

Milieu therapy is a new application of an old idea in psychiatry. With techniques now

being developed, patients are led to participate in an environment (milieu) which approximates the activities of normal living. This therapy often gives a patient incentive to retreat from his fantasies and re-establish contact with reality. Such treatment requires additional hospital staff to provide individual attention, and it is felt that volunteers can do this at Ypsilanti.

At Lakeland, Kentucky, Institutional Service volunteers will provide services at a state mental hospital. They will work to improve the physical appearance and layout of several wards and will give individual attention to patients who have been institutionalized for 10, 20, or 30 years. Special effort is needed to give them contact with a normal community—the first step in returning them to society.

A high school workshop and a college-age working seminar will survey problems of discrimination in the North and South. In Durham, North Carolina, college students will interview employers to determine what jobs are open to Negroes.

High school students working in Lower Bucks County, Pa., will inquire about local restrictions against minority groups in housing and employment.

The AFSC summer work and study program also includes work camps in North America and abroad; Internes in Industry and Community Service programs; and Institutional Service Units. For further information write your nearest regional office or: Personnel Department, AFSC, 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

### New Publications

FACT SHEET—report for March on summer projects for young people in 1959 (a flyer).

PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE—explains the philosophy and purposes of the Peace Education Program (8 page pamphlet).

NEIGHBORS IN BURLINGTON COUNTY—description of the work and aims of the Burlington County, N. J. Human Relations Council (6 panel folder).

WORK AND CONTEMPLATION—reprint of pamphlet by Douglas Steere on relation of meditation to service projects (16 page pamphlet). 10 cents.

REPORT FROM THE MATERIAL AIDS PROGRAM—Spring issue (2 pages).

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

THE 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.