

SUMMER 1964

INCREASED COMMUNICATION NEEDED TO RELIEVE TENSION IN PANAMA

"THERE is probably no place in the world today where a larger proportion of the people feel more frustrated and misunderstood than in Panama and the Canal Zone," according to Edwin Duckles, AFSC commissioner for Latin America, who visited the area on a fact-finding mission in March.

"The U.S. citizens living in the Zone feel they have been made scapegoats, not only by the people of Panama but also by the people of the United States and of the world," Edwin Duckles said.

In turn, he found that in Panama there was frustration and anger, not only against the "gringos" who desecrated Panama's flag, but also against the Panamanian ruling oligarchy who live exceedingly well and seem to show little evidence of social responsibility.

A major need, according to Edwin Duckles, in addition to treaty revision, is to find ways and means to increase communication between Zonians and Panamanians. He suggests that Zonians find ways of working with the Panamanians on common projects, rather than providing charity for their very poor.

"Although almost everyone feels that the riots of January were merely a symptom of a general state of tension which made this or similar outbreaks inevitable, it is ironic that this particular explosion of violence came as a consequence of efforts on the part of the United States to improve relationships between the two countries," Edwin Duckles commented.

The flag episode at Balboa High School grew out of a decision made in July, 1963, by President Kennedy to order that the flags of Panama and the United States be flown together at 15 new points within the Canal Zone, he explained. In the interests of amity, it was decided not to fly any flags in front of any public schools in the Zone where U.S. flags had previously been displayed.

In compliance with this U.S. order, the Zone government ordered the U.S. flag lowered in front of Balboa High School. It was the refusal of the students to comply with this order that triggered the events of January 9.

Both Sides Want Goodwill

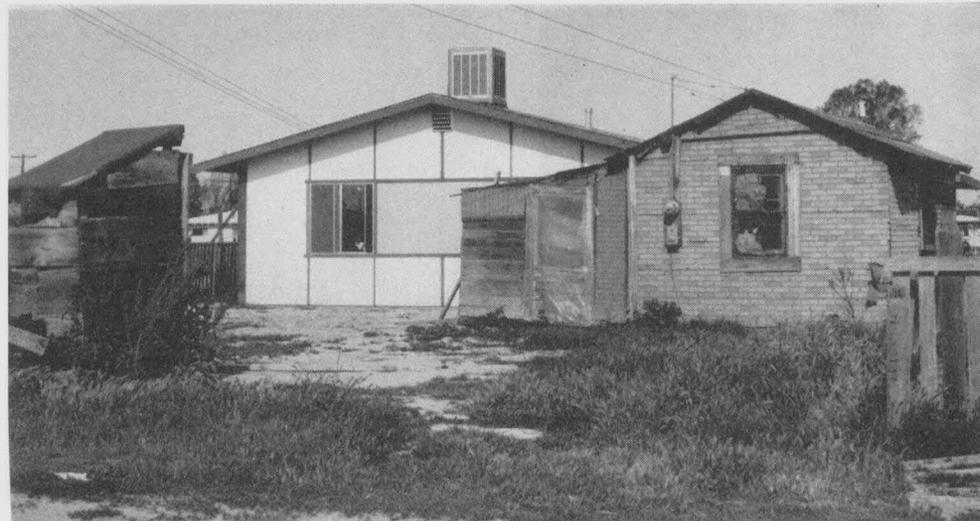
"At the beginning of my visit it was very easy to think in terms of black and white, guilty and innocent, aggressors and victims of aggression, depending on the most recent account one listened to either in Panama or the Canal Zone," Edwin Duckles said.

"As time went by, however, I began to sense the perplexity of good, well-intentioned people on both sides, all acting according to their interests and at times their passions, hoping for the best rather than expecting the worst, appalled by the violence when it erupted, wishing that the clock could be turned back so that they could have made other decisions and taken other actions that might have avoided the release of destructive forces.

"The visit which I made to Panama
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In Tulare County, California, some seasonal farm laborers are getting the opportunity for new housing. Low cost government loans, plus assistance from a skilled builder employed by AFSC, allow a family to build its own home. Farm labor cooperatives here, under AFSC guidance, help assure more steady work plus providing insurance and unemployment benefits.

Russell Jorgensen



CONGRESS HEARS POVERTY REPORT

THE American Friends Service Committee is one of a number of private agencies with grass roots experience in confronting poverty which have testified before the special Congressional sub-committee regarding the Economic Opportunity Act.

Helen E. Baker, Baltimore attorney and AFSC board member, urged the Education and Labor subcommittee on April 20 to "operate on the democratic assumption that all people, including the poor, can plan effectively for their futures if given the necessary facilitating resources of skilled personnel and funds."

AFSC's testimony relied upon cumulative experience gathered over the years in the fields of community relations and work camping, as well as upon information related to studies in the economics of disarmament.

Skilled Personnel Needed

Helen Baker told the Congressional group that "a major investment must be made in finding and training skilled personnel who are—or who can become—effective community workers with the ability to listen, to be patient and possessed of an attitude of respect for the people and the work to be done."

Referring to AFSC's 47-year experience working with the poor throughout the United States and in many parts of the world, Helen Baker said, "There is also a great need for experimentation and for new and imaginative approaches. This pioneering can be done more effectively by smaller private agencies which have the flexibility and freedom to test out new ideas.

"We urge the Congress to consider the adequacy of coverage for the poor in a great part of our social legislation, such as the Fair Standards Act, which even as revised in 1961 excludes many of the rural poor."

The testimony stressed also the need of extending social security coverage to such people as the farm worker,

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"...out of spiritual concern..."

*Philadelphia, Pa.
June, 1964*

Dear Friends:

The current struggle for civil rights in the United States confronts us all sharply with man's temptation to use violence to gain his ends. A century's accumulation of frustration fosters impatience and a willingness to try more drastic measures of protest.

We know that racial injustice is supported widely by violence and the lurking threat of violence. It shows in the nocturnal brick through a window in a segregated neighborhood. It appears in the arbitrary use of power in a dingy police court and, more often, in a citizen's silent tolerance of hoodlums who take a portion of the law into their own hands. Because violence breeds violence, it may appear in impulsive acts or careful plans of people who find they have gained no ground in their efforts to achieve justice.

We are aware, too, of another kind of protest with its own peculiar harvest of violence. Much of the senseless vandalism and the sudden, brutal attacks in our city streets spring from the agonized, unspoken protest of young people who have become alienated from our society.

Each of us needs to look into his heart to ask what he can do to promote the conditions in which rights may be claimed with dignity, and people may grow in peace. The American Friends Service Committee is one channel through which we may shape practical

alternatives to the way of violence. Its efforts are largely experiments with the way of love.

The service of those who work with civil rights leaders in cities of the North and the South is aimed at finding peaceful solutions to situations of acute tension. Programs for youngsters who are isolated in urban wastes stress a loving concern to understand their needs and find constructive outlets for them.

Throughout its international service the Committee looks for means of demonstrating the rightness of the way of love. In Cuba last autumn the aid to hurricane sufferers was direct and tangible. In Panama this spring the effort centered upon personal exploration. In Northern Rhodesia this summer the emphasis is upon helping a government place greater reliance on non-violent methods.

All of these ventures have in common an earthy experimentation growing out of spiritual concern. All have ingredients of good will and technical competence. Each is grounded in recognition of man's obligation to seek ways of nonviolent action. However deep our hope, we cannot be confident that any of these experiments will in fact curb violence in the months ahead. But we can pursue them in the vigorous faith that along this road lies man's realization of his capacity to live in peace with his fellows.

Sincerely,

Gilbert F. White

Chairman



Over 3,000 years ago King Solomon built, near the village of Artas in Jordan, three enormous stone reservoirs which still supply water to the Holy City.

Today, the farmers of the village of Artas are themselves receiving an increased supply of water, thanks to a new irrigation system developed in cooperation with the American Friends Service Committee. Quaker staff members worked with the villagers in the establishment of a credit and thrift society from which farmers borrowed to replace outworn conduits, and to build individual storage tanks.

The current AFSC program in Jordan, begun in 1960, is concerned with training personnel in supervised credit, as well as conducting demonstrations in its application. As a result, in part, of the Quaker program, the Jordanian government has now established a Cooperative Training Institute.

NORTHERN RHODESIA NONVIOLENCE PLAN EXPLORED

JAMES BRISTOL, director of AFSC's program on nonviolence, and Kenneth Kaunda, Prime Minister of Northern Rhodesia, are discussing the creation of a training center for nonviolence in that former British colony in East Africa.

The possibility of such a program developed several months ago as the result of conversations between Quaker International Affairs Representative Lyle Tatum and Kenneth Kaunda, and when this concern was shared with AFSC it was agreed that James Bristol should explore the possibilities in person. He left Philadelphia on April 19 for Africa.

Whether to set up the center as another AFSC program or merely to attach staff to the local government as a technical advisor remains to be explored, as well as a possible academic frame of reference with the objective of eventually having the program become completely indigenous.

As viewed tentatively, a training center might be established with possibly two resident staff members. The director should be a Quaker pacifist. It is intended that a library of books on nonviolence be created and later on, according to the wishes of the Prime Minister, it is possible a person may be assigned to engage in research,

writing, and publishing material on the progress and problems of nonviolence in the African context.

The major objective, however, would be to conduct training in the techniques of nonviolence for such persons as may be decided upon, possibly including party youth workers, prison aides, and police. The last category is considered most significant. As Northern Rhodesia is scheduled to arrive at full independence in the fall, the creation of a police force is a vital consideration. It is judged important that police trainees be schooled in methods of handling nonviolent demonstrations, and be familiar with non-violent techniques in their regular duties.

Village Workers Will Train

The program can be useful also to the emerging government in the development of community education. Village workers will encounter conflicts of many sorts, including intertribal conflicts. It is thought that the basics of nonviolence would be very helpful in their orientation.

Northern Rhodesia has one mental hospital, although others are planned. Here again, the personnel could ben-

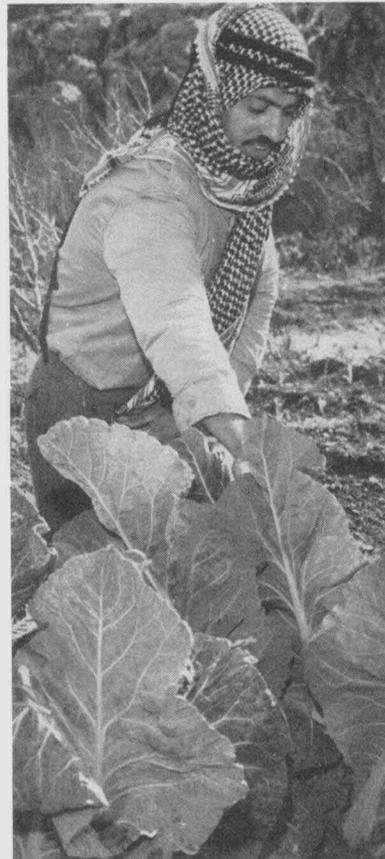
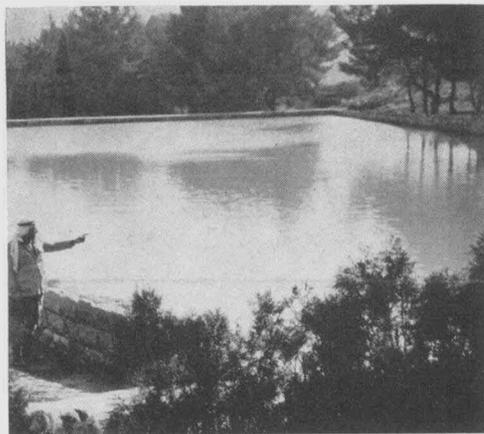
efit from a course in the techniques of nonviolence.

Lyle Tatum has emphasized that there are many unique aspects to setting up such a center in a developing country, which would be less needful in a more advanced stage of a nation's progress.

"There are skills to be acquired," he points out, "such as making out reports and organizing projects which are a normal part of modern education. While a center cannot expect to make up for basic deficiencies in education or technology," he continued, "in the normal course of its work it can make a substantial educational contribution. The diffusion of information and skills is also a democratizing process, looking naturally to the diffusion of power.

"It is likely," Lyle Tatum continued, "that some of the most important contributions will be made indirectly or as a composite effect of the center's working and influence."

James Bristol is expected to return with the results of his exploration around the middle of June. If a program concept, suitable to and consistent with the purposes of AFSC and responsible authorities in Northern Rhodesia, can be reached, financial support will be sought.



TUTORING PLAN OPENS IN ARIZONA

Panama's Plight Examined

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and the Canal Zone was one of the most interesting and personally satisfying assignments which I have been given during my 23 years of service with the Committee," Edwin Duckles wrote.

"Several factors contributed to make it so, the chief one being the confidence and esteem with which the American Friends Service Committee is held throughout the world, which opened the doors in both Panama and the Canal Zone."

During a recent visit to Philadelphia, Edwin Duckles met with staff and several concerned committees to discuss possible ways and means in which the AFSC might be helpful in increasing communication between Zonians and Panamanians, and making the American people as a whole more aware of the history, the psychology, and the legitimate aspirations of the people of Panama.

JAMES DEWEES, AFSC general secretary for Arizona, states that one benefit of a tutoring program for school dropouts there is the bringing together of minority group members and "Anglos," a regional term for Caucasians. "Experience has shown an underlying distrust of the white community," James Dewees adds. "We try to meet this situation by placing a Negro, Spanish American, or American Indian student with an 'Anglo' tutor."

The program began in March in cooperation with the Phoenix Human Relations Commission, which also initiated an Equal Employment Opportunities effort. More than 400 business leaders there pledged to support equal employment opportunities, but job applicants must have attained the minimum level of education.

"So far," James Dewees reports, "our students are adults, most with families, who have a strong desire to upgrade their jobs, but cannot without a high school diploma."

"Unable to make use of a regular curriculum," James Dewees explains,

"we have adopted a personal approach to the students' needs." Volunteer tutors use a workbook which prepares students for the General Education Development (GED) Equivalency Test.

"We have no illusions about providing a complete education," James Dewees states. "We have purposely planned it as a crash program which might give the students a feeling of achievement and the opportunity for better jobs."

Stay In School Favored

An approach to the dropout problem is being made by the AFSC national office through a Work Experience Program, in cooperation with the Philadelphia Board of Education. Twelve West Philadelphia High School juniors and seniors are employed afternoons for \$1.00 per hour in simple clerical and maintenance jobs. They are continuing their education by attending classes in the mornings. Barbara Brecht, assistant Youth Services Division secretary, heads this program.

Poverty Report Given

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who may be entirely or partially excluded by certain restrictive requirements. Her third point called for extending unemployment insurance coverage to seasonal farm laborers and other small groups not normally covered.

The AFSC has been meeting the challenge of the social revolution through many programs. In these pro-

grams the interrelationship between economic problems and civil rights can be clearly seen.

Special appropriations have recently been approved to continue the National Housing Program, the Southern School Desegregation Program, and the Atlanta Employment on Merit Program. Work with the American Indians discloses another phase of AFSC involvement in the war on poverty, and one of the programs to receive continuation funds was the Western Washington State Indian Ed-

ucation project in Seattle. The Committee is also engaged in a low-income housing project in Boston.

Two new programs were approved to strengthen further the role of the AFSC in the civil rights situation, namely the initiation of a New York Metropolitan Housing Program, and an Urban Affairs Program in Chicago.

Approximately \$121,000 has been specially allocated to continue community relations programs already in effect and to activate the last two which are new in the 1964-65 year.

American Friends Service Committee, 160 N. 15th St., Phila., Pa. 19102

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