

AFSC REPRESENTATIVES REPORT— URGE MORE AID FOR VIETNAM

If the United States is to fulfill its responsibilities to the Vietnamese people, we must increase both Government and private economic aid and social assistance no matter what the future political circumstances, according to representatives of the American Friends Service Committee who returned in August from a three-month mission in South Vietnam.



STEPHEN CARY



WOODRUFF
EMLEN

"We have a basic responsibility which we can best fulfill by providing constructive help in the development of villages, of educational facilities, of medical and social services," according to Woodruff Emlen, a member of the three-man Quaker team.

"Our mission hopes for a swift settlement through negotiation of the present military conflict. We believe the Vietnamese people should be permitted to choose their own form of government. In all likelihood this will be some form of socialism, with nationalistic overtones, and as such, possibly distasteful to the American people. We believe we must continue aid nevertheless."

Sought Opportunities for Committee Involvement

Woodruff Emlen and Stephen G. Cary, associate executive secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, left for Vietnam in May and devoted their time there to appraising the situation and looking for possible service projects that the organization might undertake. During the month of July they were joined by Dr. Kenneth Morgan, head of the Department of

Religion at Colgate University, who undertook a series of conversations with leading Buddhists.

While maintaining a base of operations in Saigon, they traveled widely in Vietnam, visiting principal capitals and villages in coastal areas, the central highlands, and the southern delta, as well as making side trips to Laos, Thailand and Cambodia. In Vietnam they observed the condition of the refugees, who constitute a growing problem; visited a center for Vietcong defectors; and saw the work of the USAID, the International Voluntary Service, and the Vietnamese Youth Association. At all times they were aware of warfare, being in the areas of combat.

Throughout their travels they talked with Vietnamese men and women in all walks of life—students and professors, government ministers, Catholic and Buddhist priests and laymen, labor leaders and journalists, as well as Americans and representatives of other nations on the scene.

"Despite the complexities of the problem, there are hopeful signs in Vietnam," Woodruff Emlen said on his return. "There is the emerging leadership of youth, a development which premier Ky is at present helping to foster. There is the basically fine job which USAID is doing throughout the land. And though the Vietnamese people see us largely now in terms of the 'ugly American,' there seems to be

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Chicago Daily News

Two college students shown as they conducted an interview with a North Shore resident whose house was being offered for sale. They were part of a group of fifty college students who worked this past summer with the North Shore Summer Project seeking to get signatures on a petition for open occupancy of the North Shore suburbs of Chicago. They asked each homeseller if he would sell his house to any homeseeker brought by the realtor regardless of the homeseeker's race, religion or national origin.

QUAKER
Service

Bulletin of AMERICAN FRIENDS
SERVICE COMMITTEE

FALL 1965

FAIR HOUSING PROJECT SPURS CHICAGO EFFORT

THE North Shore Summer Project was a movement in which thousands of North Shore residents asked North Shore realtors to give "equal treatment and equal service to all homeseekers." Forty-four civic, religious and human relations organizations endorsed the aims and program of the North Shore Summer Project. In so doing, stated Mrs. Lynn Williams, the project's sponsorship chairman, they "declared their belief that the North Shore suburbs of Chicago could be a finer place for all if it were residentially open to all." The project's full-time director was Bill Moyer, executive director of AFSC's Home Opportunities Made Equal, Inc., who considered this summer on the North Shore an important facet of HOME in its goal to educate the community.

Work Well Publicized Locally

The summer project sought to reach its goal through local committees which directed activities to carry out the program. Individuals and groups publicly announced their support of the project's goal. Petitions were circulated in every community asking realtors to open their doors to everyone. Window stickers and pins supporting equal housing were distributed. In addition, trained college students, Negro and white, interviewed homesellers on the subject of open occupancy of the North Shore suburbs, and realtors were asked to discuss their problems and fears openly. A community education program evolved that included discussion groups, neighborhood seminars, progress reports and weekly public meetings.

In a letter to a city official an Evanston resident wrote, "The project is in the true sense historic . . . because it points at a serious social fault in a new way, truly disturbing in the directness of its challenge to us to be more fully human." And one of the committees concluded that the North Shore Summer Project "provided a unique opportunity for concerned citizens, young and old, to work together to realize the American idea of a truly democratic society."

"...a religious and a democratic duty"

Philadelphia, Pa.

July 14, 1965

Dear Friends,

A report prepared for the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, whose chairman is Senator Eastland of Mississippi, was published on July 13, 1965. Entitled "Techniques of Soviet Propaganda," it was written by a French author of several anti-Communist books, Suzanne Labin.

One small paragraph of this sixty-four page report impugns the integrity and the loyalty of the American Friends Service Committee, which the author states is "well known as a transmission belt for the Communist apparatus." This charge is completely untrue and undocumented.

For three hundred years Quakers have prayed and worked and witnessed for the nonviolent ordering of human society, and have done so out of deep religious conviction concerning the nature of the Christian message. That we have failed so far is evidenced by history, but history has also recognized the sincerity of our belief, and much of what Friends have stood for in the past has now been accepted by society.

The AFSC is an emanation of these religious convictions although we do not speak for the Religious Society of Friends. We have tried to heal the tragedies caused by war in a great number of countries for forty-eight years. Our only criterion in relief work has been dire human need, and we have been and are supported in this work by countless Americans of many faiths. Although it has been carried out in situations of grave political tension, we have never to our knowledge caused offense to the governments of countries in which we work, or to our own Government, to which we have always related openly and harmoniously through succeeding administrations.

We believe that a citizen's deepest spiritual insights form the true basis on which he may know how best to serve his own country and all men. Many among us are pacifists; that is, we do not believe that violence,

of which war is the ultimate expression, can achieve the good life and the freedom of spirit to which all men have the right. Insofar as the violence in our own natures allows, we must witness to that belief. In a world such as we now live in, the moral dilemmas of the pacifist are very great. Perhaps they are only exceeded by the moral dilemmas of the non-pacifist.

When we speak, write, or distribute literature, we do so under our own banner. We have no activities to hide from anyone who genuinely seeks to know the truth, and we are neither beholden to nor affiliated with any group, party, or movement in ways that are not open for all to see.

We do believe that where there are gulfs of hatred, misunderstanding, cruelty, ignorance, prejudice, indifference, or absence of normal human relations, it is both a religious and a democratic duty for men to seek ways of bridging those gulfs. We do not accept at all the concept that ideological opponents have a diabolical cunning against which our citizens have no intellectual defense or spiritual stamina. Indeed, we have faith in the constructive results which can flow from real communication across barriers; and the higher the barrier the greater the need.

We are weak and fallible humans, but we are not ignorant of the world and its ways, and we will continue to do our best as God helps us to do it.

Sincerely,



Editor's Note: This is an abridgment of a longer statement made by Colin Bell on July 14, 1965. On July 20, Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania read it into the *Congressional Record*, along with some remarks of his own and an editorial by the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* denouncing the "McCarthyite attack" upon the AFSC. Subsequently Senators Thomas J. Dodd, Connecticut; Sam J. Ervin, Jr., North Carolina; Birch Bayh, Indiana; Joseph D. Tydings, Maryland; Clifford P. Case, New Jersey; and Joseph S. Clark, Pennsylvania, made statements from the Senate floor denouncing the charge. Copies of the *Congressional Record* covering these occasions are available upon request.

AFSC UNDERTAKES AN URBAN ASSIGNMENT IN MEXICO

IN April, 1965, the first of more than 18,000 tenants moved into some of the projected 96 buildings of Mexico City's brand-new John F. Kennedy housing project for the Graphic Arts Workers of Mexico City—called by its major sponsor, the American Institute for Free Labor Development, "the largest housing development of its kind in the Western Hemisphere."

The project, which will admit only 2% nonunion families, was built mostly with AFL-CIO funds through the cooperation of AIFLD, AID, and a group of private American firms that have branches in Latin America. The Mexican government will manage the physical plant, but the sponsoring unions are responsible for helping the occupants initiate and direct their own social service facilities.

Here, at the request of the labor institute, AFSC will supplement the personnel of the AIFLD's newly formed

Community Development Department with a team of four, headed by an experienced Uruguayan social worker, to help the residents adjust to the new setting and develop their own program of community services, including such things as youth groups, women's clubs, vocational training and recreational activities. Team members will first organize and cooperate with residents in making surveys among householders to learn what human and material resources are available in the development and in the surrounding community, investigate the feasibility of setting up consumers' cooperatives and a credit union, and determine what a "home owner's guide" for this particular housing project should include.

Edwin Duckles, commissioner for Latin America, reports from Mexico City that window breaking and other evidences of juvenile restlessness are already a major problem in *la Unidad*

John F. Kennedy. In response to a plea for some immediate help in this emergency, several older Mexican students are undertaking a recreational program in the project, under the general supervision of Larry Marsh, Edwin Duckles' assistant.

It's All New to Citizens, Too

AFSC's purposes in undertaking this, its first urban project in its 25-year association with Mexico, are to help the residents, in a relatively government-free labor organization, feel at home in their new dwellings; help them learn about their rights, privileges and responsibilities in administering their own society within the national framework; and develop an esprit de corps in this amazing \$10,000,000 community whose first stone was not laid until December, 1963.

BARODA, INDIA, CHERISHES PROUD PAST

BARODA, Gujarat state, is the site of AFSC's current social and technical assistance program in India. Once a princely capital under the 18th century Mahratta rulers, it has lovely parts outside the old walled city—flower gardens and public parks, wide boulevards, libraries, museums and palaces. But industrial progress has fouled the once-beautiful Vishiwamitri River with the smell and color from chemical plants. Poverty and slum conditions have increased with the influx of untrained people from tribal areas in search of jobs, and housing and sanitation conditions have long since passed the stage of crisis. Many people live on the streets, and a sari slung between two trees is not an uncommon bed for the small children of the family, although luxurious houses are being built for those at the top of the economic heap.

City leaders want progress according to the dignified tradition of Baroda's past, are eager to eliminate the water shortage, maintain good health standards and improve conditions for the poor, and are glad for AFSC help and advice.

Joint U.S.-Indian Staff

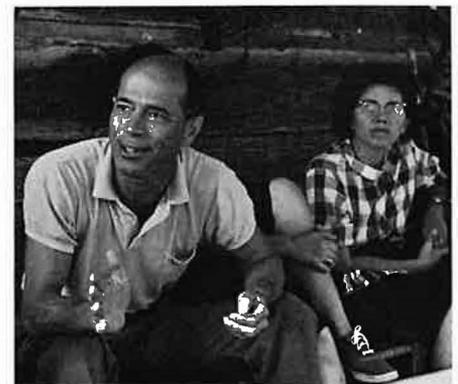
AFSC's project directors, Harry and Julia Abrahamson and William J. Cousins, find that AFSC's idea of working along with citizens on their own self-planned programs appeals to the people of Baroda. Under the guidance of AFSC staff and four Indian professional associates, nine Indian community workers will initiate self-improvement programs among neighborhood groups by means of personal visits and consultation with residents and resource people in committee meetings. Evaluative studies will be undertaken during the course of the project with the help of a visiting consultant, Gertrude Marlowe.

The programs themselves will center on four carefully chosen districts representative of the perplexing conditions of a typical Indian city—many of them characteristic of growing cities everywhere. They will be dealing with the problems of the crowded urban slum, the deterioration caused by business encroachment in a middle-class residential neighborhood, and the social organization of a newly developed industrial housing project, as well as with the development of a slum area of Harijans (previously called "untouchables").

The project was undertaken in the fall of 1964 for a minimum of five years, with the Indian Government's assurance of continuance after AFSC withdrawal.



FAMILY CAMP IN APPALACHIA



Photographs by Paul S. Buck

Twelve families from four states participated in an AFSC Family Camp July 17 - 24 at Pine Mountain, near Harlan, Kentucky—an isolated and beautiful area haunted by poverty. Camp discussions centered on the "Problems of Appalachia," and definite solutions were proposed in terms of the need for schools, transportation, job opportunities, and new roads for this once active coal mining region. A day at camp included meditation, swimming, hikes, blazing a trail in the woods, group discussions and field trips within the area.

Report on Vietnam

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some disposition on their part to forgive and forget once the military phase of our involvement is over."

The United States can learn from its mistakes in Vietnam, the Quaker mission believes, and approach developing countries in Asia determined to harness, rather than thwart, social revolution. Recognizing that the mass of people of the land are tied to no ideology, we too can forget the divisions of the present conflict and work with the Vietnamese people toward the achievement of their objectives.

Suggest Youth Aid, Training

A decision about undertaking specific service projects in Vietnam on the basis of this mission will await further study. Possibilities include support for a Vietnamese youth group, undertaking work in refugee camps, contributing to the maintenance of community centers in Saigon, and helping to provide social work training and community development training for young Vietnamese. There is an unusual opportunity to do the latter through helping with the establishment of social work training in a new Vietnamese university.

Planning of this Quaker mission to Vietnam was begun early in March upon the return of Gilbert White, chairman of the Board of Directors of the AFSC, from a short visit to Saigon. Last December, Gilbert White made an appeal for the further development of the Mekong River Basin, as an alternative to further conflict in Indochina, in an article published in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. In 1961-62, he had served as a consultant to the Lower Mekong Coordinating Committee for Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
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STUDENTS MEET IN EAST GERMANY

ON a collective farm near Gustrow, East Germany, a short distance from the Baltic Sea, nine Americans, twelve East Germans and three Britons gathered this past August for a work and study project. It was the first such project the AFSC has sponsored jointly with the German youth organization Freie Deutsche Jugend and the Friends Service Council of Great Britain.

The twenty-four volunteers worked together eight hours a day plowing, planting and weeding the collective farm's fields of beets and turnips. In the evenings and on Sundays they took excursions and held planned discussions on such topics as the political and social structure of the German Democratic Republic, the problems of youth, the United Nations and issues in world affairs.

Volunteers Traveled Together

After three weeks of work on the farm, the young people spent a week traveling in East Germany, visiting industrial plants and points of historical and cultural interest, and meeting with

youth organizations. The project concluded August 28.

Prior to the start of the project, the American and British participants met in West Berlin for three days of orientation, discussing the political aspects of the two Germanies, conditions in East Germany and East German sensitivities. Heading the discussions were James Cavener, European director of AFSC work camps, and Alun Davies, Europe secretary for the Friends Service Council.

Previous Contacts Helped Plan

The work and study project was the result of contacts the AFSC has had previously with the Freie Deutsche Jugend in arranging for participation in its work camps. The leader from the West for this project was John Miller, a British Quaker who has participated in several East European projects and conferences, including the 1964 traveling seminar sponsored by the FDJ, the AFSC and the FSC. The leader from East Germany was the head of the international relations department of the FDJ.

CHRISTMAS GIFT PLAN Honor your friends through the AFSC Christmas Gift Plan. You and those you wish to greet can share the satisfaction of serving people in need at home and abroad. Participate by sending us a list of your friends in whose name you wish to make a gift of not less than a dollar. At Christmas time the Committee will mail those on your list an attractive card inscribed with your name . . . a gift in the spirit of Christmas.