



AFSC starting two programs in Vietnam

Refugee and community development programs announced; grants made to South Vietnamese organizations for social work; money also appropriated for war relief in North Vietnam.

The Service Committee is launching a program of education and self-help for refugees seeking asylum in and around Qui Nhon, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam.

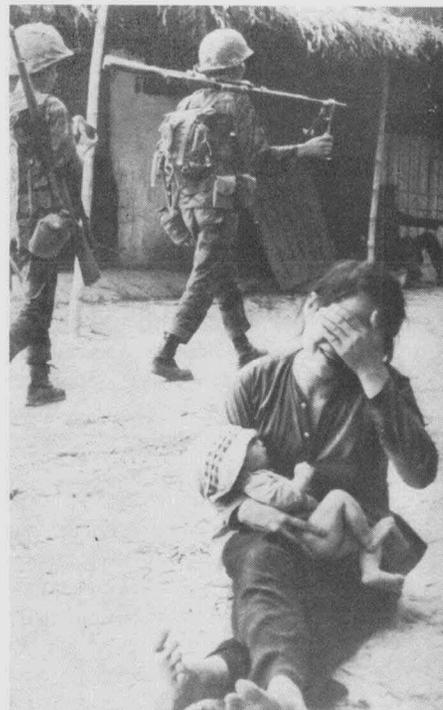
Refugees from Viet Cong terrorist attacks and American bombing raids are crowding into such coastal areas more rapidly than the local governments can cope with them, according to Woodruff Emlen, Stephen Cary, and Kenneth Morgan, who went on a fact-finding mission to Vietnam last summer. Some of the refugees must be provisioned by airlift, and the few private agencies now engaged in helping them are occupied primarily in supplying food and medical service. There has been no starvation or epidemic, but there have been malnutrition and sickness.

Demoralization feared

The great danger, the Service Committee team reported, is that despair and demoralization among this vast group of dispossessed, unemployed people will plague Vietnam for decades to come. Details of the program will be worked out after staff are in the field, but the Committee foresees a need for educational and recreational direction for more than 38,000 young people between the ages of 3 and 17, training in homemaking skills for women and girls, and self-help projects to be planned with the refugees themselves, using their own resources for teaching and for training young men and women in simple manual skills.

A program of community service for young American volunteers in relatively safe areas of South Vietnam is also being developed. Two Committee volunteers are going to Vietnam to set up this program, which will be administered by the Youth Services Division.

Three Vietnamese organizations were



Religious News Service photo

Troops follow bombs, rockets, and cannon fire into a Vietnamese village.

Federal antipoverty funds go to work

This winter a group of agricultural workers in Fresno County, California, will take part in a self-help effort, constructing about 55 permanent homes for themselves and their families under AFSC guidance. Farm labor immigrants from Mexico, they are now living under some of this country's worst rural poverty conditions. Already receiving United States Farmers Home Administration financing, their project has been given an added Office of Economic Opportunity grant of \$180,000 to carry on the work they organized themselves with the encouragement and advice of Service Committee staff. The workers have named their project "El Porvenir" —The Future.

Slum project completed

Just completed under the leadership of the Service Committee's Helen Baker is a six-month OEO-sponsored pilot project in a five-county area of southern New Jersey. Here Committee staff helped residents in impoverished pockets of rural and city slums to define their own problems, develop local leadership, and mount their own campaign against poverty.

With the same kind of planned obsolescence in view, the Service Committee has undertaken three other education and community development programs in widely differing areas of the United States, with OEO grants totaling nearly \$200,000 testifying to

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granted emergency funds on September 1. One is the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor, which will use \$1,000 granted by the Service Committee to purchase supplies or equipment, improve facilities, or extend the services of two community centers it operates in Saigon. The School of Youth for Social Service, recently established at Buddhist Van Hanh University, will also receive a grant of \$1,000.

The Service Committee also granted \$3,500 to the National Voluntary Service, a rehabilitation and assistance group for villages damaged by the war. NVS was started by the Voluntary Youth Association, an organization of socially conscious young people who initiated work camps and discussion

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School desegregation is slow in South



Despite reports in the nation's press of massive school desegregation taking place throughout the South this fall, early reports from members of the AFSC School Desegregation Task Force indicate that the change could better be described as "massive tokenism." Though all but a small number of local school districts in the South have filed plans for compliance with

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act with the U.S. Office of Education, the actual number of Negro students now enrolled in previously all-white schools remains small.

Two factors seem responsible for this situation. One is the wide latitude permitted local school boards in proposing desegregation plans. The other is the intimidation and reprisals which some white Southerners have used to block Negro parents in their attempts to register their children, and to punish those who succeeded in having them enrolled in previously segregated schools.

"It hard for the poor to stand up for what right here," wrote a Negro mother whose husband had been threatened with loss of his job, whose small children had been harassed, and whose home had been shot into when she enrolled her children in the local schools.

On the more positive side, this past summer saw a tremendous surge of interest on the part of Negro parents, more of whom are now willing to take risks to get equal opportunity for their children than ever before. Citizens in many new communities are now organized to press for school integration.

Task Force was joint effort

The School Desegregation Task Force was a joint project of the AFSC and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Twelve program associates—most of them ministers, teachers, and law students in the local communities—were hired and supervised by Service Committee staff members in the task of organizing local leadership to press for school desegregation and to inform parents of their rights. These associates worked in seven states and reached a total of 200 communities, it is estimated. Intensive work was carried on in 70 to 85 of these. The Task Force also held several state leadership training conferences co-sponsored with other organizations.

A school desegregation kit, which was designed to help community workers develop a step-by-step school desegregation program, and which included the latest information about Federal regulations, was distributed by the Task Force to about 3,000 persons.

AUDACIOUS DREAMERS

I think it is not an exaggeration to say that the destiny of mankind may rest on the ability of its young people to find a serviceable purpose in life. That has always been true, but today the human family is very, very young. In this country we are all aware of those astonishing statistics which tell us that in the early '70s one out of two Americans will be under 25. In one respect these young people are already wiser than their seniors, for many of them know that it has to be a new world, or no world. They are glimpsing the need for immense change in the ordering of society. They are not, as we their elders tend to be, addicts of the status quo. They are stretching out to rescue some of the noble concepts we pretend to live by but have turned into shibboleth and cliché—to rescue them and make them work in life.

Adlai Stevenson wrote an article entitled, "The Audacious Dream of Dynamic Order," in which he said: "The status quo ante . . . is not good enough for a world in which the only question is whether change will be violent or peaceful—because change is inevitable. The world has known periods of relative peace and order. . . . Always the order was assured by a system designed to preserve the status quo. And this is precisely why the system of order broke down—because the status quo is indefensible in the long run. What the world needs is a *dynamic* system of order . . ."

Perhaps the test of our times will lie in what proportion of our youth may have the chance really to serve the common weal, and what proportion may take that chance. We of AFSC are concerned about that proportion. That is why our hearts stand aghast when we see our own young American men—and Vietnamese, too, of any stripe—being readied for life amid the "daily tides of beastliness" in Vietnam, and we grieve for them all. That is why we were thrilled to find in Saigon a group of young Vietnamese, influenced by AFSC work camp and seminar experiences in Asia, who are giving themselves to service in the trampled villages.

There are young persons today who are opposing the war in Vietnam. I am sure that there are differing motivations among them, but I see no reason to doubt that most of them are deeply concerned, not in a narrow sense for their own well-being, but for the total hurt of this war, and for the young and old, Americans and Vietnamese alike, who die or suffer corruption of soul in the degrading demands of war. We older people are losing a great opportunity when we refuse to listen to what they are trying to say, and impugn the motives for their dissent, often in crude terms of indiscriminate vilification.

—excerpts from a talk by Executive Secretary Colin Bell at the Service Committee's Annual Meetings, October 30, 1965

COs multiply

AFSC adds counselor to handle inquiries

There has been a rapid increase in inquiries to the Service Committee from young men with 1-A-O Selective Service classifications. Faced with an impending draft call, these conscientious objectors are seeking opportunities for alternative service. At present there are 35 men doing their alternative service with the Service Committee; in October there were requests from 34 seeking positions.

At its October 6 meeting, the Board of Directors appropriated \$5,000 as a supplement to its normal grant of \$2,000 to the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, an agency that counsels men who are opposed to war and wish to secure the appropriate Selective Service classification.

At its October 29 meeting, the Board authorized the addition of a full-time counselor to the AFSC staff to arrange alternate service, both within the Committee and with other agencies, for conscientious objectors.

Statement issued on COs

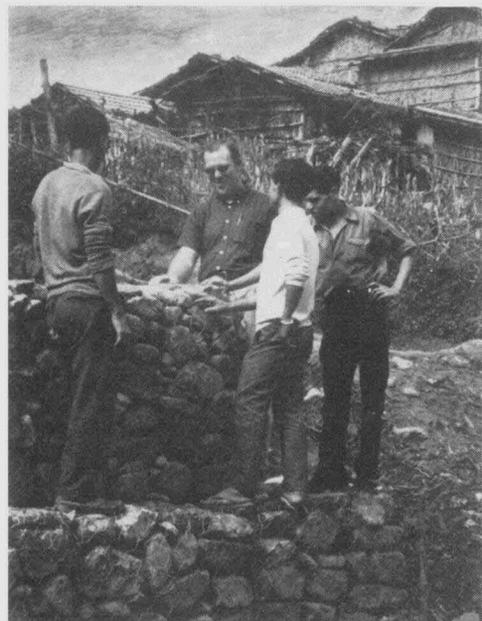
In a public statement issued October 27, the Service Committee gave its views on the current debate in regard to the draft. The statement said, in part:

"Those who voice objection to this war are exercising the basic right of dissent within a democratic society. All through history some men's consciences have dictated acts unacceptable to the community. Many such persons or groups of persons in all lands, who have thus stood up against the prevailing view, or even the laws of the land, have become national and international heroes in history. No great forward movement of mankind has taken place without such people . . .

"Conscience is the shrine of a person's deepest moral convictions, and acts dictated by conscience represent behavior at the highest level of responsibility, whether or not those acts conform with the conscientious beliefs of others. By their nature conscientious acts are based on the integrity and honesty of the person. They are not acts chosen as expedients or political tactics."



In Algeria, the Committee is engaged in simple types of activities that can be carried out largely by the Algerians themselves, and that can be easily duplicated. Rather than concentrate our resources in 3 or 4 locations, we now have contact with about 30 villages. One effort introduces new vegetables through experimental gardens. These offer new marketable products and also enhance the local diet. Simple construction projects with Quaker staff supervision and AID funds have already helped one village build a bridge, and another, public latrines. In a third project, weatherproofing of new government housing will be completed by the occupants themselves. Instruction in maternal and child care is an integral part of the medical work, since disease often results from improper diet and care. The Committee believes that this concept of self-help has the most potential for the Algerian situation.



Antipoverty *continued from page 1*

Government confidence in AFSC methods and goals.

An OEO grant of \$98,600 is helping the Committee undertake a one-year experimental project for developing group leadership among the more than 100,000 migrant farm workers of the East Coast who travel northward every year from Florida to Maine, following the summer to harvest crops. By the nature of their work these laborers have always been rootless and homeless. Isolated from the lives of the communities they serve, they are unwanted when the harvest is over. Service Committee staff is seeking potential leaders in 15 migrant crews and traveling with them on their route north, helping them to become a part of the communities they serve and educating them in democratic participation so that they may become spokesmen for their groups. Parttime associates living in some 45 communities provide assistance and support for the migrants and stimulate local interest in their welfare.

In Chicago a grant of \$65,000 in OEO funds has been allocated to the Committee's Pre-adolescent Enrichment Program, locally known as PREP. This imaginative cultural development program for children is under the direction of Tony Henry, who formerly served with AFSC's VISA program in Tanzania. PREP, based in the Garfield Park area of Chicago's West Side, brings together children of varied social, ethnic, and racial groups from all

TODAY, TOMORROW AND BEYOND

A new brochure issued by the Service Committee's Finance Department lists six plans for people who would like to tie concerns of their lifetime into the continuing, longer-than-lifetime work of the American Friends Service Committee. You can, for example, be relieved of the management of property, while still receiving the income from it. As a result of the income tax deduction such arrangements permit, your net return may be higher than the return you now receive. These and other thoughts in Today, Tomorrow and Beyond may help you to project your interest in service and reconciliation as you plan for the future use of your resources.

areas of the city and suburbs. Small groups of five or six children play and take local trips together under the leadership of adult volunteers.

In Denver, a \$25,750 OEO grant helps to support a cultural enrichment program for junior high school students run by college students with Service Committee help and advice. The emphasis here is on big-brother relationships between one college student and one junior high school child from a disadvantaged area of the city.

Vietnam *continued from page 1*

groups in Vietnam a number of years ago after some of them had attended AFSC work camps abroad.

Following its tradition of conciliation and service wherever there is war and suffering, the Service Committee is making every effort to extend its programs to North Vietnam. An appropriation was authorized at the October 29 meeting of the Board of Directors for war relief in North Vietnam, backed by a promise of an additional grant if personnel selected by the Service Committee can administer the work and if the way is clear for a private agency to take such action.

On October 4, the Service Committee launched a nationwide appeal for the people of Vietnam in 13 U.S. newspapers from coast to coast, restating its stand on the moral indefensibility of war, asking for financial contributions to its programs in Vietnam, and pleading for the withdrawal of all armed forces and the acceptance by all sides of an international presence to maintain order and give protection.

The Service Committee's Board of Directors has approved a \$5,000 grant to the Peace Education Division to start a pilot program of television announcements. Their purpose will be to alert the American public to the need for careful reassessment of United States policy in Vietnam. A working party of six persons has been appointed to analyze the problems of negotiation and withdrawal.

Quaker
Service 