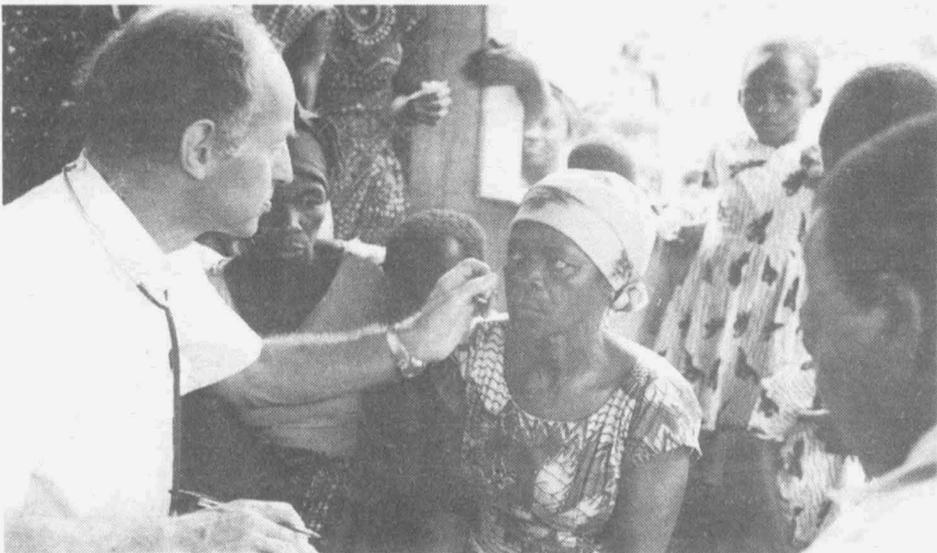




QUAKER SERVICE

American Friends Service Committee, 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 *National Edition, Fall 1969*

AFSC works on both sides of Nigeria/Biafra conflict



Rainer Arnhold, M.D., examines patient in Quaker Service medical clinic in Ikot Usen.

This is a report of AFSC programs of relief and rehabilitation in war-affected areas of Nigeria/Biafra. It is difficult to write about such programs in the midst of a tragic and prolonged war. Words which are intended as descriptive may carry an unintended freight of political meaning for one side or the other, and be seen to confer an advantage in the war of words which goes on as a part of the other war.

The programs described have no political intent. Rather, they seek to meet human needs wherever they are, believing that this is the essential testimony to the common humanity which links people on all sides of a conflict and which is the basis for the cooperation that must eventually take the place of war. We hope the words can be read with that understanding.

KALE WILLIAMS, field director of the Nigeria program, spent several days in the National Office while on home leave the month of August. During the visit he reported to some of the staff how the program was faring.

Two or three clinics a day

"The medical team conducts two or three clinics a day, five days a week. One or more children from each clinic are so poorly nourished, we feel they need more care than just giving them a food ration.

"We bring these children to Ikpa where they receive three meals a day of the going ration—rice, cassava, beans. One meal will have some protein—usually fish—and perhaps CSM, a mixture developed especially for relief feedings composed of corn, soya, and milk powder mixed together.

"Five times a day they are given a mixture of milk powder, water, palm oil, and sugar. There are an average of 60 to 90 children at the center. The usual stay is three weeks, although some may be there as long as six weeks.

"When they go home they still look

scrawny compared to children we're used to seeing in the States. Compared to the Nigerian children just arriving, there's a vast difference."

Kale Williams said he was very enthusiastic over team efforts to attempt to treat malnutrition on a systematic basis.

"Four members of the team have developed an objective, simple measure to determine what percent of the population is suffering from malnutrition. This could prove to be a major contribution to treating famine conditions any place in the world.

QUAC stick

"They call it QUAC stick, short for QUaker Arm Circumference measure. As the upper arm has both subcutaneous fat and muscle, you can catch both protein and calorie malnutrition by measuring the upper arm to see if it is shrunken.

"The team has standards from other parts of Africa as to normal, or average, arm circumference at particular ages for healthy children. The team has also worked out from other tables

standards giving a comparison of height to age, which is marked on a stick.

"A relatively untrained person can measure a child's arm, stand the child against the stick, and quickly interpret from the predetermined standards if the child is relatively healthy, or undernourished."

Integrated staff

He spoke enthusiastically of the team members "working for, and with the Nigerians. We're making a deliberate effort to work under the direction of the local authorities and have an integrated staff of Nigerian and expatriate workers."

The team presently includes two Nigerians—a third Nigerian will join the team the first of September—and eight volunteers appointed by the AFSC and Friends Service Council of Great Britain, co-sponsors of the program.

"Part of the team's unusualness," he reported, "is the term of service they have committed themselves to—two years. Most personnel with the other agencies are on a very short term basis—usually two to three months."

Seed distribution program

Besides conducting the medical clinics and child feeding center, the team assists at various hospitals and maternity centers, supervises food distribution in the area, and has run a seed distribution program for local farmers.

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Board meets again with Dr. Kissinger

A delegation from the Board of the American Friends Service Committee paid a return call at the White House the afternoon of July 7 to continue a discussion of Vietnam policy with Dr. Henry Kissinger, special advisor to President Nixon.

Dr. Kissinger had met with the delegation on May 5 and had asked the group to return in two months time,

"When," he said, "we will have more to discuss."

Fact-finding trip to Southern Asia

Members of the delegation included AFSC executive secretary Bronson P. Clark, Gilbert F. White, George Sawyer, Norval Reece and Joseph Elder, recently returned from a fact-finding trip

for the AFSC to Southern Asia, including a week in North Vietnam.

Following the hour and 15 minute meeting with Dr. Kissinger, the Board delegation held a press conference at the White House gates.

War hopelessly stalemated

"It is our feeling the war is hopelessly stalemated and that without significant American initiatives it will not only stay stalemated, but will worsen," Gilbert White told the news reporters.

Immediate cease-fire

"We call for an immediate cease-fire and all troops home by Christmas. We do not believe that you can negotiate a political settlement while maintaining maximum military pressure."

Meeting for Worship

While the five men met with Dr. Kissinger, a group of 85 supporters drawn from 14 states, the District of Columbia and Canada, held a silent Meeting for Worship on the sidewalk in front of the White House.

After the news conference, the delegation and the group joined A Quaker Action Group on the east steps of the capitol where the names of the Americans killed in Vietnam were read.



While the Board members spoke to Dr. Kissinger, a group of 85 supporters held a silent Meeting for Worship on the sidewalk in front of the White House.

FRIENDLY PERSUASION — expanding our outreach

During this period of social conflict and turmoil, people who support voluntary agencies find it increasingly difficult to sort out what programs should have claim to their support. In the face of this situation we are pleased that AFSC continues to receive the warm endorsement of a broad constituency.

The Committee is blessed with a solid base of contributors who loyally support the many programs which you read about in QUAKER SERVICE. They recognize the realities of the long, hard work needed to substitute multi-national agreements and economic cooperation for U.S. military involvement abroad, and to change substantially our national priorities at home.

However, we are painfully aware that many excellent regional and national programs await funding: a pre-trial justice program for blacks, opportunities for youth to serve in areas of social conflict, a wide range of programs dealing with poverty and social injustice—to mention a few.

Careful review of our situation by our own staff and by outside consultants, who come with the advantage of a fresh look, indicates that AFSC's level of support could be greatly increased from the present \$7,500,000 if more individuals knew of our programs. In spite of very good coverage of AFSC work in the daily press, in weekly and monthly journals, and by the television media we are convinced that many more would want to join the AFSC family if they knew of our programs in areas of their interest.

In order to find this wider constituency our regional and national offices are cooperating in a large-scale outreach effort in which we are sending special mailings to individuals in groups we think share our concerns. We hope these will produce several thousand new friends for AFSC. Such an effort will involve some duplication and some letters unavoidably going to present contributors. For this we apologize. However, you could help by sending this mailing to friends of yours who might be interested in supporting the work of AFSC. Write for as many copies as you wish.

We are operating in the firm belief that good programs will attract new contributors. The pleasure and feeling of accomplishment in bringing the two together is one of the rewards for those involved in telling our story.

We are an organization rich in human talent, rich in the quality of present programs and rich in imaginative ideas for new programs. We owe it to present and potential contributors to let them know about AFSC's role in the crises of our times.



BRONSON P. CLARK, executive secretary

Nigeria/Biafra conflict

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The Quaker-Mennonite team in Biafra, consisting of Linford Gehman, M.D., Martha Bender, R.N., and transport coordinator Jon Yager, continue medical clinics and food distribution as well as they can.

The nutritional and medical conditions in Biafra presently are deteriorating rapidly due to the suspension of the International Committee of the Red Cross airlift. Protestant and Catholic relief flights continue but are able to supply only limited amounts to staff within Biafra.

Kwashiorkor cases increasing

As described by former Quaker-Mennonite volunteer Evelyn Shellenberger, R.N., recently returned from Biafra, "The number of children suffering from kwashiorkor is once again increasing rapidly. They sit quietly, unable to move, their legs and stomachs swollen, their hair turned red and straight, their skin dry and scaly."

Originally stationed in Abiriba in charge of the Abiriba Joint Hospital, the team recently moved all patients in total darkness to avoid increasing military activity.

Patients who could walk and take care of themselves were discharged. Using a few cars, about sixty were transported to a school at Ohafia. The patients were jammed in the cars, and

many with fractures just beginning to mend had the traumatic experience of having the bones again broken.

Hospital moved second time

The hospital was moved a second time to avoid military activity and now is located in a former school in Ozu Abam. As many as 800 patients come each day for out-patient treatment.

Dr. Linford Gehman and nurse Martha Bender travel each week from Ihie, where the team now lives, to the hospital at Ozu Abam. Going in two directions—east and south—the two travel



Martha Bender, R.N., dispensing medicines at a rural clinic.

Northern California summer draft repeal

Last January, "Repeal the Draft" referred mainly to a growing concern in California of the AFSC peace education staff in the regional office. By August it had become action: committees for draft repeal operating in several communities, community meetings called, bumper stickers, pamphlets, and letters to Congressmen.

These and other educational drives currently involve a growing number of California constituents who are pressing Congress for repeal of the draft. And most of this activity has centered around the AFSC's Summer Draft Repeal Project.

San Francisco peace interne

This project was largely organized by Christina Baldwin, serving as peace interne in the AFSC office in San Francisco. Since the beginning of her internship, she has been following the work of Jim Bristol, in the National Office, and his efforts to establish the National Council to Repeal the Draft.

And with peace secretary Ben Seaver, Christina and Jim created the idea for the summer project. They wanted to expand AFSC involvement beyond the Bay area and to find an issue that would be meaningful and challenging to different communities. They centered on draft repeal.

Throughout this spring, Christina went to various towns in northern California to create host committees of AFSC contacts and to arrange for the arrival of project participants. These participants were college students who would spend six weeks of the summer doing intensive community organizing around the issue of draft repeal.

Five towns organized

By June, five towns, in four selected Congressional districts, were organized for a Summer Draft Repeal Project. Each of these towns lies within the boundaries of districts whose Congressmen serve on House Military Affairs or Military Appropriations committees in Washington.

Each town also had a local Friends Meeting or group of AFSC contacts who would provide support and hospitality to the incoming summer project participants. Among the five communities there is a great variation of size, population, community attitudes, and previous local AFSC involvement.

over 200 miles on their "rounds."

En route they visit the sick bays where kwashiorkor and anemia cases are cared for, and also hold clinics. A Biafran nurse has first screened the patients, as up to 1500 people may come to a clinic. The team provides the only medical care available to the people in these areas.

Feeding the hungry

Jon Yager is responsible for overseeing the transportation of the supplies provided by the Protestant relief agencies for feeding the hungry in the eastern and southernmost regions of Biafra. It is estimated that the population in these areas is between 1½ and 2 million and about 450,000 of these are refugees.



Draft repeal team visiting a Napa, California home. Photos by PAUL S.

In this way, the project could experiment with the receptivity of different populations to the idea of draft repeal and with the effective ways of organizing this response.

On June 21, eleven college students, chosen from applications to the Philadelphia office, arrived in San Francisco and began a week of orientation at the AFSC's annual Camp Sierra in the mountains.

Strong "family" feeling

For one week, these young people met to discuss and learn about the draft, the military-industrial complex of which the draft is a part, the present attitudes in Congress toward draft repeal, the ABM, methods of community organizing, and outlines of the project.

The project had also been organized to experiment with AFSC in democratic decision making. Throughout the orientation, a strong "family" feeling developed among project members.

And during that week, the group itself decided how to pair up into "town teams" and what their emphasis would be in each area. This approach was different from that followed by many AFSC projects, where emphasis is on communal living and on the structure surrounding participants.

Called "outside agitators"

Here participants lived with local families who offered them hospitality, and they worked to make a "community" not only of themselves, but with the people they hoped to leave as a "core" to further draft repeal action. Therefore, reactions and experiences were individual to each community.

In one rather isolated town, there was much reaction to AFSC presence. The local newspaper called the three draft repeal members "outside agitators" and carried a long editorial against their proposed work.

But this coverage aroused other interest, including positive radio and TV coverage and invitations to speak in church and civic groups. The participants found themselves introducing like-minded neighbors to one another and creating new bonds in a conservative town where opponents to the draft have felt extremely isolated.

In another community, which supports itself largely by the surrounding

military bases and industries, it was possible to create a local "Citizens for Draft Repeal," despite opposition from army sources.

In two large communities, which are more a part of the urban Bay area, the problems were quite different. Here, peace movement people were already extremely active in related concerns.

In fact, it became necessary to discover a new constituency for the draft repeal issue. Many of the people who are carrying on draft repeal action this fall have not been notably active in previous peace concerns. But they will operate a speaker's bureau and head a growing drive for publicity and education.

Faced own thinking

Plans are being laid to activate the Northern California Council to Repeal the Draft, which will coordinate and lead draft repeal efforts throughout the area.

Looking carefully at the summer's activities, several important aspects appear. The most obvious is the continuing need for education about the draft and about the movement toward draft repeal.

Many of the people confronted with the Summer Draft Repeal Project could not agree to repeal, but they were at least faced with their own thinking and questions about the draft. In several communities there is a growing awareness not only of the draft, but also of the ABM, the Resistance, and even of dissent in the local junior college.

Several "Committees for Draft Repeal" are now operating with educational materials, mailing lists, speakers and contacts in radio, television, and newspaper circles. Newly organized citizens are getting to know one another and the issue around which they are working. For the AFSC, new contacts have been developed and added to our files.

Effect on their lives

The draft repeal team members have had the experience of community and worked to develop a sense of direction when it was often not easy. They have lived with one another and with different community members and organized around an issue that was sometimes confusing and often under fire from those they tried to organize.

They have had to recognize their own feelings about the draft and its effect on their lives and to decide what alternatives they can live with. For some, this has been an eye-opening experience, for they have learned what frustration and effort it will take to create orderly change in our society.

Some finished the summer feeling that their only place is with the young people who are moving outside the establishment. Some are excited about the continuing needs for community and individual organizing among middle-class people.

What remains now is hope. We must hope that the National Council to Repeal the Draft, the California Councils to Repeal the Draft, and other state councils will be able to continue publicizing this concern.

We must hope that AFSC, peace people, and draft opponents will be able to clarify draft repeal and be involved in it. And we must hope that legisla-

tion can be carried through the necessary channels of repeal in Congress.

There is also a feeling of pressure, a feeling that time is running out. Draft repeal is still not a well-known national issue, yet Nixon's Commission for Study of a Volunteer Army will report to Congressional committees in November.

Decisions will be made quickly. The draft comes up for formal review in the spring of 1971, but the decisions about reform or repeal will probably be made much sooner. Resistance within and without the Selective Service System is putting pressure on politicians and the military.

Among those involved, the time for stopping the draft is *now*, and more and more people must know that

something is happening and how to become active.

The Summer Draft Repeal Project in northern California was an embryo. A lot happened to the people involved in this experience, but a lot more needs to happen.

The draft is an American institution. We have made it an integral part of our military and learned to live with it. If we are going to repeal it, we shall have to rid ourselves of it through direct action by the citizens of this country.

Those who would like more information about this issue should contact:

NATIONAL COUNCIL
TO REPEAL THE DRAFT
201 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002



Many of the people confronted with the Summer Draft Repeal Project could not agree to repeal, but they were at least faced with their own thinking and questions about the draft.

West African dialogues program — combination of laughter, relaxation, serenity and hard work

"Students at my university don't think that I can laugh," said one of the English-speaking participants, whose infectious laugh and unselfconscious use of French were a constant delight to all the participants.

Another participant remarked during the middle of the seminar, "This is the first time in years that I have been able to be myself."

"I had almost forgotten how beautiful a sunset could be," another added.

This special atmosphere of laughter, relaxation, serenity, and hard work is to a certain extent the hallmark of a West African Dialogues Program. Many participants (for the first time since their student days) have a very rare opportunity to withdraw from the frenzy of daily work and reflect on the problems and potentials of African society. For most it is an exhilarating, meaningful experience.

Intellectual level high

The intellectual level of this seminar, held in Senegal, was extremely high. To a large extent, this can be ascribed to the decision to invite people directly involved in education, such as university professors, government educational offi-

cers, and educational administrators.

The general theme of the seminar was education in a period of transition. Intellectual penetration was accompanied by such a high degree of honesty that nothing was above criticism and everything was open to scrutiny.

This honesty created an atmosphere of confidence and trust so that even the most confidential personal comments (such as problems related to the extended family, polygamy or arranged marriages) were openly and easily discussed without embarrassment to anyone.

Traditional societies

Another reason for the objectivity and high intellectual level of discussion was the participants' decision not to become involved unduly in the differences between Anglophone and Francophone Africans, as so often happens during the first few days of a Dialogue.

They promptly became engrossed in what they considered to be a meaningful, important topic for all regardless of colonial cultural overtones, and decided unanimously from the start that their deliberations were worthy of being recorded and reported.

Something which manifests itself in

every seminar but which is always refreshing and stimulating is the pride that Africans have in their traditional societies.

One of the most original ideas presented at the seminar was that the traditional society was not a static one but was an open, constantly changing society, not only in the urban areas where a new transitional society has developed, but also in the rural areas where traditional society has undergone radical changes.

Retain extended family

Some of the most passionate, heart felt dialogues took place during the discussions on the conflicts between traditional and modern societies. There were eloquent pleas for retention of the extended family, after several participants severely criticized it.

The concern was that modern Western society is now in a desperate search for just these human qualities, such as interdependence, familiarity, cohesiveness, order and acceptance, which are the backbone of the extended family.

Some participants challenged others, by saying it was their job as intellectuals to bring change with the least traumatic effect on the population and with the least deteriorating effect on the social and moral values of society. It was agreed, though, that the problem was made less severe by the African's ability to adapt to new conditions within the context of their own cultures.

This discussion led to an interesting confrontation between Anglophones and Francophones as to whether or not vernacular languages should be used in teaching. The Anglophones were for their use, the Francophones on the whole against.

The problem seemed to stem from the colonial period, when the English encouraged the use of the vernacular and the French suppressed it. A Ghanaian participant gave some persuasive arguments and seemed to have convinced some of his Francophone colleagues of the merits in this type of teaching.

An interesting discussion developed between participants about whether delinquency or illegitimacy exist in African societies today. Opinions were sharply divided. One participant said that youngsters in Africa could sometimes be considered maladjusted but never delinquent.

Modern and western?

Several of the women criticized what they considered the myopia of their male counterparts. Though they conceded that delinquency and illegitimacy were never a problem in traditional Africa, they warned that both could become extremely acute if urbanization and technology were not tempered by social action based on understanding and sensitivity.

Among the highlights of the seminar were the remarks made on the respon-

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Health program in Houston features community participation

No millionaire living in Houston would go elsewhere for cancer treatment or a heart transplant. With the medical facilities of the entire free world at his disposal, the Duke of Windsor chose a clinic in Houston for a major operation. The city, in short, can provide the most highly advanced technical medical care.

Lack basic medical services

Yet for thousands of poor people in Houston—black residents of the ghettos and Mexican Americans living in the barrios—Houston lacks even the most basic medical services. Few of these people can afford private medical attention. To reach a neighborhood clinic that provides public health services, most of them must travel for miles on

Why is she hungry?



In a land of plenty, why are thousands of Americans without enough to eat?

You can help rid America of hunger. You can support a new AFSC program called CRASH (Call to Research and Act to Stop Hunger). Crash is finding the reasons why Federal Food Programs don't work as they should. With this information, AFSC will press for new food programs, better regulation, and more creative approaches to this most urgent problem.

You can be part of this work. Send a contribution today.

Write: **CRASH**
American Friends Service Committee
160 N. 15th Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

inadequate public transportation.

Since people from low-income areas are often unaccustomed to medical examinations, a trip to a major medical center can be traumatic—the huge hospital complexes are awesome, the long forms baffling, the doctors hurried and impersonal.

The health problems of the urban poor in Houston and throughout the United States involve more than a lack of doctors and clinics. Poverty usually means malnutrition, a lack of preventive medicine, inadequate knowledge of health problems and services, substandard housing, and insufficient clothing.

Infant mortality high

Despite the superior medical care available in Texas for those who can afford it, there has been a significant increase in the incidence of certain diseases among the poor. Maternal and infant mortality are high. Poliomyelitis, measles, and diphtheria still exist, in spite of the greater use of immunizations.

For the poor, preventive health services may be irregular or lacking altogether. These include sanitation, garbage pickup, paved streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, lighted streets, and parks and recreational facilities. In their neighborhoods, refuse, junk, and garbage accumulate providing breeding places for rats, mosquitoes, and flies. Industry, junk yards, and highways frequently locate in the area, so that indiscriminate dumping and industrial pollution form a part of their everyday environment.

Complete for available jobs

In Houston, as elsewhere in the United States, the health problems of the urban poor cannot be solved solely by local initiatives or with outside help. Ghetto residents lack a sense of community and have little confidence in their ability to improve their own environment. They are underemployed and under-represented in city government.

They are uncertain about health problems and services and about their legal rights and how to secure them. Composed of different ethnic groups that must compete for available jobs, they cannot easily take collective action. They are dependent for jobs on the

dominant community, which profits from their lack of organization, and they are dependent for housing on landlords whom they cannot control.

Poor people not consulted

Members of the dominant group, even when they understand the health problems of the lower-income groups and are sincerely eager to solve them, are tempted to impose solutions from the top down, without consulting the needs and priorities of the residents themselves or respecting their right to participate in community decisions.

This process of imposing paternalistic solutions has the effect of deepening the isolation and estrangement of the poor without solving their practical problems.

To help the people of Houston to improve their health services and to demonstrate that low-income families can participate effectively in developing plans to meet their own health needs, the American Friends Service Committee has established a Consumer Participation and Planning Project in a community in northeast Houston.

Community health problems

Additional objectives of the project are to demonstrate that communication can be established between groups in the low-income community and groups in the dominant community and to prove that local educational resources can be used to solve neighborhood health problems.

In addition to two field workers, the staff consists of one director. One staff member will work with the people of the area in identifying community health problems, as opposed to individual health problems.

At the same time, another staff member will work in the dominant, decision-making community, encouraging seg-

ments of that community to engage in joint planning with the newly articulate, low-income groups.

The overriding objective of the Consumer Participation and Planning Project is to establish that through the use of the dual community development technique poor people and minority people who need services can participate on an equal basis in the development of boards and programs and in the planning of programs for the total community.

Involve total community

Efforts to eliminate poverty, including those sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity in the "war on poverty," have demonstrated the critical necessity of involving the total community in the planning and conduct of basic programs that affect the lives of all citizens.

In particular, they have dramatized the need to originate programs that will engage the decision-makers and the poor in joint planning on an equal basis. The project in Houston is designed to meet this need and to provide a model for similar projects in other cities. To test the validity of the technique of dual community development, the least controversial and most inclusive area of human need was selected—the need for community health.

In context of definitions

The World Health Organization has defined health as a "complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely absence of disease or infirmity." The United States Public Health Service has defined a health problem as "a situation or condition involving people or their environment which has a current or potential adverse effect on their health." The CPP Project will operate in the context of these two definitions.

West African dialogues

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sibilities of the educated man. Most educated Africans delude themselves into thinking they are modern and western.

Transitional society

In fact, it was suggested, the educated African is caught in that transitional society between the modern and the traditional, torn by traditional responsibilities and modern necessities. It was noted that before a man can become cognizant of his responsibilities

he must not only know himself but be at peace with himself and his society.

"Working for African unity"

The Senegalese participant who had acted as unofficial host to all the participants during the seminar was the chairman of the final plenary session.

He gave the Quakers and the Dialogue Program what amount to the ultimate African compliment: "The Quakers," he said, "are one of the few groups who are effectively working for African unity."

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