



## AFSC Urges Chile Action

Following the military coup in Chile last fall, an appeal was made by the American Friends Service Committee to the U.S. State Department. Latin American experts there were urged to explore the possibilities of U.S. action on behalf of the victims of repression.

Quaker representatives who made the appeal in Washington were Wallace Collett, chairman of the Board of Directors of AFSC, Bronson P. Clark, Executive Secretary, and Betty Richardson Nute, an authority on Latin American affairs.

The Washington visit was one of a series of steps undertaken in relation to Chile, by AFSC. The Quakers also contacted Saruddin Aga Khan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Shock was expressed at the emergence of a military dictatorship in a country with one of the strongest traditions of democracy and liberty in this hemisphere. Concern was felt for the imprisonment of thousands and for the threatened imposition of a constitution drawn up by military authorities without popular participation.

The Quakers also protested the waging of psychological warfare on the Chilean people, the mistreatment of political opponents and the intimidation of moderates who helped the victims of repression.

Wallace Collett and Bronson Clark asked the State Department to take steps to assist civilians being persecuted by Chilean military authorities and to aid those who had fled to Chile from other countries for asylum. The Quakers denounced the banning of political parties, the ending of free press and radio, the burning of books and the suppression of ideas. Letters were written to Congressional committee chairmen concerned with Chilean affairs urging assistance to refugees, opposing any but humanitarian aid and concluding with a call for Congressional investigation of U.S. involvement in events leading to the Chilean coup.

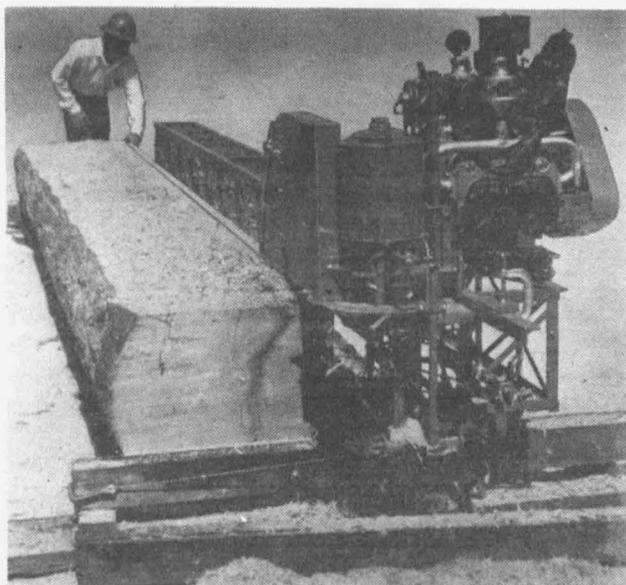
## Help to Both Sides in Middle East War

The American Friends Service Committee, following its long history of impartial aid to civilians in time of war, made grants of \$10,000 to Israel's Magen David Society, \$5,000 to Egypt's Red Crescent Society and \$5,000 to Syria's Red Crescent Society, during the most recent Middle East conflict. The AFSC took this immediate action without waiting for the raising of funds. It is now seeking contributions to strengthen and augment civilian war relief efforts.

"We are united in sympathy for the Arab and Israeli families that have suffered the loss of precious lives," said Bronson Clark, AFSC's Executive Secretary. "The taking of lives in the Middle East did not advance the cause of peace. The shipping of planes and guns by the Soviet Union and the United States did not promote the cause of justice in the Middle East."

During the war, Clark led a delegation to Washington to visit the embassies of Russia, Israel, the Arab countries, the White House and the U.S. State Department.

"For more than 300 years, Friends have witnessed against war in the belief that all people are children of God," Clark said. "The AFSC and its counterpart, the Canadian Friends Service Committee, urge all others concerned to raise their voices for peace and justice."



A SAWMILL FOR LAOS

(Remarkd by Will Patterson, AFSC director of purchasing and shipping, "I buy a lot of things here but this is the first time I've ever had to buy sawmills!")

## Sawmills To Build New Homes in Laos

By PETER WOODROW  
National Office

Early in 1973, when it appeared that a ceasefire would be signed in Vietnam, the AFSC decided to send a representative to Indochina to explore the possibilities for further humanitarian service in the changed situation and to keep in close touch with the shifting political currents in Southeast Asia.

David Elder, who has had extensive experience with the Service Committee in Asia, was appointed AFSC's Indochina Representative and began his year of service with a visit to South Vietnam in February, 1973. Since then David has spent time visiting each of the countries of Indochina, making contacts with officials, intellectuals, journalists, and others. He has also witnessed the results of the many years of war in that region, visiting refugee camps, hospitals, schools, and areas destroyed in the path of fighting.

In April, 1973, David was one of a four-member AFSC delegation that visited Hanoi, delivering the fifth AFSC shipment of medical equipment to the Red Cross and the Viet-Duc Hospital there. The delegation met with a number of officials and doctors in Hanoi and came away with new requests for aid. As a result, additional surgical and enzymology laboratory equipment will be delivered soon. The AFSC also received a request from Dr. Ton That Tung of the Viet-Duc Hospital for help in his research into the causes of a many-fold increase in the incidence of liver cancer in Vietnam over the past ten years. It is suspected that a chemical impurity, *dioxin*, present in defoliants sprayed over large areas of Vietnam, may be responsible for this increase. AFSC is planning to send American medical researchers in cancer to work with Dr. Tung.

While in Hanoi, the AFSC delegation also met with representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, and received requests for agricultural equipment (hand tractors, diesel tillers, engines) and medical instrument packs for village medical workers and midwives. About \$130,000 worth of medical and agricultural supplies will be delivered to the PRG in early 1974.

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## Experts Tackle Hunger Problem

By B. TARTT BELL  
AFSC Public Affairs Program

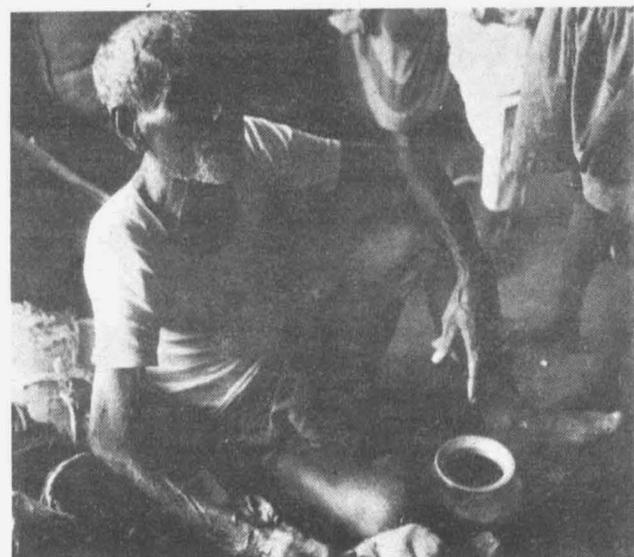
"Promising Approaches to the Eradication of World Hunger" was the theme for a residential seminar held at Coolfort Re+creation Center in West Virginia and sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee's Public Affairs program in the nation's capital. From the evening of September 28 through noon of September 30, this theme commanded thoughtful searching by a group of 46 participants from the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government, foreign embassies, international organization secretariats, and the private sector of American life.

The drought in West Africa, the purchase of massive quantities of wheat by the Russians, and the worldwide inflation in food prices have focussed attention on the critical nature of world food shortages. The urgent need for next steps toward solution of the food/population problems made the discussions timely and useful for the participants.

The group of 15 diplomats included the ambassadors of Australia, Romania, Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Cameroon; various regions, political blocs, and economic groups were represented; nine senior U.S. officials including the head of the Agency of International Development and top White House and State Department executives; the Congress, represented by Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana; and international agencies, with a senior FAO official. Nongovernmental groups included a foreign affairs journalist, anthropologist Margaret Mead, James Grant, President of the Overseas Development Council, and others. The week-end program was designed to encourage participation by everyone, and the informal atmosphere made for good communication.

The seminar identified several crucial restraints on the world's potential for securing more adequate food supplies. First is the short supply of additional land available for cultivation. Second is the lack of fresh water for agricultural purposes. Third is the limited supply of fertilizer, and last are the institutional rigidities which prevent required changes in methods of production and distribution. The increase in population for the next decade (the annual population increase is 70 million people) will produce erosion in standards of living on a worldwide scale.

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# WHAT HAPPENS TO PUERTO RICANS?

There are approximately 3 million Puerto Rican people in the U.S. today, most of them concentrated in urban areas of the Middle Atlantic states, around Chicago, and along the east and west coasts. The cultural and economic problems confronting these people are immense and are cruelly compounded by their exploitation as cheap immigrant labor.

The slow exodus of people out of Puerto Rico will continue as a proliferation of U.S. oil refineries threatens to engulf the entire western coast of the island, and people are daily displaced from their homes; and while the Puerto Rican Department of Labor (under the aegis of the U.S. Department of Labor) suggests, through the mass media, that there is a good life awaiting the Puerto Rican in America.

The harsh facts are, of course, that the immigrant finds himself confronted with language, cultural and ethnic barriers in this country which he is in no position to surmount. His income tends to be well under that of the U.S. national average and his job security poor, particularly in rural areas where scarcity of work often means that he makes too little to feed himself and his family.

What happens to the families of Puerto Rican men who come to the U.S. to work? In many cases, they are left behind in Puerto Rico (with the hope—too often unfulfilled—that the man will return home with his “fortune”); in others, they accompany him to America. But, even then, families are often split up as the job-search moves a man from place to place. The social problems arising out of such situations, both in Puerto Rico and here, are considerable. This is one of the areas where AFSC intends to play a part.

The AFSC is seeking the means by which it can aid and support Puerto Ricans to realize self-determination in this country and their own. Such means can come about through the creation of community groups that are empowered to speak about the people's problems and equipped to deal with them. Marta Benavides, the young, enthusiastic community relations staff member in charge of Puerto Rican affairs, is a pre-medicine graduate of Eastern Baptist College and possessor of two masters' degrees—in religion and counseling. She explains the shift in her career direction: “As a doctor I couldn't help as many people as if I were in a position to help many people become doctors.” She is now working on a Ph.D. in education at Rutgers University. Over the past eight years, Marta has been spending her spare time helping Puerto Rican farm laborers, out of which has grown a farm workers' educational organization, “Puerto Rican Youth in Action”.

Marta believes her first priority is that of establishing communication—between Puerto Ricans and the non-Puerto Rican population, between Puerto Ricans and community leaders, and between Puerto Ricans and AFSC staff. To back up the three-way link, Marta must

## Hunger . . .

*continued from page 1*

Five promising priorities for action were outlined: First, the immediate establishment of a reserve grain system; second, since the less developed countries have the greatest potential for providing additions to world food supplies, they must be helped to realize this potential; third, new food aid programs must be established in countries with actual or potential food surpluses; fourth, a major new approach to development of the oceans as sources of food must rapidly be organized; fifth, population control programs must be stepped up. The seminar participants were made keenly aware that in a short time the world food supply must be increased by 350 million tons annually just to continue the present inadequate standards of nutrition worldwide.

An indication of the success and far-reaching value of the conference is seen in the following letter, written by a senior State Department official who was one of the attenders:

“Thank you for a most pleasant and profitable weekend seminar on the theme of World Hunger. . . . [T]he experience of the seminar stood me in good stead when a few days later I was asked to be the Administration's lead-off witness for Senate hearings on ‘the world food problem.’”

have extensive resources at her fingertips—educational, social and economic—to relay to the people so that they may be equipped to deal with their own everyday problems through the community in which they live. She needs, in addition, a knowledge of social services in Puerto Rico, of which some Puerto Ricans—especially those who lost the fight for economic survival in Puerto Rico—are unaware. How can a day care center be started in a given community by people who speak little or no English and who must communicate with civic leaders who speak no Spanish? And how can a center be a dynamic force in a community instead of another expression of traditional thinking, which has been found wanting? What creative alternatives are there to bail and to other justice systems within the community? How does a Spanish-speaking immigrant go about getting a job in a different culture, without the indigenous language? How does a Puerto Rican child fit into the educational structure of this country, and how does that child deal with the discrimination that awaits one speaking with an accent?

These are some of the questions the new Puerto Rico program is beginning to look into. It means bringing AFSC program resources, such as the work on justice, employment, housing and nonviolence, to bear on the relevant problems. And it means starting from the standpoint of the Puerto Ricans themselves and understanding where their problems lie, rather than coming from the outside with established solutions. As Marta Benavides puts it, “It is a matter of putting the people's priorities first.”



Bob Lindsay



Ernesto Loredo

*Loredo & Lindsay*

## No Glamor, But Results

By DON EBERHART  
Northern California Regional Office

It isn't exciting, it doesn't generate headlines. It is hard, unglamorous, often frustrating work. But it is challenging, satisfying and effective. Little by little, it is enabling people—individuals, families, communities—to acquire the power to influence governmental decisions that affect the way they live and work.

That's the work of Ernesto Loredo and Bob Lindsay of the AFSC Farm Labor Program in California's San Joaquin Valley, the richest agricultural area in the United States and home of thousands of migrant and seasonal farm labor families.

Recently, Ernesto, a former farm worker who is Farm Labor Secretary for the AFSC's Northern California region, led the Tulare County Tenants Union in resisting an across-the-board rent increase of \$25 proposed by the County Housing Authority. The increase was to apply to all public housing, but the Union was successful in obtaining a compromise. Rents in new units were raised by only \$10, and in old units by only \$7.50.

Bob, who was previously employed as a caseworker for the Tulare County Welfare Department, has been devoting full time to the development of a Welfare Rights Organization. His organization has now joined in a law suit against the Welfare Department to force them to extend to minority groups services that are the right of all county residents. Another result of the law suit is the increasing number of Spanish-speaking people in the Welfare Department, a necessary ingredient in the business of communication.

Since its establishment in 1955, the AFSC Farm Labor Program has taken an active part in the continuing struggle of farm workers for better living and working conditions. It has assisted farm workers and their families through a variety of community development projects: teaching year-round skills, building a community water system, establishing a labor marketing cooperative, and constructing housing by the self-help method. In all of its activities, the role of the Farm Labor Program has been to support the efforts of farm workers to organize themselves in order to deal with the problems they face. In playing this role, the Farm Labor Program supports two specific ongoing programs: the Tenants Union and the Welfare Rights Organization.

Approximately 50% of all housing units in Tulare County are in substandard condition and there are not enough dwellings to fill the need. Farm workers, as they do in many other cases, suffer most from this situation. Federal public housing is the obvious answer but it has been ineffective due to bureaucratic methods and lack of attention to the peoples' real needs.

“We want our people to be able to help improve their living conditions,” Ernesto says, “and one way is for them to participate in writing their own leases. Another is for them to get a better understanding of their rights.” Shortly after the Tenants Union became active, the Housing Authority proposed an increase in electricity charges, possibly in lieu of a rent increase. It would cost renters an additional \$10 a month. “That would have been a huge increase for us,” commented Ernesto. A community meeting was held and it was decided to ask the housing commission to prove they needed the extra revenue. The commission backed down.

In one sense, what Ernesto and Bob are doing is to confront governmental systems that do not work very well, and to somehow make them serve people's needs. But in a larger sense there is, as Diana Ricci, volunteer chairman of the AFSC Farm Labor Program, once pointed out, “something great” going on in Tulare County. This “something” is more than service given to those who need help. It is a growing, functional organization without polarization and noise for noise's sake.

## How Real is the Peace Without U.S. Support?

The Peace Education Division is carrying out two programs to counter the intensive propaganda effort to set the stage for the U. S. military going back into Indochina, if that recourse should be decided.

1. January 21-27—a wide range of educational activities which will inform the media, the public, and formerly active peace movement people of the forms in which the war and U.S. intervention continue in Indochina, and of the content of the Paris Agreement which could bring about peace if the U.S. truly supported its full implementation.

2. To seek resolutions from a broad spectrum of religious and civic bodies calling for the freeing of Thieu's political prisoners and an end to interventionist U.S. aid; candidates and incumbents for the House and Senate will be asked to sign a pledge along the same lines.

Both programs are being carried out in cooperation with other national peace organizations. Further information can be obtained from AFSC regional offices or from: Indochina Program, Peace Education Division, in Philadelphia.



HUMANITY HOUSE

Courtesy of the Akron Beacon Journal

Humanity House

## Ohioans Work For Peace, Human Needs

By JOHN LOONEY  
Dayton Regional Office

Humanity House, 475 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio, is the new Northeast Ohio AFSC headquarters to serve this five million population area. But it is more than another office.

After the 1972 elections and during the Hanoi Christmas bombings, two frustrated Akron peace groups and many discouraged McGovern campaigners wondered what was left to do. AFSC suggested a permanent, full-time community center to explore aspects of education and social concerns. The project was financed by the combined resources of several socially concerned groups and was located in an old house on one of Akron's main thoroughfares, for visibility and accessibility. Individual monthly pledges provided half the needed money; tenants were obtained to cover the rest.

Besides the AFSC, occupants are the Akron NAACP, the Akron office of the National Organization for Women, the Akron Federation of Teachers, Tax Equity for Americans and the New Politics League of Akron. Two United Farm Workers staff people handle the Akron, Canton and Youngstown lettuce and grape boycotts out of their basement office in the House. And the Akron Citizen's Coalition for Criminal Justice, the United World Federalists and the Indochina Peace Campaign-AFSC task force (on South Vietnam's political prisoners and continuing U.S. involvement) hold their meetings at Humanity House.

Most help are part-time volunteers, but soon three students will be full-time workers for college credit. Pat Molchan from Kent State University, on her first visit, said "Humanity House is terrific! I didn't know there was anything like it."

As more learn of it, programs expand, press conferences and media interviews grow, and programs, speakers and audio-visuals are supplied to community groups. A peace and social concerns curriculum has been developed with members of the Catholic Diocese, and it is being supported by four other denominations in the area. Humanity House staff have exchanged telephone numbers with local community leaders in an effort to set up a "telephone network" (which has been named "People's Bell") for the quick transmission of news, such as a bill before Congress which needs to be brought to the attention of the community. Eventually, it is planned to extend the network to any interested local person.

Leading people into action so that participatory democracy can work is one main objective of Humanity House, and emphasis is placed on penetrating existing institutions where attitudes must change if society is to change.

A grandmother, Jean Geroch, contends that "The beautiful part about Humanity House is that it brings together people of all ages and philosophies . . . as long as they subscribe to the Quaker belief that 'each human life is sacred, each man is a child of God and love, expressed through creative action, can overcome hatred, prejudice and fear.'"

## "I Would Rather Work With People"

By DEVON DAVIDSON  
New England Regional Office

"My name is Dick. I got laid off the military industrial complex when the contracts were cut back. Looking around for jobs, I decided I would rather work with people than for so much an hour and forgetting what you are doing. I have often thought that that was a form of prostitution. I came here to see what I could learn about other alternatives."

Dick was a member of the "Mid-Career Group" organized by the Cambridge Vocations for Social Change program. The group met bi-weekly for six months. The members posed hard questions: How can you change jobs in a period of high unemployment? How can you free yourself of career expectations you have had since childhood? How can you use your skills in life-building ways and still financially support yourself? What are the meanings of work? The group members were surprisingly undiscouraged when easy answers did not readily appear. Many spoke of the isolation they felt outside of the group and the unacceptability of their questioning among their other friends. They were encouraged to find others who shared their frustrations and hopes.

This was a new project for us in Cambridge VSC. Most of the people who come to our office are younger than the mid-career group and have fewer financial responsibilities. They too, however, are largely dissatisfied with their work. While most of them come to VSC looking for a specific job, we have found them willing and even eager to discuss work in a broad context. In small groups we help them examine their work and share their oppressions and dreams. Through this process they can come to understand better how their personal situations are linked with other social and political issues, and they can explore ways in which to become involved in the movement for basic social change.

We are only one of several VSC programs across the country. Vocations for Social Change began in 1968 in California through the publication of a national newsletter called *Work Force*. Several VSC programs across the country were sparked as a result, one of the first being the New Vocations Project of the San Francisco AFSC office. We were the next major local program, begun in 1970 as a program of the New England AFSC office. In the last two years there has been a mushrooming of VSC offices. Seven of the present twenty are connected in some way with AFSC, and two more have been proposed within AFSC.

## Anybody Have An Old School?

From Southeastern Regional Office

When the Sheldon Day Care Center in Beaufort County, South Carolina, needed a new building, it was decided to buy the old Sheldon school which had been closed for twenty years.

The Center's lawyer looked up the deed and found that the land for the school had been given to the school district many years before by a group of black people. These donors provided in the deed that, if the land ever ceased to be used as a public school, it should be returned to the black community. So the day care center for black children in Sheldon got its building free.

It is not known how many buildings like the Sheldon school exist. But many black schools were built before 1935 with the sacrifice of black money, labor and land. Often they were started with the assistance of groups in the North like the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the Gen-



SHELDON DAY CARE CENTER

eral Education Board and religious organizations. Eventually, these old buildings were closed and replaced. Many are still standing vacant but are owned by the school boards. Some have been leased and bought by groups like the Sheldon Center.

The Southeastern Public Education Program of the AFSC has offered to help others that are interested in renovating and using these abandoned school buildings for child care centers. AFSC will provide staff and attorneys to research deeds and give advice. Consultants will estimate the cost of renovations and day care people will be recommended to advise on the setting up of a center that will meet requirements in any area.



SHELDON DAY CARE CENTER

# AFSC ASKS: WHY \$50 BILLION FOR BOMBS



## What Has Happened to Funds for the Poor?

*"It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess."*

WILLIAM PENN

While the Nixon administration projects an expenditure of \$50 billion dollars—\$1000 for every American family—to perfect the new B-1 bomber system, it has systematically slashed an estimated \$40 billion from programs designed to help the poor and the powerless, through a series of impoundments, cutbacks, freezes, and restricting regulations which add up to an assault upon the poor.

**Revenue sharing, which was billed by the administration as a means of putting the decision-making power in the hands of the people themselves, has proved a disaster from the point of view of the poor and the excluded. Local politicians have been even less responsive than federal politicians to human needs, and money that should have gone for child care, nutrition for the elderly, housing subsidies, and special education for the disadvantaged, has been spent to decrease local property taxes, to build up police power, and to air-condition city halls.**

These startling findings are the result of a series of investigations initiated by the AFSC across the country. In the North Central Region, the investigation took the form of interviews in an eight-state area prior to a conference held in Denver in which many of the opinions described above were expressed. In South Carolina, an investigator spent the summer looking into the effect of the cutbacks and uncertainties upon the schools of the state. In Los Angeles County, California; Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Seattle, Washington; and Pittsburgh, Pa., more concentrated local studies were made.

The South Carolina study, completed first, revealed the disastrous effects of confusion and uncertainty in federal regulations governing grants to schools trying to supplement the education of the under-privileged. All summer, these schools did not know whether or not they would receive funds at all, or if so on what level, to carry forward their programs. They were consequently unable to plan, or to hire staff. When word eventually came that they would be funded, the money was given for three months at a time, still making it impossible for staff to accept jobs with any reasonable expectation of security. As a result, a series of ongoing, successful projects were seriously damaged. Despite the recent ruling against the impoundment of educational funds, it will take months, perhaps years, to undo the damage.

In Indianapolis-Fort Wayne, the AFSC survey covered one section of the city, the Near Eastside, an area in which two-thirds of the population is in poverty or near the poverty level. This area had received 3.5 million dollars in social services in 1972 and 3 million in 1973. In 1974 less than \$300,000 will be available to this community, while the city proposes to use \$4.5 millions of revenue sharing monies to help pay for a new sports arena.

In Los Angeles County, the investigation selected five communities with the highest median family income and five with the lowest median income, and compared their receipts under revenue sharing. Though the difference in median income between the two groups was \$14,600, the difference in per capita allocations was only \$8.30, a clear indication that the money was not going where it was needed.

In all ten communities, most of the money went for police and fire department, recreation and transportation in that order. Revenue sharing funds were allocated to these services without any participation by the citizens involved, and in some cases against their express wishes.

At Huntington Park, for example, where 14% of the population is poor, and 46% Spanish American, three badly needed OEO projects were slated to close their doors in December of 1973. Instead of picking up the tab for these programs, however, revenue sharing funds are earmarked for such items as remodeling the police department facilities and/or air-conditioning.

The report from Seattle and King County (which encompasses and surrounds the city of Seattle) is equally significant. Despite urgent needs in all the helping services, the mayor of Seattle has proposed to split all the General Revenue Sharing funds for 1974 between the police and fire departments.

**"In Seattle," the report states, "there are 70,000 people over 65 and one in five is living below the poverty level. (Nationally, it is one in four.) Funding for services for the elderly in health, housing, recreation, volunteer agencies, advocacy services, employment, transportation and meals from private, state, and county sources total \$7,190,000 in fiscal 1973. In 1974 only \$500,000 is expected from government and private sources in equal parts."**

The Seattle-King County report, however, strikes a positive note. In reaction to the cutbacks, a number of coalitions and alliances have formed to increase public awareness of the plight of the poor. Such groups will "call attention to the realities of the assault and demand general and specific recognition in the governmental budgets for the poor and minority people who are the hardest hit, the most forgotten, and the easiest ignored in the New Federalism."





Editorial:

## Religion and Politics

Is AFSC a political organization? Does AFSC, which is clearly a religious organization, function as a secular and political organization as well? What should the relationship be between AFSC, which often has special knowledge based on program experience at home and abroad, with various branches of the government?

Such questions are often asked of the AFSC by those who support us financially as well as by our critics and indeed by ourselves from within the AFSC committees and staff.

Politics is the art by which society governs itself. In a military dictatorship there is not much politics, either of the electoral variety or of the kind where issues facing a people are openly debated, examined or discussed. In our own society, there are serious discrepancies between the rich, the powerful, the informed, and the poor, the weak, and the poorly informed, which distort our political process. Still there exists a very sizeable area for changing how our society is organized and how we govern ourselves. Here there is an important role for those motivated by religious beliefs.

The AFSC attempts to put into the turmoil of the daily market place the lofty and religious ideals of the divine right of each individual to life itself, to good health, education, and adequate shelter, and, very importantly, a right to work at some ennobling and worthwhile endeavor which produces a sense of personal worth and dignity. The political document which established this society put it in terms of a right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"—a political statement, but for us one with important religious connotations.

Thus it is that AFSC programs relating to criminal justice, to how migrant farm children receive adequate housing and education or how we might help a Vietnamese civilian secure an artificial limb, have strong religious and political implications. Many of the great war and peace issues confronting us are affected by the level of military arms produced and sold or given abroad in U. S. military aid programs. AFSC seminar participants from many lands grapple with issues which divide the human family, such as the severe resource imbalances between the developing and developed powers. Political? Yes, but focussed on the divine quality of all persons.

Often AFSC representatives are requested by Congressional Committees to appear before the lawmakers so that our expertise can be of use to them. We have done this on issues from the treatment of political prisoners in South Vietnam to the need for Congress to override the Nixon Administration treatment of the poor, the elderly, and even the children. The tragic cost of reversing hard-won programs of social legislation has been given expression by AFSC staff, often Native American Indians, Chicanos or black staff or committee members who speak from personal involvement at the community level. This occurs within the political process, but grows from a religious conviction about the nature of humankind.

There is an area of politics which concerns itself with the election of specific candidates to office and there is considerable attention in our society to such electoral politics. This is clearly not the proper work of AFSC and we take no part in it. But denials of social justice, betrayals of our religious and political heritage, lapses in the moral quality of leadership, and conscription of human beings to commit organized violence on one another—these are the great problem areas of our society wherein AFSC must, as Martin Buber said, attempt "... to drive the principle of love into the hard ground of political reality."



Bronson P. Clark  
Executive Secretary

## AFSC Aids Farm Co-ops' Search for Larger Role

By PAUL FRANCIS SCHULTZ  
Chicago Regional Office

In 1972, some 800,000 Americans left rural areas for urban centers and some 850 farms closed each week. Fifty per cent of the nation's poor live in rural areas. Seventy per cent of the rural poor struggle to survive on less than \$2,000 a year.

In an effort to seek solutions to some of these problems, the new rural program operating out of the AFSC Chicago region, has been working with farmers' co-ops and associations. Work with these groups has three objectives: to increase net income for member farmers; to develop the spirit and practice of cooperation between farmers themselves as well as with farmworkers and consumers; and to gain a rightful participation in the food economy dominated by an "agri-business" that threatens to squeeze out many farmers.

**Why do these farmers need a larger role in the food economy? Many farmers have an outside job but depend on raising vegetables, fruits, or livestock to supplement their income. Many, if not most, receive less than \$2.00 per hour for their labor with its many occupational hazards. Why are the farmers' economic returns so low? On one hand are the people who sell capital, land, seed, fertilizers, machinery, feed, pesticides, drugs, and fuel. Since 1952, farmers' production costs have increased 122% while their income has increased by only 6%. On the other hand, the industries that process, market and retail food products determine what the farmers will produce and how much they will be paid.**

This agri-business power comes down hard on family farmers. Nearly 3 million farmers, scattered throughout the country, seek a fair price in a market-



AFSC counselor talks to soldier

## Army Ads Tell It Like It Isn't

By FRANCES DONELAN  
Middle Atlantic Regional Office

AFSC's Fort Meade, Maryland, Military Law Project, which is co-sponsored by the Washington Area Military and Draft Law Panel, provides legal and discharge counseling for active duty and AWOL G.I.s. It is now developing a corps of volunteer counselors and staff members who make themselves available every day for counseling. Frequently, armed services people come in to the project office to sit and talk about what has been happening to them in the service. A WAC sergeant came by one evening and described her experiences as a woman in the army.

After high school in the Midwest, she signed up for an "exciting new career," as the military life had been advertised. She chose the field of laboratory technician. During basic training, she discovered that the facts of army life had not been accurately represented to her. She was not assigned to the base she had chosen, nor to the school she had selected; and the excitement and glamor of military life, as portrayed in ads and posters everywhere, was nowhere in evidence. After several months of unproductive talks with army personnel about her situation, she finally ended up as a chaplain's assistant—a military euphemism for chapel-cleaner.

A considerable amount of free media time is allocated by the networks to the military and, in addition, the military has a \$67 million advertising budget at

place that is tightly controlled by corporate buyers. They have not been doing very well. Since 1952, the cost of food in retail stores has increased 43% while the farmers have received only a 6% increase. The middlemen, situated between the farmer and consumer, have absorbed the difference.

AFSC is working to assist local co-ops in business and organizational operations, leadership training, membership education and ecological agricultural methods.

As staff travel through the region, we have become aware of a growing anxiety over land-related problems. Migrant farmworkers, whose jobs are drying up, and new society homesteaders seeking a productive life of simple living on the land, have asked us to assist in the formation of a regional Community Land Trust to help provide access to land for low-income people. Two self-help housing programs have asked for our support, which may be in the form of a summer work camp. Rural people are recognizing the need for urban allies in these struggles.

We are working with consumer co-ops to save money on food, provide higher quality food and meal-planning suggestions, and, at the same time, give support to small farms by purchasing their crops wherever possible.

It is important to bring public attention and discussion to the issues in order to develop a larger base of support for farmers, farmworkers, and consumers, who are squeezed in an increasingly concentrated food economy and who are fighting against the deteriorating quality of our diet, land, and institutional structures.

We are seeking individuals interested in working with us who can help find other opportunities for discussion of the issues. Contact the Chicago Regional Office of the AFSC for more information.

their disposal. Armed forces recruiters regularly make their way into the schools where they present a glamorized, romantic and deceptive picture of military life to young, impressionable students.

The Fort Meade Project provides a way to help those people who have unwittingly been caught up in the net of the military establishment, and whose disillusionment is profound and often desperate. And some of the AFSC workers visit local schools where they talk to guidance counselors and to students in an effort to present a truer picture of military life.

## Medical Self-help Can Lessen Health Problems of Poor

Report on a Quaker International Seminar which took place last summer in Davao City, Philippines, and Cilandak, Indonesia.

The seminar addressed the problem of whether community-based paramedical training is the key to solving the problem of unmet health and medical needs in rural and low-income communities in Southeast Asia where western-style medical care facilities are insufficient and where most illnesses, if attended early by only minimally trained people, do not require a doctor.

Two innovative programs of community based paramedical training were chosen for study and analysis by the seminar. The Davao program is voluntary, based in urban squatter communities, and has focused on training people of the communities to meet their own primary needs. The Cilandak program is governmental, based on a national training center, and has focused on enabling trained paramedical workers to establish effective community work in rural communities.

Ten countries were represented, most of them Southeast Asian. Participants included government officials, community organizers, private practitioners, members of medical faculties, community-based health and medical workers, and community health trainees.

The seminar focused on field trips which provided the participants with first-hand opportunities to see training classes in operation, clinics being run by paramedical workers, village classes in family planning and community health, and a large community health cooperative meeting run entirely by low-income people of those communities.



Fixing up a house in Elizabeth, New Jersey

## Fixing The House ...And People Too

By KAY REYNOLDS

Volunteer, New York Metropolitan Regional Office

Mrs. Lorenza Nash, a black mother who lives in Elizabethport, New Jersey, sat on the porch of her frame house, which was freshly painted in cheerful yellow with dark gold trim. "These were always my favorite colors," she said with contentment. "I knew this house needed painting badly. It was going to ruin. But when I looked into the price of those big ladders for outside painting, and how much all that paint costs, I didn't think it would ever be done. Now, there will be nine children going to school from this house, proud that they live here."

Mrs. Nash is one of more than twenty low-income residents participating in a unique program developed by the Elizabeth, N.J. AFSC Housing and Urban Affairs Program and first-time home-owners in the neighborhood whose houses were deteriorating rapidly because they had neither the skills nor the funds to repair them.

Black and Spanish teenagers in the community needed summer employment and job training. Their parents needed to know how to repair their homes themselves. Bring these two needs together, hire community workmen who could teach these skills, pay and train the teenagers to do the work, subsidize the necessary tools and materials, and a dent could be made in the problem. That is just what has happened, much to the pride and joy of the teenagers and the satisfaction of the home-owners.

"If the owner of this house and his broker had not come to me when I was in the hospital, feeling very weak after a Caesarian," Mrs. Nash explained, "I might have been more careful about what condition the house was in. 'Here are the keys,' the owner said. 'Just sign these papers.' I did because the last place I lived in was torn down by Redevelopment, and I had nowhere for me and my children to live."

### • GIFTS BY WILL •

#### Record of Bequests Received by AFSC

Through the generosity of our contributors, the AFSC has received the following bequests:

From 1954 through 1973: 1497 bequests.

For the calendar months of 1973: 84 bequests.

If you would like to contribute to the future work of the AFSC by remembering us in your will, we would be very pleased to send to you our publication, "Information and Suggestions on Wills and Bequests."

Please write to ARTHUR C. RITZ,  
American Friends Service Committee,  
160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

## "You've Come a Long Way, Baby!" ...and They Don't Intend to Stop

By IRENE M. SANTIAGO

Journalist and Seminar Participant from the Philippines

One bright, cool morning in Pattaya, a scenic beach resort in Thailand, women participants of the Quaker seminar on the changing woman in changing Southeast Asia walked in to begin the day's discussion. Emblazoned on the chairman's shirt were the words, "You've come a long way, baby!"

Unwittingly, it summed up what many of the participants felt. For the Southeast Asian woman—like her sisters in many parts of the world—has realized that she has come a long way from being a minor entity, playing a passive role assigned to her by a male-oriented society. The participants from Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Singapore were all convinced that the role of today's Asian woman is right beside the men in creating a better society, able to cope with the multifarious demands of rapid technological, political and socio-economic changes.

These are exciting times for the women in Southeast Asia. In Thailand, there is an atmosphere of hope after the October 1973 uprising which eventually led to the ouster of the three persons most responsible, over the past 16 years, for the widespread oppression and corruption. A new constitution is being drafted. One seminar participant, Khun Sumalee Viravaidya, is the only woman in the 18-member constitution-drafting committee. In Indonesia, a National Council on the Status of Women has been formed and given a budget by the government. It is composed of women leaders of private organizations and heads of the country's ministries. It is now deeply involved in gathering data on women.

In Bangladesh, the gigantic task of rising up from the ravages of war needs the talents, energies and dedication of all its citizens. Stirrings of political awareness are felt in Malaysia as educated women lead the struggle against discrimination of women because of custom, tradition and religious beliefs and taboos. The Philippines are in the throes of building a new order, martial law having been proclaimed in September 1972. Singapore, the most economically advanced nation in Southeast Asia, is finding that it is difficult to keep human values alive in an increasingly materialistic society. Vietnam is in a state of war and confusion, caught in a power game, but still hoping to be left alone to determine its own future.

Throughout the week, the participants discussed such themes as the necessity of raising the political consciousness of all women, how to combine marriage with career, women's opportunities under the law and in education and politics, how to participate in oppressed societies, and many others. Dr. Yetty Noor, Indonesia's representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, wrote: "The greatest challenge women leaders in Asia . . . are facing is that of planning, designing and implementing action programs, simultaneously affecting the status of women in the socio-cultural as well as economic-political field, and ensuring at the same time their active participation in the development process of the country and, by doing so, contributing to the cause of preserving peace in this region."

Mrs. Nash, a young-looking woman with a thin, earnest face and a soft smile, sat with hands folded calmly. "When I moved in with all my children, my heart sank. The owner said he would replace broken windows and fix upstairs floors but he only did a little of the work and the rest looked awful. He took out a gas stove upstairs and left a hole where it had been, and the pipes were left in, which could have caused an explosion . . . with children around. The radiators leaked and warped the floors."

"Now everything is being fixed. And another thing, these kids," she said pointing to the eager youngsters working in the house, "are going to be different because of this summer. No hanging around street corners with nothing to do when they grow up. They will know enough to start a business of their own, as well as there being plenty of work here for them to do."



ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

## People's Yellow Pages: Hotlines, Co-ops, etc.

From Pacific Southwest Regional Office

"There's a new book in the Pasadena-Altadena area where you can really let your fingers do the walking—the *People's Yellow Pages*." So begins an article in the *Star-News*, a Pasadena, California newspaper.

The *People's Yellow Pages*, an alternative community directory, is a project of the Creative Vocations Program of the Pasadena AFSC office. It was conceived as a way of increasing that program's resources, as well as performing a community service.

The introduction says, "It is a directory that lets you [the people of Pasadena-Altadena] know what services are available at low or no cost; but probably more important, it contains information on those groups and individuals who are posing questions about values and priorities, and, by the way they live and work, seeking and finding answers."

The contents are rich and varied: hot lines, health and welfare services, schools for all ages and purposes, legal organizations, co-ops, neighborhood groups, social concern groups, and individuals offering unusual projects and services. Each listing contains a complete description and relevant facts including costs, if any. And there are helpful hints with regard to citizens' legal rights in a given situation and an entreaty from the publisher for people to familiarize themselves with the laws of the community. Many of the listings are accompanied by entertaining drawings or pointed quotations.

The *People's Yellow Pages* is the result of a four-person collective working intensively in the community for four months. (Almost all of the listings were personally visited.) The collective believes that its method of work is a statement about the kinds of change it works for and talks about. The *Pages* have been enthusiastically received in the Pasadena area and acclaimed by the press.

Besides Pasadena, the AFSC Cambridge and Portland offices have produced their own community directories, and the High Point, North Carolina, office is working on their version.

## Laos...

continued from page 1

In June, David Elder visited Cambodia, a country still very much at war, sustaining heavy American bombing at that time. After meeting with a number of officials and experiencing the real chaos of that country, David advised the Philadelphia staff that there was no useful role for AFSC there now, especially since it was unlikely that we would be able to work on both sides of the conflict.

Of all the countries of Indochina directly affected by the war, Laos presents the most hopeful future. Agreements have been signed between the Lao Patriotic Front (Pathet Lao) and the Royal Lao Government, ending military hostilities and calling for the formation of a coalition government. But Laos has been described as the most heavily bombed country in the world. In the areas of Laos administered by the Lao Patriotic Front, there has been virtually complete destruction of towns. David Elder has made repeated visits to Laos in the past eight months, spending several days or weeks there every month since it seemed that this was the most likely place in which AFSC projects might be undertaken.

Last fall, the AFSC was requested to provide mobile sawmills that could be used to help rebuild in the Lao Patriotic Front areas. In addition, AFSC will undertake a training program in sawmill use and maintenance. After the training program, the mills will be turned over to the Lao authorities for use in reconstruction of communities destroyed in the war. After receiving this urgent request from Lao Patriotic Front representatives, Dave Elder discussed the implications and possibilities of such work with Royal Lao Government officials in Vientiane. They, in turn, expressed a need for this kind of equipment to aid their efforts at refugee resettlement. As a result, AFSC has received requests from both parties in Laos for sawmill training and supply programs. The Service Committee has responded by agreeing to supply a small number of mobile sawmills early in 1974 to both the Lao Patriotic Front and the Royal Lao Government, along with an AFSC person to teach the use and repair of the mills in a short-term training program in Vientiane.

The sawmill project is seen as a beginning of AFSC involvement in reconstruction aid to the people of Laos. Dave Elder has explored a number of other possibilities that may be pursued as the sawmill project goes forward with both sides there. Meanwhile, the AFSC continues to be committed to offering humanitarian assistance to people throughout Indochina who have suffered as a result of U.S. military or political involvement.

## NEW MOVES SOUGHT TO DISARM WORLD

By HENRY BEERITS, Quaker UN Office



In November, 1972, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution inviting all states "to exert further efforts with a view to creating adequate conditions for the convening of a world disarmament conference at an appropriate time." A 35-member committee was established to study the matter and report back to the next session of the General Assembly.

The movement toward the conference got off to a bad start. The President of the Assembly unexpectedly included Russia among the 35 members appointed to the special committee and reserved the remaining four seats for the other four nuclear nations. China responded by charging that the committee had been made a tool of Russia, and refused to take part in its work.

**It is to be hoped that a way will be found to enable Russia to withdraw gracefully and to make it possible for the committee to function effectively. In any case, this special committee was not a preparatory committee for a conference but, in a sense, a holding operation for the purpose of keeping the conference proposal alive.**

It is not clear how soon China, which presumably wants to make more progress in nuclear development in order to increase its bargaining power, will be prepared to go ahead with a world disarmament conference. But in view of the state of world opinion, it seems likely that such a conference will be held, though the timing cannot be predicted.

That the conference will turn into a propagandistic shouting match seems unlikely, for the disarmament discussions at the U.N. have been low-key, down-to-earth, responsible discussions.

To have all nations participate will draw attention to the fact that disarmament is a world need and not simply a matter to be dealt with on the basis of the self-interest of a few large nations. The other nations will help to keep pressure on the great powers.

The U.S. has taken the position that the best prospects for disarmament lie in bilateral negotiations as exemplified by SALT and that multilateral negotiations are likely to be frustrating and fruitless.

**But multilateral negotiations have produced significant results. These include a partial test ban treaty in 1963, banning nuclear testing in outer space, in the**

**atmosphere, and in the sea; a hotline agreement, also in 1963, for a telegraph-teleprinter between Moscow and Washington; a nonproliferation treaty, in 1968; a 1970 treaty prohibiting the emplacement of nuclear weapons on the sea bed or ocean floor; and a treaty in 1971 banning biological weapons.**

What are the kinds of agreements that a world conference might press for?

First, since all the major powers have not signed all the treaties mentioned above, there could be an effort to induce them to do so. Second, there could be an effort to expand these treaties. A comprehensive nuclear test ban could replace the partial test ban; demilitarization of the ocean in general could supplement the ban on nuclear weapons on the ocean floor.

Third, there could be an effort to develop treaties on new issues. For example, there could be a treaty to eliminate all foreign bases and withdraw all troops from foreign countries. Or there could be a ban on chemical weapons or even a broader ban against antipersonnel weapons of a cruel and indiscriminate character.

Fourth, there could be an effort to reduce military budgets all across the board. Finally, there should be an effort to establish a program for a sequence of step-by-step reductions in armament.

What are the prospects for achieving true disarmament as distinguished from a limitation of armaments? In 1970, the General Assembly took note of a comprehensive program of disarmament prepared by a group of non-aligned countries and recommended that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, which had been formed in 1969, give it consideration.

These and other U.N. initiatives provide a basis for optimism that a world conference will not be satisfied with armament control and that armament reductions, stimulated by the conference, will have the effect of reviving the goal of general and complete disarmament.

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From the new NARMIC slide show

# The post-war war

### DOLLARS FOR WAR



In the first six months after the signing of the peace agreement, there were 76,000 casualties, about as many as in the last six months of the war.



Saigon is still outshooting the PRG by 20 to 1 with ammunition the U.S. has supplied. We're also providing civilian advisers to do military jobs from weapons specialists to file clerks.

### DOLLARS FOR REPRESSION



Millions of refugees like these are kept in crowded camps. AFSC staff heard a loudspeaker in this refugee camp announce: "Attention, citizens. If you attempt to go back to your ancestral homes in Communist areas, you will be shot to death."



General Thieu denies he holds any political prisoners. But AFSC staff report that many prisoners, like this woman, still wear tags reading "political prisoner." Many others have been reclassified as common criminals.

### DOLLARS FOR DECEPTION



The U.S. Agency for International Development claims to have discontinued funds for Vietnam's prisons and police. But hidden in AID's 1974 budget are over \$6 million for Thieu's police and prisons, under various euphemistic titles.



Even more deceptive, our Administration pretends that Saigon is the only real government in Vietnam. Actually, the PRG governs much of the countryside, performing normal administrative functions such as building roads, schools and health clinics.

### DOLLARS FOREVER

COST OF SAIGON GOVERNMENT



Our taxes provide 80% of the funds that keep the Saigon government going.



We will be paying forever, unless we take action now to finally end all — including indirect — intervention in Vietnam.

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