



AFSC representative Jack Horner shaking hands with member of the UN peace-keeping forces in Golan Heights disengagement zone.

AFSC Team Hears Mideast Hopes

From May 19 through June 14, 1975, 19 people travelled through the Middle East as part of the AFSC Peace Education Study Seminar. Their purpose was to gain firsthand experience in understanding Middle East issues and people, and to provide peace workers in this country with the knowledge gained.

The group travelled to Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. They met with government leaders, business people, journalists, social service workers, members of the academic community and western embassies. They visited reconstruction areas around Suez, Palestinian refugee camps and two Israeli kibbutzim. Participants came from 11 states and the District of Columbia, from many walks of life, Jews and Christians alike. All work with AFSC in some capacity, and all paid their own way.

The following are excerpts from the seminar report, prepared by Don Peretz, Middle East scholar who led the group.

EGYPT

"We talked with the President of the National Assembly, members of a parliamentary delegation . . . and many others. It seemed to us that the mainstream of Egyptian society had reached a point where they could accept a settlement with Israel.

"This was evident not only in words, but in the large construction effort in Suez. There we observed extensive works to rebuild the city and restore its normal life and commerce despite its vulnerable position.

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B-1 Bomber Would Pollute, Says Book

"The B-1 is an economic and environmental disaster," says Senator George McGovern, in the foreword to "Boom and Bust—the B-1 Bomber and the Environment." Published by the Environmental Action Foundation, with financial assistance from the AFSC, this booklet is being distributed by AFSC as part of its Stop the B-1 Bomber: National Peace Conversion Campaign.

Demonstrations protesting manufacture of the B-1 bomber have been held in many parts of the country, with considerable press coverage. June 1976 is the time of final Congressional decision on the bomber's fate: whether it will be built or not. During the few months before that date, it is imperative that the public learn enough about the weapons system to

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AFSC Contributors Respond to Emergency Appeal

Food, Medicine Sent to Indochina

- In April of 1975, the AFSC sent an Indochina emergency fund appeal to its contributors. A total of \$427,000 was received as a result. Through this quick and generous response (unprecedented in AFSC's history), AFSC contributors have enabled the Service Committee to help the people of Indochina by purchasing food and medicine for shipment to South Vietnam, and by giving \$80,000 to the government of Laos to purchase 400 tons of rice for people who have returned to their homes in the Plain of Jars after the war. Also sent to Laos was a tractor with plow, rototillers, mine detectors, and medical kits.

- The U.S. government, through the Treasury Department, for the first time directly denied licenses to the AFSC for the purchase and shipment of certain other items of humanitarian assistance for the people of Vietnam.

Specifically denied was licensing for agricultural equipment, fish nets, equipment for cooperative workshops (to provide livelihood for war-handicapped people in the north where bombing destroyed towns), and for equipping a hospital repair workshop in the south.

Wallace Collett, chairman of the AFSC Board of Directors, and Louis Schneider, executive secretary, announced with some sorrow and based upon carefully considered action of the Board of Directors that it is the AFSC's firm decision to proceed with the purchase and shipping of all items of humanitarian assistance for which licenses were sought, regardless of the Treasury Department's denials. "It is part of our moral and religious obligation," they said, "to aid in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the two Vietnams." AFSC officials risk possible fines and imprisonment as a result.

- At the invitation of the House Sub-Committee on International Trade and Commerce, AFSC chairman Wallace Collett testified in Washington, D.C. on September 9, 1975 about the government's denial to AFSC of shipping licenses for humanitarian aid to Vietnam. "Now that the war is over, the U.S. has a profound moral obligation to aid in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Vietnam," Wallace Collett said. "AFSC believes genuine humanitarian aid must

be provided on the basis of need, not because of racial, religious, or political identification as 'hostile' or 'friendly.'" AFSC has asked to meet with President Ford and Treasury Department officials to raise questions about the arbitrariness of the government's decision and "to discuss this apparent reversal of the traditional response of the American government and people to the needs of victims of war."

- At the cabled invitation of the Viet My Committee of North Vietnam, Louis Schneider visited Hanoi, North Vietnam, from August 30 to September 6, 1975 for the thirtieth celebration of National Day, Vietnam's Independence Day. He also visited in Saigon, South Vietnam; Vientiane, Laos; Singapore and Tokyo, where he met with AFSC field staff. Returning to Philadelphia on September 15, Lou Schneider said of Vietnam: "The most moving experience of joining the people of Vietnam in celebration of their National Day was to understand with feeling their deep happiness that freedom and independence had been redeemed. After struggling to emerge from decades of colonial domination and war, the mood of the Vietnamese people was one of jubilation to be sure, but tempered with a deep and quiet dignity that surrounded the celebration with a certain serenity."

NEWS FLASH

AFSC will provide tens of thousands of sweaters for school children during the damp winter season in North Vietnam. The September Board meeting responded enthusiastically to a Vietnamese request, launching a combined fund and sweater-raising campaign. AFSC will immediately purchase \$50,000 worth of acrylic yarn which the Vietnamese themselves will manufacture into some 60,000 sweaters. Hand knit and manufactured children's sweaters also will be collected in the United States. (Details of size and yarn requirements may be obtained from regional offices or from the national office in Philadelphia.) Those who donate a sweater are also asked to write to Congress urging the large-scale reconstruction aid to Indochina which only the government can provide.

The sweaters project is AFSC's part in the FRIENDSHIP campaign, a new national coalition of religious and peace organizations.



Laotian drives tractor sent by AFSC.

Mideast Hopes . . .

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tion close to the Israeli lines." The group concluded that, if for no other reasons than economic ones, Egyptians are war-weary and would like a compromise settlement.

LEBANON

"Arrival in Lebanon in the midst of the most violent political upheaval since the 1958 civil war was dramatically emphasized by the sound of machine guns not far from our hotel." The group met with PLO representatives. "Most surprising was the apparent effort to understand Jewish fears and apprehensions. . . . Efforts by the Palestinians to organize not just military cadres, but educational and social efforts for their people were encouraging. The new textbooks published by the PLO for young children impressed all those in the AFSC group as a constructive enterprise.

SYRIA

"As in Egypt, . . . it was evident that the authorities were trying to reach the American public and gain sympathy for their position. . . . We had access to the highest officials who answered the most penetrating and searching questions, questions which only a few months ago might have been considered dangerously provocative.

"With nearly every official we met we raised the question of Syrian Jews. While answers might not have been either satisfying or informative, we increasingly felt that it was no longer dangerous to discuss this formerly very sensitive subject.

". . . The desire for peace seems strong also in Syria where the government is going ahead with major development plans which could be disastrously affected by war, but . . . it is also obvious that many difficult obstacles lie ahead before there can be an end of war with Israel.

JORDAN

"In the few days spent in Jordan we had our first visit to a Palestinian refugee camp where there is a Quaker child care project. All were moved by the dedication of two British Friends working in the camp, and the close rapport they have established with the community."

Controls on public political speaking were evident. One professor with whom the group talked had been a "moderate" on the TV series, "The Israelis and The Arabs". The group felt that "it was indeed a pity he could not have more direct contact with Israelis . . . he seemed to have an uncanny capacity to empathize with Israel Jewish feelings for their land, their aspirations and their sorrows, derived from his own experiences as a Palestinian refugee."

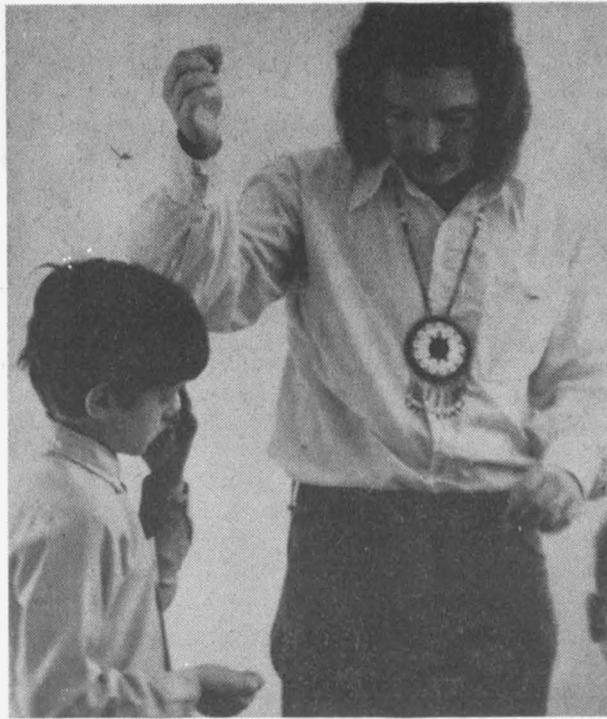
ISRAEL

In Israel, the seminar participants found that little credibility is placed in Arab statements of moderation. The PLO charter is cited as evidence of evil PLO intentions and Arafat is not trusted. The prevailing impression among Israelis is that all Arab States and the PLO still seek the liquidation of the Jewish State.

Peace groups, though small, are effective. Israel's requirements for peace were expressed by an Israeli official in the analogy of Jacob's ladder. Not only must the foundation on which the ladder rests be solid, but there must be clarity at the outset about what will be found at the top.

SUMMARY

"The depths of our emotions were stirred . . . when we visited Yad Vashem (memorial to Jewish victims of the Holocaust) and the Ramallah Friends Meeting, on the same day. . . . Some shed tears as they passed through the gloomy halls of the memorial. . . . Those who attended Friends Meeting in occupied Ramallah (in Jordan) joined hands and sang 'We Shall Overcome', one of the few permitted protest songs. Some of us thought: Until the Palestinians can shed tears for the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, and until the Israelis can feel the weight under which the Palestinians live, there will be no peace." But the seminar participants are already active in discussing with U.S. audiences avenues to peace in the Middle East.



Tom Sullivan shows children how to string beads.

Indian Program Aids Prisoners

By J. HENRY DASENBROCK
Middle Atlantic Region

In New York State prisons, most Indian prisoners come from an urban environment where they suffer a loss of identity in a culture far removed from their own. Since 1970, Tom Sullivan—Mohawk Indian and recent member of AFSC staff—has worked to help re-establish the Indians' ties with their own customs, language and religion. The Indian Cultural Awareness Program, funded from 1974 by AFSC and other groups, has included visits to incarcerated Indians, teaching of crafts and customs, and staging of ritual ceremonies to support and strengthen the incarcerated men for their eventual return to society. While Tom has worked in 15 New York State prisons, he has focused mainly on Albion, Attica and Auburn Prisons. In each case he helped build a committee of local Native Americans which carries out the program.

Recognizing that preventing crime makes more sense than trying to cure it, a youth facet of the program—called the Iroquois Club—has focused on Indian young people in a racially mixed Syracuse ghetto. There, craft work, gardening, visits to the Onandaga Reservation, and ceremonies help strengthen cultural awareness. Again, a strong local committee coordinates the program in Merriman House, a community center.

Today, the North American Indian Club has assumed responsibility for continuing the youth program. And at several Upstate New York prisons, supervision of the local volunteer groups carrying on the Cultural Awareness Program with Indian prisoners has been assumed by the Council of Chiefs of the Onandaga Nation. Thus, AFSC has accomplished a major goal in turning these programs over to the local community so that people can take responsibility for the direction of their own lives.

School Holds Benefit For Refugee Children

The following letter to AFSC is from Friends Academy in Locust Valley, New York:

"Once again, as over the last four years, the pre-kindergarten through second grade have taken a Quaker Service Fund for Children cause as their own. This year, as the need was so great, we held a benefit, completely child-executed, to aid refugee children of Vietnam. It took the form of an art show and sale of plants and homemade cookies and cupcakes. The children each made two sculptures in different media, grew seedlings and cuttings and baked. We sold the plants and goodies and used the sculpture as our theme. Enclosed please find our proceeds: \$120."

Views Aired at Mideast Meetings

From New England Regional Office

At a seminar in Cambridge, Massachusetts, last spring, an Israeli and a Palestinian spoke of their personal experiences and perceptions regarding the complex Middle East situation. Seminar participants were moved by what these people had to say and found their own viewpoints influenced as a result. A five week series of seminars on the Middle East, also last spring, included forty participants from varied backgrounds, and four luncheon gatherings of Protestant and Jewish clergy in the Boston area also met to talk about Middle East issues. In the summer, weekly meetings were held which brought together Middle Eastern Jews, American Jews, Palestinians and other people of Arab descent.

These seminars and meetings are all part of the New England Regional Office's Middle East Peace Education Program to engage people from as many sides of the conflict as possible in discussion of Middle East issues. "These experiences have taught us a lot about the necessity of face-to-face dialogue," said Sukie Rice Chisholm, AFSC staff person. "For some of us, it is the first time we have heard a personal account from someone who was in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon with Israeli bombs dropping all around; the first time we have listened to a young man who had been a teenager in Egypt during the 1967 war; or to an Israeli woman who had been a nurse during the last war and was with many of her village people when they died. Her sincerity in never wanting to see anything like that happen again touched us all."

At one of the meetings, an Israeli looked around the room and said: "I see the Arab faces here, and they are even more familiar to me than the Western Jewish faces. In a way, they are just as much my people." Seminar participants left that evening hopeful that such reconciliation would continue to grow wherever Arabs and Jews have the opportunity to truly meet.



AFSC staff and others hold vigil for peace in the Middle East.

Seminars, Projects Spark '75 Summer Seminars

In 1975, AFSC seminars included one in Thailand on community participation in social development projects; the seventh US-USSR Reciprocal Seminar which focused this year on the Middle East; a development seminar involving men and women, in Malaysia (see Charlotte Meacham's article on page 3); the Tripartite East-West Dialogue on youth and technology, in Great Britain; and a European seminar on Mediterranean ecology which brought Israelis and Arabs into a direct and rewarding dialogue. Seminars draw together leaders from diverse cultures and backgrounds—both men and women, officials and laymen—to seek answers to urgent human problems

Summer Projects

Across the U.S. last summer, volunteers spent six to eight weeks working on AFSC summer projects. Young people came with construction skills, supervisory ability, counseling experience and other talents to help local communities with specific projects. Summer projects took place in Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Michigan, New Jersey and Ohio. In addition, a study on the effects of child labor in agriculture—both economic and humanitarian—was carried out by AFSC volunteers in Washington, Oregon and Maine. At the conclusion of the study, a report of the findings will be published.

A VISION OF A BETTER WORLD

Vietnamese Women Help End War

By CLAUDIA A. KRICH

Claudia Krich, with her husband Keith Brinton, returned to the U.S. last summer after serving for over two years as co-directors of AFSC's Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center in South Vietnam. Claudia Krich reports in the following article on what role Vietnamese women played in the liberation of their country.

Women were crucial in bringing an end to the war in Vietnam. Women under the Thieu government were not subject to the draft, although they were arrested as political prisoners equally with men. They crossed areas less visibly than men, carried messages, supplies and ammunition, and many talked to people about the rewards of a socialist revolution. Since they were not soldiers in the Thieu regime, women stayed home and held the family together, often earning the family's livelihood. The women maintained a mother's or wife's or sister's love for a family member, and many families kept in touch with relatives in the north or in PRG areas via Paris or hand-carried letters. Women did not seem as depressed as many ARVN (Thieu) soldiers were, who daily faced possible death, although death was a very real possibility for anyone in rural south Vietnam.

In the fall of 1974, a small group of mendicant Buddhist nuns led by head nun Huynh Lien led street demonstrations against the corrupt Thieu regime. Old women shopping in the area joined these nuns and, with their handbags or sandals, resisted the young, rude policemen trying to disperse demonstrators. Such demonstrators were harrassed or put under house arrest, but the demonstrations were one of the signs of the crumbling of the Thieu regime.

Famous women like lawyer Madame Ngo Ba Thanh, who spoke out internationally against the government and suffered several years in prison for it, and non-famous women like Bon, the prosthetist in our center who was outspoken and committed to a Vietnam without war, played an important role in bringing the war and its politics to the world's attention.

In the new Vietnam, women like these can be expected to continue working for what they believe in.



AFSC staff person counsels young woman in San Francisco's Feminist Mental Health Project.

AFSC Women Take Part in UN, Mexico Conferences

In 1975—proclaimed by the United Nations as International Women's Year—several AFSC women participated in two major conferences held in connection with the celebration. A seminar on disarmament and its social consequences took place in May at the UN, and in June and July a Tribune, consisting of non-governmental organizations and representing 28 nations, was held in Mexico City concurrently with the UN World Conference on International Women's Year (at which AFSC had two observers).

Feminism and spirituality, the history of Quaker women, and women and nonviolence were among the subjects discussed during a seminar in July at Pendle Hill, a Quaker study center in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. Forty-three women attended and 14 Friends Yearly Meetings were represented. Participants and speakers included several AFSC staff members.

Women's Goals Would Mean New Society

Following are excerpts from a talk given by John A. Sullivan, Associate Executive Secretary of the AFSC, at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, on June 29, during the annual Friends General Conference.

I spent some time recently talking and listening to an active feminist. If the feminist movement were to achieve its goals, our society would become a very different one. Women and men would be trained and counselled for different ways of working, so that all might have part-time jobs, with time left for adequate mothering and fathering . . . new approaches to leisure, with child care that had the kind of content that would be liberating for children and not just mothers and fathers . . . the ending of job discrimina-

tion that tends to put men into the high-wage categories and women into unpaid housework or low-paid support tasks. If the women's movement were successful, men and women would strive for a more androgynous value system in which what are now called men's and women's values would both be important rather than one kind dominating the other. There would be a new ideal of feminine beauty which would result in diminishing the dominance of white western standards of what is beautiful in a woman and also of the enormous businesses of cosmetics and fashion. There would be a recognition that equality from this moment forward is not enough, that to achieve equality in a period of transition, women may need more opportunity than the men they have had to lag behind.

Since real advantages have flowed to men in our society and in other societies too, changing employment practices would also mean consequent changes in the power structure of society. The hidden economics of housework in which unpaid voluntary labor supports the whole economic structure of the family and the liberation of males to do more interesting and well-paid work would become visible and analyzed, and that too would mean changes.

AFSC now has several feminist programs across the country. In San Francisco a group is dealing with questions of mental health from a feminist perspective; in the Pacific Northwest a group is exploring the question of women and nonviolence and giving support to a new project for a transition house for women in trouble; in Chicago the program staff is assisting mothers in prison; in New England a team of women is helping women organize around issues of work.

AFSC has also approved a Nationwide Women's Program with staff and a Women's Support Group, to encourage the development of regional and local women's issues programming, and also to raise internal questions from a feminist perspective.

The Women's Movement brings with it the potential for very basic social change in our society.

This is a challenge we must all face, in our lives and in the organizations with which we work.

Asian Women and Men Discuss Regional Issues

By CHARLOTTE MEACHAM
Program Associate, Seminars Program
in Southeast Asia

During a seminar on "Shared Involvement in Humanized Development in Southeast Asia", which took place in Penang, Malaysia, from July 27 to August 2, 1975, it was readily apparent that firm data is lacking on Southeast Asian women, their contribution to the region's economy and culture, and their specific needs. Out of the seminar's discussion groups grew a recommendation to the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific that a research center be established to support regional women in coping with such problems as unequal access to education, employment, training; health care, women's double workload, more equitable access to policy-making positions at all levels and the need for an education outreach program about women's status and needs. It was also considered essential that a continuing data bank containing information about current program developments be available, one based on the culture of the area and not on western standards.

Sponsored by the Quaker International Seminars Program, the seminar focused on development—the second goal of International Women's Year. Thirty-two women and men from many walks of life participated. At the end of the seminar, a participant sang a song he had composed for the occasion. It seemed to all an especially fitting way to end the sessions. He sang: "We have come from different lands, We see the same moon, sky and sun, Remember Friends, the world is one."

Editorial

A Prophetic Dream

By Margaret Hope Bacon
National Office, Philadelphia

When the women's rights movement first emerged in the United States at the Seneca Falls Conference of 1848, its Quaker leaders saw it as one aspect of human liberation. Committed to the abolition of slavery through non-resistant means, Lucretia Mott and her colleagues had first been made personally aware of discrimination against women when they were thwarted in their anti-slavery agitation. As soon as the cancer of slavery was removed from American society, and women were freed from the prejudice of the ages, they believed, the whole of American society would be transformed, and the changes would rub off on Indians, prisoners, Irish laborers, on all who were poor and discriminated against. It was this driving overall vision that gave the movement its motive power in the first twenty years.

During World War I, the women's movement again flowered, this time as a drive for universal suffrage. Once more there was Quaker leadership and once more a grand vision, of which women's suffrage was a part. The women's movement was seen by its adherents as an aspect of bringing about world peace and correcting the injustice of the sweatshop.

A third phase of the movement grew out of the struggle for civil rights and against the Vietnam war. But, due to a lack of articulation and widely held vision on the part of women, people in Third World countries have got the impression that American women have been interested in liberation for liberation's sake, with little concern about joining their less privileged sisters in a worldwide struggle for peace and justice.

At the International Women's Year Conference held in Mexico City last June, a ten-year plan of action for the elimination of sex discrimination was adopted. But, as many Third World women in the Tribune tried to explain, such a plan is meaningless unless coupled with a vision of a better world. Lucretia Mott would have agreed. Perhaps it is time for her spiritual descendants to be about the task of formulating a prophetic dream.



"Mary Dyer, Quaker witness for religious freedom . . . hanged on Boston Common in 1660," says the plaque on the statue now situated in front of the new Friends World in Philadelphia. Here, workmen place the statue on a pedestal. The Center houses the AFSC and other Philadelphia-based Quaker organizations.

● THE WASHINGTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

THE AFSC has international affairs and service projects in 13 different countries. It conducts community relations programs in 30 states across the U.S. Its Peace Education staff carry on numerous programs of research, education and action in this country. But AFSC has a further goal: to communicate its concerns and share its experience and perceptions in all these areas with U.S. policymakers in the nation's capital. How is this done?

For 24 years—since 1951—the AFSC has had a “Quaker presence” in Washington, D.C. A variety of program activities have taken place over those years, the current expression of which is the Washington Public Affairs Program (WPAP). Formed in 1970, WPAP consists of AFSC's International Affairs Seminars of Washington, a general information center and arm of AFSC's national office, and Davis House, a modest stone house at 1822 R Street where program activities take place, foreign visitors stay for short periods, and staff have offices. The program in Washington has expanded from one focused almost exclusively on U.S. foreign policies and international affairs to activities which today include the Service Committee's concerns about community relations and peace education issues. Now WPAP attempts to register the total AFSC range of concerns with the federal government, the administration, and the international and journalistic community in Washington. For example, a recent series of dinner and luncheon seminars for members of Congress and executive branch officials dealt with problems of criminal justice under the title “Crime, Punishment and Correction—What Next Steps?”

Today, in addition to the continuing use of research-oriented, academic consultants, WPAP also increasingly provides a channel of communication to the government for AFSC national and field staff and others who speak directly out of their own work on problems of poverty, racial discrimination, political repression, etc. Thus, Quaker experience with the Soviet Union was shared with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a recent luncheon hosted by Chairman John Sparkman for AFSC staff and Soviet participants in the 10th Annual U.S.-Soviet Reciprocal Seminar.

Because Service Committee representatives are able to speak from deep experience on problems of militarism, poverty, the suffering of war victims, and on reconciliation, the effectiveness of AFSC's advocacy of policy positions is greatly enhanced in face-to-face sessions with government officials or committees. Time and again WPAP is able to set the stage for AFSC to consult and challenge policymakers in Washington. For instance, immediately on returning from a visit to the Service Committee project in Santiago, Chile, Louis Schneider, executive secretary, and Corinne Johnson, director of the Latin America Program, raised searching questions across the Davis House luncheon table with Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs William P. Rogers regarding U.S. actions in Chile.

Priority for WPAP is Informing Americans About Vietnam

By Tartt Bell
Director, Washington Public Affairs Program

The testimony of AFSC chairman Wallace Collett on September 10 to a subcommittee of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee on post-war aid to Southeast Asia was the most recent effort to

secure from the Ford Administration a change of position to allow normalization of relations with Vietnam. This would permit private agencies to begin a larger flow of aid and would help prepare the way for public acceptance of the government aid promised by Presidents Johnson and Nixon.

Licenses Denied

At present the Departments of State, Treasury, and Commerce take the position that Cambodia and Vietnam should remain under the restrictions of the Trading with the Enemy Act and hence subject to export control regulations. It is these regulations under which some licenses to export goods to Vietnam have been denied to the AFSC. The Ford administration thus is turning its back, in spite of earlier U.S. promises to the contrary, on much of the human need in the war-devastated areas about which such effusive concerns had been projected for years.

In a private consultation with a key government official, WPAP staff were told that no change of position by the State Department can be expected in the foreseeable future.

Vietnam Staff Report

In this setting the WPAP-arranged press conference on August 14 for AFSC field staff, Paul and Sophie Quinn-Judge, recently returned from Saigon, assumes significance for alerting American public opinion regarding the conditions in Vietnam. In this well-reported session they described life in postwar Vietnam as they experienced it for several months under the new regime. These observations are clear evidence that the “blood baths” of executions and violence, so heavily predicted by U.S. Administration spokesmen for years as a reason for continuing U.S. support of Thieu, did not occur.

Meetings Arranged

As a top priority, the U.S. involvement in Indochina has entailed a wide variety of activities for WPAP from participation in coalitions of national organizations, to consultations with foreign embassies, to arranging meetings with State Department representatives and other Administration spokesmen whose positions AFSC challenges.

International Support Needed for Mideast

By Tartt Bell
Director, Washington Public Affairs Program

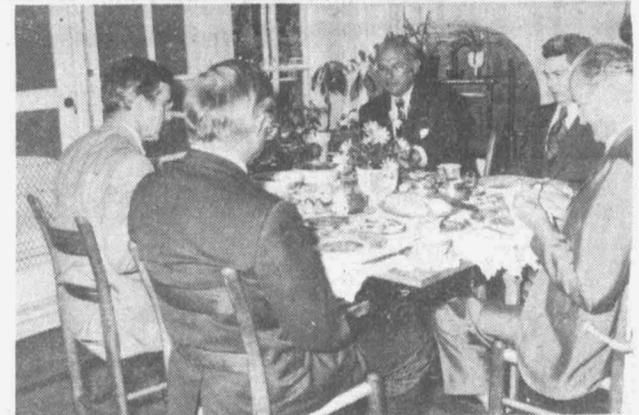
The interim agreement approved in August by Israel and Egypt for further military disengagement includes a startling new element. This is the employment of an observer team of 200 Americans in support of an early warning system to prevent violations of lines of demarcation between the forces in the Sinai.

The proposed use of U.S. manpower and the commitment of additional billions of dollars worth of armaments to the warring parties raises again the objections of the AFSC and other peace organizations to the U.S. assuming responsibilities for the Middle East which should be borne internationally, by a newly organized group of nations or by existing international mechanisms.

It is a long way from Davis House, 1822 R Street, to the areas of conflict and violence in the Middle East. But WPAP has been no more able than others in the nation's capital to escape an obsession with the continuing crisis there during recent months. Peace and justice in the Middle East has been a top priority of AFSC's efforts in Washington for the past two years.

Many WPAP-arranged consultations during 1974-75 have added fresh facts, insights and understanding about puzzling aspects of the conflicts for the members of Congress, officials of executive branch agencies, journalists, and representatives of national organizations who participated in a variety of gatherings and appointments.

“Both Israelis and Arabs must be prepared to take some new kinds of risks if they really want peace”, was the contention of retired Israeli general Mati Peled of Jerusalem as he spoke recently to a group of international affairs journalists at a Davis House luncheon seminar. Peled is one of a number of outstanding Israeli



WPAP director Tartt Bell (on left), Steve Thiermann, AFSC International Division Secretary and Sylvain Minault, AFSC representative in Geneva (on right), meet with Deputy Assistant Secretaries of State for Europe John Armitage and James Lowenstein (facing).

leaders it has been our privilege to present in an effort to add perspective to the problems. Another recent consultant was a top Israeli political commentator, Amos Kenan, whose views also suggested constructive alternatives to military confrontation.

The traditional dinner seminars for members of Congress and officials of executive branch agencies, sponsored by the AFSC since 1952, have also featured the Middle East. One of the year's highlights was the heated discussion, chaired by Senator James Aboureszk and led by Ambassador Charles Yost, former Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN, among a group of influential persons about the role of Congress in relations with Israel and the P.L.O.

It has been possible in numerous visits to the embassies of Middle Eastern countries for AFSC representatives to consult about next steps toward peace with the ambassadors and senior staff members. Why would they bother to explain positions, to answer questions, to listen to suggestions from a Quaker source? Perhaps these doors are open, as they continue to be, because of the 50 years of service and non-partisan concern for all the people of the Middle East as expressed in a variety of AFSC and other Quaker-related projects and friendly initiatives.



DAVIS HOUSE

Food Stamps Are Going To Needy, Says WPAP

By Garnet Guild

Associate Director, Washington Public Affairs Program

Treasury Secretary William Simon recently charged that the food stamp program has grown 47,000 per cent since 1962, is out of control, and that the program is a "well-known haven for chiselers and rip-off artists". He cited a national publication which recently carried an advertisement showing that families earning \$16,000 a year qualified for food stamps.

All of Simon's allegations are said by some to be serious deceptions or outright falsehoods. For instance, USDA considered the ad quoted by Simon (which appeared in "Parade" Magazine on May 18) so misleading that it was referred by the Department to the Federal Trade Commission for investigation and possible prosecution as misleading advertising. The ad was referred to the FTC before Simon's statement. *Who Gets Food Stamps?* (a publication of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs) cites a USDA survey which found that 45% of those families receiving food stamps have after-tax incomes of under \$3,000 a year, 77% are below \$5,000, 92% under \$7,000 and virtually all less than \$10,000. The average cash income of food stamp households was \$2,856 per year. The current poverty level for a family of four is \$5,000.

It is true that the food stamp program has grown from 633,000 recipients in 1965—the first year of national operation—to 19,172,000 in June 1975. But those food assistance recipients who were on the "surplus commodity distribution program" in the 1960's have, since that program was virtually terminated, transferred to the food stamp program. That means shifting 7.5 million people to food stamps. In addition, in 1962, before food stamp programs were extended to all counties, some 1,300 counties had no food program relief whatsoever available to low-income families. At the moment, some 41 million people are eligible for food stamps, though less than half that number receive them. As for charges of chiseling and "rampant fraud", USDA officials have testified that the level is very low: in fiscal 1974 considerably less than one per cent of the average monthly caseload was found to be participating fraudulently, with most of the well publicized "error rate" attributable to technical errors by those administering the program.

A national food stamp information center is planned, which will attempt to get accurate information about the program into national and local media. The American Friends Service Committee will work with this group, which expects to begin issuing informational materials in October. Such materials are available from WPAP, 1822 R Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

"Hello, do the Quakers have a room for tonight?"

Not all activity at WPAP is seminars and luncheons. Staff receive many telephone calls and visits from people who see Davis House as a reservoir of information.

There is a knock at the front door. Two Iranian students want to know, "Where can we find a place to stage a fast to protest repression in our country?"

A Burmese visitor says, "I am planning a demonstration for the release of political prisoners in Burma. Can you help find others to join us?"

The 'phone rings and a voice says, "I've just arrived from France and Air France says the Quakers have a good place to stay in Washington. Do you have a room?"

But not all the inquiries come from government people and overseas visitors. Occasionally, WPAP staff are challenged by other dimensions, as in this 'phone call:

"I'm a psychic working on some problems of light. A science research center told me the American Friends Service Committee would know about the new weapons being developed to use laser beams. What can you tell me about this?"

Overseas Staff Share Views in Capital



William Sutherland—In December 1974 Bill Sutherland went to Lusaka, Zambia, as AFSC Southern Africa Representative. In this position he is observing the rapidly changing scene in the ten countries of the region and now returns for an extensive period in the U.S. to interpret important developments. While in Washington he contacted many people and agencies interested in Africa, and attended an on-the-record press luncheon. He also met with the State Department director for Southern Africa.

In the month of September, eight visiting AFSC field staff met with government officials, diplomats and press people in Washington, under the auspices of WPAP. "We consider the meetings between AFSC field staff and Washington officialdom one of the most important parts of our work," says WPAP director Tardt Bell.



Mary and David Stickney—Former directors of the AFSC Rehabilitation Center in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam. The Stickneys are going to Singapore to succeed Stewart and Charlotte Meacham as Quaker International Affairs Representatives in Southeast Asia. Consultations with the Singapore ambassador and with officers in the embassies of Malaysia and the Philippines gave them valuable insights about their new assignment.

Natalie and Arthur Warner—The Warners spent two years in Santiago, Chile, as AFSC Representatives working first in programs of preventive and community medicine and public health with the National University of Chile and the National Health Service, investigating possible projects in infant and early childhood education and care. After the military coup in September 1973, these programs were curtailed, and the Warners helped provide assistance to refugees and to individual Chileans who had lost their jobs, their right to work or study, or their freedom. They also worked with community groups and others to develop programs of nutrition and health education and service for a shantytown community on the outskirts of Santiago.



In addition to the Warners, WPAP staff also arranged visits for **Annelies and Jean-Pierre Allain** from the AFSC West African Dialogues Program, in Lome, Togo. (The Allains' appointment in Washington occurs after this paper goes to press.) And **Sylvain Minault**, not shown here, director of Quaker-sponsored conferences and seminars based in Geneva, Switzerland, and former participant in an AFSC family planning project in Algeria. While in Washington, he conferred with State Department officers, former Senator William Fulbright, and an Arab ambassador about plans for future seminars, and reported his impressions of political trends in Europe.

Bicentennial: A Time For Celebration?

The Bicentennial year is just around the corner. Amid the commercial, political, and semi-patriotic hustling that surrounds its advent, there are anxious and sometimes angry voices heard. They ask two searching questions:

Is it right to spend millions of dollars on a 200th anniversary party when there are millions of citizens of the Republic unemployed, suffering bad health and malnutrition, living in dilapidated dwellings, attending exploding or inadequate schools, and while the country's leaders evade the admittedly staggering tasks of achieving equality, justice and opportunity in real ways for all, not some Americans? Is it celebration that is needed, or cerebation?

Is the American Revolution a closed chapter in history, or do we still seek to achieve its goals, to complete the tasks undertaken in 1776?

The questions are raised in an era very different from two centuries ago. The Annual Meeting of the AFSC (Philadelphia, on November 8) is stressing the prophetic words of the late Quaker philosopher-activist, A. J. Muste, who said, "The world we have known is passing . . . Human-kind has to become a new humanity or perish. If we are true at such a juncture to the seed of love which is in us, . . . we shall be loose and experimental. We shall be aware that we stand at the end of an era, but much more basically that we stand before a new beginning."

The Bicentennial celebration of national independence occurs in a new planetary context: instantaneous communication has shrunken the world and what happens in one place affects many others. We are facing the necessity of building into our thought and action processes the concepts of interdependence and interrelatedness.

The less powerful Third World nations are pressing the more powerful to accept a new socio-economic world relationship, to share the world's wealth and resources more equally and to prevent a further widening of the rich-poor gap. Throughout the world there are new movements, pressing for radical political and economic change. They challenge the division of power between the First and Second Worlds. They challenge the transnational alliances of the economically powerful, the multinational corporations. They sometimes erupt violently and desperately, and the nuclear powers that live near the catastrophic brink uneasily maneuver to support or oppose them.

Within nations there are institutionalized social and economic inequities that provoke discontent, unrest, rebellion—and counterviolence from national armed services, the police and the powerful forces of the status quo.

All this occurs when there is realization—and resistance to it—that the air, water and earth are afflicted with social and industrial poisons that endanger plant and animal life.

Never was there more need for a new beginning on a generous scale. But realism sobers idealism. Making a new beginning requires a readiness for major change, for a looseness and experimentalism that is not evident among the powerful of this country or the world. Nor is it evident among the less powerful but comfortable.

The American poet Muriel Rukeyser said, "Now again we see that all is unbegun. If we go deep enough, we reach the common life, the shared experience, the world of possibility."

For AFSC, the words of the 17th century Quaker, John Woolman, are a signpost at such a time: "Here we have a prospect of one common interest from which our own is inseparable, that to turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of Universal Love becomes the business of our lives."

With these challenges in mind, AFSC looks to the Bicentennial as a time, we hope, not for backward-peering self-congratulation, but for a new beginning.

John A. Sullivan
JOHN A. SULLIVAN
Associate Executive Secretary

Profound Changes Seen in Vietnam

By SOPHIE QUINN-JUDGE

Sophie Quinn-Judge and her husband Paul returned last summer after nearly two years working as AFSC Representatives in Saigon, South Vietnam. They provided logistical support in supplies and services for AFSC's Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center. They also functioned as on-the-scene observers in South Vietnam. When the Quang Ngai center was established in 1967, one of the program's stated goals was to train Vietnamese staff so that eventually the Center would be self-sufficient, needing no foreign personnel. At the time of the Quinn-Judges' departure from Vietnam in July 1975, Vietnamese staff were effectively running the Center, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, and a full-time doctor had been appointed to the staff.

What is Saigon like, now that the long war is over and the Provisional Revolutionary Government is in charge? Some things remain unchanged. The black market still flourishes, and Givral's coffee shop, where journalists and upper-class Vietnamese used to gather for ice cream and gossip, still attracts afternoon idlers. The market places are as busy as ever, and the streets are still thronged with smelly Hondas and vintage autos.

But the simple fact that there is no more war is what counts, and since the Thieu government's soldiers laid down their guns on April 30, people's lives have changed profoundly. Reconciliation and cooperation are no longer vague hopes, but reality. Vietnamese from both sides and all political viewpoints are talking together, letters are moving from North to South, and splintered families are meeting



After liberation, Vietnamese children reflect the general joy in Vietnam. Photo: Paul Quinn-Judge

for the first time since 1954.

"Study-practice", what we usually call re-education, is the keynote to the new lifestyle that is emerging. All over the city meetings and discussions are taking place, as people look back at past mistakes and look forward to a new path for their country. This involvement in public life is a real shift for a population that has learned over the years to keep their heads down. Not surprisingly, young people and students caught the new spirit almost overnight and are already volunteering to teach evening literacy classes and to join in agricultural production. It is more difficult for some of the older Saigonese. Thirty years of war have left them tired and confused. Forced into the cities by American bombs and policies, they had become accustomed to the comparative ease of urban life. But with the disappearance of the foreign-based economy with its multitude of jobs for laundresses, chauffeurs, and cooks, they are gradually coming to the conclusion that their future lies in their native villages and rice fields.

Mothers in Prison Helped by Chicago Project

From Midwest Regional Office

Jane has four children. One lives in the South, two are in a foster home, and the fourth—a baby—had been living with a relative. Jane is an inmate of the Cook County Correctional Center, Women's Division, in Chicago, Illinois. Concerned about her children but unable to reach them, Jane expressed her feelings to Marti Shock, Coordinator of AFSC's Mothers-in-Prison Project. Marti contacted Jane's case worker who arranged for the two children from the foster home to visit Jane. Marti also got in touch with an uncle of Jane's, who posted bail for her. Once out on bail, Jane was able to find a permanent home for her baby. Jane has now been transferred to an institution where she will undergo a drug rehabilitation program. With this kind of struggle ahead of her, Jane is at least

satisfied with her children's welfare.

Such is the kind of help women offenders at the Cook County jail receive from the Mothers-in-Prison Project staff. Since April 1975, Marti Shock had worked on her own inside the prison. Now a program assistant and volunteers work with her, visiting the prison every Tuesday and Thursday, acting as liaison among mothers, children, agencies, foster homes, and families.

Since inception of the Mothers-in-Prison Project in April 1975, 18 mothers in prison have been helped. "There are about 200 female prisoners in Cook County, and half of them are mothers," explains Marti Shock. "This project," she adds, "helps the mothers find out what's going on and what their options are in regard to their children, and hopefully helps keep families together."

GIVE A GIFT FOR ALL SEASONS, a gift which can reshape lives, rebuild communities, and work for a more peaceful world.



This year remember your friends or family with a gift which will give the holiday season special meaning. Through the AFSC Gift Card Plan, your friends and relatives receive greetings from you with the message that you have made gifts in their names to help provide:

- aid for drought-stricken families (nomads) in Mali
- adequate housing for seasonal farm workers in Florida
- aid to refugees in Indochina

This year's card features a woodcut entitled "Dancing Child" reproduced on light tan stock, and includes a quote from Thomas Kelly: "And the world will arise in hope. . . ." The text inside reads:

As a holiday present

Send today for more information about the gift plan, or send us the names and addresses of those whom you would like to remember in this way. Five dollars is the suggested minimum gift for each person or family.

made a gift to the American Friends Service Committee in your name. Such gifts, in the spirit of the season, support the worldwide work of the Committee to alleviate suffering, right injustice, and work for reconciliation and peace.

UPDATE

"We stand before a new beginning" is the theme of AFSC's 1975 **Annual Meeting** to be held on November 8 at the new Friends Center in Philadelphia. Speakers will include Arthur and Natalie Warner, AFSC staff recently returned from nearly two years in Chile and Paul and Sophie Quinn-Judge, back from Vietnam. Interest sessions will take place all day on such subjects as the Middle East, hunger, education, and Indochina.

Mortimer LeCote, National Representative of AFSC's Administration of Justice Program, has been named by Governor Herschler of Wyoming as a member of the advisory committee of the new Education Commission of the States' Correctional Education Project. The Project will seek to improve the education offered to adult and juvenile offenders. Governor Herschler's letter adds: "You have been chosen through a process designed to select from among the most capable people in the country to accomplish the work that is ahead."



As the result of AFSC's gift in the spring of 1975 of \$5,000 to the town of Kiryat Shmona, Israel (the site of a guerilla attack in April 1974 in which 8 children were killed), a **school playground** has been built for the children of the town, marked by a plaque citing AFSC as the donor. The \$5,000 given to the Palestine Red Crescent is being used for a hospital in Lebanon.

Four young people from as many countries make up the **Quaker United Nations Fellows** team for 1975. They are: Rosalie Foreman, 28, from Australia, a physiotherapist and member of Australia Yearly Meeting; David Kikaya, 28, from Nairobi, Kenya, an economics graduate and member of East Africa Yearly Meeting; Eiko Nagasue, 28, born in Hiroshima, Japan, two years after the atomic explosion, and a student of nonviolence; and Chris Rosene, 22, an American, who has lived in Chile and Guatemala. Chris's father headed AFSC's Guatemala program.

Having begun their four-month stint with QUNO by monitoring a special session of the UN General Assembly in September, the team now works with the regular QUNO staff on questions of economic development and disarmament.

This year's group is the fourth in the Quaker UN Fellows Program (formerly called the QUN Young Adult Team).

Joe Elder, professor of sociology and India studies at the University of Wisconsin, and Philip Zealey, of Friends Service Council, have returned from a jointly sponsored **AFSC-FSC trip to India** where they delivered to Indira Gandhi a personal letter from Horace Alexander, a former long-term resident of India and personal friend of Indira Gandhi's. They were granted a private one-hour interview with the prime minister during which they expressed their concern for current difficulties in India.



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Farm workers build their own houses under AFSC's self-help program in Florida.

Florida Housing Program Begins Sixth Year

By WILTON E. HARTZLER, *Executive Secretary, Southeastern Regional Office*

AFSC's **Southeastern Region** has begun the sixth year of its Farmworker Housing Program in Florida. Funded by a grant from the Rural Housing Alliance and directed by Jim Upchurch, Jr. and his staff of seven, the program will continue its emphasis on self-help housing for those farmworker families whose marginal incomes are insufficient to purchase or rent adequate housing in the current market. By doing much of their own work and assisted by a subsidized mortgage, families with adjusted incomes below \$5,000 can acquire a new three or four-bedroom house.

A **new dimension** of the program this year is an attempt to meet the needs of those farmworkers who cannot qualify for a self-help purchase. Utilizing a Farmers Home Administration rent supplement program, AFSC will develop sponsors, locate sites, provide market surveys, prepare applications, and supervise construction of small rental projects. To date, FmHA rental housing activity in Central Florida has been negligible.

Also this year, AFSC will make a survey of farmworker housing needs throughout the state of Florida in order to identify the areas of greatest need. AFSC believes that some potential public and private sponsors not currently using federal programs for housing farmworkers can be motivated to do so. Local housing authorities may prove to be potential sponsors among existing agencies.

Students' Rights Need Recognition, Says AFSC

From Dayton Regional Office

A **high school student** is told by teachers she may not have a drink of water in the school cafeteria because school board policy says, "water is an adult drink."

A **parent is refused** copies of her daughter's psychological test records because they are "confidential."

A **boy is expelled** from school for being insubordinate, after having been "boy of the year" the year before.

These are the kinds of problems the AFSC's Dayton regional staff try to solve through the Student Rights Project in that region. Lay advocates listen to students' complaints and meet with parents, teachers, and school officials.

When it turned out that the injunction against water-drinking in the school cafeteria had grown out of the school's disinclination to employ staff to fill glasses and hand them out to children, it seemed that some honest communication between school and children was seriously lacking.

When Public Law 93-380, which requires schools to furnish psychological test records to parents on request, was pointed out to school officials, and when counseling for students who suddenly "go wrong" in school was suggested, these problems were on their way to being solved.

The Student Rights Project extends to the community where staff participate in workshops and seminars and have produced a booklet on students' rights which helps young people understand these.

As Maddi Breslin, project director says: "We are not opposed to teachers having rights . . . they're human too. But traditionally, students' rights have not been recognized, and these are real too."

Vacant Lot Converted To Park in New York

From New York Metropolitan Regional Office

A **vacant lot littered** with garbage, including the carcass of an abandoned car, started on its way last summer to becoming a pocket park. The lot is adjacent to a once-abandoned building at 519 East 11th Street, on Manhattan's Lower East Side, which local community people bought and, with the financial help of New York City's Housing and Development Administration, converted into a housing co-op. With the thought that the lot would make a nice park, co-op owners approached Joan Swan, Urban Affairs Secretary of AFSC's New York Metropolitan Regional Office, telling her their idea. Fourteen teenagers from the neighborhood were then recruited by AFSC working with people on the block. Their wages were paid by the Neighborhood Youth Corps. AFSC also employed two college students, one of whom designed the park and both of whom directed the work.

Today, the park is nearing completion. It will contain a basketball court, benches, and a play area for children. Cobblestones, provided by a local group, will be laid and a nurseryman has donated a tree. In an area of decaying, abandoned buildings where landlords prefer to let their property go for taxes rather than upgrade it, the pocket park on East 11th Street will be a small green haven for the thirteen families in the adjacent co-operative.

"Hunger on Spaceship Earth" is a selection of articles, resource material and general information on hunger, prepared by Jerold Ciekot of AFSC's New York regional office. The kits may be obtained at \$2.50 plus 80 cents postage from AFSC at 15 Rutherford Place, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Hawaii Vigil Expresses Faith in People



Above: Once a month the State of Hawaii Civil Defense Agency tests its sirens throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Here, AFSC staff of the Hawaii office, plus Catholic Action of Hawaii, stand in silent protest of preparation for nuclear war. "Our folded arms signify our firm belief that the power of people cooperating in a spirit of peace and love is far more potent than the power of nuclear destruction," says staff.

Right: "Coloradoans feel a special closeness to the suffering victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," says AFSC Denver staff Pam Solo. Here, AFSC and environment supporters (200 altogether) gather on August 9 at Rocky Flats, Colorado, site of Rockwell International's nuclear weapons plant. They celebrate "the end of the nuclear age" by destroying a model of the B-1 bomber and other weapons and burying them under a dump truck full of dirt. Demonstrators wear "Sun Power" T-shirts, a symbol of their support for the most obvious creative alternative to nuclear power.

Demonstrators Support Solar, Not Nuclear, Power



Child Care is Focus of New Program in Oregon

From Portland, Oregon Office

A new AFSC program focusing on family child care options has been developed by a community relations task force in Portland, Oregon, where there has been a very large reduction in state funding for child care. The task force selected the Columbia-Piedmont area for this program. It is a racially mixed, low income, residential neighborhood with no day care facilities. But there are potentially important resources such as an enthusiastic neighborhood association and the Albina Family Counseling Service, with which AFSC has had a close working relationship over several years.

Task force staff members Bob Turner and Pat Sposito stress that the new program's goals go beyond providing family day care services. They include: 1) assistance to family day care consumers and providers in coming together to address their common needs and determine how, collectively, they may gain more control over day care options and availability; 2) exploration and development of creative options in child care within the neighborhood; 3) establishment of a resource center in the neighborhood where persons with an interest in child care can obtain information on day care options; and 4) facilitating the development of training and classes in child development and day care through a resource center. The task force hopes the program will begin in October.

B-1 Bomber . . .

continued from page 1

make their voices heard and heeded by the decision-makers.

Written by James Conroy and Paul d'Eustachio, "Boom and Bust" describes the effects the aircraft, now in the research and development stage, would have on the environment: "A B-1 fleet would release millions of tons of pollutants into the upper atmosphere which would remain suspended for years and might produce a full five per cent depletion of ozone, the gas which screens out deadly ultraviolet radiation." Copies of "Boom and Bust" are available at \$1.00 from any AFSC office.

Disabled Farm Worker Gives Time to Tenants Union, UFW

By CATHERINE HARRINGTON
National Office

Working long hours for too many years on the short hoe has left Manuel Bonce permanently disabled with a bad back. But even after four unsuccessful operations to correct the damage caused by almost fifty years of farm labor, Manuel Bonce was still trying to work, refusing to apply for welfare. Finally, last spring, his doctor told him he must stop.

Manuel Bonce is the father of twelve children. He lives with his family in two adjoining apartments in the Linell Farm Labor Camp near Visalia, California. On the fifteenth of that month, when his rent came due, the sheriff showed up to serve Bonce with an eviction notice from the Housing Authority. No grace period was to be allowed.

The Housing Authority's treatment of Bonce was not unexpected, nor was its harshness uncommon. Bonce is an active member of the Linell Tenants Union, an AFSC-assisted program, directed by Ernesto Loreda and his dedicated staff. Since the Tenants Union started, back in 1965 with a successful, but grueling thirty-two month rent strike, it has spread to Linell and several other farm labor camps; and it has succeeded in gaining for the residents some influence over the running of the camps.

The Tenants Union also works closely with and in support of the United Farm workers' movement, the two unions sharing the common goal of winning for farmworkers more control over conditions in which they live and work.

So the sheriff showed up with an eviction notice at 6 p.m. on the day Manuel Bonce's rent was due. But by 5 p.m., Bonce had paid the rent and had a receipt to prove it, thanks to the help of Eleazer Garcia of the Tenants Union who had obtained the necessary rent money. Eleazer Garcia also helped Manuel Bonce apply for welfare.

Still a hard worker, Bonce now volunteers most of his time to the Tenants Union and to the UFW, which is conducting intensive organizing to help the Union obtain strong contracts in good faith.

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