



Beverly Williams of AFSC (center) trains advocate for the elderly in use of Senior Legal Rights Manual. Photo: George Martin

## AFSC Launches Campaign For Food Aid to Indochina

A report from AFSC's representatives in Laos describes a severe food shortage in that country, caused by wartime damage, with a recent drought intensifying the situation. In one Laotian province, the annual rice harvest has amounted to only three to six months' supply for the people. The next rice harvest will be in November 1978.

**In the United States**, AFSC Peace Education staff continue to publicize the food shortages in Vietnam and Laos in an effort to inform Americans about the role the U.S. played in creating the shortages and could play in alleviating them. The President, says Peace Education staff, has the authority to send food to Vietnam and Laos under the International Disaster Assistance fund, and to Laos under the Food for Peace law. The U.S. could also pay shipping costs for 10,000 tons of wheat the Church World Service plans to ship to Vietnam on March 1. (The U.S. pays shipping costs of aid sent overseas by all voluntary organizations. Aid to Indochina has been one of the few exceptions.)

**The AFSC, along with other organizations**, officially endorses the C.W.S. campaign to gather food in this country, and joins the C.W.S. in appealing to farmers in the U.S. who may have surplus wheat to consider donating it to CROP, the food program of the Church World Service. **Any interested farmer may contact Church World Service (Vietnam Food Fund), at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027, or AFSC's International Division in Philadelphia.**

**"Laotian authorities have made a special appeal to international organizations to assist in finding solutions to the problems of unexploded ordnance,"** according to AFSC representatives in Laos, Lou and Eryl Kubicka. As members of one of the few international groups since the end of the war to visit the heavily-bombed Plain of Jars, the AFSC representatives

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## Program For Elderly Untangles Red Tape

By JANET KULLER  
Program Resources and Information Services  
Midwest Regional Office

"I don't know where to go. I don't know what to do." With this, the elderly lady dumps the contents of two large shopping bags on the table, and tax schedules, social security flyers, Medicaid documents, and Veterans' Administration forms cascade out. This older American, like many others, is so bewildered by bureaucratic forms and red tape that she is unable to claim governmental benefits that are legally hers—benefits that can make all the difference in the quality of her life.

**Fortunately, the man sitting at the table is able to help.** A senior citizen himself, he has been trained to act as a lay advocate for other seniors, to guide them through the maze of regulations surrounding social security, Medicare, and other benefits. With the aid of a volume entitled, *Senior Legal Rights Manual: A Layman's Handbook*, he is able to straighten out his client's problems.

**Publication of the Senior Legal Rights Manual** and the training of lay advocates to act on behalf of the elderly is the ongoing work of the Senior Legal Rights Project (SLRP) of AFSC's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago. More than 750 pages long, the manual is printed in large type for easier reading by senior citizens. Reviews indicate that it is both comprehensive and comprehensible. Mary Ader, director of the National Clearinghouse for Legal Services, has commended the Manual for its explanations of areas of the law "so intricate that most lawyers do not handle them." A legal aid attorney has said that the material relating to Supplementary Security Payments and Social Security benefits was the first clear explanation of those programs he has encountered.

**"The Manual is priced at \$15.00** (plus \$1.40 postage). Congresspeople, including Senator Adlai Stevenson and Representative Abner Mikva of Illinois, state

that their staffs find the Manual useful in answering constituent questions. It has been purchased in bulk by the Illinois Department of Aging for use in its offices throughout the state. To keep it current, SLRP staff have issued updates at quarterly intervals.

**The Senior Legal Rights Project began** in the winter of 1975 with the recognition of two basic facts. One is the financial plight of the elderly. As of 1975, one in four elderly families was living on less than \$3,000 annually, while more than fifty per cent of the single elderly were existing on less than \$2,000 a year. At the same time, costs continually rise, especially in crucial areas like food, housing, and medical care.

**The second is the failure of attorneys** satisfactorily to protect the elderly in our society. In the words of David Affeldt, counsel for the Senate Committee on Aging, "The issues the elderly face are those for which even most legal services attorneys have no background."

**With the Manual available** as a resource, SLRP project coordinator Beverly Williams early this year began the organization of advocate training classes, to teach older people how to stand up for their and their neighbor's rights. This aspect of SLRP's work has been especially challenging because many of the elderly have previously been discouraged from maintaining an attitude of self-reliance. "In the U.S.," Beverly Williams observes, "the elderly are often treated as children, leading to a dependency on others to do their thinking for them." SLRP is a self-help program and we believe in independence, but we often have a hard time encouraging them to start doing things for themselves."

**Like so many worthwhile programs**, SLRP is experiencing funding difficulties, and at present its future is uncertain. But whether or not it is able to continue its operations, the effects of what has already been accomplished will continue to be felt in the lives of the elderly in Chicago and in Illinois for some time to come.

### AS WE GO TO PRESS...

**The AFSC has launched a national campaign to raise money to buy food and help provide the means of food production for Laos, to help pay for the Church World Service's shipment of wheat to Vietnam, and to support AFSC's work to encourage U.S. government provision of aid to both countries. Special contributions are welcome.**

## AFSC Meeting Cites Red Squad Spying on Civilians

Staff from eight local programs attended an all-week Conference of the AFSC's Program on Government Surveillance and Citizens Rights, held in New York, Philadelphia, and Washington from October 21 to 28, 1977. Among the speakers was civil liberties lawyer Frank Donner. The following are excerpts from his talk.

I think of the story of a man during the Hitler era, whose wife was having a baby. He was working in a baby carriage factory. He said, "Hilda, I'll just take home one part every night and when the baby comes, we'll have a baby carriage." The baby duly arrived and the man went down to the basement. After a bit he

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**John W. Willard, Associate Executive Secretary of AFSC's Pacific Northwest Region since 1971, died in his home in Bellevue, Washington, on December 20 after a severe illness. All who knew John Willard feel a deep sense of personal loss and a strong appreciation for his long and effective labor with the AFSC. He once wrote, "I have come increasingly to realize that the really important things in life are the things for which Friends have stood over the past 300 years. For me the AFSC is the channel for this expression in my life." John Willard joined the AFSC in 1942, filling a number of assignments over the years. An active Friend, he leaves a wife and four grown children.**

## Communities Reap Harvest in Chile

In 1976 the AFSC began an agricultural development project in several Mapuche (indigenous Indian people) subsistence communities in southern Chile to support ongoing Mapuche efforts in this field. Mapuche lands are poor, hilly and prone to erosion. Loans and credit for seeds, fertilizer and farm equipment bring high interest rates when they can be obtained at all. Unemployment is prevalent, and many Mapuche survive mainly on homemade bread and on potatoes and some eggs. The AFSC project, field staff tell us, has not only improved village agriculture but strengthened cooperation among villages. A letter from the field staff reports:

**"The February 1977 lupino (legume) harvest, an experiment of the AFSC project, was bountiful in several communities, and has encouraged greater use of lupino both as a cash crop and as a nutritious addition to the local diet. Planted from seeds provided by the project, the harvest produced a greater variety of vegetables than ever before.**

**"Villagers began experimenting with winter vegetables in 1977. Seedbeds of simple frame construction made it possible for the plants to be set out several weeks earlier than usual in the spring. In one community, villagers finished a sheep dip and sowed trial plots of a new strain of wheat. This wheat promises high production and resistance to certain diseases.**

**"Farmers were encouraged to take special training. A man from the milk-producing cooperative was chosen by his community to attend a four-month course in dairy farming. He is now an enthusiastic vol-**



Taking soil sample in agriculture project. AFSC staff on right.

unteer helping others in his own community. Another attended a course in animal husbandry and on his return put together a simple veterinary medical kit with supplies for the care of sick animals. A third attended a course in beekeeping and in farm machinery maintenance. A woman took a four-month course in sewing, weaving and in family health.

**"More and more communities are taking an interest in the project and asking to participate. A spirit of common purpose is growing among the villagers. They decided to give fertilizer to 40 families unable to acquire it on their own. The families will repay it in kind next year, so there will be a supply available to others in need. The village leaders also decided to donate part of their fall harvest to feeding centers in Santiago—potatoes, beans, cabbage, carrots, onions, tomatoes, beets and parsley—nearly three-quarters of a ton of food."**

## FCNL is Quaker Lobby, Shares AFSC Priorities

"We have many of the same priorities but we work in somewhat different areas." Edward F. Snyder, Executive Secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), was talking about FCNL's relationship to the American Friends Service Committee.

**"The FCNL has used the Service Committee's expertise at home and abroad to develop testimony before Congressional committees and to draft policy provisions,"** he said.



Ed Snyder

The FCNL, located in Washington, D.C., is the Quaker lobby in the nation's capital. Created in 1943, in the depths of World War II, it has three full-time lobbyists who spend their time talking with members of Congress and staff aides, helping draft bills and amendments, testifying in Congress, working with other civic-minded organizations, and alerting FCNL's constituency about when to contact legislators.

**"While the Service Committee was conducting nationwide public education campaigns against the Vietnam war, FCNL was tackling the same issue on Capitol Hill. The Friends Committee on National Legislation also took leadership on the issues of recognition of the People's Republic of China, opposition to conscription, support for world disarmament and human rights. Many of these issues the AFSC also works on,"** said Ed Snyder.

**"By working through coalitions, the call for disarmament and for positive changes in U.S. foreign policy can be amplified. Thus, FCNL joins with the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy in Washington (Edward Snyder is its co-chairperson), now composed of nearly 40 peace, religious and civic organizations including the Service Committee. One FCNL staff person, a Nebraska farmer, has made substantial contributions to the Interreligious Task Force on U.S. Food Policy (a group of people from Protestant, Catholic and Jewish backgrounds working on food issues).**

**The FCNL publishes a newsletter** about its activities and about current developments in Washington, including voting records of members of Congress. Further information may be obtained from Edward Snyder, FCNL, 245 Second Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

## Surveillance . . . Continued from Page 1

called up and said, "You know, Hilda, no matter how I put this together it's still a machine gun."

**It's a stupid story but** it sums it up for me: no matter where the police start with civilian surveillance—the mob squad, the community relations unit, the civil disobedience squad—it turns into a machine gun.

**All the reports coming out in the '60s—the Kerner Commission, the Eisenhower Commission, the Scranton Commission—said you are going to have violence as long as you have the causes for violence. The police interpreted this to mean that to be ready for riots you need informants in the ghetto—the baby carriage turned into a machine gun.**

**The same thing happened with the military. With riots happening across the U.S., such as the one in Detroit in November 1967, the Army intelligence decided that they would have to get lots of information so that they'd be prepared for the next riot, so they investigated Dave Dellinger and Benjamin Spock and the private lives of the Vassar women. Once again, starting off from an important social need—how to deal with riots—you end up with the same old six-volume compendium of personalities.**

**Another baby carriage is the genuine need for protection. This easily turns into surveillance. To protect someone, you watch everyone who visits him.**

**As I see it, the federal intelligence capability is going into hibernation until the climate changes. In the meantime, the red squads will carry on with relative immunity from legislative curbs and restraints from urban authorities. I believe there are going to be tremendous movements of dissent in the inner cities. The red squads will continue to see their mission as their classic fight against radicalism, but more and more it will also be to keep the lid on racial conflict.**

**What I would like the policeman to feel about dissent is much the way he feels about the Miranda ruling: he thinks it's insane to have to tell a criminal suspect what his rights are, he feels betrayed in having to do it, but he knows he has to do it and he does it. I don't want to change that policeman. All I want from him is to have the sense that the First Amendment limits his conduct and that he has to respect the right of dissent even though he feels it absurd and threatening. This is a rational goal we can work for.**

## Police Surveillance Admitted in Seattle

By BETTY ST. CLAIR  
Seattle Surveillance Project  
Seattle Regional Office

Last November the Seattle Police Department confirmed what community activists in Seattle have suspected all along—that the Intelligence Section of the SPD continues to spy on organizations and individuals because of their political beliefs and activities.

**A lawsuit was filed six months ago** by the Coalition on Government Spying (of which the Seattle Surveillance Rights Project is a member) on behalf of 42 plaintiffs who are seeking access to their local intelligence files. In response to interrogatories in the suit the SPD supplied the plaintiffs with a list of the 42 plaintiffs and indicated which of them were of active interest to the Seattle Police Intelligence section. The list included three organizations—the AFSC, the National Lawyers Guild, and a local Chicano group, El Centro de la Raza. Fifteen individuals, many of them leaders in the three named organizations, were also listed. There is no way to know how many other files the Intelligence Section of the SPD maintains, in addition to the 18 it has admitted.

**The Seattle police refused to disclose the content of the intelligence files because they claim disclosure would "impede current investigation of unsolved felonies in the Seattle area or would be harmful to informants' life, physical safety, property or right to privacy."**

**The plaintiffs in the lawsuit expressed dismay at these reasons for withholding the information. In a statement issued after the disclosures, Ann Stever, Chairperson of the Pacific Northwest Regional Executive Committee, said "Our organizations are engaged in lawful activities in our community. We are not lawbreakers, we have not committed felonies. There is absolutely no legitimate reason for the SPD's investigation of us."**

**The police disclosure did not come as a surprise to the organizations named. Stever said, "As national organizations, the AFSC and National Lawyers Guild have for years felt the effects of spying and harassment by intelligence agencies. The Seattle Police Department is not unique in its intelligence practices."**

**Roberto Maestas, representative of El Centro de la Raza, said, "We know that thousands of our tax dollars have been spent to spy on us, tap our phones and even sift through our garbage. Members of our organization have been followed and even beaten up."**

**Attorneys for the city of Seattle have offered to go before the judge—without the plaintiffs or their attorneys present—and explain why the information should not be disclosed to the plaintiffs. Court action in the case will continue for several months.**

**The Seattle Coalition on Government Spying, formed over a year ago, is sponsored by AFSC, the ACLU and National Lawyers Guild. Other ongoing projects of the Coalition include drafting model legislation for use in Seattle and working with the Seattle City Council in their examination of the activities of the SPD Intelligence Section. The Seattle project is also working with University of Washington students who are concerned about CIA activity on their campus. On the state level, the Coalition has conducted educational programs in several cities, testified at numerous legislative hearings regarding the Washington State Patrol Intelligence Unit and done extensive research and investigation into activities of intelligence agencies in the State of Washington.**

**AFSC's Peace Education Division is looking for volunteers among experienced copywriters, art directors, and others skilled in print media to help conceptualize and design materials which will stimulate active public support for normalization of relations and healing the wounds of war with the nations of Indochina. For additional details, contact John McAuliff at AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.**

## New Justice Program Carries on Work in D.C.

As part of AFSC's concept of local development, a project initiated by the AFSC which has taken hold in a community is later turned over to the local people. Such a project is the Washington Pretrial Justice Program. After eight years of successfully tackling justice issues in the Washington area, the program's efforts to make positive changes in the criminal justice system continues. Underwritten partially by AFSC, the program is seeking additional funds from local sources.

Currently, the program acts as convenor for the new Alliance for Criminal Justice, a coalition of 32 legal, civic and social service agencies, all working on justice issues. Under its new name—Washington Committee for Pretrial Justice—the group will also press for a Prisoner Action Line to handle problems of pretrial defendants confined to jail. Chairperson of the group is retired Judge Charles Halleck. More information may be obtained by writing to the new committee at: 1800 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

### AFSC Annual Meeting

## Human Rights Not Only Political, Say Panelists

"We are all in this country familiar with human rights on the political level . . . we understand these in our bones. But economic and social rights are also human rights . . . we have not been so quick to perceive these as such."

Opening the panel discussion on human rights at AFSC's annual meeting (entitled "A Great Experiment of Love"), in Philadelphia, on November 12, Stephen Thiermann, Co-secretary of AFSC's International Division, added: "After the U.N. adopted its Declaration on Human Rights in 1948, it took nearly three decades before the International Covenants on Human Rights were ratified by the necessary 35 nations, at the U.N."

David Elder, coordinator of AFSC's Southeast Asia Desk in the national office, mentioned some of the problems the Vietnamese are encountering as they try equitably to share out both food and jobs in their country in the wake of a devastating war which destroyed both farmlands and means of production, and in the face of a U.S. trade embargo and continuing refusal to sponsor food aid to Vietnam. Are we, David Elder asked, helping to deny the Vietnamese their human rights?

In addition to the human rights panel, staff from AFSC projects around the country spoke on topics such as Puerto Rico, the new international economic order, the Middle East, southern Africa, disarmament, justice, and Native American issues. In the afternoon, Colin Bell, Executive Secretary Emeritus of the AFSC, reflected on past AFSC work and objectives and some new directions. He said, in part:

"The Service Committee has stayed, over the years, with two great streams of endeavor—the imperative of compassion for persons, and the imperative of concern for society. There is a temptation to stay with the first because compassion effectively expressed usually wins approval.

"But the second great imperative leads to controversy, to misunderstanding of our motives, to outright hostility, as AFSC staff in Des Moines found out two years ago when their office building was bombed.

"Every superpower since Rome has become obsessed with its Divine Right of Dominance. For decades, the two modern day superpowers have demonstrated their impotence to move significantly toward world peace, and in consequence the internal strength of both is being steadily sapped.

"The power of the Infinite to flow down through this very finite conduit—the Service Committee—is a constant challenge to our clogged spiritual arteries. The AFSC can't change the world. It can, by its small actions—when they are 'great experiments of love'—get the power of God flowing down more freely."

## Meetings Challenge Mideast Stereotypes

By JOHN A. SULLIVAN  
Associate Executive Secretary for Information and Interpretation, National Office

Six officials of a major American Jewish organization sat across a table from five representatives of the AFSC at the Jewish organization's national headquarters in New York. The object: to identify and discuss points of difference in their views of the Middle East. Three tense hours later, the Jewish president agreed that some misinformation had been corrected, some points of difference remained, but there was valid purpose in future discourse between the two groups.

A few months earlier an AFSC meeting with Arab-American organization officials in the office of the AFSC Executive Secretary in Philadelphia came to similar conclusions. Other such meetings have been held elsewhere in the country as AFSC seeks to overcome stereotypes and reduce the fears and suspicions that are the hallmarks of Middle East debate.

In the Middle East AFSC has pursued the dialogue with principal parties. AFSC representatives have met in Beirut with Yassir Arafat, in Damascus with Syrian officials, in Jerusalem with Ministers in the Israeli Cabinet and in West Bank towns with Arab mayors. In Istanbul Arab and Israeli social scientists and others have gathered twice at Quaker-sponsored face-to-face meetings. In the U.S.A. spokesmen for pro-peace viewpoints from Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization have addressed American audiences from AFSC platforms and sometimes in home meetings. These meetings have heard Israeli Zionists who say there will be no peace until the Palestinians have self-determination, possibly a West Bank-Gaza state. They have heard Arabs who say that Arab nations must recognize and accept Israel.

It was in 1970 that the AFSC decided to launch a public dialogue about the requirements of peace and justice in the war-weary Middle East. The AFSC did not see itself as an outside party. Quaker workers still recall the searing days of the Holocaust when they aided Jews to escape from Nazi rule or, with tears in their eyes, accepted from Jews crammed on trains to concentration camps letters, personal belongings and other items which the Jewish victims entrusted to the Quaker staff to get to their relatives in Europe and America. Quaker workers recall the misery and desperation of Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip whom they assisted with relief projects and, later, with preschool aid to children. Today in Israel Quaker workers are aiding Arabs and Jews in programs of legal assistance or special education.

AFSC has thus continued its search for peace in the context of a steadily growing understanding of both the Israeli and the Palestinian commitment to self-determination. Strongly committed to the survival and security of Israel, AFSC is nonetheless committed to the realization of Palestinian rights and aspirations within a context of negotiation and accommodation mutually agreed upon.

The dialogue and the search for peace have often been stormy and even lonely under criticism from both sides. The AFSC persisted in discussing what many on opposite sides considered undiscussable, being persuaded that there must be other voices heard than chiefly one-sided champions of one or another political viewpoint. At times, as former friends fell away and the stereotyping directed at the AFSC with wounding passion was felt, AFSC has asked: is it worth it?

The answer is, yes. Yes, because Americans have heard dialogue between realistic moderates from the Middle East; perceptions arising from the dialogue have been directly expressed to Israeli and Arab government leaders; face-to-face meetings have permitted a more human level of communication than the charges and counter-charges hurled through press and radio; U.S. editors and reporters have been in contact with people who can speak from firsthand involvement; and, finally yes, because we know that dialogue on difficult subjects is not cheap or painless and cannot be pursued without experiencing at least some of the trauma felt by people of worth and dignity on both sides of the bitter conflict.

# UPDATE

The AFSC shipped five tons of clothing, blankets (and some layettes for babies) to refugees in Botswana who have fled from the apartheid conditions in South Africa and Rhodesia. As a joint project with the Church World Service, the shipment went to the Botswana Christian Council.

Still needed are all kinds of men's and boys' clothing in good condition, new or almost new shoes, sneakers and sandals. Trading stamps will allow AFSC to buy other supplies. These may all be sent prepaid to AFSC Material Aids, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

"There have always been a few persons over the years who, in addition to being distinguished as individuals and by their vocations, are also known everywhere as a Friend.



Heberto Sein

Heberto Sein was known [among Friends] throughout the world as 'The Mexican Quaker'. . . . He was a man of profound faith," writes Edwin Duckles, former AFSC staff in Mexico. Heberto Sein died in Mexico City on October 31, 1977.

In 1939 Heberto Sein was instrumental in starting AFSC summer workcamps in Mexico. In 1942 he was designated as Mexican advisor to the AFSC. Best known as interpreter in French, Portuguese and Spanish to and from English, he was present at the founding conference of the United Nations in 1945, and was interpreter at many Friends conferences.

As someone said at his memorial service on November 4, "We mourn the loss of a friend, but we are also here to celebrate his life."

There it was, in the *Daily Racing Form* of Seattle, Washington—a yearling foal, sired by Balance of Power (a big winner in the world of thoroughbreds), sold for \$46,000, the money to go to the American Friends Service Committee! It turns out that the seller is an AFSC contributor who made the Committee a gift of the sale proceeds. Stated the Seattle paper: "The AFSC, a Philadelphia-based Quaker service organization, accepted the receipts derived from the flashy yearling's colt's sale." It's good to know that AFSC was on the right track.

There is a soup kitchen in Syracuse, New York, known as Unity Kitchen (which was inspired by *The Catholic Worker*). The people who serve meals there have been taking up voluntary collections from their customers for support of AFSC work in Mali. Since 1975, they have contributed \$10,196. (In addition, they contribute to the work of Mother Teresa in Calcutta.)

Eric Prokosch, staff of AFSC's National Action and Research on the Military-Industrial Complex project (NARMIC) in the national office, reports: "When an article on Meet Your Local Merchant of Death (NARMIC's state-by-state list of munitions makers) appeared in the November issue of *Progressive* magazine, orders for the booklet from all over the country poured in. It was a surprise, nevertheless, to answer the phone the other day and have someone in the Pentagon ask if they might have a complimentary copy! Resisting the temptation to remind him that the Defense Department has a budget of more than a hundred billion dollars, I said I'd be glad to send a copy. If they like it, they will publish an abstract in *The Friday Review of Defense Literature* (!), bringing our work to the attention of thousands of high-ranking officers, 'think tanks,' and others."

## If Arsenals Dismantle, What Happens to Jobs?

By MARGARET HOPE BACON  
Information Services, National Office

Can industry geared to military production be converted to civilian use? Will workers lose their jobs? What will happen to highly skilled technicians?

These questions of national scope are being addressed locally in Santa Clara County, California, by an AFSC peace conversion project which has been described by the *Bulletin of the Atomic Sciences* as "probably the nation's most serious grassroots effort to dismantle the arsenal."

With one half of one per cent of the nation's population, and five per cent of all military production, Santa Clara County has the highest per capita concentration of defense industry. As a result, the formerly agricultural valley is smog-ridden, its population is swollen, its human services are deteriorating, and its rate of employment is high.

In the two years it has been in operation, the AFSC's Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project has worked with both organized and unorganized labor, developed a coalition of concerned citizens, and helped to develop one new peacetime industry. This is Solpower, which now produces solar panels for space and hot water heating.

A slide show, which is shown to community and church groups, emphasizes the possibilities of conversion of local military dependent industries to ones producing diagnostic medical equipment, transit cars, pollution detection devices, and research into new forms of energy.

The workers in the electronics plants in Santa Clara County are 70 per cent women. Of these, 50 per cent are Chicana. They are unorganized, poorly paid, and subject to health and safety hazards. To ensure themselves of low labor costs, the companies have established runaway shops in Asia.

Natalie Shiras, of the AFSC conversion project, meets with these unorganized women by frequenting the bars and lunchrooms where they congregate at noon, or the shopping centers where they purchase groceries at night. As often as possible she arranges for house meetings with them.

Working with both organized and unorganized labor, the project stresses the importance of guaranteed workers' rights during a conversion period. The *Plowshare Press*, a quarterly published by the staff and volunteers, includes stories of workers' groups in other countries who are pressing for conversion. (See Publications column on Page 7.)

Another recent effort has been to persuade the University of California to convert two scientific laboratories, now devoted to nuclear armament development, to more peaceful uses.

AFSC Programs Seek Conversion of Military to Peace Industry

# Disarmament is World

## Research Staff Produce Important Data on Military

By NARMIC STAFF  
Peace Education Division, National Office

"Dear Friends: I'd like to know what you can find out about the military project just down the river from us, in Savannah, Illinois.

"Dear Friend: I am starting on a project to relate the effects of peace conversion to my local county (Oneida County, New York). Could you supply me with a list of defense contracts in this area?"

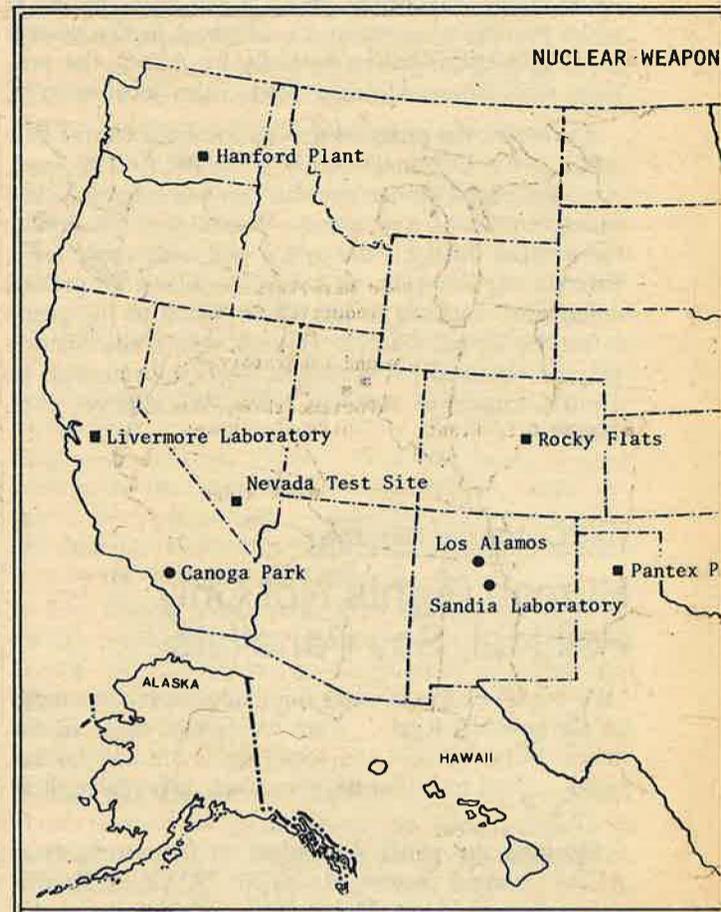
Drawing from its extensive data on military contracting, NARMIC (National Action/Research on the Military-Industrial Complex) gives detailed answers to letters like these. Eight years after its inception as a project of AFSC's Peace Education Division, NARMIC is busy today supplying key facts to local organizers and providing clear, non-technical analyses of trends in the military and in technology.

As the movement for nuclear disarmament grows, the gap between the ideals enunciated by President Carter and the realities of Pentagon planning becomes distressingly wider. NARMIC staff are currently studying the new generation of nuclear weaponry and its ominous implications for arms control. Fact sheets on the cruise missile, the neutron bomb, and other strategic weapons are published or in progress. Also in the works is a series of maps showing nuclear weapons installations, manufacturing plants, nuclear near-accidents, and other local manifestations of the military-industrial complex.

The dozens of government and industry publications monitored by NARMIC often provide material for educational news articles. One article, written by NARMIC staff, headlined "We Are the Arms Merchant," was recently reprinted in the *Congressional Record* as well as in the Pentagon's daily clipping service. Another NARMIC article on a new British antipersonnel weapon was published in London Yearly Meeting's magazine, *The Friend*, prompting a call for a debate in the House of Lords.

Data from NARMIC's files can form the basis for reports by other organizations. Using NARMIC information, the peace conversion program of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Friends Peace Committee recently issued a study of military contracting in 22 counties in the Delaware Valley. Much of the work on this study was done as a school project by a volunteer from a local Friends School.

In addition to the focus on disarmament and militarism, NARMIC staff are busy distributing the *Sharing Global Resources* slide show and investigating southern Africa and human rights issues in support of peace education programs. A list of NARMIC publications is available from NARMIC, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.



The above map shows nuclear weapons development and manufacture sites.

## Arms Race is Major Debate, Focus

By RON YOUNG  
Peace Education Secretary, National Office

For the first time in more than a decade the nuclear arms race is emerging as the subject of a major public debate, perhaps the most controversial foreign and military policy issue in the United States. President Carter has called for "drastic reductions" in nuclear arms as steps toward the eventual goal of "zero nuclear weapons." A proposed new SALT treaty between the two super powers now seems possible.

### Military Cuts

Major leadership groups in the society, including mayors of major cities, sections of the business and labor communities, and the religious and peace communities, are calling for substantial cuts in the military budget and transfer of resources to meet real human needs. These concerns can be linked with concerns for disarmament. A timely focus is that of the United Nations which will hold a special session of the General Assembly on Disarmament in May-June 1978, in New York City.

### Peace Testimony

The historic Peace Testimony of the Society of Friends is the basis of the American Friends Service Committee commitment to the goal of general and complete disarmament. Efforts for disarmament are more urgently needed today than ever before. In addition, the economic and social effects of the arms race reinforce patterns of inequity and oppression which deny the majority of the world's people even minimum human needs.

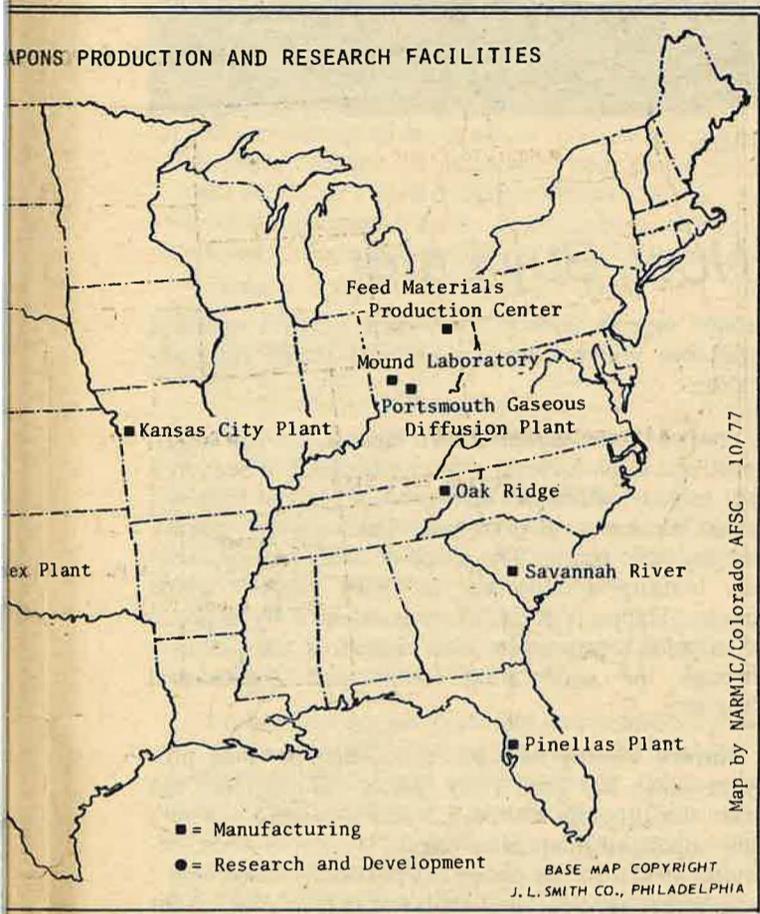
The AFSC believes it is essential that Service Committee efforts for disarmament be linked, morally and politically, with struggles for social justice and peace conversion at home and abroad.

In our work for disarmament we recognize that it is not only the military or governments, but also major economic institutions, which perpetuate the arms race in their continuous drive for profit and power. This is particularly evident today in efforts by large corporations to increase worldwide sales of armaments. The AFSC seeks ways to challenge these institutions as well



Natalie Shiras, of Mid-Peninsula Conversion staff, on left talks with electronics workers.

# Priority



Weapons production and research facilities in the U.S.

## AFSC Work

as governments to turn from the arms race before it is too late and join in building a new global order based on justice and peace.

### Citizens Impact Needed

The Committee believes that concerned, informed citizens can have a significant impact on these issues. AFSC supports a wide range of activities including work of the Quaker United Nations Office, the Washington Public Affairs Program, NARMIC (National Action/Research on the Military Industrial Complex), as well as Peace Education staff efforts in the national and the 35 regional and area offices across the country. In addition, the AFSC cooperates with other organizations such as the Disarmament Working Group of the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, the Mobilization for Survival, the Disarmament Committee of Non-governmental Organizations at the U.N. and the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace.

### B-1 Campaign Successful

During the past four years the AFSC, in cooperation with Clergy and Laity Concerned, successfully organized a nationwide public education campaign aimed at stopping the development and production of the B-1 bomber, increasing public awareness of the role of large corporations in promoting the arms race and public support for peace conversion. In addition to building a network of several hundred key community activists across the country, AFSC organized a coalition of 30 national organizations in Washington, including major peace, religious and environmental groups, to help defeat the B-1 bomber.

The Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, of which AFSC is a member, serves as the coordinator for this year's campaign to support the Transfer Amendment, to transfer Federal funds from the military budget to programs which serve people and create more jobs. A vote on this piece of legislation will come next spring and AFSC hopes to play an important educational role in promoting the transfer concept in numerous towns and cities across the nation.

## Rocky Flats is Site Of Nuclear Protests

By MARGARET HOPE BACON  
Information Services, National Office

Opponents of nuclear weaponry and peace activists from throughout the nation will gather at Rocky Flats, Colorado, on April 28, 29 and 30, 1978, to protest the further development of nuclear bombs, and to witness to a call for peace conversion.

The planned action is the latest major effort of the Rocky Flats Action Group, a Denver-based coalition. For the past three years RFAG has been working to alert local citizens to the perils to their environment and health posed by the nuclear weapons plant operated by Rockwell International, 16 miles upwind from the city of Denver.

"The spring action will be a nationwide focus for the need for dismantling nuclear plants," Pam Solo, AFSC staff member who gives full time to RFAG, said in describing the group's plans.

At Rocky Flats all the plutonium triggers for America's nuclear bombs are manufactured and periodically reprocessed. As a result, all the nuclear bombs in the U.S.A. return to the Denver area at stated intervals, adding to the local threat of nuclear pollution and accident. Rocky Flats is thus an essential component in national weapons production, and therefore a crucial place to register a national protest.

### Balloons Released

Last fall the coalition released several hundred helium-filled balloons, each carrying a tag which stated: "This balloon was released on September 24 from the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. You live down wind from Rocky Flats where radioactive plutonium has been released into the atmosphere several times in the 20-year history of the plant." Tags, which also contained other information on the nuclear threat, were returned from Indiana, Missouri and Nebraska. A previous balloon release was made in April, 1976.

A special emphasis of the program this year is peace conversion. Small groups of citizens are getting together to discuss the need and feasibility of peace conversion, and a Task Force on Peace Conversion has been organized at the University of Colorado. Visiting lecturers to the area will speak on aspects of peace conversion. Among the first of these—Sidney Lens, scholar and author on labor—spoke on the impact of disarmament upon labor and employment.

### Adverse Effects

Throughout its existence, the Rocky Flats group has been gathering data on the adverse effect of the plant on the surrounding area. They have uncovered the fact that there have been 271 fires—two of them major—410 plutonium contamination cases, apparent genetic mutations in pigs and chickens in the area, and a release of radioactive tritium into the water of the nearby town of Bromfield. As the result of public hearings, a monitoring committee has been established by the Governor of Colorado. Pam Solo is a member of this committee.

The Mobilization for Survival, as well as other local antinuclear action groups, is a cosponsor of the spring action, which has been planned in relation to the Special U.N. Disarmament Session.



Demonstration at Rocky Flats, Colorado

## 'Special Urgency' Marks Quaker UN Work

By GORDON M. BROWNE, JR.  
Associate Representative  
Quaker United Nations Office, New York

At the United Nations, where nearly every General Assembly produces a dozen or so resolutions on the subject, disarmament has been a priority concern of the Quaker United Nations Office for years. This year, however, Quaker work on disarmament has special urgency and hopefulness as it focusses on the upcoming Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament, to be held in New York from May 23-June 28, 1978. A 54-nation Preparatory Committee has been at work since last March making arrangements for the Special Session.

Meanwhile, government agencies around the world, U.N. delegates and members of the Secretariat, non-governmental organizations, and interested citizens' groups are making their plans to try to ensure that some real movement toward disarmament may at long last begin.

### Quaker View Presented

Barry Hollister, Quaker Representative at the U.N., takes the leading role in Quaker disarmament work at the U.N. He monitors meetings of the Preparatory Committee to be fully informed on the way the Committee's plans are developing. Because he knows and has worked with many of the Committee members, he has frequent opportunities to present a Quaker view on matters of substance in informal conversations with delegates.

In addition, as an officer and Bureau member of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on Disarmament, he also takes a leadership role in its discussions. In this role, he is directly involved in negotiations between the New York-based and Geneva-based NGO representatives on the whole range of organized NGO activities in connection with the Special Session.

Barry Hollister also has been actively negotiating with members of the Secretariat and the Preparatory Committee on arrangements which will permit NGO involvement in the Special Session, the first time NGO's have had an officially recognized participatory relationship to a meeting of the General Assembly.

### Training Seminars

The Quaker U.N. office has received a special grant to conduct a series of training seminars for U.N. delegates, especially those from the smaller nations, in preparation for the Special Session. Special, short-term staff is being added at QUNO to plan and conduct these seminars, which will use international experts on disarmament as consultants and speakers. The goal is to help the delegations which have not been able to do major work on disarmament develop the necessary knowledge and sophistication to participate actively and usefully in the Special Session.

In addition, QUNO will bring an international Quaker team of four to six Quaker disarmament specialists from as many countries to New York for from four to twelve weeks for the Special Session. A worldwide network of Friends Yearly Meeting correspondents is receiving disarmament information regularly from QUNO. By these means, QUNO hopes to increase substantially the Quaker influence on international disarmament work through national groups' activities with their own governments.

Busy and exciting as all this effort sounds, QUNO is clear that we will not have disarmament by the end of the Special Session, but that we are embarking on a major effort which should be sustained, adapted, and pressed for at least the next ten years.

## Great Experiment of Love

The following editorial is based on excerpts from Louis Schneider's address at AFSC's annual meeting on November 12, 1977.

The durability of the AFSC for sixty years into the third generation has been tested and demonstrated. On what attitudes or commitments will the durability of the AFSC and those associated with it depend as we move into another interval that may complete a century of service?

**First, my greatest confidence in the capacity of the AFSC to address the future effectively arises from the unwavering commitment of the AFSC to those truths and beliefs which are basic to Quakerism.**

These beliefs are not clutched tightly as by some monastic order but are universal and open to all by our witness.

Second, the AFSC is a religious organization. We measure our religion by practice. It will be the practice of our faith that both challenges some to controversy with us and some to co-labor with us.

If the measure of our commitment to belief is the practice of our faith, then the AFSC will be venturesome as it involves itself with one or another situation and issue.

**Third, Friends and the AFSC are widely heralded for their efforts at reconciliation. Our massive relief efforts of World War I and World War II are generally associated with an attitude supportive of reconciliation. The tables were turned in Vietnam. In a posture which is new for the American people, we have not yet been able to persuade our government to open the way to reconciliation with the people of Vietnam.**

We have learned beyond denial that there are countless persons who, after all relief has been exhausted, still do not have those basics which provide for minimal wellbeing and a measure of life's happiness. More than relief is needed. They are asking for justice: social and economic; and freedom: political, religious and cultural.

The AFSC will struggle in unprecedented and venturesome ways to contribute to reconciliation—but reconciliation with justice—a common justice that relates alike to both sides of a conflict. This will lead to strain arising from different judgments and feelings, even among Friends, as to how reconciliation with justice can be assisted by the AFSC. Reconciliation holds only among equals among whom a fragile trust is not haunted by fear, and "justice" is no longer the caprice of presidents and generals. Henceforth, the role of the reconciler will be defined by these principles.

**Fourth, not all those who struggle for justice adhere to nonviolence. The AFSC has yet to make convincingly clear as a Quaker organization how it can associate itself with the legitimate aspirations of those who are struggling in one or another liberation movement without the AFSC itself seeming to be in support of violent struggle. The question is a profoundly important one and goes to the heart of the peace testimony.**

Finally, throughout the experience of the AFSC it has usually been we who have made the compassionate overtures to those in distress. The balance of the human scene is shifting. Will we have the grace to respond as is only appropriate to the compassionate overture to us?

At the ecumenical funeral service for Stephen Biko, who died and is believed to have been killed in custody on September 12 in South Africa, the Right Rev. Desmond Tutu, Anglican Bishop of Lesotho, said: "Please, please, for God's sake listen to us while there is still just a possibility of reasonably peaceful change. For God's sake let us move away from the edge of the precipice before all of us, blacks and whites, crash to our destruction."

**As we look and step ahead, let us remain free in the spirit, stalwart in our insistence on human rights, and may love prevail among us as we continue the great experiment which is the American Friends Service Committee.**



Louis W. Schneider  
National Executive Secretary



Lotte Baker's old house, on the left, was replaced by new one on the right.



### AFSC Program Helps Farmworkers

## Families Occupy Houses Now, Buy Later

By HOWARD C. GOERINGER  
*Farmworker Housing Program, Sebring, Florida*

The verb "homestead" means to acquire or occupy as a homestead. This is exactly what thirty families in Dade County, Florida, had done. These white, brown, and black Americans had moved into new dwellings which, at the end of two years, they could purchase at a price set by HUD, who loaned the local housing authority money for the AFSC-directed project. Now the new home-owners were getting ready to celebrate their accomplishment. It was decided they would serve food representative of the various racial and ethnic members of this new community. Even the children volunteered to set up chairs and clean up after the fiesta at which the Mexican-American mariachi band would perform.

Many of the occupants are former migrants who helped Organized Migrants in Community Action (OMICA) develop this six-acre site with seed money from the Housing Assistance Council and labor recruited through CETA. It was teamwork all the way, and an excellent example of the strategy of the American Friends Service Committee housing project in Florida. Jim Upchurch, former director of the AFSC project, and his staff have helped get many housing programs started, and then developed nonprofit com-

munity organizations to carry them on with technical assistance grants from the Farmers Home Administration.

One of these, Hardee Rental Homes, has just begun construction on a rental project with HUD's Section 8 rent subsidy which will enable 40 of Hardee County's lowest income families to move into safe and sanitary housing next spring. The name of this equal opportunity housing development is "Villa Alegre" which means "Happy Village." It was selected by a group of migrant farmworkers who shared in the planning through the cooperating Labor and Agricultural Program.

Hardee County also has a self-help housing program which has built forty houses. Three years ago when this program started, Lottie Baker lived in a very old, unpainted dilapidated shack. When the AFSC recruiter talked to her about the possibility of owning a new home, hope-inspired smiles were seen even on the face of her mentally retarded son. Maybe the house could have a ramp for her other son, involved in an accident that confines him to a wheelchair. But her application was turned down on a legal technicality. Eventually, that obstacle was overcome, with the help of AFSC staff, and the Baker family have a new home.

## Human Rights Staff Tells Of Argentine Imprisonment

Olga Talamante, a Mexican who grew up in California and worked in the fields with the United Farm Workers during her high school vacations, has joined the staff of the AFSC national office as coordinator of the new human rights desk in the Peace Education Division. In a recent interview, Olga Talamante talked about her experiences in Argentina, including her arrest and imprisonment.



Olga Talamante

"I went to Argentina in 1973, after graduating from the University of California at Santa Cruz, to visit some friends I had made during college field trips to Latin America, and to do some studying," Olga Talamante said. "I began working in a community center in a small town south of Buenos Aires, as a volunteer.

"One of our projects was to petition the mayor for lights for our town. The roads were so dark that people were falling into roadside ditches at night, being hit by cars, and were afraid of muggers. Since we could only see the mayor during his weekday office hours, we were a delegation of nearly all women—about 25 of us, and children. We walked some 15 blocks to the town hall, where we were politely received and listened to. A few weeks later, we got our lights.

"We also built a little community center, with our hands, buying the bricks and mortar ourselves.

"Juan Peron was in power at that time, and the government was listening and responsive to the people. Then he died and his wife, Isabel, took over, and things

changed.

"I had been working at the community center for a year and three months by November 1974 when a state of siege was declared in the country. On November 10, I and 12 others were arrested.

"During four days of interrogation at the detention center in Azul, my companions and I were beaten, and tortured with electric shock. Eventually, we were taken to the local prison and sentenced to three years. Formal charges were brought against us only after we were imprisoned for six months.

"On March 26, 1976, due to an intensive campaign waged by my parents and friends in California—they petitioned the Argentine and the U.S. governments on my behalf—I was released. Eight of my companions are still in prison, although their three-year sentences have expired. Some of them are being tortured."

In September of 1977, Olga Talamante began work with the AFSC. "I knew about Quakers and the AFSC from having attended two Service Committee seminars on civil rights in California, during my high school days. In my new job, I will try to interpret human rights as an integral part of political, economic and social rights, examining the reasons why the U.S. government continues to provide military aid to repressive regimes, and to train their military. The program will also focus on the role of U.S. corporations whose investments in Latin America actually tend to contribute to the widening gap between rich and poor. And we will ask: What can Americans do about these problems?"

Olga Talamante says that the political prisoners in Argentina have a chance of being released if people urge the State Department, the President, and the Argentine Ambassador to intervene. Further information may be obtained from Olga Talamante at AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

# NIEO Issues Addressed in AFSC Seminars in Ohio, New York

By DUANE GRADY

Brethren Volunteer in AFSC Peace Education, and  
JOE VOLK

Secretary for Peace Education, Dayton Regional Office

In May 1974 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a New International Economic Order resolution, and the developed countries and the developing countries faced each other in stalemated negotiations at the North/South Dialogues in Paris. But, no one in the United States Midwest talked or knew much about this global debate on economic and social issues. Could AFSC's Peace Education Program in the Dayton region generate a public policy debate and democratic action for peace and justice on the NIEO theme?

Giving it a try, we gathered 27 AFSC staff, committee and some educators and religious educators in New York in February of 1976. We met with representatives of the Group of 77 (developing countries who proposed the NIEO), of Sweden, of the United States and of non-governmental organizations at the U.N. The discussions were hosted by staff of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). After three days the participants, from eight cities in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, returned to the Midwest. Would we have follow-up education work on the NIEO?

Nearly a year later, the follow-up activity generated by that one three-day NIEO seminar at QUNO looks rewarding and worth the effort.

Two hundred students, faculty and community people attended the Service Committee's NIEO seminar at Wright State University last November. One student wrote, "This has been a source of encouragement, inspiration and meaningful education in a search for my role as an agent of change." A professor of social work at Sinclair College said, "This is just what my students needed; they need to see the connections between their own demands for justice and equity and the poorest of the poor in developing countries." Forty of her students attended. After participating in the Global Education Conference in Grand Rapids, a young man from Cincinnati, Ohio, told us, "This has changed my life; I've been studying peace but now I'm more committed than ever to working for it." That person is now a member of our regional peace education committee. Perhaps the most gratifying result of these follow-up activities has been the request by two students in the Dayton area to do volunteer work on a regular basis and by a Grand Rapids teacher who volunteered to implement a NIEO seminar in New York for students this winter.

After the NIEO conference last May in Grand Rapids, at which Donald Mills, Jamaica's Ambassador to the United Nations, spoke, the Jamaican Mission purchased the new NARMIC slideshow, "Sharing Global Resources," for use in that country. Subsequently, we have received an invitation to discuss with Ambassador Mills the possibility of a youth project involving students from the Midwest and from Jamaica.

In addition, the Ohio Council of Churches has asked the regional staff to arrange a NIEO seminar in New York for leadership of their member denominations. The seminar is set for February with 25 clergy and religious educators from across the state of Ohio participating. We are hopeful about the results of that three-day seminar.

By WENDY MOGEY

Program Associate, Peace Education and Action Program  
New York Metropolitan Regional Office

What do wildly fluctuating coffee prices, a recent advertising campaign urging us to "buy American," and the great Caribbean banana war have in common? All three issues are addressed in a set of developing countries' proposals called the New International Economic Order (NIEO). The moral and practical implications of this package, which aims to change the rules of the global economic game, are the subject of the New York Metropolitan Region's new, year-long project on "The Limits to Poverty."

The series of eight meetings brings together an intriguing combination of historians, philosophers, government officials and economists for large audiences of community leaders in the New York area. Participants include U.N. representatives, labor union leaders, heads of religious organizations and civic groups. The project is designed to build public understanding within the U.S. of the substance of the NIEO proposals, and to raise some of the complex dilemmas which lie at the heart of the NIEO controversy.

"What do the developing countries want, and why do they want it?" was the focus of the first, October 21 meeting, which drew an audience of 150. Historian Geoffrey Barraclough launched the program, proposing that the ultimate motivation behind the NIEO is a shift in power balances between the rich and poor nations. Investment manager Sheldon Gordon of Lehman Brothers, Inc. stressed that the objective of wealth and income transfers (from rich to poor nations) should not be to recycle these funds back to the West but rather to keep the funds within the developing nations, allowing them to increase their consumption of the world's resources. A lively debate within small discussion groups between corporate executives and U.N. personnel was one highlight of the October program, which was held at Manhattan's Carnegie International Center.

Moving to a public library setting in Westchester, the series' second program examined "The Perils and Possibilities of the Second Nuclear Age." Disarmament expert Betty Goetz Lall urged U.S. initiatives to end the global arms race and Ervin Laszlo, of the U.N.'s Special Project on the Future, alerted the audience of community activists to the significance of the upcoming Special Session on Disarmament, to be held at the United Nations this spring.

Shirley Yema Gbujama, Ambassador from the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, and international law specialist Oscar Schachter took on one of the most persistent controversies over the NIEO in the third program of the series, held November 17 in New York City. Their question was "can and should the NIEO benefit the poorest of the poor in developing countries?" Ambassador Gbujama urged the West not to wait for internal distributive reforms within poor nations before moving forward on the international changes put forth in the NIEO. While agreeing with the need for reforms of the global system, Schachter made a strong moral and economic case for the "basic needs approach"—which would focus on delivery of services to the poorest 40 per cent within the poorer nations.

The ongoing debate over human rights and the effect of the NIEO on Americans will be addressed in the remaining five programs of the series, which is partially funded by the New York State Council for the Humanities and is part of New York AFSC's Peace Education and Action Program.

## AFSC Asks End to U.S. South Africa Investment

"The sudden and sweeping crackdown by the South African government against nonviolent opposition to racial oppression has cast the world into shock and sorrow," says a recent AFSC statement.

"We speak out with heavy hearts. But we believe that actions leading to a reasonable and humanitarian solution of the present situation can be initiated. There is no time to waste."

The statement was addressed to "those who believe in a process of redemption," and to the South African government which "has cornered itself into a self-imposed state of political siege" by its October 19th arrests, bannings and the closing of two newspapers.

"We urge the U.S. President and Congress to take prompt steps to back up their protestations with actions," says the statement, "including support for initiatives in the United Nations. We believe the President should at once review all official support of South Africa to determine what relationships can be immediately suspended. We urge the over 400 American banks and corporations doing business in South Africa to suspend any new loans or investments . . .

"We call upon our government to increase aid to South African refugees in Botswana, Zambia and Tanzania. We urge all religious congregations to pray for the moral sustenance of the victims and for a change of heart among the rulers of South Africa. As a specific step we ask religious bodies to examine any holdings they may have in South Africa or in firms doing business there."

The AFSC statement was sent to newspapers, wire services and radio stations across the country.

As part of AFSC's response to the situation in South Africa and in Rhodesia, it is sponsoring speaking tours around the United States for Siphon Buthelezi, former secretary general of South Africa's Black People's Convention, now living in exile in Botswana; and Bill Sutherland, AFSC staff who spends half the year in southern Africa and the other half speaking in the U.S. on southern African issues. The first speaker will be here in January and February; the second arrives in February.

## New Publications

If enough public pressure can be brought to bear on the government to demilitarize its industry in places like the mid-peninsula area of California, the problem of unemployment of thousands of workers could loom as an equally formidable problem. That's why AFSC's Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project, in Santa Clara County, California, is working hard on the issue of conversion from military to peacetime industry, and why it publishes a quarterly newsletter called "Plowshare Press"—a lively and informative publication available to the public at no cost. Interested readers may order a copy or a subscription from: Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project, C/o AFSC, 2160 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94121.

"Guatemala: A People Besieged," a slide show just produced by AFSC, takes a look at the political, economic and social aspects of life in Guatemala, including the role of the U.S. in that country. Developed out of AFSC's 17 years' experience in Guatemala, the slide show is 30 minutes long and includes an audio-tape and documentation. It may be purchased for about \$40 (the exact price had not been determined at press time) from the Latin America Program, AFSC, national office.

While investigating the situation of child labor in the asparagus fields of the Yakima Valley, Washington, in 1975, an AFSC team member asked Manuel, aged seven, if he worked every day. "School days, Saturdays, Sundays and Fiestas," he replied. Manuel's answer is the title of a 140-page AFSC report on children who work in agriculture, covering the states of Maine, Oregon and Washington. Copies may be ordered from Dorothy Ferebee, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102, at \$2.50 each.

The Southeastern Public Education Program of the AFSC publishes two newsletters, one called "Creative Discipline." Circulated to about 5,000 people across the country, this colorful publication includes articles by educators and others interested in aspects of school discipline. Information about subscriptions may be obtained from: AFSC, 401 Columbia Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

The second newsletter, entitled "Created Equal," in its first issue describes court decisions and implications of Title IX (sex discrimination) in Southern schools. The attractive 12-page newsletter is published bimonthly by SEPEP, Box 22652, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.



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## Plan Raises 'Ugly Head' in Pa. Council

By JUDY A. HENRY

Program Director, Pennsylvania Farm Labor Program

In 1975 the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs contracted with AFSC to produce a comprehensive farm labor plan. Published in February of 1976, the Plan delineated specific steps which the state ought to take in beginning to fulfill its responsibilities to farmworkers. In all, some 60 recommendations were set forth.

Since 1976 when the Plan was turned over to the Governor's Interdepartmental Council on Seasonal Farmworkers, a council charged with the responsibility for overseeing its implementation, little progress can be reported. At a meeting of the Interdepartmental Council, Department of Education representative Joseph Dunn expressed what seemed to be the general attitude of the state when he said of the plan, "Some of us were hoping it would never raise its ugly head again." But, thanks to Council Chairperson Victor Yarnell, who has been supportive of the plan, we have at least succeeded in getting it reintroduced into the Council for reconsideration in January, 1978.

In response to this foot-dragging by the state, AFSC created the Pennsylvania Farm Labor Program. Its activities include monitoring and advocacy, carried out on the state level. Staff are also working with seasonal farmworkers on the local level, providing encouragement and information to those migrants who decided to stay on at the end of this year's harvest, and in working with this group and other seasonal farmworkers in the community to set up a farmworkers' organization to address local farm labor problems. One of these problems is the difficulty encountered by farmworkers in obtaining credit. Recently, a farmworker who, frustrated and upset by his inability to obtain a small loan with which to return home to an ailing relative, unsuccessfully attempted to rob a bartender at knifepoint. He was subsequently arrested and jailed pending a hearing. If efforts to set up a credit union or some sort of farmworkers' emergency fund are successful, we hope that incidents like this can be averted in the future.

In late October of 1977 AFSC and its Farmworkers' Committee sponsored its first social activity of the program—a "Farmworkers' Evening," attended by more than 125 farmworkers and community people. Besides providing farmworkers with an educational and recreational opportunity, the event focused the attention of the entire community on a segment of society which has for too long been invisible.



Left to right: Dr. James Wilkie, Professor of History, UCLA; Dr. Susan Purcell, Professor of Political Science, UCLA; Richard Morris, Professor of Humanities, Loyola Marymount University; Paul Perlin, Secretary-Treasurer, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

## Seminar Tackles U.S.-Mexican Border Issues

By ROBERT S. VOGEL

Associate Finance Secretary  
Pasadena Regional Office

"Mexico is not looking for hand-outs but is willing to participate in a total overall economic development plan," said David Simcox, Director of the Office of Mexican Affairs, U.S. State Department. As a participant in the first of three seminars on Mexico-U.S. border issues organized by AFSC in Pasadena, California, and held on December 2 in Los Angeles, Simcox was commenting on the flow of Mexicans into the U.S. and the resultant pressure on resources in this country, and on President's Carter's plan which includes a two million dollar aid package for Mexico.

Simcox noted that Jorge Bustamante, sociologist from El Colegio de Mexico and a future seminar participant, is among those who believe that U.S. foreign

aid may not be as helpful as a redistribution of wealth within Mexico. The problem is how to aid the rural poor.

Richard Morris, Professor of Humanities, Loyola Marymount University, felt that the U.S. does have a moral obligation to Mexico. He called on trans-national corporations doing business in Mexico to make a social investment, determining what the basic needs of the Mexican people are rather than what will turn a neat profit for themselves and their investors.

"Open the border for people and goods" was the proposal offered by James Wilkie, History Professor at the University of California at Los Angeles. This would, he said, give Mexican industrialists greater markets and allow them to employ more people. He added, "You can't keep the undocumented worker out," though he acknowledged that organized labor is opposed to such action because they feel it would take jobs away from Americans.

Co-sponsored by the Chicago Studies Department of California State University at Los Angeles and funded by a matching grant from the California Council for the Humanities in Public Policy, the seminar series is directed by AFSC staff member Frank Galvan. The second seminar will be on January 13, the third on February 3.

### Land Claim Case is Focus of AFSC Project

## Maine Indian Film Seeks Lessening of Tension

By CAROL BREWSTER

Member of AFSC Maine Indian Committee  
New England Regional Office

The federal government should assert its constitutional power to protect a "simple, uninformed people, ill-

prepared to cope with the intelligence and greed of other races," and to act "to prevent the unfair, improvident or improper disposition by Indians of their lands." So states the Indian Non-Intercourse Act of 1790. Its implementation over the years, in the form of the sale of Indian lands by the state, first by Massachusetts, then by Maine, epitomizes the injustice perpetrated on the aboriginal people of that area. In the Maine Indian land claim case, the Passamoquoddy and the Penobscot people are seeking title to their land or, if that request fails in the courts, remuneration for it.

"Tensions between Indians and non-Indians are running very high in Maine because of the land claims case and its associated publicity. This tension is felt particularly by those Indians who do not live on Maine's three reservations," says Robert Cates, co-clerk of the AFSC Indian Committee in Maine.

As one of its efforts at reconciliation and tension-easing, AFSC's Maine Indian Committee has produced a filmed panel discussion by two college professors, an attorney, a former member of AFSC's national board and co-clerk of the Maine Indian Committee, and a teacher and director of bilingual education at Indian Township, Maine who is a Passamoquoddy.

"The film's purpose is to achieve better understanding among the people affected by the land claims case. If this happens, there could well be a decrease in the threat of violence and harassment to Indians, which is present now, and the beginning of reconciliation," says Robert Cates. The film, funded by AFSC and the Maine Council for Humanities and Public Policy, will be shown throughout the state and viewed over educational television.

Says former AFSC board member Winifred McPhedran: "Though the public policy issue is how Maine should respond to massive land and monetary claims by the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy nations, to a larger extent the issue is how Maine and the rest of the nation should respond to changing minority groups' perspectives of themselves. These minority groups are those which use the system established to redress grievances."

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Jack Sutters (15)

## Indochina . . . Continued from Page 1

said: "We are deeply impressed by the efforts and unity of the people in rebuilding their lives." But the danger of unexploded ordnance, especially anti-personnel bombs, remains in a region of Laos studded with hidden bombs and mines which go off when struck with an implement like a hoe. Some 267 people have been killed and 343 seriously injured in this way since the war.

Ordinary metal detectors have been tried in Laos, but they are ineffective since they react to the thousands of pieces of embedded shrapnel as well as to dangerous explosives. Hand forks of good quality steel could prove safer for people to use in tilling their land, AFSC representatives and Laotians agree. Therefore, AFSC has shipped a small supply of garden forks to Laos, in the hope that they will prove safer than the traditional hoes. But a more comprehensive solution to the problem of unexploded ordnance is urgently needed.