



## AFSC Delegation Visits North Korea

High North Korean officials unfolded proposals for peace with the United States, federal reunification of the two Koreas, and the prompt initiation of U.S.-Korean cultural exchanges to an AFSC delegation that visited North Korea September 2 through 13.

**The Quaker delegation** led by Stephen Thiermann of the Quaker U.N. staff in New York included Maud and David Easter, for the past three years AFSC representatives in Tokyo specializing on Korean issues. This was the first visit to North Korea by an American organization concerned with public affairs. They travelled to Pyongyang at the invitation of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and with the knowledge of the U.S. State Department. Their tour was brief and guided, but they felt they were able to make considerable observations in the time allotted to them.

**Extensive consultations**, lasting 19 hours, were held with Kim Young Nam, secretary of the Central Commit-

tee of the Workers Party and a member of the Politburo, and Hyun Jun Gook, vice chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. An AFSC invitation to that society for a return visit to the U.S. was accepted, a proposal that had State Department approval and encouragement.

**The proposals** for reducing tensions laid out by the North Koreans included unconditional and immediate steps for reunion of divided families and exchange of correspondence; reduction of North and South Korean forces to 100,000 or less on each side; removal by both sides of military personnel and facilities from the Demilitarized Zone; reduction of military expenditures and an end to foreign weapons supply on both sides.

**The AFSC said** that a peace treaty replacing the armistice that now exists would enhance the near universal desire for reunification but would be difficult to accomplish after 35 years of hostility. The peace treaty is of

primary importance in reducing tensions and in moving toward peace, the delegation was told. Kim Young Nam said that North Korea would be prepared to end its Soviet and Chinese military agreements in favor of a bilateral peace treaty.

**The delegation quoted** one spokesman as saying, "We are communists but our priority is nationalism, not communism." They noted that a proposed confederation process would begin with the existing political and economic systems in the north and south and would be followed by a gradual movement toward a reunification of the peninsula. Foreign investment in the south would be encouraged, but each side would have to avoid interference in the other's internal affairs. People would be free, the North Koreans said, to live wherever they wished.

**The North Koreans favor** a national commission with both sides equally represented seeking agreement

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AFSC staff survey refugee camp in Somalia. AFSC staff photo

## Crisis in Horn of Africa Explored

For the past two years refugees, to escape the fighting in the southeastern region of Ethiopia (the Ogaden) have been fleeing into Somalia. More than 650,000 are housed in refugee camps; over 200,000 have sought shelter with relatives. Most are nomads, and if any of their animals remain, they graze their herds as best they can in areas just inside the Somalia border. The Somalis, too, are a largely nomadic people whose livelihood depends on their herds so there is an increasing pressure on already over-grazed pastures.

**Somalia is one of the poorest nations** in the world with its problems now compounded by the influx of refugees: one out of every four persons in the country is a refugee.

**A first-hand exploration** of Somalian refugee camps was undertaken last summer by Stephen Morrissey, AFSC worker experienced in working with nomads in Mali, and Corinne Johnson, head of AFSC's international program staff. They found that the basic needs—

which are enormous—are being currently met by the U.N. and by European and American governments. Almost 20 international voluntary agencies also assist, often providing technically skilled staff. All concerned, however, recognize that a much greater disaster could occur unless long-term development efforts are undertaken now. This need was confirmed in conversations AFSC staff had with refugees who foresaw 10 years or more of camp life ahead of them.

**Medical problems include malnutrition**, especially among children, tuberculosis and dysentery. The latter diseases are a problem in the population as a whole, but affect the weakened refugees as well.

**Health care is probably the best** organized aspect of relief work. Food may be the least serious problem in the immediate future, but the World Food Program foresees what it calls a commodity gap in late 1980. Education is another problem. Camp facilities are generally limited

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## Economic Problems Beset U.S.-Mexico Border Regions

By BETTY BAUMANN  
Staff, Mexico-U.S. Border Program

Matamoros, across the Mexico-U.S. border from Brownsville, is suffering from unlimited and unplanned growth. Shantytowns sprawl for miles around the perimeter. There are no utilities here, and one must travel over almost impassable dirt paths to find the houses. It is in these settlements that the majority of factory workers live. They are for the most part very young women, in their teens or early twenties, and they work in the assembly plants, or maquiladoras, established by U.S. plants under the Border Industrialization Program. Most of them are both underpaid and overworked. Staff of the AFSC and the Mexican Friends Service Committee have been helping them to organize meetings to discuss their common problems.

**Recently I visited some workers** with the staff. Our first stop was the home of a young factory worker who had been laid off because the company suddenly declared bankruptcy. The workers had arrived one morning to find the doors locked and a notice posted.

**Although this young woman** has found other work, she has filed with the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration (consisting of representatives from the government, the union and the company) for compensation. Many of her companions would like to file but are afraid of being labeled agitators.

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## Are We The New Lemmings? Organizing To Support A Nuclear Arms Moratorium

By JACK PATTERSON  
Peace Education Secretary, New York  
Metropolitan Regional Office

During a campaign in which each leading contender for the presidency seems determined to "outgun" the other by demonstrating a readiness to support massive new spending for ever more sophisticated and deadly new weapons systems and readiness to use those weapons through "new" nuclear targeting strategies, one might conclude we are the new lemmings mindlessly rushing to our own extinction. Resignation and a search for the deepest, safest hole might be in order, but wait . . . there's more!

**There's good news!** While defense strategists and war gamers may believe "limited" nuclear war is a fixture of our future, many Americans are not ready to go along with that. Polls conducted over the last decade reveal a consistent attempt by Americans to repress and deny the horror of war, especially nuclear war. Ironically, the new emphasis on making nuclear war more "thinkable" may force a larger public to confront its realities. The mounting evidence of short and long term ill effects of nuclear weapons production on the part of current "nuclear victims" provides a glimpse of nuclear war that is a living presence among us.

**And bad news.** While most Americans express a desire to avoid nuclear war, most feel powerless in the face of the enormous complexity which surrounds the issues and the technology of war. They are simultaneously worried about threats to their own security resulting from presumed American military weakness and from the nuclear war that might result from renewed arms racing. Those AFSC volunteers and staff who met face-to-face with delegates to the Republican and Democratic Party Conventions, as part of an AFSC-initiated Delegates Campaign for a Nuclear Arms Freeze, repeatedly encountered people who anguished as they faced the need for "adequate defense" in a hostile world and their fears of nuclear war that "defense" might breed.

**The Delegates Campaign itself** had an empowering effect on the hundreds of volunteers who met with delegates to the party conventions throughout the summer months. They had not expected the favorable response they received when they urged a nuclear arms freeze as an immediate step to control and reverse the arms race. The delegates who listened with interest included some who, in other circumstances, might have been dismissed as hawkish arms proponents. As support of the proposed party platform plank calling for an immediate arms freeze grew among the delegates, volunteers became more daring and energetic in recruiting support from even more prominent political figures.

**They succeeded** in getting enough support for the nuclear arms freeze to require its inclusion in the Democratic platform as a minority report to be debated before the entire convention. The report was narrowly defeated by a voice vote. The success of the effort, however, lay in the realization that a relatively few volunteers, in limited time, had led to the only significant debate of overall nuclear war strategy in the entire convention. And the effort isn't over. As John Kenneth Galbraith said in his convention support of the nuclear arms freeze, "Are we the new lemmings? Or do we, as a democracy, retain control over our lives? The resolution which I urge is to show that we are still in control, that the decision to live is still ours."



A boatload of Vietnamese refugees are helped onto pier at Pulau Bidong, Malaysia (left) while camp residents crowd around to see if they can spot friends or relatives. Photos by AFSC staff Lady Borton

## "If You Kill Your Brothers Whom Will You Live With?"

By Lady Borton, a long time AFSC staff worker in Philadelphia and Vietnam, stationed until recently among the boat people of Malaysia.

**JUNE 5, 1980.** This morning, 618 new arrivals in six boats, one with 352. SS 0423, the boat with 352, arrives with two dead. Twenty-eight others, driven mad by thirst, threw themselves into the sea. Or did communists board the boat, rape, seize food and water and hurl people overboard? Or was it gangsters? Or instead, only a fray over a sip of water?

**All afternoon I bathe toddlers,** sponge faces of children, young women, old men; I spoon water into mouths. The lips are bloated and cracking, the cheeks dark and cracking, the eyes stare. By evening the dead are buried, the living settled. The Task Force confines the alleged communists accused of killing the twenty-eight.

**JUNE 6, evening.** All day long a mob outside the Task Force barbed wire. Inside communist suspects accused of killing the twenty-eight on SS 0423. Whenever a suspect appears in view the crowd raises fists, shouts. Even at the hospital I can hear the crowd rumbling.

**JUNE 8, midday.** As I leave the hospital to check on new arrivals, I notice people running towards the Task Force Compound, people running fast. I run, too. The Task Force is escorting, towards the waiting *Mutiara*, the alleged communists accused of hurling the 28 overboard from SS 0423.

**On the beach, men everywhere.** Running, yelling. Fists flailing. They yank the suspects into the sea, beat them, kick them. I dash after the group farthest out, the water above my waist. Everywhere splashing, flailing, the victim moaning. They push him underwater, hold him there, beat and beat. I grab at arms, push the assailants aside, yank the man from the sea bottom, shake him.

**"Dead," he gasps.** "Dead." Blood dribbles from his head onto my shirt. I pull him to the beach, stand holding him up while the crowd seethes around us. I ask a nurse to fetch a stretcher; the nurse stands, staring. The man collapses on the sand, the crowd edging closer. Then Jim, the camp administrator, is there, scooping the man onto his shoulder. He carries him back to the Task Force compound.

**Jim, and Neville** an Australian doctor, discuss carrying the man with the bloody head out to the *Mutiara* on a stretcher. The man lies on the sand, his right cheek swollen like mumps. Another man Jim pulled from the water starts to cry when I ask him where he feels pain. Both tell me they are only students, only students. The others squat behind water tanks, out of sight of the mob which rumbles outside the circles of barbed wire. Near the gate two women sob. They tell me their father huddling behind the water tanks is no communist.

**I start to move the crowd** down the beach towards the hospital and the jetty. I work them the same way I herd on the farm at home. I move up and down, my arms outstretched, talking, my voice low and even. "But

they're VC, VC!" the men shout. When one tries to slip by, I grab him.

**Vu, a child** who arrived on SS 0423, pulls on my shirt. His pinched mask-like face contorted, "They killed my father, killed him!" he is yelling.

"If you kill your brothers, whom will you live with?" I speak to all of them.

**I pace between the fresh water tanks** and the sea. Herd them back, back along the main path between the hospital and water tanks and towards the jetty. I ask a Task Force man to help me clear the area along the beach and in front of the hospital. Together we move the crowd, which boils around us, laughing and shouting, "Get the VC! Get the VC!"

**Then the Task Force guard disappears;** the crowd pushes in. Neville appears, and I explain we must clear the beach and staff access points. We start to work the crowd back again but Neville leaves before we've regained space. Minutes later he and Jim carry a stretcher with the injured man down the beach. The other suspects straggle behind.

"Kill them! Kill them!" The crowd boils over.

**Men and boys swirl around** the stretcher, grabbing at the man with the bloated and bloody head, beating, flailing, yelling, "Kill him! Kill him!" Jim and Neville fend them off with feet and elbows. I run circles around the stretcher which rocks, the man aboard it jostled. Everywhere the crash of words, fists.

**Jim and Neville make it** to the jetty steps and up, the other suspects racing for the jetty gate. When they are past the gate, I swing it into the boiling mob. "Enough!" I shout, but they are in the water, running alongside the jetty. They grab two suspects by the ankles, rip them off the jetty and into the water, pound their heads with fists and sandals, push their heads under the water, hold them there while they kick and shout.

**I jump off the jetty,** pull at arms, elbows, fists. The man slumps under water. When I lift him by the waist, I see hands reaching down from the jetty but the distance is too great. I hear angry shouts around me, feel people pressing closer. I squat, grab the man around the buttocks and lift him like a sack of oats. The hands above snatch him by the armpits. I pull the other suspect from the water, lift him. When I scramble onto a submerged boat, its deck slimy underfoot, someone hauls me up. My clothes cling. I have lost my flip-flops and headscarf. The expansion band of my watch flops but the watch ticks on. Standing there on the jetty, I stare at the beach crammed with people. I watch the *Mutiara* take off. There is a deep heaviness in me . . .

**I spend a long time in the pagoda.** Leaving, I pick my way down past the cliff houses to Zone C beach, walk back through the camp towards the hospital. I still feel dazed. I stop to buy flip-flops. The saleswoman will not accept the damp bills I pull from my pocket. Her husband insists on fixing my watch band. On the path back to the hospital people stop me. "The VC are cruel," they tell me.

"We are all cruel," I say.



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# AFSC Group Visits South Africa

The cruelty of apartheid, personally witnessed, and the dedication of many black and white South Africans trying to push their country toward a better future were moving experiences for four AFSC representatives who were guests of South African Friends in summer, 1980.

**Three committee members**—Ann Stever of Seattle, James Fletcher of Danbury, Conn., and Lois Forrest of Cinnaminon, N.J.—and Jerry Herman, director of AFSC's peace education program on southern Africa, went to South Africa in return for a visit to the United States by four South African Friends in summer, 1978.

**Conversations with whites** supporting the status quo revealed resistance to change and concern about personal futures, but the AFSC group identified a degree of openness which can be cultivated. The group also recognized the difficulties faced by those wanting to work for change: the legal barriers, risk to oneself and others, the presence of informers even in some Friends Meetings.

**Apartheid**, both in its legal and social forms, does violence to millions of South Africans of all races and conditions, the interracial group reported. It takes such forms as imprisonment and detention, fear of the se-

curity police and informers, forced housing evictions, poverty, occupational deaths and injuries, and a high rate of infant mortality.

**The hopes of the black community**, raised by government promises of liberalization, have turned to frustration and anger. Blacks maintain that ending apartheid is a first step which must precede—or accompany—serious efforts to end poverty, discriminatory schooling and lack of training.

**Together with a white and a black** South African Friend, the AFSC group experienced travelling in the black section of a train from Pretoria to Johannesburg. After a warning by black conductors, they were faced with a white conductor who ordered them off the train. Their explanations of their international and religious concern were of no avail. Then the black passengers said, "Here they come!" It was the security police who took the travellers off the train and herded them to the Railroad Police Commandant. Reporting that they had just come from visiting government officials in Pretoria and felt conscience-bound to travel with their friends, they found a sudden change in their treatment. They were swiftly released and left free to resume their jour-

ney in a blacks-only car on the next train. Apartheid thus becomes clearly focussed: such a little thing as riding the train had become a large issue. They saw personally how enforcement can be discretionary and arbitrary, dependent on an individual official's reaction.

**They found** both within the government and elsewhere individual whites working for change, along with the major force for change, the blacks of the country. Many of them including dedicated church people and at least one government man, welcomed pressure from abroad.

**They were told** that the degree of success of the new Zimbabwe will have an impact on the effort for change in South Africa. They concluded that the longer fundamental change is postponed, the greater the potential for wide-scale violence.

**The AFSC group stressed** that observation of the problems of South Africa made them acutely aware of the need to work against injustice and violence in U.S. society. The privileges that come with white skin, they agreed, are barriers to change at home as well as in South Africa.

## Impact of Draft On Unemployed, Minorities Cited By AFSC Staff

The U.S. Supreme Court may reach a decision by May, 1981, on the constitutionality of military draft registration, but the issue of conscription, tragically, is here to stay. Adds Jim Bristol, AFSC anti-draft coordinator: "To look realistically at the impact of conscription involves examination of U.S. foreign policy, the arms race, our relations with Third World countries, and the wide economic disparities between this country and the developing world.

**"The draft, of course**, is also related to grievous problems in our domestic social and economic order. It is no accident that new calls for conscription come at a time of high unemployment, especially among black youth." In 1979 and this year the AFSC worked vigorously against enactment of draft registration. There was intensified awareness of the impact of registration, along with continued economic conscription, upon blacks and other minorities. Now the Committee is committed to a substantial anti-draft effort, including opposition to the Selective Service System, with a view to its eventual abolition.

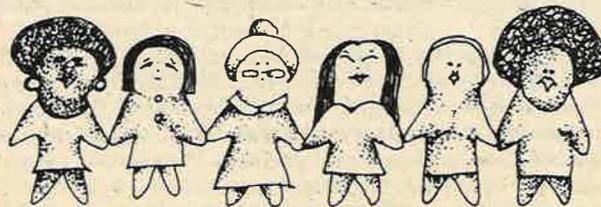
**Says Jim Bristol**, "Basic to our entire effort is the building of public understanding and acceptance of empowerment and genuine self-determination of people, and developing deep appreciation of the fact that there truly are nonviolent alternatives to war and other expressions of mass violence."

**Gathered in Colorado** for a week in August, the AFSC's Peace Education staff and its Nationwide Peace Education Committee set a goal of applying 50 per cent of AFSC's draft work to minority communities on a national, regional and local level in the U.S. Toward that end, the draft program will focus on human needs and militarism as well as the draft. The AFSC has consistently opposed military conscription since it was founded by Quakers in 1917 as a creative alternative to military service.



Linda Bullard of AFSC's Disarmament Program hands out literature at a Philadelphia rally against the draft the first day of Registration.

## • FILMS AND LITERATURE •



**"What Every Woman Worker Should Know About Discrimination"** is the first in a series of ten booklets written for working women by AFSC's Women in the Work Force Program. It describes women's rights regarding discrimination and gives examples of discrimination and tips on spotting it in the workplace. It tells how to protect these rights and where to go if treated unfairly.

The second booklet, "What Every Woman Worker Should Know About the National Labor Relations Act," lists the protection for workers under the Act even though they may not belong to a union.

For copies write Tobi Lippin, Women in the Work Force, P.O. Box 2234, High Point, N.C. 27261. Cost 50¢ each; bulk orders—50 copies or more—35¢ each plus 10 per cent to cover postage and handling.

Future booklets will focus on Job Safety and Health, Minimum Wage and Overtime, Worker's Compensation, Child Care, Sexual Harassment, Unemployment Compensation, Federal Contract Compliance and Domestic Workers.

### Report of a Quaker Visit to India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The situation for Afghan refugees, the view from Afghanistan, the roles of India and Pakistan, are covered in a 19-page report by the three Quakers who visited the area in late spring. For a free copy write the International Division, AFSC, National Office.

**The power of the atom—can it keep the peace**, or does it threaten unimaginable destruction? Can it light our homes cheaply and safely, or does it bring risks and costs we cannot afford? AFSC explores these issues in its new slidefilm **ACCEPTABLE RISK? THE NUCLEAR AGE IN THE UNITED STATES**. Produced by NARMIC (National Action Research on the Military Industrial Complex) the film examines the costs and problems of both nuclear power and weapons, the alternatives, the people affected, and the corporations which manage and profit from the industry. The 35-minute slidefilm is accompanied by documentation and a study/action guide for use with community, classroom, religious and trade union groups.

Slideshow \$60; filmstrip \$50; one week rental \$15. Write or call NARMIC, National Office, AFSC.



Photo from NARMIC slidefilm **ACCEPTABLE RISK?**

**United States Intervention in Iran** is a nine-page report on a Conference in Teheran, Iran, June 2 through 5, 1980 by Mary Anderson. Copies, 50¢ each, are available by writing the International Division, AFSC, National Office.

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## Delegation Visits North Korea

on economic collaboration, cultural bonds and diplomatic representation. They would discuss how to conduct military affairs in a unified way. They stressed that a unified Korea must be neutral, independent and non-aligned. They favor trade with the U.S. and stated that trade would be more important for reducing tension than to help their economy. They said they were ready for bilateral talks with the U.S. with South Korean observers where South Korean interests were affected—a status which would be jointly decided by North Korea and the U.S.

**The AFSC delegation said** the North Korean leaders were articulate and well-informed and should be taken seriously. AFSC, the delegation said, recommends that the U.S. prepare to withdraw its forces as a step toward achieving a peace treaty.

**The Quaker visitors travelled** to two cities and to the

countryside, visiting factories, farms, educational and health institutions, homes, stores, children's camps and cultural events. They were impressed with agricultural and industrial development in the North and especially the resources available for children.

**They identified North Korean problems** as including bureaucratic frustration, discrepancies between urban and rural life, and occasional individual anti-social behavior. They commented that the emphasis on a single leader remains difficult for them and for Americans to comprehend fully or to accept. They noted strong North Korean emphasis on social and economic human rights, but little interest in freedom of press, religion or speech. They said that all peaceful initiatives should be pursued and the strong desires in North and South for reunification should be respected.

# New Program Launched for Laotian Refugees

In September AFSC staff arrived in Thailand to begin a new program with Indochina refugees, helping Laotians from lowlands and mountains to improve their life in refugee camps and to increase their options for where they go and what they do. Many have been there for years with no prospects for being moved elsewhere. Ruth and William Cadwallader of Ypsilanti, Michigan, have been appointed field directors of this new effort.



AFSC provided cloth for uniforms for these Public Health workers in Thailand, to be made under the direction of a Thai organization "Foundation for Children."



In a World-Relief supported sewing center in Thailand, Khmer workers cut and sew children's school clothes made from AFSC-donated fabric.



AFSC's volunteer in Cambodia, Eva Mysliwiec, watches AFSC's shipment of food and supplies being unloaded at Phnom Penh.

## Aid Reaches Cambodia

AFSC's latest relief shipment for Cambodia arrived on the docks in Phnom Penh in August. It included much-needed carpentry tools, nails, kerosene lamps for adult education, and 4,500 bags of rice. The AFSC shipment also included items for the orphanage at Kampong Cham: folding beds, bowls and spoons, garden tools, light bulbs, corrugated iron sheets, a water pump, cement. For the children there were paints, drawing pads and balls.

To protect the shipment from pilfering, AFSC staff Eva Mysliwiec and the representative of another agency took turns standing guard duty from seven in the morning until six at night every day the ship was being unloaded. "Security is a real problem," she wrote. "Once the ship is in port, the ship's personnel no longer have responsibility for the cargo. But with the help of the captain—who took a personal interest in our goods—and with our own guard duty, we kept thefts to a minimum."

Kampuchea is doing much for itself with very limited means, Eva wrote. "Many examples of reconstruction are visible—road repairs, market and house repairs. There is an increase in vegetable gardens and in the number of courtyard animals. The nutrition situation, however, remains shaky and it is crucial that rice food be available for the next few months before harvest . . . There are so few organizations here and so many needs.

In September Eva reported that the rice AFSC had purchased through the World Food Program had arrived . . . some 445 metric tons or a total of 8,900 bags.

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## Crisis in Horn of Africa Explored

to primary schools. Adult literacy centers and primary schools are being set up by UNICEF but there is a need for vocational training.

The influx of refugees has lessened considerably from the spring high of up to two thousand a day, but may rise again. Much depends on the reported drought, as well as on the war in the Ogaden. From the Somali side the war is pressed by liberation forces which would unite Somalia with the Ogaden portion of Ethiopia where ethnic Somalis live and where the majority of Somalis have traditionally grazed their cattle until the border was made firm.

The Horn of Africa has also become the focus of big power interest because of its strategic access to Middle Eastern oil. The United States, as part of its build up of rapid deployment forces, recently negotiated use of a base at Berbera, located on the Gulf of Aden, opposite Saudi Arabia, and in payment offers Somalia \$5 million in budgetary aid plus \$40 million in credit over the next two years to purchase military supplies. Somalia has agreed not to use the U.S.-supplied equipment to fight in Ethiopia. Many fear the additional armaments and U.S. military presence will escalate the war, causing more refugees.

Informed by the reports of the visiting AFSC team, an AFSC committee is weighing what role, if any, there is for the AFSC to undertake.



The U.N. cites 85 to 90 per cent of the refugees in the camps are women.

# How To "Win" In Central America

By PHILLIP BERRYMAN

Central America is an ideological—and, tragically, a military battleground. In this country, the ideological conflicts have their domestic partisans in the struggle for influence on U.S. policy toward Central American countries.

Conservatives see communism as the threat, with the Cubans, and behind them the Soviets, as the driving force. They see Nicaragua as "lost", with El Salvador going, and Guatemala next in line. They blame a misguided U.S. human rights policy for this trend.

Liberals also see communism as the threat, but advocate serious reforms to respond to gross inequities in land distribution, power and income. Action in these respects, they hold, will undercut the appeal of the left which must also be countered by strengthening the ability of Central American countries to meet armed violence with counter-violence. Their aim is to strengthen forces of the middle against the extremes of left and right.

Neither conservatives nor liberals rule out the possibility of U.S. armed intervention to prevent leftist coups.

In my view, based on four years as AFSC Representative in Central America, both approaches are doomed, because they underestimate the popular desire for social and economic justice. This was the basis for the

effectiveness of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua; the same basis exists in El Salvador and Guatemala. An ill-informed U.S. policy would inevitably promote protracted and bloody struggles, with the emerging regimes even more radical and less amenable to good relations with the United States.

What happened in Nicaragua is a case in point. U.S. Embassy officials in Managua consistently underestimated the opposition to Somoza and the popular strength of the Sandinista Front. They underrated popular anger at the rich-poor gap: five per cent of the people had a per capita income of \$5,409, the bottom fifty per cent only \$286 a year. Somoza's dictatorship brought together peasants, workers, slum dwellers, teachers, students, priests and professionals, pressing for social change. Only at the eleventh hour did Washington realize that Somoza would fall. Now the conservative cry is: no more Nicaraguas in Central America.

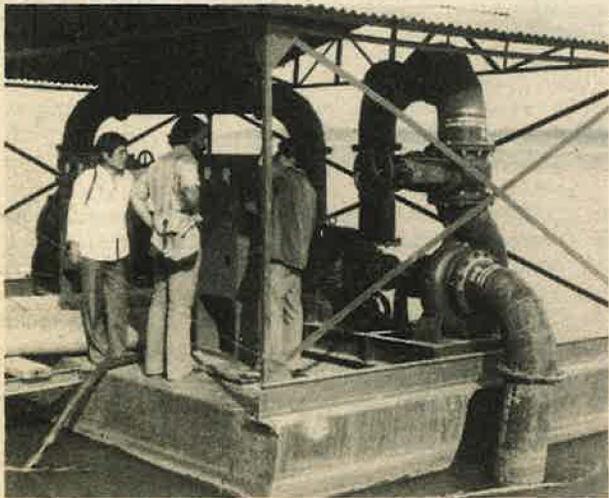
But the conditions of Nicaragua are also to be found in other parts of Latin America. In El Salvador the U.S. backs a "revolutionary junta" which claims to be making sweeping reforms. But those who protest are labelled as "communist" and subject to harassment or worse. Peasants and students who criticize the regime are being assassinated by right wing groups with close associations with the government in power. Wash-

ington favors a moderate solution, but there is nothing moderate about what is happening in the countryside. The extreme right is practically indistinguishable from the national guard and security forces. The radical left is increasingly winning popular support from the Church, small business people, professionals and the universities. The junta, willing to allow land reform as a price for U.S. support, sees its main task as eliminating popular organizations which, paradoxically, are growing because of the repression.

What would be the effect of a U.S. policy favoring a popular-based government in El Salvador? As elsewhere even in moderate Latin American countries, some present U.S. investment might be nationalized. But if Nicaragua is a clue, a popular regime would take a practical attitude toward the private sector. Individuals and companies might feel short-term losses, but could look to new sales of farm machinery, fertilizers, vehicle assembly plants and the like. An El Salvador priest asked me, "Would you prefer another Nicaragua or another Kampuchea?" In other words, does the U.S. want to recognize legitimate pressures for change resulting in revolutionary but non-aligned regimes or a bloodbath likely to result in more desperate and radical regimes? To this observer, the choice, though posing problems for the United States, is clear.



# HELPING LAOS GROW FOOD



AFSC-purchased irrigation pump provides water for refugees resettling in the countryside so that they can grow rice the year around.

**T**HE OVERWHELMING CAUSE OF THE steady flow of people from Laos across the Mekong into Thailand was the severe food shortage, U.N. observers reported in 1978. Many of those leaving were people with skills and training that the country could ill afford to lose. Since the war, increased food production has been the number one priority for Laotians.

Today forecasters predict Laos will be able to feed itself in two to three years, and even export agricultural products in the future. "Yet much remains to be done," AFSC representatives in that country have written. "Laos needs food in large amounts simply to keep her population healthy and able to work, but sufficient food will not be obtained until more land is cleared and irrigation systems constructed. Any such major expansion is dependent on the use of tractors and bulldozers, and their use depends in turn on people with the skill to operate and repair the machinery."

With financial support from a Norwegian development agency, NORAD, the AFSC has helped by providing over \$100,000 of agricultural spare parts and workshop equipment to the Dong Dok Agriculture Mechanics Training School and to the Tha Ngone Agriculture Machinery Repair Center near Vientiane. Since the Dong Dok Center is the only training program for agricultural and heavy machinery mechanics in all of Laos, its role in development of the country is crucial.

Last year there were 181 trainees from all over Laos at the school. During the 12 month course trainees learn the basics of how to operate, overhaul and repair such equipment as irrigation pumps, rice mills, sprayers, bulldozers and tractors.

In addition to providing spare parts and equipment, Quaker Service/NORAD helped repair and enlarge the school's workshop. AFSC has provided small items as well. "Ironically, in Laos it is often just as difficult to find money to purchase small items (light bulbs, paper, pens) as it is to buy large machinery," staff wrote.

"Because of limited national revenues, funds are often scarce for institutions such as Dong Dok. Furthermore, some items such as screening and door locks are not available in Vientiane. Often during our regular visits with the Dong Dok staff we have been given lists of essential small items to purchase on our next trip to Bangkok.

"One official of the Ministry of Agriculture told us, 'Quaker Service's assistance is very much appreciated because you help us not only with the expensive machinery and spare parts, but also with small, but important, things. No other agency does this for us.'"

Quaker Service also provides spare parts to the Tha Ngone repair center. The Center's current staff consists of 80 workers—repairmen, tractor drivers, heavy equipment drivers. After one visit AFSC's representative wrote, "For almost an hour I watched four repairmen overhauling a transport truck with the spare parts we had provided only two weeks before. It was great seeing our aid used so quickly. Some of the repairmen were graduates of Dong Dok."

The government would now like AFSC help in establishing and equipping 13 provincial agricultural mechanics workshops. These would be extensions of the national Tha Ngone repair center and would help to maintain and repair the hundreds of agricultural vehicles now in Laos.



Overhauling a motor at the Tha Ngone Repair Center



Above: Looking over the spare parts donated by AFSC at the Tha Ngone Repair Center. Right: A student at the Dong Dok Agricultural Mechanics Training School takes his practical mechanics test as teacher observes. Far right: Keeping heavy equipment in good repair is one vital service performed at the Tha Ngone Repair Center. Photos by AFSC Representatives in Laos, Roger Rumpf and Jacquelyn Chagnon



# Proposed MX Missile Threatens Land, People

Martha Henderson, an interne with AFSC's San Francisco regional office, reports on her visit to the proposed MX missile site in Nevada and Utah.

A visitor to Nevada and Utah's Great Basin, a proposed site for the MX Missile, comes away with a lasting impression of the destructive impact the MX project would have on the people and the land. Equally impressive are the number of women playing a leading role in the opposition, women such as Utah State Senator Frances Farley, Northern Payute Indian activist Debra Harry, Sue Dutson, a newspaper publisher, and Sylvia Baker, housewife and rancher.

**Debra Harry says Indians** are joining the struggle because of the vast amounts of fragile desert land and scarce water the MX would consume. "You have to understand the Indian way of life, their respect for the earth to understand our concern. Just watching the destruction of the earth knowing the earth has given them life would have a deep emotional impact on Indian people."

**Since MX construction** would double Nevada's population in a few short years, the structure of small town life would be radically altered. Many Great Basin residents therefore raise concern for their communities and rural way of life.

"**I worry about increased traffic**, the danger to my children, the influx of thousands of new people, the destruction of the environment, and the tremendous threat 200 nuclear armed missiles represent to my family and to friends' lives," says Sylvia Baker. She and her husband, Dean, are ranchers and parents of four. Sylvia, and others like her, had added MX organizing to their already busy lives. But as Sylvia says, "In spite of the increased pressure it is important because what is at stake is our way of life—family-oriented, small communities making a living from the land."

**Children, too, feel** the emotional impact of the MX controversy, says Sue Dutson. "They watch enough television to know what's going on." Her eight-year-old daughter asked her one day, "If the MX comes, will all of us have to die?"

**As determined as they are** to stop the MX, people in the Great Basin are clear that they cannot stop it alone. Sylvia Baker is fond of saying that people who live in sparsely populated areas are the new national minority.

**But despite the obstacles**, those in the struggle are confident and optimistic. Frances Farley says, "We are going to keep fighting and we'll win. Then we'll look for peace and de-escalation and reduction of armaments. We have to stop this arms race or else we will destroy the world and then my little granddaughter won't have anything to enjoy."



Unemployed or underemployed, with their families facing hunger, thousands of Mexicans cross the border illegally each year to find work. Once here they are often exploited. They live in substandard housing and in fear of deportation. Photos by Ruben Montare.

Continued from page one

## Economic Problems Beset Border

**AFSC's U.S.-Mexico program** is interested in the maquiladoras as one aspect of the economic problem which lies behind illegal immigration. While inequalities between pay scales and employment opportunities exist, Mexicans will continue to cross the border in search of work. The underlying problems can only begin to be addressed when economic development schemes on both sides of the border help the people meet their real needs.

**Maria (as I will call her)** has worked in the maquiladoras for the past seven years, since she was sixteen. Her mother keeps house for her and her brothers and sisters, while her father continues to live in the country on his small farm.

**Maria and her friend, Juana**, came with us to the support committee meeting at a neighborhood parish church. Juana who is 23 has worked for the last six years, supporting her own children and her younger siblings while her grandmother keeps house. The factory she works in manufactures components for electric blankets. One production process is to clean certain electronic parts in chemical solutions. This is done in a very hot and closed building with no exhaust fans. The workers don't know what the chemicals are, but as soon as their skin breaks out they are shifted from this duty. The company doctor tells them to wear gloves but will not file papers for compensation when one of them is ill. One worker died last spring.

**At one garment factory** we discovered women were sitting at rows of machines so tightly packed that it was difficult for them to get out. At the same time, all but one door had been locked shut. The fire hazard was obvious. At our encouragement, the women pointed out the situation to the manager, and were finally able to persuade him to open the locked doors.

**Although the maquiladoras** were established to provide employment, they have actually increased unemployment and under-employment in the Mexican border states. Whole families move into the shantytowns in search of work, yet only the young women are hired. The temptation for other family members to move across the border as illegal immigrants is strong.

**Concerned Community Workers** in the Brownsville area, including AFSC staff members, met over a one-year period until they had hammered out *El Plan Frontero*, a community economic development plan for the Texas-Mexico border. As *El Plan's* introduction states:

**Sixty-eight per cent** of the population of the Texas border region is Mexican American. Yet government efforts in this area—heavy with bureaucracy—have alienated its beneficiaries with a paternalism which bears little respect for the indigenous skills and talents of the Mexican American people. At the present time there are farmers, carpenters and artisans standing in the unemployment line because they have been unable to fit into the economic picture.

**The community's plan** includes assisting unemployed farm workers in the Texas border region to make the best use of their agricultural skills. Poor families in the Valley have already developed a greenhouse where they are able to grow tomatoes cooperatively.

**In El Paso**, an inner city group, La Campana, has concentrated on housing construction and rehabilitation, and is planning a tortilla factory to serve the barrio.

**In Laredo**, a community group, Centro Aztlan, is developing producers cooperatives, a food and nutrition program and a service of immigration assistance.

**The three essential elements to El Plan are:**

1. Community education and organization so that in the economic development of the community the large segment who are poor are not left out of the planning.
2. Technical assistance so that appropriate technology can be applied at the proper time to make a program succeed.
3. The creation of a development fund so there is adequate capital to implement economic development projects on the border, as well as to offer support to member organizations so they are free of the endless task of looking for resources. The fund's advisory board would be made up of members from contributing institutions.

## New Mexico Farmers Forming Co-op

An experienced community organizer has taken a short-term leave of absence to see if he can do what others, even with federal funding, have failed to do. Luis Torres, AFSC staff in northern New Mexico, is concentrating full energies in the coming harvest season to help small subsistence farmers create a new growers' cooperative: the Valle de Velarde Cooperativa.

**The farmers have found** that they must have supplementary jobs to keep afloat. The cooperative, it is hoped, would help to free them from that need. The ingredient which Luis Torres believes will make the difference is people-power. In the previous attempts, Torres says, the farmers were looked on as adjuncts to some planner's dreams of economic development. This time they are the lead players in the drama.

**The farmers have been unable to attract** the prices they need because their upgraded fruit and vegetables are bought by "jobbers" at bottom prices. Now they will try to do their own grading and sizing and thus bring a better price for quality fruit and vegetables. They will operate a cooperative shed that in time will provide complete services for the members. In attempts to stabilize prices each farmer will sign an agreement to sell at a common price. Although lacking capital, they will seek to strengthen their mutual capital resources before seeking outside financing. After the harvest Luis Torres will cheerfully return to his other efforts to assist people who are trying to make a go of living in a semi-parched, relatively poor state.

**One such effort** is the New Mexico Water Consumers

Association. It seeks to protect rural communities from the effects of sewage effluents and pesticide run-offs and to win helpful legislation and community support. Some 250 communities in New Mexico have their own domestic water systems, but lack working capital for upgrading and maintaining them. Luis sees an advocacy role in helping with breakdowns, cleanups and other emergencies requiring technical assistance.

**The association is seeking** to establish a central fund that will help the member community systems when they need it most. One need is to strengthen community power so that local interests can be protected; economic development planners have favored ski resorts, Christmas tree farms, and other projects which would put a drastic drain on an already slim water supply.

# Survival Gathering In Black Hills Targets Common Nuclear Threat



The scene was the 1,000-acre ranch of Marvin Kammerer near Rapid City where over 11,000 persons joined together for an international Survival Gathering, held in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

**The Gathering last summer** was under the sponsorship of the Black Hills Alliance, a coalition of Native Americans, ranchers, farmers, and environmentalists—united to protect the Hills from uranium mining and other destruction.

**Called Paha Sapa** by the Lakota people, the Hills are an ancient and sacred place threatened by over 25 multinational corporations prospecting for uranium, oil, natural gas, coal and iron ore on one million acres of land.

**"The unifying focus,** stated with urgency," said AFSC staff, "was to educate one another and learn about viable alternatives to nuclear power, to document and diagnose the threats to our survival, and to begin to determine the best methods of assuring a future for ourselves and our children."

**"The site was located** off a gravel road," reported Ed Nakawatase, national representative of the AFSC's Native American program, "ironically, adjacent to Ellsworth Air Force Base, one of the major outposts of U.S. nuclear military might. It was disconcerting to say the least, to see B-52's swooping in, while persons from 35 countries held heavy discussions on how to survive in a nuclear age."

**Ed was one of several** AFSC representatives for the Gathering, which included sessions on (1) a Citizens' Review Commission on Energy Developing Corporations; (2) Appropriate Technology/Land-Self-Sufficiency; (3) Indian Genocide and Planned Extinction of the Family Farm; (4) Health for Survival, and (5) Education for Survival.

**Among others there** from AFSC were Chip Reynolds of Atlanta and Pam Solo of Denver who were resource persons; Nick Meinhardt of Minneapolis, and Larry Red Shirt of the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation, South Dakota.

**"I wandered in and out** of various workshops," says Ed Nakawatase. "One was by farmers from Minnesota and Wisconsin who are organizing against high power lines. There were workshops about anti-nuclear organizations, uranium mining in New Mexico, and scores of others.

**"The Native American contribution** to the Gathering was significant and basic to its structure and overall organization. The threats posed by energy development are clear to Indian land, culture and sovereignty. This struggle must yet broaden itself. The Gathering was a necessary initial step."

## Helping To Reduce Suspensions In Dayton Schools

The school practices and policies that exclude young people from public education, or place them in inappropriate programs, or create barriers between the school and parents, students and the community, are the special concern of AFSC's Student Rights and Responsibilities Project in Dayton, Ohio.

**Since 1975** AFSC's energetic and highly visible program staff have helped effect a recognizable decline in the rate of suspensions in the Dayton school system. In 1978-1979 there was a 30 per cent drop in total suspensions and expulsions—Dayton's first drop in over ten years. The program's re-entry process for students who have been out of school has cut the "repeater" rate to less than one-tenth of a percent of students whom the program serves.

**One approach used successfully** by staff to reduce the number of young people out of school has been to involve students actively in the actual program work and in the discussions held on suspensions and expulsions. This year staff put together summer and winter projects which helped students develop leadership skills and self-awareness. At the same time students set up and maintained a resource center on student concerns

related to school. Summer internes focused on community service—particularly on hunger and services for the elderly.

**As the program has grown** in size and scope, and the staff in experience, staff have been called upon to conduct workshops and seminars on school advocacy and desegregation, at both the state and national levels. They have made presentations throughout Ohio, in Milwaukee, Louisville and Indianapolis. Publications for parents and teachers and a slidefilm for parents have been distributed nationally.

**At the end of the summer** the young people, staff and committee members involved with the program held a two-day meeting at Butterworth Farm in Mainville, Ohio—home of AFSC Board member Nancy Butterworth Neumann—to evaluate the work and to make plans for the future. "The thoughts and ideas of young people are very important to any concepts we may develop for the future," one staff member said.

**Along with program discussions** everyone had a tour of the farm and heard stories of its history as part of the Ohio Underground Railroad in the early 1800's. The meeting ended with participation in Sunday services at Waynesville Friends Meeting.

## Survival Summer Effort in 200 Communities

This summer AFSC joined 30 other national organizations which shared the conviction that with the energy and arms race crises now facing us our very survival is at stake. SURVIVAL SUMMER 1980 was a national grassroots effort to heighten public awareness of these issues during the election period. A second objective was to broaden the peace movement by reaching out to new constituencies to make the connections between war, nuclear power and weapons, and the federal budget.

**A Resource Center on each coast** coordinated the decentralized campaign that involved more than 200 local groups. AFSC played a key role in the coalition, making substantial contributions of funds, personnel and resources. Every AFSC office and almost all of AFSC's fourteen disarmament internes were involved.

**"Survival Literacy" programs** in nine regions trained

1,400 volunteers to carry the Survival Summer message into their communities. These volunteers in turn led many local area training sessions.

**Survival Summer groups** held energy fairs, teach-ins, press conferences. When draft registration was enacted most turned their efforts to opposing it. House meetings, door-to-door canvassing and educational programs resulted in 4,000 new people being added to the ranks. Many previously single-issue groups have broadened their focus, and new groups and projects are underway such as Jobs With Peace Initiatives and the nuclear moratorium referenda.

**Survival Summer** will lay itself down officially with events marking the United Nations-designated International Disarmament Week, October 24-31. AFSC will coordinate these activities, as well as provide national media services.

# New Options Explored In Middle East

An AFSC delegation to the Middle East in Summer, 1980, was pessimistic about the threat of some level of war and the elusiveness of solutions. They report, however, that "people do expect change . . . we found fluidities in the positions taken . . . and a willingness to explore new options and alternatives." The four-person team included Everett Mendelsohn, a Harvard professor and chairperson of the AFSC Middle East Working Party. Excerpts from his report follow.

**Conflict:** The now long-standing Arab-Palestinian-Israeli battles are the overriding worry. There was growing apprehension at the mounting U.S.-Soviet confrontation in the Middle East. In the conservative Arab oil-producing states, while there is no love of either communism or the Soviet Union, we heard several political leaders express as much fear of a growing U.S. military embrace of the region as of Soviet encroachment.

**Arab Nation, Arab States:** While the Arab states share several common points of view, they have not been able to achieve anything like a political unity or a common course of action.

**Israel:** Among the new realities that emerged from discussions across the Arab world are the general acceptance of Israel's existence and the explicit, if sometimes grudging, recognition that Israel is now a permanent part of the region. In discussions with PLO leaders and Saudi, Jordanian and Syrian officials their question is how to contain Israel within its 1967 boundaries rather than how to remove it. It is now widely recognized that another major Arab-Israeli war is highly unlikely. Israel is more divided today than at any time since 1948. The major disagreements concern Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, their policies of occupation on the West Bank, and the problems of settlements and potential annexation. The deep economic crisis is also responsible for the disillusionment of the electorate.

**Role of the U.S., Europe, USSR:** The supply of U.S. armaments, primarily to Israel but now increasingly to other nations in the region, is looked on with bewilderment even by some of the recipients. As one opposition Arab politician put it, if there is another Middle East war, both sides will use U.S. weapons and depend on U.S. resupply. Disagreements on the Soviet role are sharp and deep. We notice an increasing tendency of Europe to adopt positions different from the United States. At one level is the desire of Europe to protect its access to Arab state oil.

**Lebanon:** All parties seem agreed on one critical issue—that the chance for an internal Lebanese solution will not be possible until the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is resolved and the Palestinians have achieved a political entity of their own.

**Islamic Revolution:** The extent to which large masses of the (Iranian) population were mobilized in religio-political action was regularly commented upon, sometimes with pride and sometimes with fear. One characteristic of resurgent Islam is universally recognized—it is deeply and equally critical of both the capitalist west and socialist east.

*(The full report on Middle East reflections is available from AFSC at 50¢ per copy.)*



To demonstrate the horrors of nuclear weapons technology a street theater group tells the story of a radiation victim during the kick-off for Survival Summer in Philadelphia.

# UPDATE

## Office Opens in Atlanta

The new Atlanta, Georgia office of the Southeastern Region of AFSC was officially opened on the weekend of September 5, 6 and 7 with a conference entitled "Peace and Social Change, Challenges in the 80's." Mayor Maynard Jackson was present to greet the attendees, as well as Asia Bennett, executive secretary of the AFSC and William Channel, regional executive secretary.

John Lewis, once president of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and more recently Associate Director of ACTION, gave the keynote address Friday night on "The Challenge of Human Service Leadership." Among the speakers on Saturday was Randall Forsberg, Director, Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies and co-author of *The Price of Defense*. On Sunday, AFSC's former executive director, Colin Bell, spoke on "The Religious Basis and Challenges for AFSC."

## Booklet on Workers' Rights



A booklet for undocumented workers in California, *El Obrero y Sus Derechos*, has been published by the AFSC's Pacific Southwest Regional Office. The booklet's brief stories and cartoons inform undocumented workers of their rights and ways to secure them. It describes problems they may encounter such as unsafe working conditions, receiving less than the minimum wage, and contracting an illness because of the work environment. One page lists agencies which can help, as well as churches to go to for more information or for intercession with the agencies. Church groups and agencies have found the booklet so useful the first 20,000 copies are now gone. A second printing is underway.



Photo by Karen Borchers, Dayton JOURNAL HERALD

## Hiroshima Day Vigils

AFSC staff took part in a nonviolent vigil at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio in August in memory of the 35th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. AFSC's Neal Crandall said the demonstration was "to remind people of the atrocity that took place with a relatively small bomb at Hiroshima 35 years ago, and not to block out the fact that millions could die through a nuclear war."

On the same day AFSC staff in other cities were participating in similar demonstrations, including one at Griffiss Air Force Base at Rome, New York. The AFSC's Syracuse Office has been holding monthly vigils at the base to protest deployment of the cruise missile at the base scheduled for October. The August 10 vigil called attention to the destructive power of the warhead—equivalent to 15 of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima. Over 3,000 of the cruise missiles are to be built.

In a demonstration in Chicago on August 10, AFSC

linked the issues of war and nuclear power and weapons by dramatizing the crash of a B-1 bomber into the local nuclear power plant at Zion, Illinois and ending with a die-in and vigil.



## Program to Reduce Suspensions

AFSC Education staff in Seattle will continue to work to lower the high rate of suspensions for minority students in desegregated schools, thanks to a large grant received from the U.S. Department of Education under the Emergency School Aid Act (Title VI).

The new Suspension Reduction Program has two elements: (1) work with targeted desegregated schools to help staff develop alternatives to suspension, and (2)

work with poor and minority parents helping them to keep their children productively in school.

The new program grows out of a four-year effort which has won praise and support from many parts of the Seattle community. "Before AFSC I felt helpless trying to deal with school staff," one parent wrote. "I find AFSC staff are sensitive to parents and are patient and very supportive."

## Soap Making in Zambia

After reading about the success of AFSC soap making projects in Mali and Guinea Bissau, AFSC's program director in Zambia, Harrington Jere, helped women in Lusaka's Jack's Extension organize a soap-making cooperative. "Their soap has been declared as good as any commercial soap and demand for their product is high," Harrington Jere wrote. "They have even introduced powdered soap, packed in small plastic bags." Harrington now seeks a way to make one of the soap's chemical ingredients, locally, from ashes. Ashes are found in every kitchen in Zambia since wood is the main cooking fuel.

AFSC began work in Jack's Extension in 1978 to help flood victims build their own houses through self-help and to encourage other community efforts.

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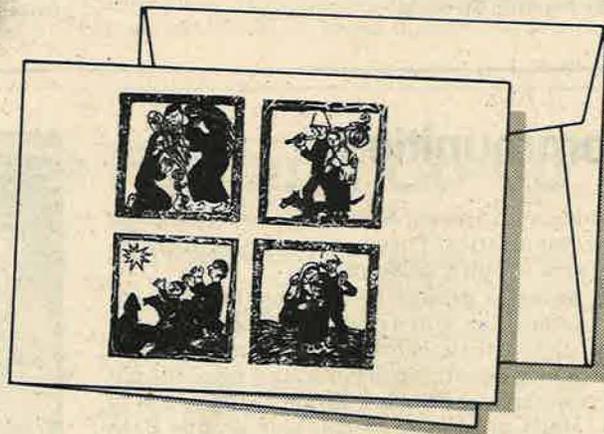
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For more information about the Gift Card Plan write today to the Finance Department, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102



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