



Small Farmers Need Access To Irrigated Land

In the Stockton region of California, giant tomato harvesters, looking like mechanical monsters creep over huge "farms" that resemble factories in the fields. As the result of mechanization, there is an 11.3 per cent unemployment rate in Stockton and many of the small growers have been forced out of business.

"The only hope for these people is to be able to buy irrigated land at prices they can afford," Mack Warner of the AFSC's Economic Alternatives Program (REAP) said at a recent meeting. "That is why we are supporting legislative efforts to implement the intent of the 1902 Land Reclamation Act."

The 1902 Act was designed to give small farmers access to land irrigated with the aid of federal funds.

Originally each farmer was restricted to 160 acres. Later this was construed to mean that each family member was entitled to 160 acres.

"The restriction was never effective," Clark deSchweinitz of the Community Relations Division Committee explained. "Various exemptions were made so that there could be large scale operations. Finally in the mid-1970's two groups in California brought suit and the Interior Department was ordered to produce new regulations implementing the 160 acre limitation."

A new law (S.14), introduced into the Senate by Frank Church of Idaho, and representing the wishes of the big landowners, would raise the limit to 1,280 acres per family-owned corporation, abolish the

residency requirement and permit wholesale exemptions from the law for 2.3 million acres of land, mainly in California's rich Imperial Valley.

Representative George Miller of California has called it "socialism for the rich—the biggest stage coach robbery of the public since Jesse James."

"It would affect not only small farmers and farm workers, but all consumers," states Mack Warner. Reclamation land consists of 11 million acres in 17 Western states, less than three per cent of the nation's farm land. And yet on this three per cent is produced 30 per cent of the nation's fruits and vegetables and 20 per cent of our cotton. Increased corporate control of food creates a monopolistic effect on the price of food for us all.

AFSC Fights Nuclear Weaponry

"We don't try to paint our opponents as villains, but concentrate first on pointing out how proliferation of nuclear power abroad makes nuclear weapons production feasible for an increasing number of governments," say Andy Kerr and Janet Kuller of the AFSC's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago. "Whenever one more country joins the nuclear club by producing weapons from power plant residue, the world becomes a little less safe for us all," the two said.

They added that, "As the news that some Third World countries are building nuclear weapons follows the reports that these countries have imported nuclear power plants, the 'nuclear connection' between power plants and weapons becomes clear."

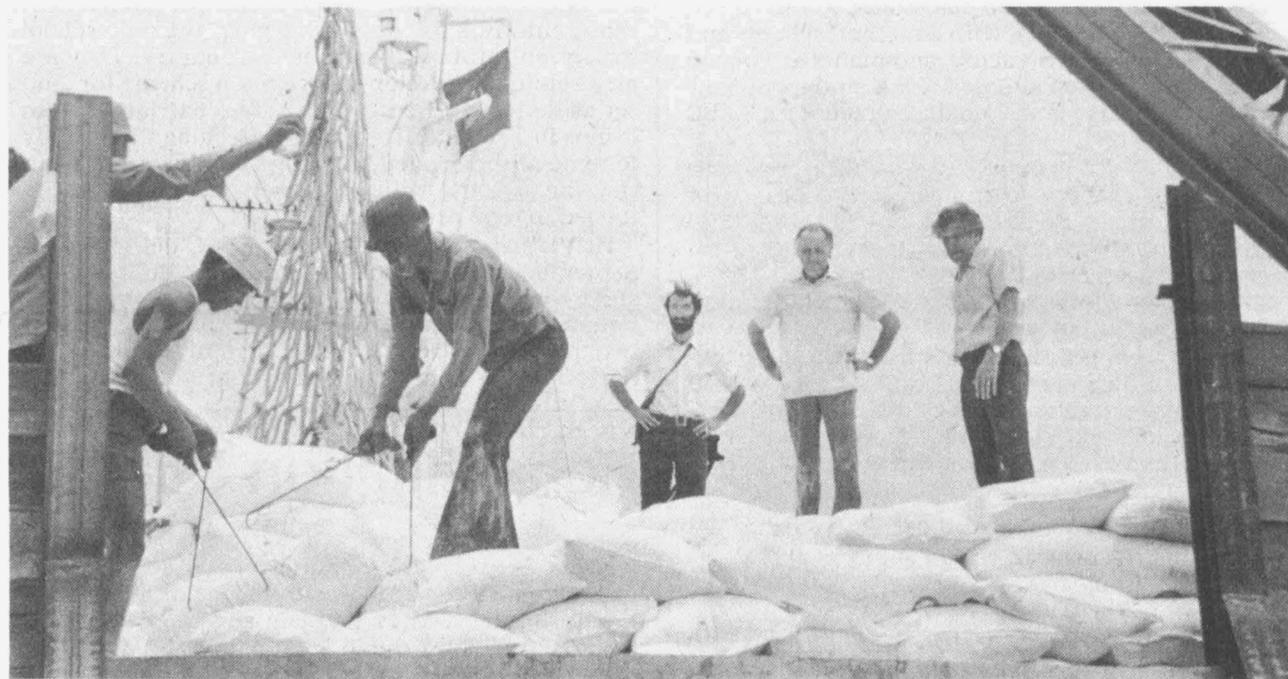
In Ohio, at the only plant in the nation that produces uranium pure enough to fuel nuclear weapons, "workers say they have had to wash both high and low level wastes down the storm sewers and out into the public water system," says Mary Stuckey of the AFSC's Dayton Regional Office. A strike at the giant government-owned uranium processing plant 65 miles south of Columbus, started last May, in a protest by the Atomic Workers Union of health and safety violations. As a result of meetings in Washington in November with Members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, Senators Metzenbaum and Glenn told strikers and people from the peace groups, including AFSC, that they will look into matters at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

While the AFSC supports the workers in their right to a safe workplace, it also must ask, "Should the U.S. be engaged in proliferation of nuclear weapons and the development of nuclear power? With absolutely no safe way to dispose of radioactive waste, do we have the right to leave a contaminated world for our children?"

In Connecticut, the General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton has the contracts to build the first seven nuclear-powered Trident submarines. The Navy wants 30 Tridents by 1990. Trident nuclear missiles will have unprecedented range, force and pin-point accuracy, says Marta Daniels, AFSC, Connecticut. "They will provide the U.S. with a first-strike, counterforce capability," she says, "seriously challenging arms control in the future."

She and others in the Trident Conversion Campaign seek to turn southeast Connecticut, one of the

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Loading rice in Singapore for Cambodia. (Straits Times, Singapore)

Deliver Relief To Cambodia

The last issue of QSB reported briefly that an AFSC delegation to Cambodia in September was "recommending that AFSC provide substantial food and medical aid." Since that time AFSC has responded with both.

On November 4, 400 tons of rice purchased by AFSC arrived aboard a sea-going barge in the Cambodian port of Kompong Som. It was estimated that the rice, which cost \$100,000, would feed 30,000 people for a month. AFSC staff were unable to accompany the barge but were assured by UNICEF, the International Red Cross and OXFAM officials that distribution systems witnessed in September by the AFSC delegation were intact and reliable, despite media claims to the contrary.

The AFSC rice shipment was followed by a dramatic Thanksgiving Day air shipment of medicines and vitamins, seeds and canned meats made in cooperation with Operation California, a California-based relief organization. It was the first direct shipment of relief aid to Cambodia from the U.S. The plane, a DC-8 owned by the Flying Tiger air cargo company of California, with 80,000 pounds of cargo and nine passengers, left Los Angeles on Thanksgiving Day and arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia two days later. AFSC representatives aboard the

plane were David Elder (AFSC staff) and Dr. Robert Stever, a Quaker physician from Seattle with wide experience in Cambodia.

All nine passengers (including four press representatives, the two AFSC representatives, two from Operation California, and a public relations person for the air cargo company) were permitted not only to witness the off-loading of cargo but to film it for TV. They were then allowed to stay in Phnom Penh for a full two days. TV footage of the off-loading was shown nationally on ABC-TV's "Good Morning, America" on Monday, November 26.

Dr. Stever reported, "Our group was greeted warmly at the Phnom Penh airport, where trucks provided by OXFAM took the supplies into the city. We met with an official of the Ministry of Health and with the head of the Medical School, the latter for over an hour, when he told us of the urgent need for supplies."

In a telephone conversation from Bangkok Dave Elder said later, "The needs are overwhelming, and food will be required for many months to come. They need everything necessary to daily life including notebooks, pencils, pens, even pots for boiling water at Kompong Speu Hospital."

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Ota Gibson of the Midwest Regional Office, Chicago, who at 91 is AFSC's oldest staff member. Here he works on a special mailing to raise funds for Cambodian relief.

Public Responds To Cambodian Emergency

AFSC regional and area offices have all been galvanized in an effort to raise funds for Cambodian relief, and to press for new U.S. peace initiatives.

A petition campaign, started in New England and involving some 500 volunteers, is underway in Dayton; Denver; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Philadelphia.

Addressed to President Carter and Members of the House and Senate, the petition calls for the prompt delivery of U.S. aid, and normalization of diplomatic and trade relations with the countries of Indochina.

Regional offices have also placed ads, written op-ed pieces, and been in touch with churches, schools and colleges. A couple in Syracuse sold plants at Colgate University and raised almost \$500. A student at New York University is planning a dance recital for AFSC Cambodia work.

In Chicago, a group of professional theater people, sparked by Jonathan Abarbanel of the League of Chicago Theaters, made a gift of their time and talent. Their contribution was the staging of an original musical revue December 17 entitled "Kampuchea Cabaret," the proceeds of which went to AFSC for Cambodian relief.

As we go to press AFSC's campaign for contributions for Cambodian relief has raised over \$800,000 in donations from across the United States; the response has been heart-warming. Many people have expressed thanks to AFSC for "providing an opportunity to contribute to the people of Cambodia."

Contributors include both those with substantial means and those whose letters indicate they have little themselves to live on. One wrote, "Being a 79-year-old lady, trying to get along on Social Security, I earnestly pray and hope everyone will send in a little. . . . Am enclosing \$2." Some are children: "Our four-year-old daughter counted all her money. . . . She wanted it to go to 'the baby with the scary eyes'."

Some donors gave as a memorial to a deceased friend or relative. One check came to commemorate a twenty-fifth wedding anniversary; another came from a judge who had performed a marriage ceremony and asked the newlyweds to name a cause to which he could donate his fee.

The tragedy of Cambodia is almost overwhelming, but giving seems to have helped at least one contributor deal with his despair. He wrote, "It isn't just my 'spare' money I'm giving, it's funds I thought I needed for me. . . . I'm digging deep in Faith. . . . I have no doubt that it will make a difference. Not only for Cambodians but in me."

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★ AFSC Delivers Cambodian Relief Supplies

In addition, as of this writing, David Elder expected to go back to Phnom Penh December 5 for further talks with officials there.

About half of the plane's cargo was collected by Operation California. The other half of the cargo was collected by AFSC, with a significant contribution of vegetable seeds and canned meats coming from the Mennonite Central Committee in Kansas. (A Kansas Mennonite farmer volunteered to haul the 26,000 pounds of canned meat in his truck from Kansas to Los Angeles airport.)

AFSC paid \$15,000 towards the cost of fuel and other incremental expenses with Operation California paying the lion's share with the help of actress Julie Andrews and her husband Blake Edwards. But the Flying Tigers air cargo company donated part of the cost of the flight.

AFSC was essential to the acquisition of air access to Cambodia and overfly rights from Vietnam, a role made possible by our continuing working relationships with government officials in both countries.

With this flight, and the barge load of rice to Kompong Som, AFSC has fulfilled the commitment of the Board in September to provide \$100,000 worth of food and \$100,000 worth of medicines to Cambodia. But AFSC has collected more than \$800,000 for Cambodian relief and is now exploring further steps in the relief effort. Possibilities being pursued by David Elder in Phnom Penh and Thailand include:

- a continuing AFSC role in rebuilding the medical school in Phnom Penh,
- future air shipments of relief supplies by AFSC
- assigning an AFSC staff person to Cambodia to help with distribution efforts
- work with Cambodian refugees on the Thai border
- long-term rehabilitation and redevelopment projects.

The crisis is far from over. Our help is still needed. AFSC will continue to respond as long as we can make a significant contribution to meeting the needs.

Aid Refugees, Peoples Of Vietnam, Laos

AFSC continues to work with the people of Indochina. In addition to Cambodian relief, programs of development assistance continue in Laos and Vietnam, and assistance to Indochinese refugees is underway (or planned) in Malaysia and Thailand.

In Laos, AFSC representatives Jacquelyn Chagnon and Roger Rumpf are working with the government representatives to equip Dong Dok, the only school for agricultural mechanics in the country. They are also helping to develop an irrigation scheme for land set aside for refugees voluntarily repatriating from camps in Thailand. They are researching ways safely to remove unexploded mines and bomblets, left from the war with the United States, from fields being returned to food production.

In Vietnam, where a visiting AFSC delegation in September found extreme hardship, limited food and a great need for international development assistance, the Service Committee continues to aid two projects especially. The first of these is the rehabilitation center at Qui Nhon; the second, a

screw-making factory in the Con Thien section of Hanoi, badly damaged by U.S. bombing and now rebuilt.

Since August, AFSC staff person Peter Woodrow has been working as a clinic administrator with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society on Pulau Bidong, a small island off the Malaysian coast where thousands of Vietnamese refugees are held until places can be found for their resettlement.

In September, the AFSC Board of Directors approved the initiation of a program to work with refugees in Thailand. At this writing staff is being sought to be assigned to Bangkok, and to develop work in one or more refugee camps.

Finally, AFSC continues to serve as a source of information and referral for groups and individuals seeking to act as sponsors for Indo-Chinese refugees settling in the United States. (Those interested may write or call the Asia Desk in Philadelphia (215) 241-7147 or 7154.)

Rehabilitation Still Needed In Qhi Nhon

Nghia Binh Province is a narrow strip of land wedged between the mountains and sea on Vietnam's Central coast. It was the scene of fierce fighting during the war in Vietnam and its best known landmark remains the ill-fated hamlet of My Lai.

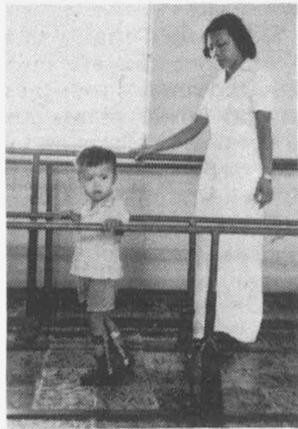
Today the people in the province are working to erase the vestiges of war. Old irrigation systems have been repaired, new canals dug, while soldiers, students, cadres and "vanguard youth" have been mobilized to reclaim deserted fields and to clear mines. According to the local authorities, by the end of 1978, 34,000 hectares had been restored to cultivation out of some 35,000 abandoned during the war. In this densely populated province, where an area of cultivation amounts to only one-tenth hectare per family, this work has been essential for people's survival.

Unfortunately this short period of peace has not been free of tragedy, as we saw in a visit to the Quaker-sponsored Rehabilitation Center in the province capital of Qui Nhon. Each month the Center receives thousands of requests for rehabilitation. Many are young men and women who, because of the unexploded ordnance left in the soil, have been injured while clearing mines or while farming.

Chi Be—an attractive young woman from Bong Son district—had a below-the-knee amputation. She will probably return to farming when she learns to use her new limb. Others, like 20-year-old Anh Hoi, who have suffered more serious injuries, will have to learn a new skill, like pottery making, at the Center's occupational therapy department.

With a capacity of 100 beds, the Center is able to handle around 1,500 in and outpatients per year, plus another 600 people who return to have their artificial limbs repaired. In addition, the Center sends out mobile teams composed of a doctor, physical therapist and prosthetist to neighboring provinces, thus extending services to a population of about 5 million people.

The Center staff work with a minimum of equipment, some of it inherited from the former Quaker-run Quang Ngai rehabilitation center, but much of it donated by the AFSC since 1977. Vietnamese orthopedic specialists trained in Hanoi and Zagreb work side by side with Vietnamese prosthetists and physical therapists trained under Quaker supervision before 1975.



A small client learns to walk again using the parallel bars at the Qui Nhon Rehabilitation Center, supported by AFSC.



Sophie Quinn-Judge, AFSC Indochina representative, discusses prosthetic making with a member of the center staff.



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National Office:
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
Editors: Margaret Bacon, Beth Binford

AFSC Regional Offices:

Baltimore, Maryland 21218 317 East 25th Street	High Point, North Carolina 27260 1818 South Main Street (write P.O. Box 2234, High Point, N.C. 27261)
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140 2161 Massachusetts Avenue	New York, New York 10003 15 Rutherford Place
Chicago, Illinois 60605 407 South Dearborn Street	Pasadena, California 91103 980 North Fair Oaks Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45406 915 Salem Avenue	San Francisco, California 94121 2160 Lake Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312 4211 Grand Avenue	Seattle, Washington 98105 814 N.E. 40th Street



Staff members of New Employment for Women (N.E.W.) at the door of their Logan, West Virginia office.

AFSC Alerts Women To New Job Opportunities

At a recent labor conference in Charleston, West Virginia, a director of apprenticeship training complained about affirmative action. Where was he to get the women?

"There's Sherry Pritchard of NEW sitting back there," another man told him. "Just ask Sherry, or Avanelle Footen. NEW will get women for you."

Sponsored by the AFSC, NEW (New Employment for Women) opened an office in Hamlin, Lincoln County, in March and in Logan, Logan County, in April. Already it has helped some one hundred low-income rural women with employment problems.



Vicki Roberts has a job waiting for her when she finishes her training in welding. N.E.W. helped her to apply at the A.F.L.-C.I.O. Skill Center in Charleston.

Most of them have gone into training programs for non-traditional jobs. The only jobs in the area that pay a decent wage are in the coal mines, housing or road construction.

Currently two young women are learning to be welders at the AFL-CIO Skills Center in Charleston. One of them already has a job in prospect. In Huntington three women were placed in the asbestos union, and one is a member of a carpenters' union.

"By the first of the year, when the mines are hiring we'll have about twenty women to place," Joan Montgomery, a 32-year-old black woman, in charge of the Logan office, said recently.

Working in the mines is dirty and hazardous. A friend of Joan's was hit in the head with a flying bolt last year, and was out of the mines on disability for some time. A single mother with four children to support, she is back now.

"Women want these jobs because they pay well, and because they make them feel good about themselves," Peggy Messer of the Logan office explained. "Otherwise all they can get is jobs as a waitress or bar maid, and they have to put up with constant sexual harassment."

"Most jobs around here don't pay enough to make it worth your while, by the time you pay baby-sitting and transportation," one applicant explained. "And if you go on welfare, they make you feel like dirt."

NEW is part of AFSC's Appalachian Women's Advocacy Project, which also has programs in Virginia

and Kentucky. It grew out of an earlier program, the Low Income Women's Project, supported by the Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, in ten regions. Under this program, women met to discuss barriers to adequate employment. After the project ended, the Appalachian women decided they wanted to continue, and see if they could do something to overcome the barriers.

They needed a non-profit sponsor, and they came to AFSC with the request that it serve in that capacity. AFSC was well known in the region. In the 1930's it was active in Logan County, feeding children and helping miners and their wives find alternative employment. More recently it has run summer work camps in the area. It was glad to respond to the appeal, which fitted into its general concentration on economic rights, and its concern about sexual discrimination.

Overcoming barriers to non-traditional employment, NEW has learned, means more than talking with the men in charge of hiring and recruitment, though that is important. It means helping the women develop the confidence denied them by a strongly sex-biased culture.

"When it is beaten into your head, generation after generation, that a woman is no good, you come to believe it," Sherry Pritchard said.

Families must come to support women in their new ventures, too, NEW has learned. One woman who was enrolled in a union apprenticeship in heavy equipment operation, and had been placed on a job, quit because of family pressure. The two young women welders, however, have their family behind them. "They think it's good we can provide for our children, and also feel good about ourselves," they said.

Judy Stephenson, coordinator of the NEW program chose her staff carefully from among women who knew the problems of low-income women. "They are all strong women with a nice way about them," she said.



In the 1930's the AFSC helped women in Logan, West Virginia market their quilts and rugs. Today, the AFSC's N.E.W. program is helping women in the same area find outlets for quilts, aprons and children's toys.

UPDATE

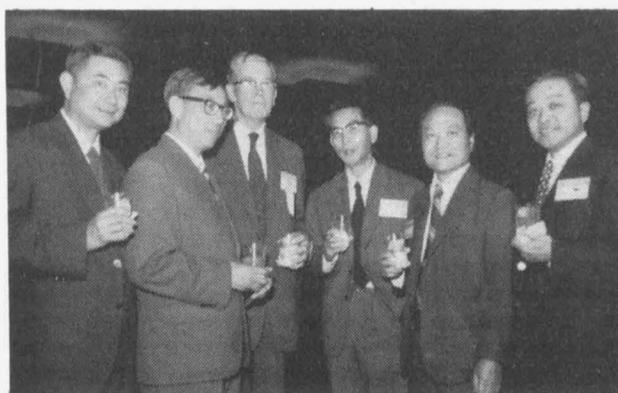
The Ann Arbor Justice program is completing a community bail fund organizing manual based on its five years of experience operating the Washtenaw Community Bail Fund. The manual, about 50 pages long, is designed to assist local groups around the country in establishing their own bail projects. It offers a vision of the kinds of changes that a community can make with such a project, but also discusses the kinds of frustration that can be expected. Topics covered include an overview of the pretrial justice system, working with the justice system, relating to defendants, and organizing a bail fund that is community-based.

The manual will be available in early winter from the Ann Arbor office, 1414 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Single copies are \$1.00 plus 50¢ postage and handling; discounts available for multiple copies.

Scientists in the People's Republic of China have joined those in other parts of the world in looking

for an artificial heart which would render heart transplants obsolete.

This was a piece of information shared by five Chinese doctors who spent six weeks touring the



Five Chinese doctors, all specialists in organ transplants joined Dr. Jonathan Rhoads at the Annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons in Chicago as part of their AFSC sponsored visit to the U.S.

United States as guests of the American Friends Service Committee. All specialists in organ transplants from Shanghai Second Medical College, they visited their counterparts in hospitals and universities in California, Colorado, Utah, Texas, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts, as well as attending the Annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons in Chicago.

The leader of the delegation, Dr. Dong Fangzhong, had studied at the University of Pennsylvania under Dr. Jonathan Rhoads, a leading Quaker surgeon. All spoke fluent English, and enjoyed visits in the homes of local Friends.

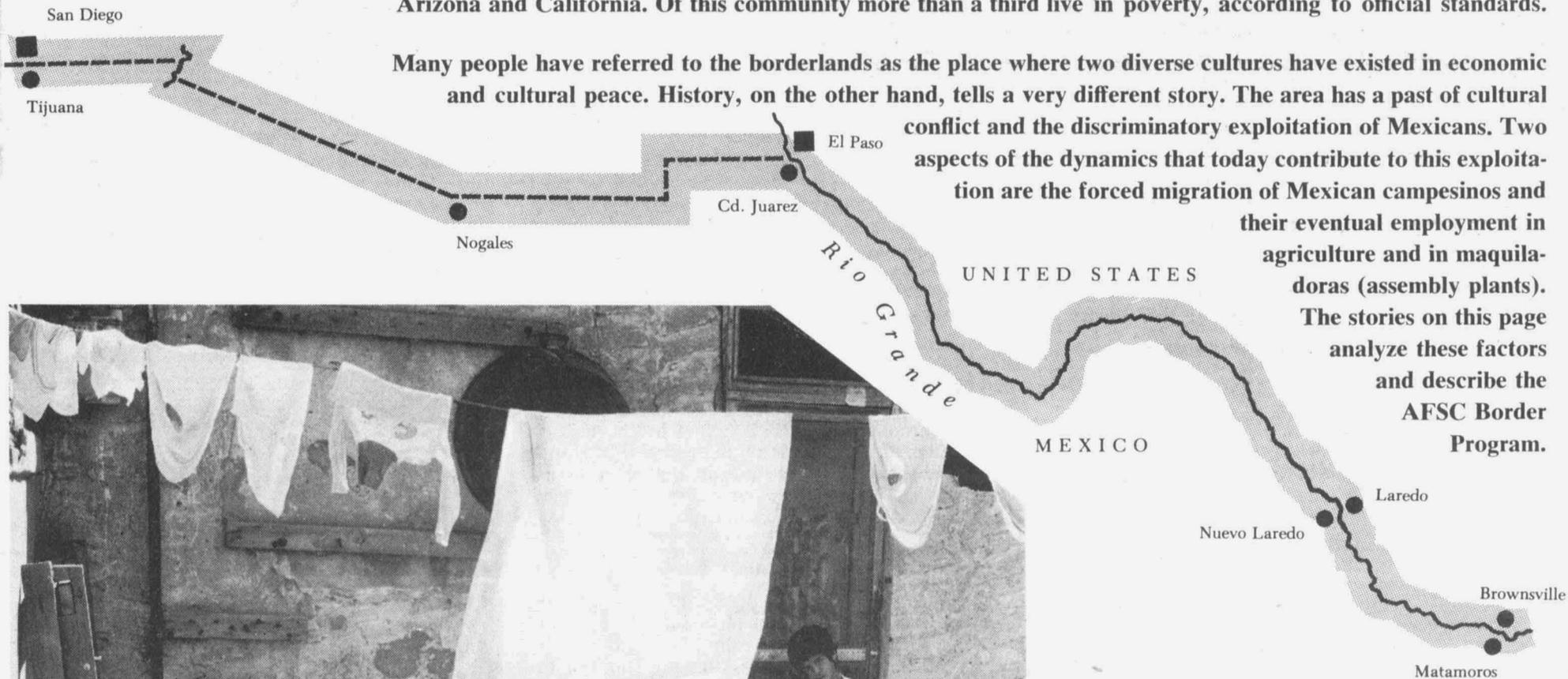
Henry Scattergood, for many years head of Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia, and a former AFSC Board member, has joined the AFSC staff as a part-time volunteer to serve as liaison with Friends schools throughout the country. In particular, Henry will be arranging for AFSC speakers, film strips, slide shows, and educational packets to be made available to classroom teachers.

Border Program Studies Economic

Even to the most casual traveler along the 2,000 mile Mexico-U.S. border two things become obvious: the great interdependence of communities on both sides of the border, and the vast economic disparities between Mexicans and North Americans.

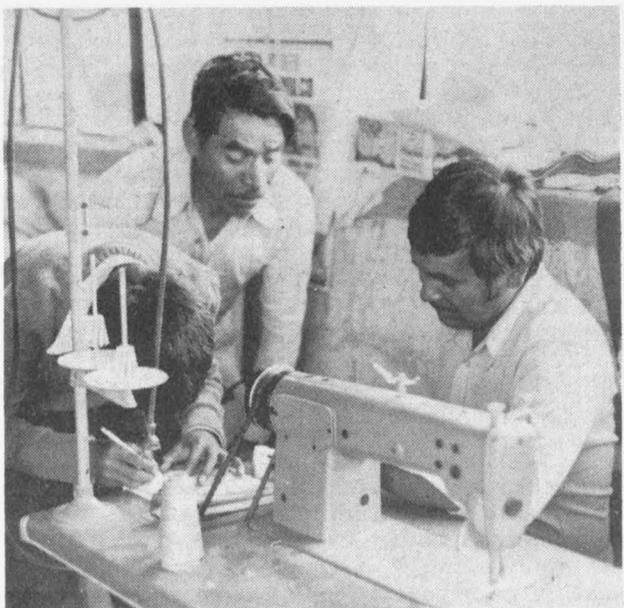
Thousands cross the border each way, year 'round, to work or shop. There are sectors of both the U.S. and Mexican border economies that would suffer if this flow were interrupted. The Chicanos (U.S. descendants of Mexican parents) coupled with more recent migrants, form a sizable minority throughout the Southwest border areas of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Of this community more than a third live in poverty, according to official standards.

Many people have referred to the borderlands as the place where two diverse cultures have existed in economic and cultural peace. History, on the other hand, tells a very different story. The area has a past of cultural conflict and the discriminatory exploitation of Mexicans. Two aspects of the dynamics that today contribute to this exploitation are the forced migration of Mexican campesinos and their eventual employment in agriculture and in maquiladoras (assembly plants). The stories on this page analyze these factors and describe the AFSC Border Program.

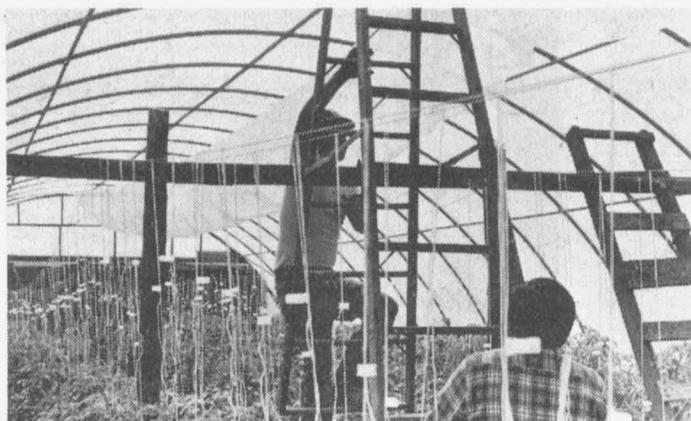
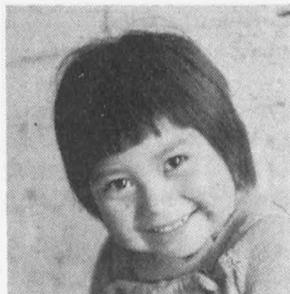


Conference on Migrants in San Diego

In an attempt to find a workable solution to the problems posed by undocumented workers coming into the United States from Mexico, the AFSC and the Centro de Asuntos Migratorios of San Diego staged an all-day conference entitled "Working Rights of Undocumented Workers: An Ethical and Moral Perspective." Attending this September event



Workers learn new skills at the sewing collective at Atlacomulco, Mexico, sponsored by AFSC and the Mexican Friends Service Committee.



A plastic bubble is used for a greenhouse in which tomatoes can be grown quickly and efficiently in Raymondville, Texas, as part of community-based economic development in that area.



At an ecumenical service in the Parque Aurora Schmidt reads in Spanish to Mexican people listen attentively. Aurora is staff of AFSC's Southwest Regional Office.

nic Roots

in San Diego were over 100 representatives from various religious denominations. The conference examined the impact of the undocumented upon the labor market and restrictions imposed by U.S. immigration policy.

A decision was made to create a delegation to meet with growers, managers, government officials and major employers of undocumented workers to encourage sympathetic, responsible and humane working standards and conditions. There was also general agreement on the need to develop a structure of support and consultation through the churches.

Vic Vallalpando, author of a study on illegal aliens, called for establishment of economic programs that will assist in the development of Mexico's natural resources.

The Supervisor of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, Roger Hedgecock, revealed that undocumented workers now pay nearly \$48.8 million dollars in taxes but receive only \$2 million in services. He believes these facts should be made public.

Joe Razo, Director of the Concentrated Enforcement Program for the California State Division of Labor Standards Enforcement revealed that in the hotel, motel, restaurant and garment industries investigators found 58.9% of these businesses in violation of minimum wage and/or overtime provisions, and 31% without workers' compensation. Common were sweatshop conditions and record keeping violations. Altogether 721 child-labor citations were issued.

Human Technology Developed

Since 1939, the AFSC and the Mexican Friends Service Committee have been involved in rural development programs. Vicente Guerrero, situated in the impoverished state of Tlaxcala on the Mesa Central of Mexico, is one such project. The approximately 500 inhabitants of Vicente Guerrero, like many peasants in Mexico, are in great need of fresh meat and vegetables. AFSC and MFSC directed a "Self-Sufficient Home" project aimed at demonstrating how to raise rabbits and cultivate vegetable gardens. Today, because of these efforts, over 50 per cent of the houses of the village have rabbit nurseries and backyard gardens.

While Mexico City, along with other northern industrial cities, boom and bustle toward the 21st Century leaving rural Mexico in decline and decay, the MFSC and AFSC are redefining technology and progress. By organizing small-scale, low-cost, self-owned projects in the countryside, that use resources close at hand, they are designing a technology directed to satisfying human needs.



stad (Friendship Park), on the California border with Mexico, AFSC's ig offered for the welfare of undocumented workers. A gathering of idt, National Coordinator for the Mexico/U.S. Border Program, and e participants in the service.

H-2 Permits Importing Workers

Jose Sanchez left San Juan International Airport, headed for Orange County, New York to pick apples. He'd responded to a newspaper ad placed by the Puerto Rico office of the U.S. Department of Labor which promised forty hours of work a week at \$2.82 an hour. Jose figured that with two months of this kind of work he would put away a nice savings.

Jose, along with other pickers, arrived at La Guardia Airport in New York City where buses waited for them. They were then taken to the New Paltz Orchards of Orange County where thirty were housed together. For the first few days they didn't pick apples; instead, they cleaned around the camp grounds. After one week they were allowed to pick. Very soon, thereafter, Jose was called in by the crew leader. "You're not producing enough," the orchard foreman told him, "You've got to work faster." A few days after this pressure started, Jose Sanchez, along with thirty other pickers, was fired.

Jose, over a year later, testified before the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy about what had happened to him. He spoke of how he and his fellow Puerto Rican workers were given an insufficient supply of apple boxes and at irregular intervals.

What Jose and his co-workers didn't know when they were first recruited is that the growers didn't want them. He found out later, he said, that the growers had first applied for 5,000 H-2 visas to import Jamaican workers. So the growers made sure that by the time the season had begun most of those pickers recruited in Puerto Rico had been fired.

The H-2 section of the Immigration/Nationalities Act states that when the Department of Labor certifies that there's a shortage of domestic workers, employers can request from the Department of Justice the number of visas decided upon by the Labor Department. H-2 workers can only work for the employers that request them. If they complain they are routinely shipped back. U.S. agriculture has agreements with other governments besides Jamaica. Tobacco growers last year and again this year were allowed to import 700 Mexican workers under the H-2 program. Workers from other countries are brought in to do sheep herding and logging.

Today a Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy is considering the issue of whether the Immigration law should permit the type of situation in which Jose Sanchez found himself to occur.

The questions then become, are there legitimate labor shortages in the United States, or are they contrived? And, most important of all, should American workers like Jose Sanchez be deprived of jobs because employers prefer an indentured work force?

Border Industrialization Creates Problems

In 1965, the United States and the Mexican Government established the Border Industrialization Program which offered strong incentives to U.S. corporations to establish assembly plants in Mexico. Initially, the Border Industrialization Program was to operate in a band of twelve miles south of the Mexico-U.S. border. In 1972, a decree broadened the program to allow location of plants in the interior of Mexico.

It is significant to note the specific nature of maquiladora (assembly plants) employment; 85 per cent of the workers are women. Some plants are known to restrict recruitment to young women between seventeen and twenty-five years of age who have less than a sixth grade education, in an apparent effort to enhance productivity and minimize labor conflicts.

Corporations, taking advantage of a cheap and

unorganized labor force in Mexico, import unassembled component parts and machinery from the U.S. duty-free and export the assembled products back to the United States with primarily just the cost of (Mexican) labor subject to U.S. import duties. Not only are wages lower in Mexico, but there are also fewer restrictions with regards to safety, benefits, or social security payments.

The Mexican cities, however, are not able to absorb all those who arrive. The MAQUILADORAS rarely provide employment for men. These two factors combine to create a situation that greatly contributes to the influx of undocumented Mexican men to the United States for work in agriculture.

(This story is based on research done by Maria Patricia Fernandez Kelly, doctoral candidate, Rutgers University.)

Poor Mexicans Struggle For Survival

Poverty in Mexico is deep-rooted and pervasive. The struggles of poor people are not simply for economic equality but in many instances are a fight for physical survival from one day to the next. Millions live at a subsistence level that most Americans would be hard pressed to imagine unless they could see it for themselves. Many rural communities, for example, have no electricity, roads, piped water, sewers or medical facilities. The most dramatic statistics are easy enough to recite.

The top 10 per cent of the Mexican population get 45 per cent of the income while the lower 40 per cent of the population get only 10 per cent of the income. Nearly half of the work force is unemployed or underemployed.

The mortality rate for Mexican preschool children is about 12 times higher than for the same age group in the United States. Forty per cent of the babies born in rural areas are of low weight at birth. About 100,000 Mexican children die each year of infections and nutritional illnesses. The average country child gets only about 65 per cent of the amount of protein recommended by the World Health Organization. Four million children under the age of five have never drunk milk.

The population is doubling every 20 years; in the U.S. it is doing so every 100 years. Millions of adults are functional illiterates.

The exit price for those that migrate is high. They become nomads, going from rural villages to cinturones de miseria (belts of misery) that encircle most major Mexican cities. Mexico City, where many first settle, has 13 million people making it the largest city in the world; by the end of the century it will have 40 million. The overcrowding forces them to live in "Lost Zones" that are not officially recognized. Others end up living in tiraderos (garbage dumps), where they subsist off what resalable paper or glass they can scavenge, or in hovels constructed beside open sewers. They live without running water or work, forgotten and without hope.

The journey, however, does not necessarily end there. Many migrate from the major cities to border towns; from border towns in Mexico to border areas in the United States; and finally, from U.S. border areas to large U.S. cities. This odyssey can sometimes span generations as well as great distances.

Vigil Against Apartheid

By JACK PATTERSON, director of the Peace Education and Action Program of the New York Metropolitan Regional AFSC Office

On October 19, 1977, the South African government banned the multiracial Christian Institute, and closed the two largest black newspapers. For the past two years, AFSC has organized a demonstration against apartheid in front of the South Africa Mission at 42nd and Second Avenue, on the anniversary of the banning.

During last year's protest, a young black man read each sign as he passed the vigil line, then turned back to read the signs again. I learned he was a journalist from Johannesburg, leaving that very night to go back to South Africa. He had worked until October 19, 1977, on the staff of *The World*,

South Africa's largest black daily before it was banned. He was moved to see his paper prominently listed on our signs.

Toward the close of this year's vigil, a black South African stopped to say how heartened he was by the visible sign of support. He said he knew what it meant to be remembered because he himself had been a prisoner on Robben Island.

The vigil began with a short period of worship. From noon until two the vigilers stood in silence broken only by the reading of the names of those banned and detained. The vigilers asked to meet with the mission staff to express their concern that South Africa continues to ban the very people whose advice would enable them to avoid immense tragedy.



Passersby received a leaflet stating the concerns of the New York AFSC vigilers and urging them to write or call the South African mission in support. Photo by Viola Hathaway.

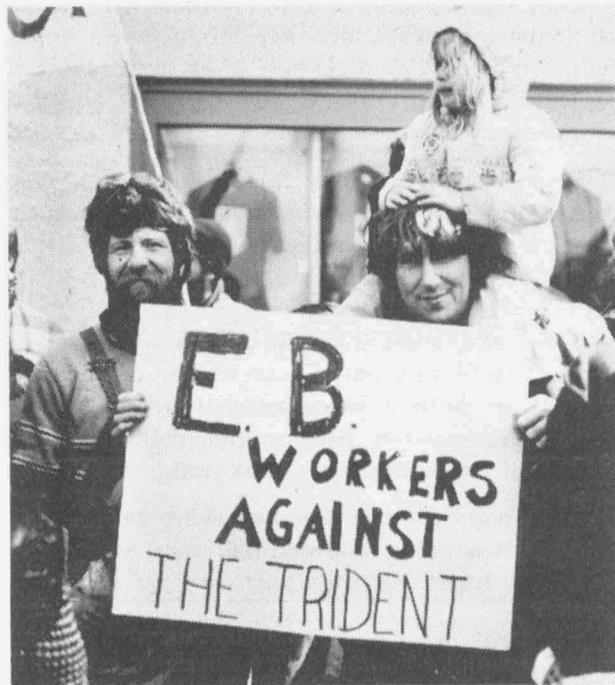
Continued from page one

AFSC Opposed To Nuclear Weapons

most highly military impacted areas in the nation, to diversification including creation of alternative plans for the local economy.

In Colorado, AFSC's Judy Danielson says "Human error and accident cannot be totally eliminated," and problems continue to occur at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility, near Denver, where the nation's plutonium triggers for its hydrogen bombs are made. She says that although there has been significant cleanup at Rocky Flats, the question remains: "What would happen at such a plant without worker and public outcry?"

"At a time of increasing scrutiny and public accountability of the commercial nuclear program, the military nuclear program continues operating within a self-regulated agency (Dept. of Energy) with workers and local communities around the country left without advocacy for health and safety."



Two industrial radiographers working on the Trident submarine join the protest at Groton, Connecticut supported by AFSC. Photo by Dave Morse.

QUNO Seminars On Nuclear Development

In August 1980 the United Nations will hold the Second Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons—one of its most critical disarmament conferences since the Special Session on Disarmament.

To assist delegates to prepare themselves for this ten-year review of the problem of nuclear weapon proliferation, the Quaker U.N. Office in New York will sponsor a series of ten luncheon seminars, beginning in January, on the topic of "Future Choices in Nuclear Energy/Nuclear Weapons."

In New Hampshire, the AFSC is seeking to raise important nuclear questions in the state's "first in the nation" presidential primary. The AFSC in mid-November published an advertisement (with 200 citizen sponsors) in the *New Hampshire Times*, calling on all presidential candidates to take a stand on eight questions dealing with continued construction of nuclear plants, export of nuclear technology, funding for the MX missile, and Federal regulations on radiation exposure. All the candidates' responses will be publicized throughout the state.

Operating out of High Point, North Carolina, AFSC's Nuclear Transportation Project has been at the forefront of exposing the hazards associated with shipping nuclear weapons and nuclear wastes. Recently William Reynolds, project coordinator, was in California and met with Supervisors in several California counties. Supervisors in Yolo and Sacramento were concerned and surprised to learn that military nuclear wastes passed through their counties, yet the Department of Defense had never informed them of this. Humboldt Supervisors expressed interest in how they could pass laws restricting the shipment of nuclear waste through Humboldt County.

On the East Coast, Councilwoman Hilda Mason influenced by a meeting with the Nuclear Transportation Project, introduced a measure to restrict shipments of nuclear weapons and nuclear waste through the District of Columbia. During hearings on the measure last November, the Nuclear Transport Project presented testimony documenting accidents in handling nuclear weapons and the potential hazard to the District of Columbia, should such an accident happen there.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee has long been known as "The City of the Atomic Bomb." AFSC's Southeastern Regional Office has been instrumental in raising public discussion about disarmament in the Oak Ridge community. A project to convert the Y-12 nuclear weapons production plant to non-weapons work held public forums on the health effects of low-level radiation and the economic impact of military contracts, which resulted in much coverage in the local media. A small group of people from the East Tennessee area have now formed a Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Conversion Group to continue this presence in Oak Ridge with AFSC support.

Questions to be addressed will be these: How can nuclear weapon states be encouraged to negotiate in good faith an end to the nuclear arms race, as mandated by Article VI under the ten-year-old Treaty?

In an era when nations search for energy security, what, if any, is the role for peaceful uses of nuclear energy?

Under the Treaty, what are the realistic obligations of developed countries to transfer nuclear power technology?

Zimbabwe To Be Independent Soon

By LYLE TATUM, AFSC's special representative for the Constitutional Conference on Southern Rhodesia, London.

Reported November 15, 1979

After 12 weeks of hectic negotiations, Southern Rhodesia seems on the road to independence as Zimbabwe with an African majority government, as I write this. A bitter civil war may be ending. Preparations are underway for an election to establish a government to which the British will grant independence under a constitution agreed to in London during the talks which began in mid-September.

The possibility of success for this round of talks seemed slim in light of the history of many previous talks which ended in failure. The antagonists looked as intransigent as ever, and there was a new problem with a government in Salisbury in which Africans shared some power, though not control.

The new elements which appear now to have prevailed were the pressures on all participants to end the war. The Salisbury Government, led by Bishop Muzorewa, faced a rapidly deteriorating situation. Whites were leaving the country; the economy was running down; it was dangerous to travel outside of the cities; the government, elected on a platform of ending the war, was losing support as the war continued.

The Patriotic Front was dependent on the Frontline States for external bases and the logistics of supply. The war was causing such serious economic and political problems in the Frontline States that they wanted the Patriotic Front to accept any reasonable offer for peace.

The British Government was under pressure from its constituency to recognize the Muzorewa Government, and from the Commonwealth nations which in contrast wanted Britain to take charge of Zimbabwe, overseeing its transition to independence under majority rule.

Out of these pressures may have come an "agreement" which none of the parties really like and which each party found totally unacceptable when the conference began.

As of the end of November, a final settlement has not been reached on troop deployment and other provisions of cease fire, and timing and guarantees of a free and open election.

If these matters are settled, the end result would give power to the African majority while protecting the rights of the three per cent white minority population. The white community would still get 20 of the 100 seats in the legislature and there would be a strong Bill of Rights.

In the transitional period between cease fire and the election, AFSC will send a team of persons to work inside Zimbabwe to relieve suffering, facilitate communication among the parties, and to report back to the United States.

PARTING THOUGHTS by Louis W. Schneider, retiring February 1, 1980 as Executive Secretary of the AFSC (Taken from his address at Annual Meeting)

I have imagined that when the AFSC sprang from the hearts and minds of Friends, the angels sang. By now, over three generations have reached for this precious gift, a gift held lightly and in trust by the Religious Society of Friends but not possessed.

In **Friend of Life** Elizabeth Gray Vining concludes her chapter about Rufus Jones' launching of the AFSC with the observation that "The AFSC no longer belonged solely to Friends. In the autumn of 1918 people outside the Society of Friends began to take an interest in the work and to contribute generously. Among the workers the number of those who were not Friends grew larger over the years." And so it has continued to this day.

Friends tread no exclusive path in the search for truth. It is the commitment itself, of all of us whom the AFSC has drawn into fellowship, Friends and those who are not Friends, to remain open to the leading of truth, that imposes a rigorous spiritual discipline and holds us in an inclusory relationship with one another. The enhancement of our endeavors by this devotion and the unfolding of insight which follow from it, have been a blessing in my life for which I am profoundly grateful.

The public has been deeply appreciative of the AFSC's efforts to relieve human suffering. But the AFSC exposes its staff and workers to certain reali-

ties of life, the experience of which can never be fully assimilated or shared. Paradoxically the privilege of being the giver has carried with it a certain therapeutic beneficiality for us favored to give. One's compassion is bottomless. One's understanding is unpenetrating and one is fated to search endlessly for meaning which eludes one's comprehension.

I remember during the first days of the Berlin blockade, spiraling upward on a flight from Berlin to Warsaw. From the air one could see mile after mile of gutted, roofless, tenements—shells of homes where people had once lived. Two hours later I saw the same scene as we circled over Warsaw before landing. With the incomprehensible tragedy of war so fresh in everyone's mind, it was unbelievable that a new conflict was in the making. The question not only is still with me but is punctuated by the succession of wars that followed. Why do some of us resolve to reject violence altogether? Why do others, despite the searing experience of their own tragic lives in wars, plan to rely on arms to remain secure? And how can they be persuaded otherwise? As I lay down my work with the AFSC this remains baffling.

Both to retain a venturesome spirit and to be rightly led will assure the continuing relevancy, vitality and durability of the American Friends Service Committee.

JROTC IN Schools Challenged

After only three weeks in their newly established Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps unit, students appeared before the Baltimore City School Board for an evaluation of the program. They introduced themselves by rank and job category. In response to questions from Board members, nearly every statement began, "Major... says..."

It is this unquestioning obedience that concerns Fran Donelan, director of AFSC's Middle Atlantic Region's Youth and Militarism Project. In Baltimore this fall, two high schools instituted JROTC courses. AFSC's MAR Office has been organizing opposition to this as a threat to free education.

In talking before community groups, with students, counselors or individuals, Fran Donelan states her belief that JROTC curriculum prepares students academically for very little, and for some students, may even take up valuable time needed for basic skills education.

In his letter to the School Board U.S. Representative, Parren Mitchell of Maryland stated, "It is the student with high SAT scores who enters the Academy, not the student with JROTC." Fran Donelan adds: "The type of education a student needs is one that is skills-oriented, presented in a humanistic atmosphere that will last students a lifetime, giving them both self-esteem and compassion that is

needed for a peaceful future."

Another point Fran Donelan focuses on in speaking to the public is that JROTC is teaching and condoning violent solutions to human problems. "Whether it is a lesson in marksmanship or the use of more sanitized button-pushing, there is little difference if you are the victim. Even in organized state murder there must be room for conscience and the taking of responsibility for one's action. War has become more sinister and impersonal by computer."

Before the School Board Fran stated, "We must never take from youth their ability to make conscientious choices. JROTC desensitizes them to the suffering they may be required to impose as members of the military."

In Baltimore the Teachers Union has joined the opposition to JROTC. A strong petition drive, led by the AFSC and the local chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is seeking signatures and letters of support from community people, students and parents. Petitions will be turned over to the School Board.

As Congressman Ron Dellums of California states, and as AFSC believes, "The concepts of military training are diametrically opposed to the concepts of an open education. . . . It is more important that Johnny learn to write than that he get his gun."

SALT II, Nuclear Weapons, Discussed With Soviets

Note: In late September a nine-person AFSC delegation visited the Soviet Union to discuss the nuclear arms race and the relationship between military and civilian uses of nuclear energy. Everett Mendelsohn, Professor of History of Science at Harvard, and a member of the delegation, reported to the AFSC Board. These remarks are taken from this talk.

"SALT II was the major focus of our discussions. The Soviets proved deeply committed to ratification. The treaty itself says that they will have equality in strategic nuclear weapons with the U.S. For them this means a lot.

"We tried out an idea on them. Would they be interested in supporting a freeze on deployment of all strategic weapons immediately upon ratification of the treaty, so that during the next stage of negotiations there would not be the marked increase in the numbers of weapons that took place between SALT I and SALT II? We talked several times with the same people about this idea, and their response seemed favorable. To us this represented a breakthrough. If it can be matched in the U.S. it could turn SALT II into a cap on the arms race.

"The Soviets, however, are deeply worried by President Carter's proposal to place a new group of medium range nuclear weapons in Europe, to be launched from NATO territory. They asked, and I would ask with them, doesn't this seem an attempt by the U.S. to give up the notion of equality and regain superiority?

"We discussed nuclear energy for civilian uses. The Soviets are cautiously optimistic about the control of nuclear technology but they are concerned about proliferation. They are the major enrichers of nuclear fuel in the world, and they know that the International Atomic Energy Agency cannot completely police the use of the fuel once it has left the U.S.S.R.

"What does such a visit mean? We had an intensive set of discussions, and found them worthwhile. In the past six years there has developed a group of knowledgeable, thoughtful, critical individuals in the U.S.S.R. deeply involved in arms control and disarmament discussions. They are devising new ideas and they listened to ours.

"When we entered the chambers of the State Committee on Atomic Energy (which controls both the military and civilian sector) we were told by their deputy director that he had hesitated for a long time before seeing us, but finally decided to go ahead because he knew our reputation and interest in peace-making. This said to us that the AFSC has a real responsibility, especially at this time of deteriorating relationships, and we urge that it be kept up."

AFSC Assists Nicaraguan Skill Center

In one of the few remaining buildings in the center of Esteli, Nicaragua, 135 young people are learning skills that will help them rebuild their lives, their town and their country. The job-training programs at this new Center for Human Development are supported by AFSC.

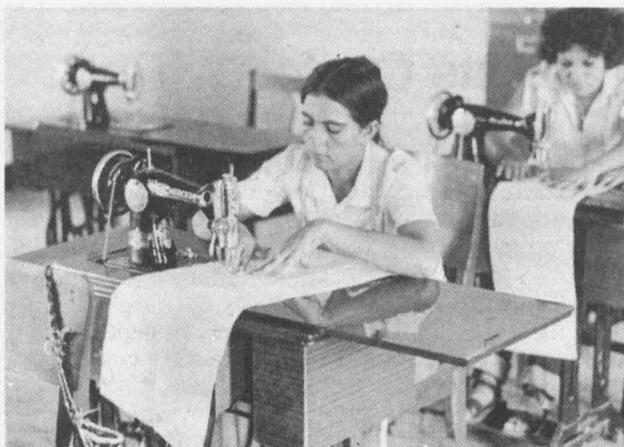
The town of Esteli was one of the most devastated during the war in Nicaragua. The city's light industry, crafts' workshops, and commercial center were almost totally destroyed. Most of the 40,000 residents fled to the countryside or to neighboring countries. A small community of religious women remained in Esteli, caring for the wounded and burying the dead.

Now, many who fled have returned. The religious women initiated the Center for Human Development in Esteli—a center geared toward training women, domestic workers and youths in carpentry, cloth-making, upholstery, typing and crafts skills.

Once the training cycle is completed the staff will establish cooperative production units to help the Center become self-supporting.

For young women formerly trapped in prostitution the Center is a vehicle for a changed life-style. One woman participant explains: the traditional

idea that women "only know how to make tortillas and babies" is changing. The feeling that each person can take part in the development of his or her own future and that of the country is probably the greatest contribution of the Esteli project.



Instruction in carpentry and sewing is featured in the skill center in Esteli, Nicaragua, supported by the AFSC.



Women In Mali Learn New Skills

In early 1979 the AFSC launched a Rural Women's Advisory Service in Mali in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development. In November the two women who administer the project—AFSC's field director Susan Caughman and the Malian government appointee Mariam Thiam—visited Philadelphia and were interviewed by an editor of QSB.

Question: We understand the purpose of the program is to help women in rural areas increase their income. Why is this so important?

Ninety per cent of the women of Mali live in rural areas. Their incomes are \$80 to \$150 a year. The woman must carry out not only the domestic tasks—including carrying water, collecting wood and pounding millet—and of caring for the family and children—but must also provide the food.

While the men are responsible for providing the staple foods such as millet, the women—out of their income from selling crafts or garden products—must provide the "sauce"—the vegetables, proteins, meat. Women must provide the children with clothes, food, medicines, at least for the child's first seven years.

The fact that the man and the woman each have separate responsibilities in the care of the family, is this historical in Mali?

Women have always worked side by side with the men to support the family. In Mali, historically, a family has been seen as too heavy a responsibility for one person so each parent has a well-defined and separate role. Also poverty requires that they work together to have enough for the family. Men are glad if their wives can increase their income.

We understand that with independence the new government made it a priority to help rural women improve their economic status. How does the Rural Women's Advisory Service help?

To help, the Rural Women's Advisory Service provides training in new skills or to improve skills, marketing services for crafts or other products, seed money to start projects, and other initial support seen as vital for a project's success. AFSC contributed a millet mill to a women's cooperative in

the village of Markala, a time-saving device which should free women for income-producing activities.

We understand that in rural Mali women are isolated. How do you improve communication so there can be a sharing of ideas?

The Women's Advisory Service provides the transportation costs for representatives of different women's groups to come to Bamako (where the Advisory Service is based) to receive training in special skills such as tie-dyeing. They in turn teach others when they return home. We have also arranged for women from one village to visit an organized women's group in another village to learn what is needed to start an income-producing cooperative. Now we would like to try using tape recorders as a way of transferring information and know-how.

We've also found that once the women become organized in a cooperative venture they gain great self-confidence both as individuals and as a group. They feel they can handle other problems that come up, so the social gain is as important as the economic gain.

How has the government seen the work of the Rural Advisory Service?

Mariam Thiam is paid by the government so we are integrated into the government structure, and have its approval. The government, however, has no money for more than Madame Thiam's salary, so AFSC helps with project seed money, gas or transportation of women's crafts, or provides the experts to teach the needed skills.



AFSC staff member Susan Caughman discusses cloth dyeing techniques with an African woman in Mali.



Miriam Thiam serves as Malian director of the Rural Women's Advisory Service, co-sponsored by AFSC.

Caribbean Seminar Opens A Dialogue

One feature of the history of the Caribbean has been a startling lack of contact among peoples of this region. Information and trade flows have tended to be mainly between the island nations and their present or former colonial masters. In an effort to break down these barriers the AFSC's Reciprocal Youth Project with Puerto Rico joined with several Caribbean church-related organizations to hold an Ecumenical Seminar on Human Rights in the Caribbean. It took place in Caguas, Puerto Rico, October 28 to November 4.

Thirty-five participants from twelve English-French- and Spanish-speaking countries concluded that the expression of human rights abuses is linked to the particular history of each country and its ties to colonial and neo-colonial status.

Haiti, where the Duvalier regime harasses and often imprisons or assassinates opponents, illustrates extreme human rights abuse of one kind. But

the Haitian government also "sells" sugar cane workers to the government of the Dominican Republic, committing those workers to a life of virtual slavery. Thousands of Haitians have attempted to flee, but the United States refuses to grant them asylum.

While Puerto Rico is called a "Free Associated State," Guadeloupe and Martinique are simply termed "departments of France." Control of natural resources is in outside hands and local culture and language are undermined.

Seminar participants visited the island of Vieques where a citizens' movement opposes the U.S. Navy use of three-fourths of the island for bombing and amphibious assault exercises. Effects on the island's economy have been devastating.

In Jamaica the human rights situation is related to economic controls or sanctions imposed by the international monetary organizations. Cuba suffers from the U.S.-imposed economic blockade.

A major accomplishment of the Seminar was the establishment of a communication network that will continue the dialogue and provide a mechanism for joint action on particular human rights violations.

Native Americans, Environmentalists Confer

What are the potential connections between the interests of the environmental movement and of Native Americans? What are the points of disagreement? What are the specific areas of common action and concern?

These were some of the underlying questions at a three-day conference held in Seattle, Washington from September 28-30, 1979. The conference was the most recent step in a series of initiatives facilitated by the AFSC. Serving as staff for the conference was Bernice Delorme who was supported by the AFSC Pacific Northwest Regional Office with Youth Involvement Program funds.

There were over 70 participants from the Pacific Northwest at the conference. Tribal leaders and staff

came from Oregon, Washington State and the Canadian province of British Columbia. Environmental organizations represented included the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society and Greenpeace.

The conference significantly advanced the ongoing dialogue between environmentalists and Native Americans, touching on such areas as energy, fishing and hunting rights and public policy in general. Out of the conference was formed a steering committee which will meet on a continuing basis. The conference was, by most reports, a success because it established a framework for continuing discussion of common concerns. This may yet result in specific actions on the preservation and use of resources, as well as the future of development.

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