

AFSC offices work against death penalty

On death row, 1100 Americans wait to die. Three-quarters of the condemned people are in the South, virtually all of them are poor, and disproportionately large numbers of them are Third World. The death row population has doubled in the past three years. In several states, AFSC offices work against the death penalty, trying to prevent its legalization in states that do not allow it, trying to stop executions in states that do.

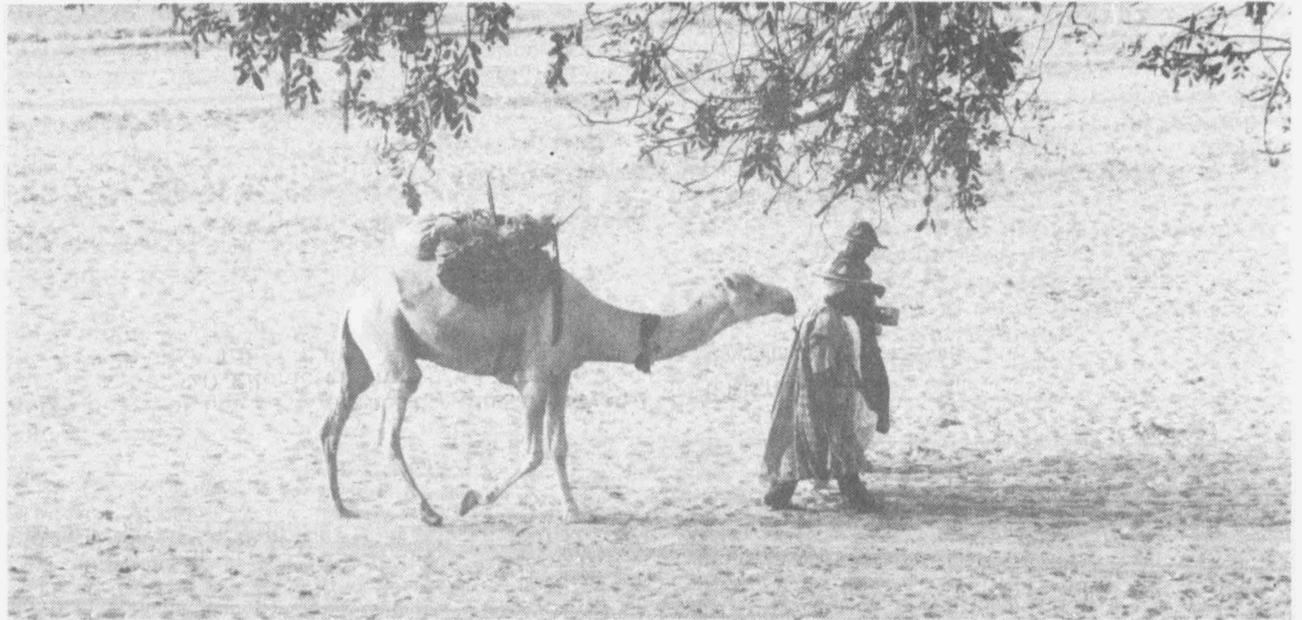
In Michigan, a state without a death penalty, AFSC staff worked this year to prevent its reinstatement. When a petition drive was initiated to place a capital punishment referendum on the ballot, a one-year staff position was created in Ann Arbor for an anti-death penalty organizer. Working with a statewide coalition, staff engaged in public education activities, including literature development, speaking engagements, and inviting endorsements from organizations.

In July, the petitioners submitted their signatures to the state. Believing that many were invalid the coalition challenged the validity of the names and staff engaged in the meticulous work of checking a sample of the signatures. The results showed that death penalty forces did not have the required number of valid signatures and the state ruled against putting the referendum on the ballot this year.

Voters in Massachusetts faced a referendum this fall to change the state's bill of rights, making the death penalty constitutional. AFSC worked with the Massachusetts Campaign Against Restoration of the Death Penalty for the early part of the campaign, doing public education. During October, their speaker's bureau made 140 presentations covered by news media.

Later in the campaign, AFSC staff worked at the grassroots level in the Cambridge area making person to person contact through phone calls and handing out literature on the death penalty. The efforts were successful and the wards in which AFSC worked voted against the amendment, although it was passed in the state. Public education efforts continue as the Massachusetts legislature grapples with capital punishment bills.

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AFSC photo by Corinne Johnson

New drought hits Mali

A severe drought has hit the northern 6th region of Mali, West Africa—an area where the AFSC has been involved in various development projects for the last eight years.

David Negus of the AFSC in Mali says, "It has been a very bad year, worse than 1973 according to everyone, with almost no rain in the Goundam region south of Timbuktu. The spots where the rain has fallen are still not as they normally are, and the lack of other areas will force the animals to concentrate in these spots, thereby quickly consuming the existing pasture."

A top official in the Goundam region has proposed an immediate vaccination program for animal herds against diseases that have developed, and has also proposed several medium and long-term projects for the future.

Three major projects have occupied David Negus full time since he took over the AFSC position last August. These are the completion of a middle school at the village of Tin Aicha on the north shore of Lake Faguibine; digging a well at Inalharema, 20 kilometers north of Tin Aicha, and a Tamashek literacy training program.

The middle school is seen by the nomad population as an important project because it will be the only school of its kind located in a nomad region.

The well project increases Tin Aicha's stability and aids other nomads in the area by providing a larger pasture for the cattle, sheep and goats of the region. The well-digging presented extensive logistical problems, with camels and donkeys used to transport cement, water and food the 20 kilometers to the site. Work took almost six months, with ground water finally reached at 49 meters.

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The peace delegation traveled to rural sites in Nicaragua by helicopter. Photo by AFSC's Jack Malinowski, a member of the delegation.

Nicaraguans fear fresh warfare

Following a visit by a peace delegation to Nicaragua and Honduras in the fall, AFSC staff and other participants have been pointing to dangerous new developments in the region. The two countries are on the brink of open warfare. Nicaraguans are fearful that the United States intends to carry out a plan of covert military and economic operations against their new revolutionary government. Such a plan, estimated to cost \$19 million, has recently been acknowledged by the U.S. State Department. Nicaraguans see further evidence in the drastic increase in military assistance to Honduras and support for ex-Somozan National Guardsmen.

The people of Honduras, meanwhile, are faced with rising military influence in their society at a time when their new civilian government has yet to establish firm democratic control. There are increased instances of protest, repression, disappeared persons and violent clashes throughout Honduras. Many feel that Honduras is being set up as a staging ground or military proxy to oppose radical movements in El Salvador and Guatemala as well as in Nicaragua.

These developments challenge the peace movement in several ways:

- It is clear that the dependence by the U.S. on military solutions to the problems of Central America is both futile and destructive. There is an urgent

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All life is one, and yet....

By James Lenhart, Associate Executive Secretary for Information and Interpretation

"All life is one," Howard Thurman wrote, "and yet life moves in such intimate circles of awful individuality Stripped to the life literal substance of myself, there is nothing left but naked soul, the irreducible ground of individual being, which becomes at once the quickening throb of God."

Have you ever wakened in the night and in the sleepless silence pondered what it must be like to lie awake on a cot in a prison cell and pass the hours of the night under a sentence of death?

Look out through the darkness to the distant flicker of lights and imagine yourself as a prisoner. Sooner or later, the state—that anonymous gathering of your fellow citizens—will send a surge of electricity through your body and that marvelous sense of sight will end forever.

Or catch a whiff of the night air and realize that the state—not some twisted mind which has spiked Tylenol pills but the state—will hand you a cyanide pill. Sitting there in the death chamber you will breathe, and smell, one last time.

Go into the depths of your own soul where you

can be immersed in the Living Presence and there, where the true unity dwells, ask how, in the name of an "advanced society" founded on principles of justice and equality, we think we can "lawfully" end that "quickening throb" of life?

How far have we moved away from John Woolman's conviction "that true Religion consisted in an inward life, wherein the Heart doth Love and Reverence God the Creator, and learn to exercise true Justice and Goodness . . . to say we love God as unseen, and at the same time exercise cruelty toward the least creature . . . was a contradiction in itself"?

If in the stillness of the night you could imagine yourself to be a death row inmate you would likely be non-white and poor. "The defendant of wealth and position," former Sing Sing warden Lewis E. Lawes wrote after escorting 150 persons to the death chamber, "never goes to the electric chair or the gallows."

Perhaps into your consciousness would seep the total, absolute absence of hope. What must it

be like to live without hope? To have no chance for rehabilitation or for any positive contribution to even partially offset the crime that brought the sentence? Could a series of blank, featureless and emotionless days be the best the future could hold for a person without hope?

Then comes what may be the worst thought of all—suppose you were innocent? What could possibly compare with the experience of lying in the dark facing a state-decreed execution and knowing that you are innocent?

If all the logical, compassionate, factual, humanitarian, ethical and moral reasons for abolishing the death penalty were to be proven false, isn't the possibility of even one innocent person being executed reason enough?

Sleep comes, the night passes, dawn breaks—but the nightmare of capital punishment remains. If you want to help try to end that nightmare, be in touch with one of the AFSC program offices mentioned in the article below or with the Criminal Justice Program, AFSC national office.

Haitian calls for peace, justice

More than 500 persons at the AFSC Annual Meeting on November 6 in Philadelphia heard the Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, executive director of the Haitian Refugee Center in Miami and himself a Haitian, speak on the Haitian refugee situation. The AFSC has worked with Haitian refugees at the national level and in several regions since they began arriving in the U.S. in large numbers in the early '70's. AFSC's immigration consultant, Phil Buskirk, who provides staff assistance to the Haitian Refugee Center, introduced Father Jean-Juste on November 6. The address highlighted a full day of interest groups, panel discussions and presentations of AFSC concerns and programs. The theme of the meeting was the interconnection of peace and justice which Father Jean-Juste's talk, excerpted here, tied together.

The peace we are referring to is the ultimate and ideal situation which allows each and every human being to enjoy this God-given

life collectively as well as individually. This ideal situation will not come if there is no justice at its base. This human value, justice, guides us toward establishing cordial and acceptable relationships among nations as well as among individuals.

When a government does oppress its people and they have lost their freedom, and been forced to stay quiet fearing the repressive machine, can we call that quietness "peace"? The people, one day, some way or another, always will get rid of their yoke. It's clear that—one day or another—uprisings will always take place where there is injustice. Oppression cannot last forever. History is the best teacher.

If we do not secure peace through justice, the doomed day is not too far. We must speak out on all issues concerning humanity. War in any nation could bring us war at home.

Many of you have heard about Haiti For the past 25 years the U.S. Government has been supporting the bloodiest regime in the Caribbean Basin—the brutal dictatorship of the Duvaliers. It has maintained itself in power only through blatant mass repression and U.S. military support. All forms of democratic expressions, such as trade unions, student organizations, political parties, independent press, and so on, have been annihilated.

Thousands of Haitians have fled to the shores of the U.S., only to be denied political asylum. There is no "open arms, open hearts" policy for America's Black boat peoples. Instead, we find a policy of racist harassment, the everyday threat of deportation, and the imprisonment of more than 1,800 Haitians in about 12 concentration camps throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Friends, the situation is intolerable in Haiti. A bloody civil war could take place anytime. President Reagan is making it worse. But, remember, many of us peace lovers, justice lovers, have been trumpeting enough is enough. Give a break to the people. There cannot be peace without basic justice for all, regardless of the color we are. It's true for Haiti; it's true for Latin America; it's true in many corners of the world.

Friends, members of the AFSC, keep up the good work. We can change the world and make it better Wherever you send your messengers, may friendship flourish, freedom come, and peace—built on basic justice for all—may it rise up.



Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste addresses an informal gathering of AFSC staff. AFSC photo by Terry Foss

Death penalty

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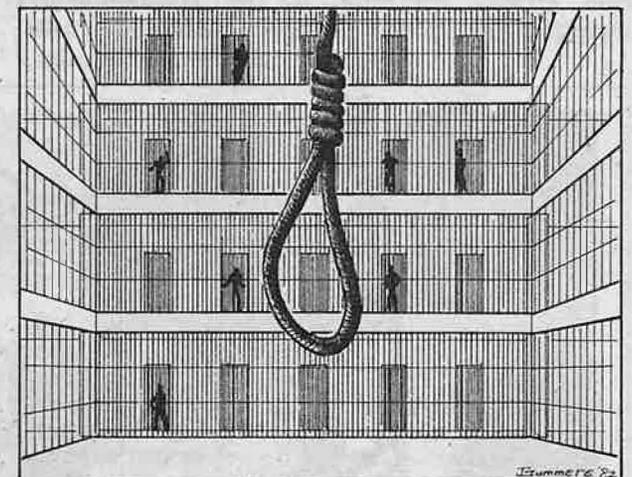
In New Jersey the death penalty was signed into law this year. New Jersey Justice Program staff are focusing public education efforts to build public sentiment against executions. As the legislature begins to discuss methods of execution, anti-death penalty organizers are pointing out the contradictions between "humanized killings" and the concept of "deterrence," thus demonstrating the flaws in the concept of capital punishment.

AFSC staff are also reactivating the New Jersey chapter of Death Watch Coalition, a national organization which tries to prevent executions as well as attending to specific prisoners on death row.

In New York State, Syracuse staff work regularly on public education efforts about the death penalty. New York has strictly limited capital punishment, but there are many efforts to introduce a more general death penalty.

In Metropolitan New York, AFSC staff sponsored a film series to increase awareness about the death penalty. AFSC is helping in the formation of the New York State Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Other work against capital punishment, representing the Quaker belief in the sacredness of all human lives, is being carried out in other regions and at the national level. AFSC participates in the coalition, People Against the Death Penalty, which holds vigils when executions occur anywhere in the country, and public celebrations when an execution is stayed. AFSC is also a founding member of the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty.



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Women workers at border gain new skills

In Texas

"When you are powerless to affect the conditions under which you work, to demand a sewing machine that does not butcher your hands, or air that is clean to breathe, when you dare not ask for a wage that will buy your children some good food and clothes, when you see how little control you have over the education of your children and how little contact you have with them, when you see how powerless you are, you then become afraid to risk the little island of survival you have created."

Cecilia Rodriguez, AFSC staff member in the Mexico-U.S. Border Program in El Paso, Texas speaks eloquently of the problems of the poor Spanish-speaking women employed in the garment industry which provides minimum wage employment for young and "docile" women.

Organizer of Centro del Obrero Fronterizo (Center for Border Workers) in El Paso, Cecilia has recently planned and funded a new project, La Mujer Obrera (the woman worker) especially designed for these women. To help the women become less afraid to take risks, the project first addresses their survival needs, providing them through volunteers with social, legal and referral services. The need for these have become more

and more urgent, month by month, as the Federal budget cuts have begun to be felt, and unemployment has grown. Only women whose needs have been met can strive for social change, Cecilia Rodriguez believes.

El Paso has not only one of the highest rates of unemployment and the lowest per capita income, it has one of the highest rates of family violence in the nation. Both wife and child abuse is rampant. Frustrated and embittered husbands beat and desert their wives and children; emotionally drained women sometimes take it out on the kids.

"I love my children, I really do; I do not want to hurt them," one woman confessed. "But I have nothing for myself, no life of my own, and sometimes they ask for so much and I am so tired. I hit them sometimes, and then I sit and cry with them, and pray for strength."

It helps such women to know that they are not alone, and that there are reasons for their distress. Series of training classes in Parenting, and in Economics for Working People, have been underway at the Center since June, as well as a group counseling program on the problems of women and self-awareness.

Other programs at the center include films, discussions and workshops, all designed to in-

crease the women's sense of ethnic pride.

As women deal with their survival problems and gain confidence, they join other women in addressing directly the problems of the neighborhood and the workplace. Small community organizations and rank and file workers groups are formed. The Center reaches workers in six factories with a monthly newspaper, El Noticiero.

One of the women workers sums up the new attitude that the program is building: "All my life I thought that if I just waited, just put up with things, just kept quiet and did my job, that things would someday get better . . . It doesn't work and I won't be quiet anymore."

Program offers advocacy role for parents

Helping students and parents deal confidently with the public schools system is a focus of AFSC education programs in Seattle, Portland and San Francisco.

In Seattle, AFSC staff observed that schools would often suspend students in an apparent attempt to get parents' attention and to force them to take responsibility for their children. The schools assumed that the parents were apathetic. But some of these same parents often came to the Seattle Education Program asking for help handling the problems their children were having in school. They were in fact deeply concerned about their children's school experience, but they didn't understand the public education bureaucracy, and were intimidated or discouraged by previous bad experiences.

To help parents represent their children's interests, AFSC staff developed an advocacy program under which trained volunteers, most of them parents themselves, learned how to help in such situations. The demand was large enough that the program was expanded with special outreach to Black and Asian communities. Recently about a dozen people—including a special education teacher, an attorney from the National Caucus of Black Lawyers, and a parent of very young children—were trained to help parents figure out what problems their kids are having and how to solve them. About half the cases involve discipline and half academic problems.

In a recent case, a special education student was expelled for behavior problems despite a policy requiring the school first to assess whether the problems were related to the student's handicap. The assessment did not occur until after the expulsion. The boy's mother asked for a hearing and handled the case herself with an advocate providing advice and moral support. The judgment at the hearing was in favor of the student.

AFSC staff in Portland operate a similar program training both parents and professionals as advocates, with special emphasis in Black communities. One kind of problem the program deals with might involve a case where a Black student and white student are caught fighting and where different punishments are given: the white student's parents being called, the Black student being suspended. When such contradictions are taken to school authorities by an advocate, they are usually handled quickly. Many referrals to the program come from parents who have been involved in the past and who send their friends.

San Francisco's Youth Advocate Project initiated a pilot program in early 1982 at Galileo High School involving a system of alternative punishments to suspension. If a student is caught in an offense that might involve suspension, he or she has a chance, with the assistance of a trained advocate, to sign a contract for an alternative discipline, such as working on the school grounds. AFSC staff hope to turn the program over to the parents soon in "a move toward increased parent and student involvement in what we hope will be a more understanding and caring educational system."



Women at work in clothing factory in Tijuana, Mexico. AFSC photo by Gary Massoni

In Mexico

For the past three years the Mexico-U.S. Border Program has been working in the Mexican cities of Matamoros and Reynosa, across the border from the area known as the Texas Valley. Here one of the major focuses of community organizing has been the young women employed in the maquiladoras (U.S.-owned, partial-assembly plants in Mexico's border area. See story this page). Recently Luisa Maria Rivera, staff member of the Mexican Friends Service Committee, visited the area and summarized her impressions of progress.

"**The first time** we had a meeting there were only five or six women in one of the houses. They were silent, shy, hardly daring to look up. They had many obstacles in their path. They all face two shifts, one at the plant, and housework at home. They come home very tired, after sometimes getting up as early as 4:00 a.m. to get to work. Their families were suspicious of the meetings ('Are they communists? or Protestants?') and opposed to their going out at night alone. And since most of these young women were between 15 and 25 years of age what they really wanted to do after work was to go someplace where they might meet boyfriends.

"**Nevertheless**, little by little they began to attend the meetings. They would come three or four times, then disappear, then come again. Now after

three years we have between forty and fifty small groups of women meeting regularly. They have learned to express themselves, and to analyze their working conditions.

"**There are many factors** to confuse them. They knew the union took six per cent of their pay, but they could not understand what the union did for them. They were confused about management—they knew they were working under terrible conditions, and that they frequently had dizziness and headaches, but on St. Valentine's Day the tall, handsome manager would give each woman a red rose, so it was hard to realize that management was exploiting them. It took them a long time to understand what was happening.

"**Last year** some of them began to study labor law. Remember, most of them knew nothing about law. And then they began to take their cases to court—cases of being fired or suspended unjustly—and some of them won their cases. It was just unbelievable to see that these women, who three years ago were not able to say a word in a small meeting, were now able to go and fight for their rights in court. It makes me feel that if these women can grow, against such odds, we can all grow.

"**Now these little groups** of women have banded together to form a council of workers, and soon staff can move on to another area and begin the process all over again."

Aid reaches Salvadoran refugees



Photo by Roberto Delgado

Two trucks loaded with 15,000 pounds of clothing and supplies from AFSC arrived at the camp for Salvadoran refugees at Mesa Grande, Honduras last fall. Refugees gathered to help unload and to watch—a break in the dull routine of camp days. The distribution was in the hands of the Refugee Committee which meets weekly and makes all the decisions affecting camp life.

AFSC's Donna Jean Dreyer, present for the distribution, reports: "Everyone we talked to expressed gratitude for the warm winter clothing. In this mountainous area of Honduras the winter months are windy and cold, especially at night. Most of the refugees are still housed in tents consisting of canvas roofs and plastic tacked onto wooden frames for the sides.

"The experience of following the shipment from the warehouse in San Pedro Sula through to the camp made clear the tight military security and extreme emotional insecurity in which more than 35,000 Salvadoran refugees live," Donna Jean commented. "Only certain shipping companies and certain drivers are approved, everyone needs special documentation and there are many checkpoints where soldiers examine documents and cargo. In order to enter the camp, one must arrive before dark, ford a river and travel by jeep over a roadbed which is not only unimproved, it is sometimes nonexistent."

Although the refugees are free to move about within the camp, they are not free to leave. An exception is made for those men taken by bus to work in the vegetable gardens during the day. In the midst of this concentration camp environment, the constant question from the refugees for Donna Jean was, "Do you know if they plan to move us? Have you heard any news about what

might happen?"

Gloria Ebratt and Charles Welsh, AFSC's representatives in Central America, have been arranging for the receipt of AFSC's 30,000 pound shipment to the refugee camps since last July. In addition to the 15,000 pounds sent to Mesa Grande, 15,000 pounds were delivered to camps at Colomoncagua, and some blankets, sheets, clothing and towels were given to a center that serves refugees who require special medical care.

In addition over a dozen AFSC staff and committee members have spent brief periods in the camps to provide an extra measure of protection for the refugees who feel vulnerable. "They face harassment or worse from the Salvadoran and Honduran military even while ostensibly under United Nations protection," said Richard Erstad, coordinator of AFSC's Latin America programs. "The refugees appreciate that tangible AFSC presence every bit as much as the material aid they so desperately need."

When Gloria Ebratt visited the camps prior to the distribution she was told that after AFSC gave \$1,400 last January for school supplies, the refugees were motivated to build mud-walled school buildings. They are the best constructed buildings so far and the refugees are proud of them. Adults attend classes in the afternoon, children in the morning. Evening classes are impossible because of the problem of security and lack of light. "I saw children returning from classes, each with a school bag made out of patches and remnants," Gloria wrote. "One little boy ran up to me to ask if I had a pencil I could give him for school. I assured him the school supplies would be coming in the next two weeks."

Quaker program supports U.N.

By Roger Naumann
Quaker representative at the U.N.

We are living through dispiriting times for international and multilateral institutions. Over the range of Friends' interests from peace and disarmament through human rights to the right sharing of world resources, we are witnessing a progressive disregard for the various bodies and conferences dealing with these at the international level.

The Cancun Summit on North-South economic cooperation, the attempt to set up global economic negotiations, the U.N. Second Special Session devoted to Disarmament—if they were not failures, then they have not changed the world much. In the fields of international security and peacekeeping, we see the U.N. bypassed in the Falklands/Malvinas and in Lebanon. Yet institutions with a global perspective and global authority are patently more necessary than ever: witness the growth in armed conflicts, the increased flows of refugees across borders, the increasing interdependence in our depressed world economy.

At a time like this, the way in which the Quaker U.N. Offices in Geneva and New York operate is as important as the issues with which they are concerned. Morale within the U.N. is at a low ebb so that outside support and encouragement is

especially important. We attempt to give moral support through personal meetings and by showing a consistent and informed interest in the different aspects of the work of U.N. delegates and Secretariat. An important part of our work takes place at Quaker House where delegates can come together in informal off-the-record lunch meetings.

We have no illusions as to where political power resides: in national capitals. Thus an important part of our work is to keep Friends and like-minded groups abreast of developments (and setbacks!) in the fields of disarmament, human rights and development and to make suggestions on which issues pressure can usefully be put at the national level. The role of the U.S. government in relation to the U.N. is particularly significant in this respect, hence the link of the Quaker U.N. Offices with Washington is of great importance.

While each of us at the Quaker U.N. Office in New York specializes in some measure in the different subjects mentioned above, and in different geographical areas of particular concern (southern Africa, Central America, Middle East and East-West relations), we share our experience and learn from one another as much as possible. We hope that others benefit and learn something from our presence here, too!

Hope for peace in Middle East still strong

By Carol Jensen and Ron Young
AFSC Representatives in the Middle East

Hope for peace in the Middle East may seem naive in the light of events of the last year. But among many Israelis and Palestinians we meet there is more hope, as well as more suffering and sorrow, than there was six months ago. A lot depends on what people expect of us as Americans and of our government.

After living and traveling back and forth in the region for six months, we offer the following as issues and challenges which need to be considered by everyone concerned for peace.

Security—Despite their demonstrated military superiority, Israelis experience deep feelings of insecurity. That security is a very real issue not only for Israelis, but also for Palestinians, should be clear after the tragic massacres in the Lebanese refugee towns of Sabra and Shatila.

Jewish and Palestinian Nationalism—Both are authentic realities with deep cultural, political and spiritual roots. Neither is artificially contrived and neither will disappear in the near future. The question is how does each develop in ways that accept the continuing existence of the other?

Minorities—Any peace settlement will inevitably leave thousands of Palestinian Arabs living inside Israel and Israeli Jews living under Palestinian rule. Assuring fair treatment for these minorities could help build the peace, or destroy it.

Refugees—As a result of the founding of Israel and the wars that followed, approximately a million Arabs fled their homes in lands claimed by Israel, and several hundred thousand Jews fled their homes in Arab lands. A peace settlement should offer all the refugees from this conflict some form of redress.

Internal Politics—It is essential to peacemaking that people, including Israelis and Palestinians, understand and appreciate the political opportunities and obstacles faced by each side. It is all too easy to be realistic about the political problems of one side and cynical or sentimental about the choices of the other side.

Economic Cooperation—The prospects for economic cooperation between Israel and a Palestinian state and for regionwide cooperation in an atmosphere of peace are exciting to contemplate. Could a vision of such cooperation, perhaps supplemented with some practical economic incentives, help motivate the steps toward peace?

International Alignment and Non-Alignment—In international relations simple alignment with one superpower or the other, or completely neutral non-alignment, are less than realistic formulas. But questions about how Israel, a Palestinian state and other Arab states could become less dependent on the big powers and more mutually interdependent are positive challenges in the peacemaking process.

Jerusalem—Many of the people who fought and survived the battles for Jerusalem in 1948 and 1967 are now in important leadership roles in Israel, the Arab states and the Palestinian movement. They should appreciate the need for a new agreement over the Holy City which would reflect both pragmatic political realities for Israel and a Palestinian state, and the special meaning of the city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Arms Race—In the last 30 years there has been a continuous increase in the arms race in the Middle East, sometimes even as a direct consequence of a partial "peace agreement." It is possible at this time that an Israeli-Palestinian peace could be the occasion for reducing reliance on arms and halting the arms race in the region.

Many people we meet worry that the United States will not do enough to encourage a fair and lasting peace settlement while there is a chance to achieve it. What concerned people do in the next few months could make an important difference. The time to do something for peace in the Middle East is now.

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African programs aid self-help

In the past year four month-long literacy programs provided basic training to over 100 adults throughout the northern sector of the Goundam region. These sessions will continue throughout the next two years, and incorporate reading materials for those learning to read and write.

These projects are said to have helped to give the nomads a "glimmer of hope."

Elsewhere in Africa, three new projects have been launched in the Horn—two in Somalia with refugees and with nomads in the north, and one in southern Ethiopia, in a community development effort. Clare and Chris Rolfe report from the Darye Macaane refugee camp in northwest Somalia: "We soon started to get down to some real work and held meetings with the camp commander and others. Poultry raising and a garden project seemed to be the best things on which to get started."

In Ethiopia, the AFSC is in negotiations with the government, working out a site at Mugayo in Sidamo Province and setting out guidelines for a development project there. Focus will be on restocking herds, pasture improvement, settlement agriculture, and the development of education, health and veterinary services.

Photos by AFSC's Chris Rolfe, Somalia; Nancy Foote and Douglas Pulse, Zimbabwe, Corinne Johnson, Philadelphia



AFSC's Dr. Nancy Foote, third from right, watches a new clinic go up in rural Inyanga, Zimbabwe. The clinic will also serve as a community and training center.



Left: AFSC's David Negus (center) surveys the newly constructed school at Tin Aicha, Mali. Above, he admires the tie-dyed batik fabric created by Malian women for sale at La Paysanne boutique in Bamako.



The Segou rug-weaving cooperative in Mali allows more than 100 women a chance to earn much-needed income.



AFSC's Clare Rolfe in Somalia (center) consults with local refugees about suitable plants for family garden plots.



Workers in Mhondoro, Zimbabwe stand amid linings for wells dug by people in the community.



The Matsvaire village committee—Zimbabwe—meets regularly to consider ways to improve the village.

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Peace delegation

need to support peaceful alternatives such as those advocated by Mexico, Venezuela and France. These proposals call for direct negotiations among all parties.

- Support for terrorist actions and a military build-up against Nicaragua leaves the Sandinista leadership there with little room to maneuver. The government will be forced to an increasingly harder and more defensive posture, relying on a larger military when the country faces such desperate economic burdens. Peace groups must help change the present American policy toward Nicaragua of hostility and distortion.
- Charges that Central America is being subverted by Soviet and Cuban influence not only obscure the truth about these poor countries, but fuel the growing tensions and animosities. If a wider or regional war engulfs Central America, we must fear that a confrontation between the superpowers will become an even more ominous threat to world peace.

The peoples of Nicaragua and Honduras have suffered through recent war and repressive governments and do not need more violence. Their social and economic development requires peace. As one Nicaraguan official put it, "Tell our American friends that...what is at stake is regional and even world peace. The nightmare of nuclear war is a shadow hanging over our hemisphere. There is no alternative. Peace must be found."

AFSC is active in a Campaign for Peace with Justice in Central America, and is co-sponsoring special observances March 18-26 to commemorate the witness of Archbishop Romero and others who have died in the struggle for peace and justice.

Nonviolence in Brazil supported

Since April of 1982 Jeannette Good has been working in Northeast Brazil, beginning a long-term program to join with Brazilians in a search for nonviolent solutions to problems of injustice, particularly in relation to land issues and the struggles of women. The commitment of the Roman Catholic Church in Brazil to nonviolence led to an invitation extended to AFSC to come and share experiences drawn from other nonviolent struggles, as well as learn from the Brazilians' experience. In one of her letters Jeannette reveals she has already made a strong beginning:

"Thursday morning the Bishop had arranged a gathering of about twenty people in the diocese who are interested in knowing more about nonviolence. We all participated in a rich and valuable sharing experience which lasted for two hours. While I have found nonviolence here fairly male dominated, 90% of this group were women.

"The church and the people in this area have been involved in a church supported nonviolent struggle since last January. They are dealing with a conflict over land caused by a dam now under construction. The region is known for its production of garlic, and for many years the poor camponeses have augmented their income by planting garlic along the fertile river basin. Now, because of the construction of the dam, the military ordered tractors to come in and destroy homes and fields with no warning at all to the camponeses. When the church protested, the government quickly offered compensation but it was far too little, about \$52 per family. Of the 170 families involved some 24 decided to fight for more money. They are holding on to their lands and their way of livelihood while their case is processed in the courts.

"During the meeting on nonviolence, much of the group discussion naturally centered on this struggle. I told them about the Montgomery bus

boycott, and they really entered into that story.

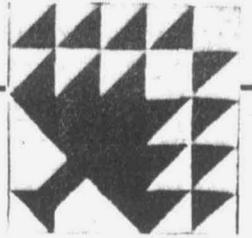
"In the afternoon the Bishop arranged a meeting with the twenty-four families at the site of the land conflict. This was a profoundly moving experience. Eight of us loaded into a jeep and a V.W. for an hour's trip over dusty roads to the river where the dam is being built. We arrived at one of the houses of the poor where the meeting was to be held. There must have been 75 to 100 persons crammed inside. As we walked in all the people began to sing a song of welcome to the Bishop. I was struck with his simplicity and the beautiful rapport he had with the people. He introduced us all in a moving fashion, saving the introduction of me to the very end. Then he said:

"We have here in our midst someone who is from very far away. Guess from where? They all said Sao Paulo. Then he told them that I was from the United States and that I was here to learn more and to help with the nonviolent movement. He asked me to speak a little to the people. Many of the poor farmers said, 'Yes, let her speak. We have never heard anyone from the United States of America.'

"So I spoke, and told them how important was their struggle for poor farmers all over the world, and that their deeds were known even in the United States.

"At the end of the meeting the obvious leaders of the camponeses said, 'This has been such a special and important day to us. And imagine that someone from the United States of America arrived here just for our meeting.'

"We returned to the town, and several days later we had another meeting to discuss nonviolence, drawing on our experience. One conclusion that people had reached, I discovered, was that only through nonviolence could a true grassroots change come about."

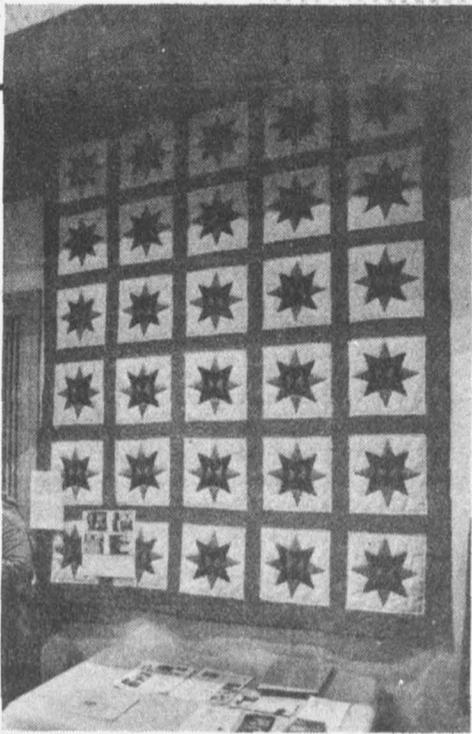


Peace quilt sent to Soviet Union

IN DECEMBER 1981 a group of 35 women in Boise, Idaho, decided to take a small yet concrete step toward understanding and friendship with people in the Soviet Union by making a peace quilt to send to Soviet women. They met regularly, each woman working on a 12-inch square representing the theme of peace, friendship or scenes of Idaho.

When the quilt was finished in May 1982, four women delivered the quilt to the Soviet Embassy in Washington which had agreed to forward it to Moscow. With the help of AFSC's Laurama Pixton, the quilt was delivered to the Soviet Women's Committee in Moscow. The Women's Committee displayed it in their headquarters and then forwarded it to Alitsa, a town the size of Boise, in the Soviet Republic of Lithuania. It is expected the women of Alitsa will send some of their handwork to the women in Boise.

Now the Boise women have begun a second quilt to be presented to an individual (or group) in the United States known for promoting the cause of world peace. For nomination blanks and further information, write Boise Peace Quilt, c/o 1820 N. 7th St., Boise, Idaho 83702.



AFSC photo by Terry Foss

Quilt features Quaker stars

THE QUILT—its squares emblazoned with red and black Quaker stars—drew the attention of attenders at AFSC's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, November 6. It had been pieced and stitched by the women of the Stanwood Friends Meeting in rural Leavenworth County, Kansas, as a gift for their pastor Fred Leimkuhler and his wife, Martha, on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.

The Leimkuhlers, who are otherwise employed, have provided volunteer ministerial services since 1968. Tom and Anne Moore of Lawrence, Kansas, who came for the meetings, brought the quilt for display.

People from time to time ask about the origin of the red and black star. Now 112 years old the symbol was first used by the London Daily News Fund for the Relief of the French Peasantry during the Franco Prussian War. At the same time Friends food wagons and ambulances carried the British Union Jack on one side and the Red Cross on the other, much to the confusion of all. In November, 1870, the Daily News invited the Quakers to share the star emblem, substituting "Quaker Relief Fund" as a way to distinguish Friends aid. The double star has been a symbol of relief from catastrophes ever since, and was adopted by the American Friends Service Committee six months after its founding, in November 1917.

AFSC campaigns against apartheid

AFSC'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST INVESTMENT in South Africa continues as staff encourage institutions and corporations to break economic ties with South Africa because of its policy of apartheid. In the spring AFSC's Jerry Herman organized a speaking tour of the Southwest to promote and strengthen divestment efforts in Colorado and Texas.

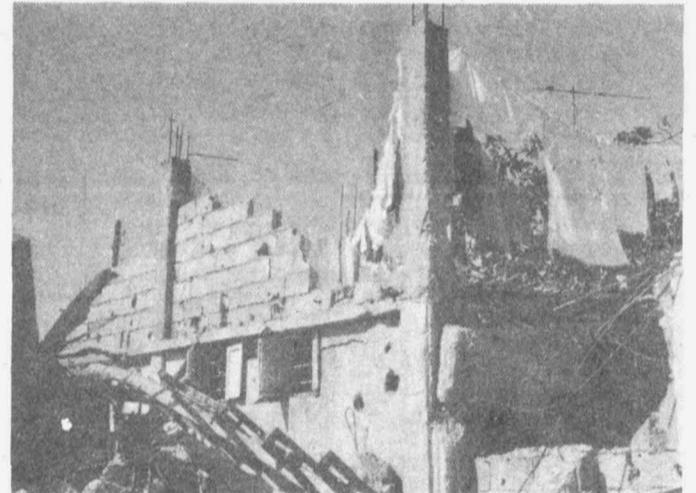
A recent victory took place in Kentucky. In the spring Kentucky Governor John Brown sent a trade delegation to South Africa "to initiate economic ties." In August the NAACP and Kentucky's black legislators invited Jerry Herman and a representative of the American Committee on Africa to join them in a meeting with Governor Brown. Following the meeting, Governor Brown reversed himself saying, "We are not going to do business with companies that believe in segregation . . . We are not going to do any business with South Africa."

AFSC funds and materials aid dislocated families in Lebanon

THE SERVICE COMMITTEE has recently made grants totaling \$10,000 to local organizations in Lebanon for such projects as equipping a new medical clinic on the outskirts of Ein el Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Sidon, and emergency supplementary food packages for Lebanese Shia and Palestinian families in southern Lebanon.

AFSC's Anne Nixon contributed to the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) agricultural work in South Lebanon with the distribution of olive and fruit tree seedlings, grape trellises and beehives. Such efforts are critical if this section of Lebanon is to recover economically.

AFSC has sent a second staff person, Chris George, who will focus on housing reconstruction in southern Lebanon. Based in Sidon, the largest city in that area, Chris George will assist three towns in rebuilding family housing.



AFSC photo by Ron Young

Laotian refugees returning home

On September 17, 1982, 83 Laotian refugees left Ubon refugee camp in Thailand to return to their homeland. About half of the refugees were going back to their families in Champhassak province, rural people going back to farming, some after seven years. For most it had been a difficult decision. One couple had thought they would join their older children in the U.S. Now, with their younger children, they were going home.

The staff directing an AFSC program in Ubon, Bill and Ruth Cadwallader, offered a ten-day program for those who wanted to prepare clothes, tools and household goods for the return home. Over 35 adults took part, coming early each morning to the Center and staying late. Small children worked alongside their fathers and mothers, or took naps under the weaving looms. A number of men were making tin buckets, oil lamps, lids. Some took nylon thread home at night to work on fish nets. Women wove fabric to make shirts and children's clothing; others knit shawls from bright col-

ored yarn or chopped and preserved food for the trip. Older women wove mats. Each morning for an hour, Lao medics taught a basic health course and first aid.

At a farewell ceremony Ruth and Bill showed slides of 'Laos Today,' and presented certificates to those who had learned new skills. The refugees received the materials they had made, along with gifts of soap and other needed items. Each of the tinsmith trainees received a pair of tinsnips and a hammer plus two rolls of tin and materials to make buckets.

Ruth described the subsequent trip to the border by bus and wrote, "At the frontier I tried to help Su T. who had to cope with an umbrella, a baby and several bags. Then there was Khamphanh who had brought his pet chicken to the Center all week—to have it underfoot of the weavers—and then holding it while waiting at the border; then finally getting on the last bus to Laos, clutching his chicken and waving good-bye with understandable triumph!"



Khamphanh holds his pet chicken for the return home.



Work on draft alternatives to continue

While the legality of the Draft Registration Law is debated, and as military recruitment of young people, faced with dwindling job opportunities in economically hard times, continues, AFSC is increasing its work with young people to help them make informed choices about their futures.

Work on draft issues and enlistment is being carried out in all ten of the AFSC Regional Offices in a variety of ways. Several offices, including Portland and Denver, have developed school curricula designed to help students understand the implications of the choices they face and to clarify their own values before enlisting, registering or resisting. The San Francisco Office created a slideshow, "Choice or Chance," which is being used nationwide as a consciousness-raising tool.

Other offices, including Chicago, Baltimore and San Francisco, have established counseling projects targeted specifically to low-income, minority youth, who often find themselves pressured to choose military service as a way out of poverty and unemployment, not understanding the limitations of the offers made by high-priced recruitment campaigns.

On Nov. 8 Des Moines AFSC staff presented a workshop on draft registration, militarism and alternatives for Native American youth from reservations in South and North Dakota. The young people planned to return to their reservations and organize their communities about the issue. Some parents are also getting involved.

Mikel Johnson, field secretary of the Des Moines office, said she was impressed by the attendance of the day-long workshop, considering the amount of travel required for many of the participants. She will continue being available to them as a follow-up consultant.

Also in Des Moines AFSC is providing a "peace educator" to the six high schools in the city. Since the beginning of the school year, Fred Williams has spent one day every two weeks in each of the schools, acting as a resource person to teachers and students.

The program was initiated after two years' groundwork with school district personnel in which AFSC staff won their trust by demonstrating that they could do effective programming for schools. The project developed from a course entitled, "Caring Professions: Alternatives to Military Careers."

Now AFSC's peace educator researches materials for teachers on a variety of peace issues. For example, in response to one teacher's concern that students opting for conscientious objector status in the military would suffer employment discrimination, AFSC compiled a list of former C.O.'s in the state who were successful in their careers, and who were willing to speak on the subject.

About half the requests to Fred Williams come from individual students who are trying to sort out their options. Some come after they have talked with a military recruiter.

The services are used by both male and female students. Mikel Johnson says she is particularly pleased to note that a good portion of the students coming are those who are especially vulnerable to military recruitment: minority and low-income youth. A stated objective of the program is to reach these young people.

Since the program received favorable local newspaper coverage in October, the office has been swamped with requests for speaking engagements, coming from as far away as Canada.

At the national level, volunteer Jim Bristol represents AFSC in cooperative efforts with other peace groups, takes part in efforts to challenge registration and the draft, visits the Selective Service headquarters to present concerns against the draft and regarding alternative service, and makes his experiences available to the media. The AFSC perspective on military services is rooted in the Quaker experience of seeking nonviolent resolution to conflict rather than resorting to force.



The Tokyo Broadcasting System films items brought by Connecticut residents to Vermont for the Crisis Relocation Weekend—a project of the Connecticut and Vermont offices of the AFSC. AFSC photo by David McCauley

Crisis relocation plans tried

All across the country, the government's new Crisis Relocation Plans (CRP) call for America's rural areas to host people from risk sites: large cities or areas near military installations.

For example, under CRP if the President felt a nuclear strike was imminent he might order, as a "protective measure," the mass evacuation of 650,000 persons from "risk areas" in Connecticut to 75 "twin cities" in Vermont.

In October, AFSC's Connecticut and Vermont offices carried out a "twinning project"—bringing more than 70 residents from Connecticut "risk areas" to meet with hundreds of Vermonters in four "host areas"—to see how effectively the government's Crisis Relocation Plans might work.

David McCauley, AFSC's Field Secretary in Vermont, comments: "AFSC takes a critical stance on CRP rather than urging its rejection. We believe that the public should consider both CRP's logistical feasibility and its relation to nuclear weapons strategy. One purpose of the twinning weekend was to promote this public discussion.

"We occupied fallout shelters, toured accommodations for evacuees, displayed suggested survival gear, held panels of local officials, ate and sang together, and resolved to continue local work on CRP. There were numerous discussions on "support" problems (food, medical systems, transport, shelter). We found that many local officials and citizens are willing to help, but they recognize the logistical overload as town popula-

tions rapidly triple or quadruple in size."

David McCauley feels public understanding of CRP is very limited. "This holds for officials at all levels who would have responsibilities under the plan. At present, there are virtually no local plans in Vermont towns, and six communities have refused to participate."

In the months ahead AFSC and the Committee of Correspondence on Crisis Relocation in Vermont will call for the formation of local CRP review committees to help town officials in assessing plans, and will make an effort to get local and statewide public hearings.

David McCauley concludes: "The plain fact is that the citizens of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are hostages to each other's nuclear weapons. CRP doesn't alter this fact much. If it hides this fact then it is a thin fig leaf of false security to cover a situation becoming ever less secure with the race for larger stockpiles of nuclear weapons and the emergence of a strategy for fighting a nuclear war."

Last spring AFSC's Rocky Flats Project in Denver helped to bring about hearings on Crisis Relocation Plans for the Denver-Boulder area. The result was the formation of a Nuclear War Education Committee of Boulder County which is still active. This committee produced and distributed a 16-page booklet to 75,000 residents that describes not only the effects of a nuclear war, but ways people can work to prevent such a disaster.

U.S. military in Puerto Rico studied

The first eighteen months of research is now completed on a project to document the historical role and impact of the U.S. military on Puerto Rican society—the first such comprehensive work ever undertaken. This three-year AFSC project, involving extensive research in archives located on the U.S. mainland, will be published in a book in 1984.

Directing the research is Dr. Jorge Rodriguez Beruff, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Pedras. Dr. Beruff says, "We have been able to gather and organize a considerable amount of hitherto untapped documentary and bibliographical material which . . . will place us in a position to undertake the analysis and writing of the historical study."

He comments that the history of the U.S. military in Puerto Rico follows a pattern similar to that in the Philippines and Panama; such places tended to become regional military bastions or enclaves, where the size of the military apparatus clearly exceeded the requirements for maintaining public order.



NEW FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS

■ BUT WILL THEY COME? The Campaign to Smear the Nuclear Freeze Movement. By Frank Donner.

In his article in THE NATION, November 6, Frank Donner, a longtime specialist on the activities of the American Right, analyzes the smear attack on the freeze movement. He concludes his analysis by saying, "... the efforts to reverse the pro-freeze tide have been fueled not by convincing evidence but by crude witch-hunting appeals. The Far Right has called its spirits from the vasty deep—but they have not come."

For a copy of Frank Donner's article send a stamped, return-addressed envelope to Information Services, National AFSC Office, Philadelphia, PA 19102.



■ THE CENTRAL AMERICAN WAR: A Guide to the U.S. Military Build-up

This 12-page pamphlet on the U.S. military presence in Central America has just been published by AFSC's NARMIC. The pamphlet includes information on covert operations against Nicaragua; military assistance to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala; a map locating U.S. military installations; a list of U.S. military exercises during the past year, and a catalog of U.S. arms in the arsenals of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

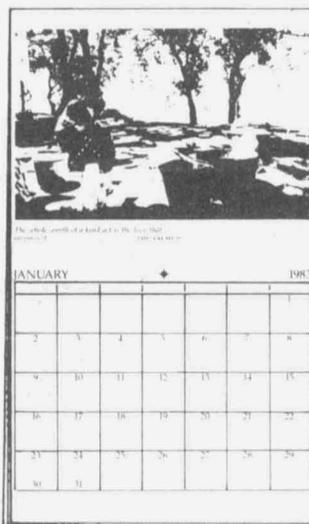
Price: 50¢ a single copy, \$20/100. Write: NARMIC, AFSC National Office, Philadelphia.

■ AFSC OFFERS 1983 WALL CALENDAR

It's not too late to order AFSC's 1983 wall calendar, with black and white photographs for each month showing AFSC faces from around the world and around the United States.

Major Jewish, Christian, Moslem and Buddhist religious holidays are shown.

To order a calendar send \$4.75 (which includes postage) to the AFSC, 2160 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94121.



■ AN AMERICAN QUAKER INSIDE NAZI GERMANY

Another Dimension of the Holocaust.

By Leonard S. Kenworthy

118 pages, \$5 plus 65¢ for postage. Available from Quaker Publications, Box 726, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Leonard Kenworthy was the Director of the Quaker International Center in Berlin from 1940 to 1941, supervising the intensive efforts to help persons of Jewish ancestry leave Nazi Germany.

From notes, diaries and reports he made during that year he has reconstructed an account of all aspects of his life in wartime Berlin, from the shortages of food, to the air raids, to the bitter moments when he found himself unable to respond to a desperate plea for help, to his continuing search for spiritual sustenance and growth at a time of tragedy.

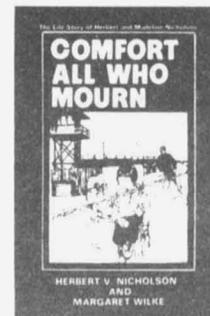
■ BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER

Both Sides of the River is a 16mm, half-hour color film that looks at the Laotian refugee situation—for those who left Laos and those who remained. Frequent mention is made of AFSC work with refugees on both sides of the river.

For information on the film contact: Asia Desk, International Division, National AFSC Office, Philadelphia.

■ COMFORT ALL WHO MOURN

—The Life Story of Herbert and Madeline Nicholson. Herbert V. Nicholson and Margaret Wilke. \$5.95. Bookmates International, Inc., Fresno, California. 188 pages.



Herbert Nicholson spent some 26 years in Japan with the Philadelphia Society of Friends Mission to Japan. Just before Pearl Harbor he and his wife returned to the United States where they worked in part with the AFSC to protest the relocation camps which were nevertheless established. After the war they helped with reconstruction in Japan by buying goats and using them to provide milk for children. Herbert Nicholson has put together the moving story of a long life of Quaker Service. Available through Bookmates Int'l, P.O. Box 9883, Fresno, CA 93705.

■ THE ID BULLETIN for October 1982 highlights AFSC's International Division work during 1982 in Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and at the United Nations. For a free copy write: International Division, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

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