



Prisoners win right to vote

An eight-year struggle carried out by criminal justice staff of AFSC's New England Regional Office led to a recent Massachusetts court decision supporting prisoners' right to vote.

AFSC staff Dave Collins recalls the beginning of the program's efforts on behalf of prisoners' voting rights. In 1975, on a hunch, he investigated town documents and learned that Norfolk, Massachusetts, was counting its state prison population in the town census for purposes of federal and state revenue sharing—even though prisoners did not benefit from the funds.

What would happen, AFSC staff wondered, if prisoners could vote? Massachusetts does not constitutionally disenfranchise prisoners, but most prisoners are kept from voting by procedural details, such as a requirement that they register in person. "Voting is one of the dearest rights under the Constitution, so the courts give voters the benefit of the doubt for registration—except when they are prisoners," Dave Collins observes.

In addition to participating in the electoral process, he believes exercising the right to vote can help prisoners because it will lead to the development of organizations among prisoners. Prison policies tend to impede prison organization. Dave Collins says, "I think the courts would be very, very prone to protect Republican Clubs, Democrat Clubs, Socialist Clubs. . . . If you had a Young Republican club in Walpole, it would attract support from the outside. There would be more exchange between the inside and outside resulting in a larger group of people aware of prison issues."

Since 1975, AFSC staff in Massachusetts have worked hard for prison voting rights. They did research and communicated their concerns to the Secretary of State. In 1976 they faced harassment and racist abuse in efforts to help Norfolk prisoners register to vote. They supported the rights of a prisoner who ran for the office of town selectman in Concord, persuading three of the town's five current selectpersons to support his right to campaign and finding free legal defense for him. Although the prisoner did not win, this campaign raised public awareness and got many new people involved in prison issues.

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The AFSC delegation meeting with members of the Vietnam Women's Union at its national headquarters in Hanoi. On hand to welcome the group was the President of the Women's Union, Madame Nguyen thi Dinh (fifth from left). Madame Dinh told of the formation of the Union in 1928 and the efforts of the older sisters to train the younger so that "like seeds scattered on the ground the Union will grow." See page five for additional photographs.

AFSC women visit S.E. Asia

Lady Borton served with the AFSC at the Quang Ngai Center, Vietnam 1966-1971, led an American teachers delegation to Vietnam in 1975, and aided Vietnamese refugees on the island of Pulau Bidong in 1980. Her book on these experiences will soon be published. The following is her report.

"When we go to the provinces," Duong Thi Duyen said, "we need never to take anything, our sisters will provide all." As head of external relations for the Women's Union of Vietnam, Duyen had welcomed the AFSC delegation to Hanoi in late November and introduced us to officials in various government agencies. Now she and two cadre were taking us on a two-day visit to Thanh Hoa Province.

Asia Bennett, Executive Secretary of the AFSC, led our delegation composed of Ruth Cadwallader

from the Service Committee's Bangkok office and myself, former staff member from Quaker Service-Vietnam. Although both Ruth and I had visited Vietnam several times, this was Asia's first trip to Indochina.

In 1983, Quaker Service sent \$186,000 worth of cloth and medicine to Thanh Hoa Province and promised to seek export licenses and funds during 1984 for spinning machine parts for a jute mat and reed cooperative and for antibiotics and multi-vitamins for Thanh Hoa Women's Hospital.

Thanh Hoa lies 174 kilometers south of Hanoi on Route 1, the major artery connecting Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Our van competed with ox carts, bicycles, water buffalo and an occasional truck for

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Peace movement enters new phase



Nonviolent protest of arms shipments to El Salvador, Port Chicago, Calif., Oct. 13. This on-going effort organized by San Francisco AFSC. Oakland Trib photo.

"This is not a time for discouragement. . . . What we have done in the last three years in creating the largest disarmament movement in U.S. history is amazing," said Randy Kehler, national coordinator of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. He was a speaker at one of the some 200 demonstrations in October against deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles. The AFSC served as the national clearinghouse for the actions. "It is never impossible to stop and reverse the arms race," said Kehler before some 5,000 persons on Boston Common.

Pam Solo, Coordinator of the AFSC Disarmament Program, said that the demonstrations in the United States, Canada and in Europe were altogether the largest ever. She added that "The energy in the peace movement has never been stronger. Now it's a matter of translating the broad public

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Bringing message home from Brazil

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from a talk given by Jeanette Good, former AFSC staff person in Brazil, at the recent annual meeting of AFSC's Dayton Regional Office.

I would like to share a journey with you that I have been on during the last couple of years with the International Division of the American Friends Service Committee. It is a journey that has brought me a great sense of hope and has clarified my vision of what we need to be doing to start to create a world of justice and peace.

Gandhi once said: "The only devils in the world are the devils in our own hearts, and that is where all our battles need to be fought." I believe that our hope for survival as a planet resides in our understanding these simple but profound words of Gandhi. Yet more often than not we have struggled against a perceived enemy outside ourselves. We have often been of the attitude that if the world is going to change we have to be about converting other people. If people would only be like us. . . .

This attitude is all around us. It is in our government. It is even in our churches, especially in our understanding of mission or even development work. How often have missionary endeavors been about bringing the "American Way of Life" to the poor of the Third World rather than trying to discover God's presence within a cultural context different from our own?

When we talk about the Roman Catholic Church in Latin and Central America these days we talk about a church which has gone through a profound conversion. When the Brazilian coup took place in 1964 the military dictatorship announced a plan to develop Brazil. Within a few years Brazil was hailed around the Western World as the "Brazilian miracle"—the new economic model for the Third World. but soon it became clear to all, and especially to Catholic Church leaders, that the Brazilian poor were suffering more than ever under this new form of economic development.

Brazil became the second largest exporter of food in the world while 89 per cent of its children were suffering from malnutrition. As the situation of the wealthy improved the situation of the poor became worse, so bad that today 60 per cent of the Brazilian population earns \$55 a month or less.

Catholic Church officials began to hear the cry of the people, and feel the agony of the poor. And in hearing the cry of the poor, the Catholic Church in Brazil started to undergo a deep internal conversion. Church leaders began to cry out saying, "The progress of Brazil cannot be built on the backs of the poor."

Whereas the Catholic Church had once been supportive of the military regime for fear that God would be destroyed in Brazil by Godless communism, the church quickly saw that the type of economic development being installed in Brazil was destroying the poor.

Dom Helder Camara, the famous archbishop of the Northeast of Brazil, spoke out: "The great scandal in the Northeast of Brazil is not the infiltration of communism, but rather the lack of Christianity." When Camara and other church leaders criticized the government they were called communists. The more the church proclaimed Christian principles, the more it became persecuted; and the more it was persecuted, the deeper its conversion.

Out of this conversion experience and within Brazil's highly developed national security system has grown what many people consider the most significant movement for nonviolent social change since the time of Martin Luther King, Jr. It was AFSC's hope that we might learn some things in Brazil that would help our work elsewhere in the world, especially in Central America.

Over three years ago the AFSC sent an exploratory team to Brazil to investigate the possibility of starting work there. The one thing AFSC people heard over and over from Catholic leaders was, "Yes, send people to come and work with us, send people who are able to enter into our culture and live with the poor, but send people who will come

here for a while and learn from us what you need to be doing back in the United States to help the plight of our poor."

What were the Brazilians saying to us? They had become aware that many of the injustices they struggle against have their roots in the United States. Gently they were telling us that we need to be about a type of reverse mission, a new model of mission that no longer sees the world that has to be transformed as lying solely outside the United States.

If we allow the poor to touch us they will help us get in touch with our hearts, and in so doing with a different value system which recognizes the sacredness of all human life. Gandhi says that spiritual training is the education of the heart. The moral crisis I speak to you about is a heart problem and this particular disease has a spiritual cure. Nothing in this world is going to change until we start to value life over things.



Jeanette Good meets with AFSC staff. Photo by Terry Foss.

It seems to me that our greatest task ahead as North Americans at this time of history is to be about this type of spiritual conversion. Our only hope for survival resides in our hearts. It is in our hearts that we can hear God's voice speaking to us, calling us to love and cherish all life on this earth, enabling us to create a land and a world which flows with justice, peace and liberty for all.



Nonviolent demonstration in Sao Paulo, Brazil against restrictions on wage increases for lowest-paid workers. Photo by AFSC staff Corrine Johnson.

Reflections on true freedom

Participants at AFSC's Annual Meeting in November heard a Chilean close to AFSC reflect on the relationships on which true freedom must be based.

"**On September 11, 1973**, I woke up and heard the radios announcing that a coup had taken place in my country. For the ten years since, Chileans have been a captive people. The situation has touched not only the ones who were oppressed, but the ones who have done the oppressing. The dictators are captive also. They are captive to their power; they are captive to the violence they have created.

"**But I also think** as soon as the coup took over the country, the people began the long journey back to freedom. And the road back to freedom has flowered in this past year, beginning on May 11 in a national day of protest. And since May 11, every month we protest.

"**What is it?** What is so essential to the human person in freedom that one strives for it so passionately, that after ten years of cruel dictatorship, they have not been able to dominate that spirit, that strength that comes from within ourselves and strives to be free again?

"**I think it means** a search for truth. It is a search to establish a true relationship between human beings—of respect, justice, compassion, love. It is that search that makes us free.

"**In many ways**, we are at the same time oppressed and oppressors. As oppressed, we realize that we have to struggle for freedom. Coming from Latin America, I cannot but address you as U.S. citizens. I think you have to realize that as my country is a captive country, your country is a captive country—captive to its power, to its privileged position and to its national security doctrine.

"**It is the responsibility** of all the people in this country to make it free again. We have to set aside prejudices, fears and false conceptions and get together and create a new world, where we can truly say we are brothers and sisters, where U.S. Quakers can truly say, here in this society, everyone can see in the other person something of God.

"**And my friends**, when I say this, I am not handing you a heavy burden. As you take up this burden, and in carrying it, I think you will fulfill yourselves as persons and you will become truly free."



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AFSC sends five to Grenada

"The people of Grenada, as elsewhere in the Caribbean and Central America, must be able to determine their own future—without intervention by U.S. or other military forces." With this message, Stephen G. Cary, AFSC Board chairperson, endorsed the national march against U.S. intervention in the Caribbean and Central America which brought many thousands to march in Washington on November 12.

On this cold day, a crowd estimated at approximately 35,000 held a rally at the Ellipse, south of the White House on Saturday afternoon. Among the featured speakers were William Sloan Coffin, who discussed the Biblical and historical implications of the U.S. misreading of God's will for the nation in its quest for empire, and Jesse Jackson, who told the enthusiastic multitude that "our time has come" to seize and follow a new course in foreign policy.

Earlier the marchers gathered at three sites in downtown Washington—the State Department, the Immigration and Naturalization buildings, and the Health and Human Services building—to protest current U.S. foreign policy, the mistreatment of refugees, and the social costs of U.S. militarism within the United States.

Participation in the march followed AFSC's statement of concern in regard to the U.S. invasion of Grenada, issued on the heels of that invasion. The AFSC stated that:

The United States asserts that no other state has the right to impose, by force, a government on a sovereign people; yet this is precisely what the United States and its local allies appear intent on doing in the case of Grenada."



Demonstration in Washington, D.C. Photo by Tracy Hawkins.

To study the human rights conditions first hand, as well as the overall human needs on Grenada, AFSC sent a five person mission to visit the island in December.

Yakimas protest Hanford dump

The Columbia River could be in danger of radioactive pollution if way is cleared for the Department of Energy (DOE) to put the nation's nuclear waste dump at Hanford, Washington. Members of the Yakima Indian Nation are worried because Hanford is on their reservation and the river with its salmon and steelhead trout is their source of livelihood.

Russell Jim, a member of the Yakima Tribal Council, told AFSC staff Joe Ryan that 1984 will be the critical year for protecting the Columbia River from radioactive pollution. The DOE is seeking to make Hanford an exception to the new radioactive waste policy act. After protests, the agency temporarily backed down from drilling a test hole, but it is their environmental assessment that Hanford is a good place to put nuclear waste. The national guidelines they issued for site selection also make Hanford a suitable repository for nuclear waste. Independent scientific studies, however, show the Hanford Reservation is not geologically suitable for a high-level waste repository, and the Columbia River would be in danger.

At the request of a member of the Yakima Nation, AFSC testified at hearings on the DOE's proposed guidelines and its environmental assessment. AFSC called for the DOE to undertake a more complete environmental assessment and redraft the guidelines. The AFSC testimony received extensive media and press coverage.

Also attending the hearing were representatives of concerned church, environmental and peace groups. They, too, were opposed to storing nuclear waste at Hanford and joined AFSC in discussing strategy for the months ahead. At a later meeting the group asked AFSC to develop an organization to oppose the radioactive waste dump. The organization, known as the Hanford Oversight Committee—has now grown to become a coalition of groups from the entire region. One of its efforts has been an educational slide show about the problem.

Managing and protecting their natural resources—fish, timber, water, will be a high priority for the Pacific Northwest tribes in the 80's. Fishing is central to their cultural, political and economic survival and their self-determination.

Canadians join peace network

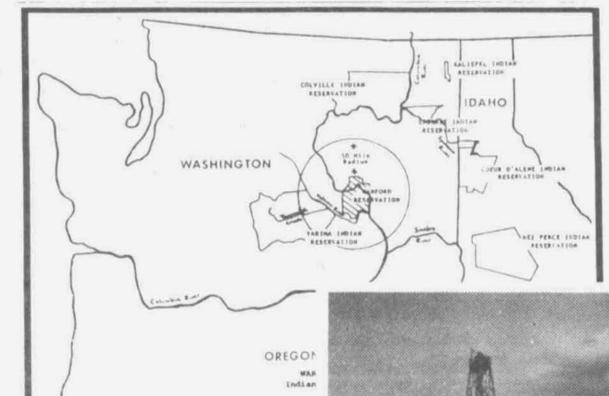
Kath Buffington, staff of AFSC's Nuclear Weapons Facilities Conversion Project in Syracuse, traveled to Montreal in October to speak during the International Days of Protest against deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles. At the same time, Helen Dury, an activist from Ottawa, spoke in Upstate New York.

Such international cooperation for peace is a goal of the Nuclear Weapons Facilities Conversion Network in which peace workers from Upstate New York, southern Ontario and Montreal share ideas, information and experiences about peace conversion work. "These efforts are both complicated and enhanced by the fact that it is an international network," Kath Buffington writes.

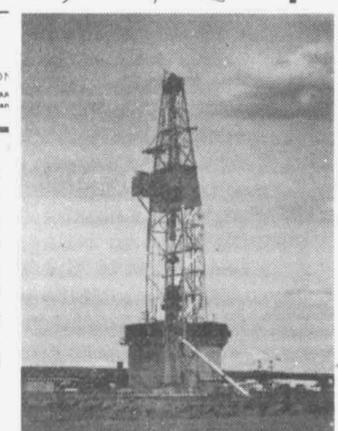
Complications include the need to overcome differences of history and culture, language differences, and the problems of distance, such as telephone, postage and long driving times between participating groups. Activists have been harassed as they cross international borders and some have been turned back.

However the benefits of international collaboration, Kath Buffington says, include the broader perspectives that develop when people of varied backgrounds work together. "The international connections of militarism become more obvious—and also of peace work."

Kath Buffington acts as a consultant to developing groups in the network, including providing training and workshops. "Peace conversion," she says, "means changing military production to production for peace and socially useful things. The work involves long-term effort, a shift in values, and lots of cooperation."



Drilling an exploratory shaft 3,800 feet below the Hanford Reservation, preparatory to a nuclear waste storage dump, was temporarily halted after protests from the Yakima Indians, churches, environmental groups and citizens near Hanford.



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Peace movement

support into an effective political force in 1984."

Earl Martin, of the Mennonite Central Committee, said at a Lancaster, Pennsylvania, rally that the world must live by a new ethic: "Love your enemies. Do good to those that hate you."

The AFSC work in October was part of activities by more than 40 other national organizations. The U.S. and Canadian protests were organized by local and regional disarmament, religious, peace, nuclear freeze and social justice groups to coincide with major European protests in the same period.

Here is a sampling of some of the other actions across the country:

■ About 7,000 protesters braved icy winds near the Seneca Army Depot outside little Romulus, New York, bearing signs that read "Baptists for Peace," "Presbyterians for Peace," and "Bread Not Bombs." Two days later some 380 activists, including Dr. Benjamin Spock, were detained by military police after scaling and slipping under fences surrounding the depot.

■ More than 20,000 demonstrators joined hands outside the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant near Denver, almost encircling the facility's 20-mile perimeter. The protesters set up a banner urging Soviet leaders to adopt a nuclear arms freeze. The banner was said to be visible to a Soviet communications satellite.

■ Outside Los Angeles, an estimated 2,000 protesters paraded past factories run by some of the nation's biggest arms makers—TRW, Inc., Rockwell International, Hughes Aircraft and McDonnell Douglas.

■ About three dozen of 200 demonstrators at Pease Air Force Base, Newington, New Hampshire, sat down at the main gates and were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. The arrests were reported to be uneventful, in fact, almost congenial.

■ In New York City, about 1,000 people held candles from the U.S. to the Soviet Missions to the United Nations.

■ At Austin, Texas, about 5,500 persons filled the ten blocks from the State Capitol to the Colorado

River during a Texas March for Peace and Justice. (See photo below.)

■ Other protests were held in Nebraska, Hawaii, Ohio, Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, Illinois, Louisiana, Oregon, Washington, D.C. and in many other states.



October March for Peace and Justice, Austin, Texas. Photo by Jim Jones.

Nuclear free Palau a goal

For the past year AFSC's Disarmament Program has been working on problems in Micronesia, especially on the struggle of the Republic of Palau to stay nuclear-free and unmilitarized.

Palau is a ragged chain of volcanic islands surrounded by coral reefs in the western Pacific. It is also a U.S. trust territory, so small it barely shows up on maps, yet it figures large in the Pentagon's efforts to establish an island-based line of defense running from the Indian Ocean to Japan. Military plans call for a jungle-warfare training center on Palau, expansion of two airfields, and a 2,000-acre storage base for weapons.



AFSC staff and committee members join rally at Pearl Harbor on October 22. Photo by Giff Johnson.



Portland Palauans, AFSC staff and volunteers participated in the October 22 Oregon Euromissile march.

Palauans object. "When soldiers come, the war follows." Japanese fortifications in the 1930s proved a magnet for combat force during the last year of World War II, reducing the Palauan population to a fraction of the pre-war level.

Those experiences dictated overwhelming approval in 1979-80 by Palauans of a constitution requiring that their nation remain nuclear free unless 75 per cent of the voters agreed to waive the ban. In negotiating termination of the trusteeship and a new status with the United States, the Palauans find their nuclear-free constitution is jeopardized by U.S. military interests.

Portland, Oregon, has a relatively large number of Palauans, most of whom came to the U.S. to study and remained to work. AFSC staff in Portland have been supporting the Palauan community's efforts to publicize the issues during this time of decision. AFSC staff Paulette Wittwer joined the Palauans in the Oregon Euromissile march and rally on October 22. They gave out a timely new AFSC flyer on sea-launched cruise missiles scheduled for Pacific deployment. (For a copy of the flyer write the Disarmament Program, AFSC National Office.)

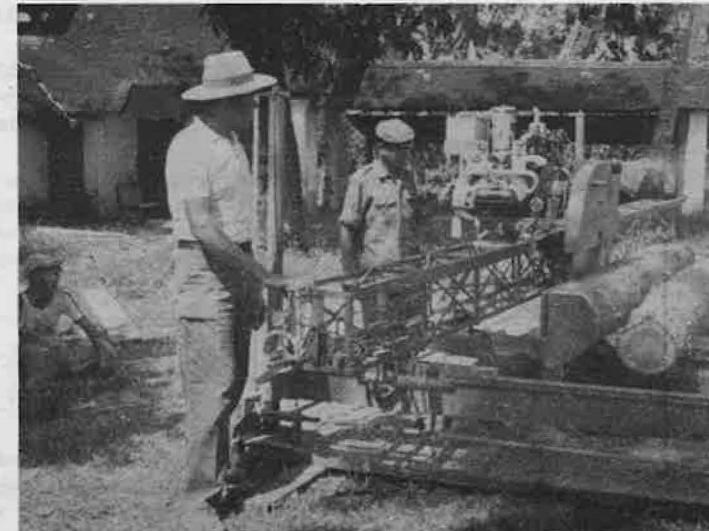
In September, Paulette Wittwer attended a national conference of the U.S. Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Network in New York City. She and a Native American, Faith Mayhew, now represent Oregon on the National Coordinating Committee. Some of the Network's priorities will be taken up by the AFSC, including a spring campaign against militarization of the Pacific. The Seattle AFSC office is also part of the Network.

Several other regional and area offices of AFSC, including Seattle and Hawaii, have been working on broader Pacific issues such as French atomic testing in Tahiti, U.S. bases and nuclear weapons in the Philippines, the militarization of Japan, uranium mining on aboriginal lands in Australia, and the independence movement in New Caledonia.

Craig Shimabukuro and AFSC staff in Hawaii, Nelson Foster, attended the Fourth Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Conference in July, in Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides). For a copy of Nelson Foster's article on the Conference send 25¢ and a self-addressed stamped envelope to AFSC, 2426 Oahu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.



On a tour of institutions in Kampuchea that relate to the needs of women. Left to right: Ruth Cadwallader, Asia Bennett, Lady Burton, Ros S (Women's Association of Kampuchea) and a volunteer German doctor w



AFSC develops rural program in northeast Somalia

In the fall of 1982—at the invitation of the Somali Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development—AFSC staff Ned Seligman, accompanied by a Somali counterpart from the Ministry, set out to explore the vast and isolated area of Northeast Somalia. Their purpose: to talk with local officials and villagers about their most pressing needs, first in the Bari then in the Sanaag region.

"There's little water and the few villages are widely separated," Ned later wrote. "Only in two districts is there grazing land. The big problems are water, erosion and the need to improve pasture and the varieties of grass. . . . The most pressing need is to develop existing water and roads."

Back in Mogadishu, home base, Ned Seligman produced a document for the government Ministry outlining the possible projects the government might support. He also developed a proposal for

longer-term AFSC work in the 12 areas where he had found natural springs.

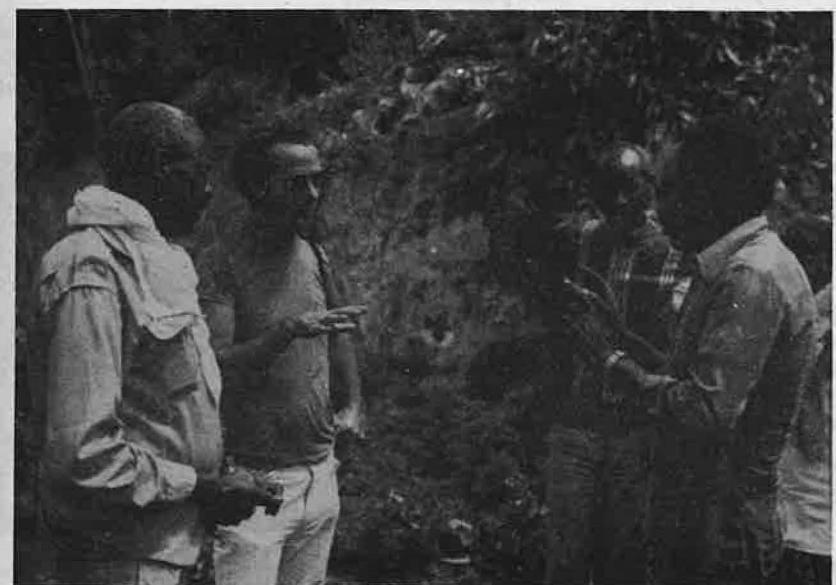
While on home leave in the United States in November, Ned used a map to show staff how the plain of Somalia rises gradually until it reaches an escarpment, six to seven thousand feet above sea level. "Here, at the site of these natural springs, is the ideal climate for many kinds of crops. People who have left the nomadic life have settled here at many of these springs and are trying to live by farming."

"They are growing apples, oranges, onions, guava, potatoes, coffee, tea, but in a haphazard manner. The need is to make the most efficient use of the water, not only for agricultural purposes, but also for human and animal consumption. If the people could be provided with technical assistance, minimize the waste of water, and have improved

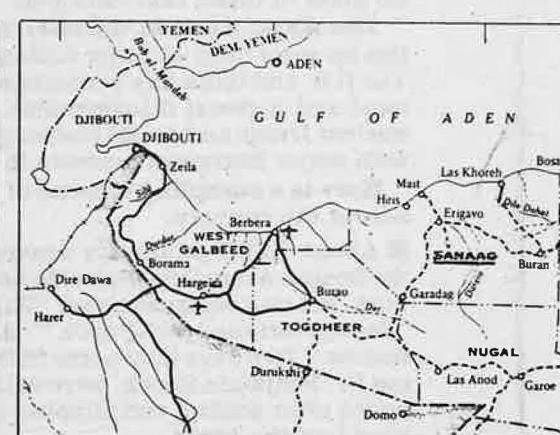
seeds and tools, we feel they could increase production to the point where they could not only have enough to eat, but also might be able to market some of their less-perishable produce for income."

During his trip into the Sanaag region, Ned Seligman met with the director of the Agricultural School in Dayaha. In February of 1983 he taught a course in surveying and topography to 24 of the most advanced students at the school. Then he took two to four students at a time out to the various spring sites to do surveys. These provided the basic information needed to begin work on the springs, and at the same time gave the students some practical experience in the field.

This January Ned Seligman has begun the implementation of the AFSC project at the springs. Because of the vast distances between sites, a new Somali staff member, Noor Hyder, based in Erigavo,



Left: at the site of one of the springs in northeast Somalia, Ned Seligman (second from left) discusses agricultural project with local officials, villagers and government officer. Below: sheepherding in northeast Somalia, and a map of the Bari and Sanaag regions. Right: potatoes have been planted at one of the springs.



From page one

Women's delegation

the single lane that ran between piles of harvested rice awaiting sunshine for drying. On both sides of the road, workers had planted rice and vegetables on every square foot of land, including the drying river bottoms. They tended these crops so carefully that in two provinces we saw not one weed. Each community we passed had its own kiln for firing hand-made bricks used to rebuild schools and houses, many destroyed by American bombing and annual typhoons. Mrs. Bon of the Thanh Hoa Women's Union spoke of the bombing attacks on bridges, schools, hospitals and homes. Yet as she spoke of rebuilding her voice was quiet, dignified and confident.

When we asked what Quakers could do, Mrs. Bon encouraged AFSC to continue its commitment to send antibiotics, multi-vitamins and spinning machine parts. In addition she hoped AFSC would provide refrigeration equipment needed for silk worm breeding. The Women's Union could then distribute hatched worms to family farms for cultivation, allowing the province to increase production of its own cloth. Since cotton doesn't grow there, locally-produced and woven silk costs one-third as much as imported fabrics.

Mrs. Bon and our other Thanh

Hoa hosts toasted us again and again with sweet orange wine, and showered us with gifts: fresh oranges, bananas, coffee and rice paper wafers for nourishment, conical hats for shelter, jute rugs, reed sleeping mats and small oil lamps for our nights. This generosity amidst their austerity and toil touched each of us. Our guide from Hanoi had been right. We need not have brought anything with us to Thanh Hoa.

In the People's Republic of Kampuchea, a fragile new life sounds against continuing echoes of war. Between 1969 and 1981 Kampuchean lived under four regimes: Sihanouk's monarchy, American supported Lon Nol capitalism, Chinese assisted Pol Pot socialism and, beginning in 1979, the current Soviet- and Vietnamese-aided Heng Samrin socialism. Even the great destruction from American bombing in the early '70's does not compare in Kampuchean memories with the extensive torture and executions of the Pol Pot years (1975-1979).

The stories told by Ros Serei, head of International Relations for the Revolutionary Women's Association of Kampuchea, were typical of the many we heard. Her husband was tortured and killed. She and two

young sons were forced to walk 400 kilometers from Phnom Penh to a labor camp in Battambang Province. There, Ros Serei's seven-year-old son was beaten to death before her eyes; her five-year-old died of starvation. Only she survived.

After the Pol Pot era, international statistics listed Cambodia as the poorest country in the world. The destruction both of buildings and of social systems made emergency aid, reconstruction and development all the more difficult. Since most U.N. aid goes to Pol Pot and other guerilla forces on the Thai border, people in the interior get little help with their reconstruction efforts. Our hosts in the Women's Association and the officials they introduced us to in Phnom Penh, as well as in two outlying provinces, showed us with justifiable pride their achievements during the last five years. Their determination amidst grief impressed us.

AFSC's prosthetic center, educational assistance and veterinary program are small efforts compared with the continuing needs. But Quakers' commitment to struggle for shipping licenses during the U.S. embargo touches the Kampuchean, among them Ros Serei who sees the world's memory of her country's tragic inheritance fading.

Far left: in Laos, the AFSC delegation saw the AFSC donated sawmill being assembled for use in reconstruction in northern Laos. Left: AFSC shipment of medical supplies—including multivitamins—arriving at the Thanh Hoa Provincial Hospital in Vietnam just prior to the visit of the AFSC delegation. Last year's floods in Vietnam put a heavy strain on the hospital's inventory of medicines.

Apartheid likened to Nazism

will share the oversight of the work. Ned Seligman will be based at Bender Beila on the coast to supervise the work at six of the springs.

Testifying to the fact that AFSC's staff person has traveled widely and made numerous contacts, one official commented, "Ned is known by all the people here, even by all the goats!"

AFSC's work in Somalia was undertaken as part of a coordinated regional effort to help with the resettlement of peoples dislocated by the drought and by warfare in the Horn of Africa. (For an update on AFSC's work in Ethiopia see page seven.)

Before assuming the AFSC assignment in Somalia, Ned Seligman spent nine years in Upper Volta working on water development projects for the U.S. Peace Corps and Catholic Relief Services.

Western nations hold the key to peaceful change in South Africa if they will use economic sanctions to express their abhorrence of the system of apartheid, according to Sipo Mzimela, a South African exile and Episcopal priest from Atlantic City who recently completed a speaking tour for the American Friends Service Committee.

"**In the 1950s and 1960s** we used the non-violent weapons which Gandhi developed in South Africa—the bus boycott, sit-ins, strikes. But the South African government met these efforts with brutal force from which we had no recourse because the courts, the police, the constitution backed them up. Now the only weapon for peaceful change lies with the international community," Sipo Mzimela told an AFSC meeting.

During his tour, which took him to 13 states and 20 cities in 33 days, Sipo Mzimela met with college students, high school students, church groups, community groups, and one elementary school group. Few people had an in-depth knowledge of the historical roots of apartheid and many suggested solutions which would work only in this country where the constitution is opposed to racism, not in S. Africa, where the constitution supports it. "I was not surprised by this lack of understanding," he said. "I still believe that if the American people knew exactly what is going on in South Africa they would demand their government work for change."

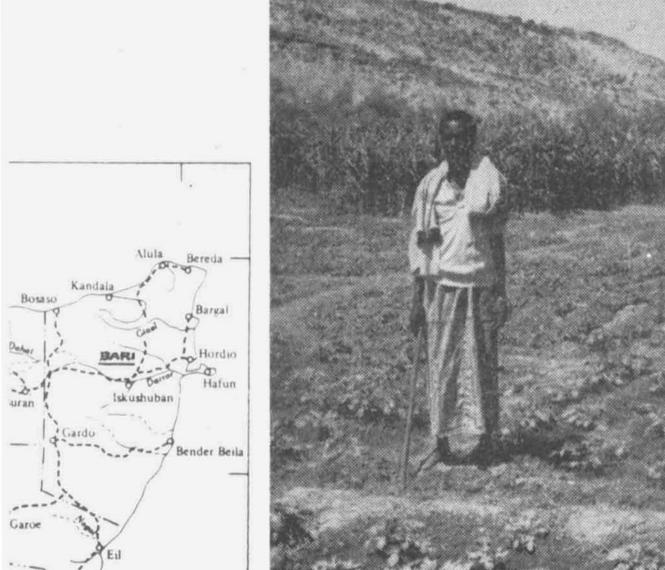
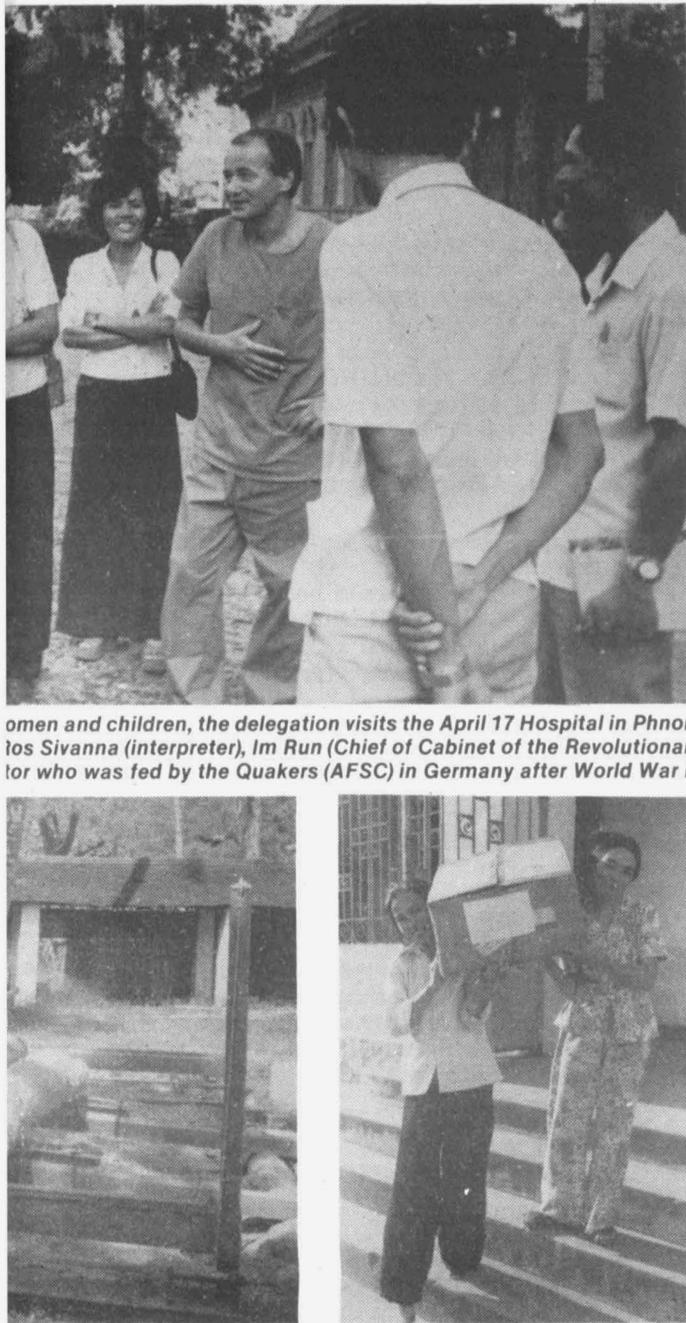
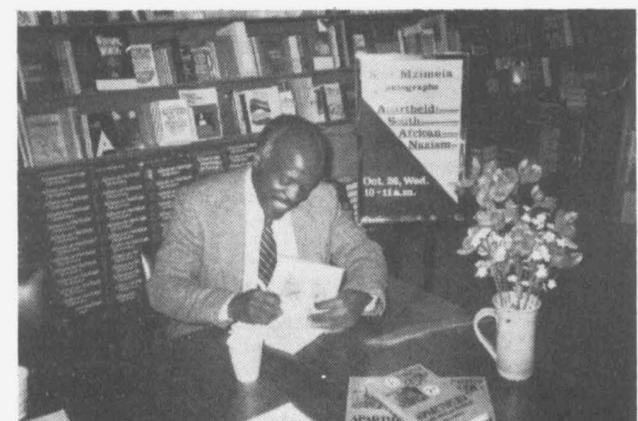
Having participated in the nonviolent movement in South Africa as a high school student, Sipo Mzimela left the country in 1961 to try to persuade the Western nations through the United Nations to exert pressure on South Africa. He lived for a time in Czechoslovakia and West Germany, then settled in this country where he entered seminary and became an Episcopal priest.

His recently published book: *Apartheid: South African Nazism*, draws parallels between the pres-

ent situation in South Africa and Nazi Germany before the Holocaust. The existence of racist laws and of the so-called homelands, virtual concentration camps, makes the parallel ominous. Citing the example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who died in prison, he argues that the church has a responsibility to confront such evil.

At present apartheid is applying increasing pressure on the African people. Sooner or later unless something intervenes there will be an explosion, he fears. "Apartheid is like a balloon. If you fill it to capacity and press down it will burst. The human spirit can accept only so much oppression."

Continuing to write, lecture and organize against apartheid here in the United States, Sipo Mzimela found the AFSC tour helpful and important to him. "I was moved by the goodwill I saw and felt in the communities. From the little kids in Charleston to the older people in Memphis, I didn't find a single person who approved of apartheid. Everyone wanted to know what they could do. I was strengthened in my belief that apartheid is going to fall."



Medical items sent to aid Guinea Bissau

"The roar of distant thunder claps against my ears. . . . If only I could sleep tonight, but my overhead fan has stopped singing, there is no electricity. Perhaps I'll sit with my neighbors to catch the night breeze and watch the children dance to traditional rhythms. No, I forgot, there won't be any dancing tonight. They are mourning the death of the young daughter who died yesterday from tetanus. The hospital had no antibiotics. . . .

"The hospitals and special medical facilities in Guinea Bissau are in desperate need of supplies," AFSC staff Paulette Nichols wrote. "Most children are born at home so it is only the emergency cases that are sent to the special facilities—often simply two beds under a grass or zinc roof—or to the ten hospital maternity wards."

To answer Paulette Nichols' requests and to respond to the needs, AFSC has sent assorted medical supplies for Bissau hospitals including surgical instruments, uniforms, bandages, tape, sponges, syringes, plastic sheets and so on. The medical supplies were part of an 11,000 pound shipment.

Half the shipment was made up of light children's clothing for Bissau's Friendship Institute's 12 boarding schools. These schools were originally set up for children orphaned in the struggle for independence.

The first organization AFSC worked with in Guinea Bissau was the Friendship Institute, helping to set up a soap-making unit at Pelundo, one of the Institute's 12 schools. The Pelundo unit continues to make soap for the other schools and has



A young girl smiles for AFSC staff in Guinea-Bissau, Paulette Nichols.

served as a training center for a nearby women's group. AFSC also provided the Institute with incubators for poultry projects as part of the Institute's efforts to make the schools self-sufficient in food and to teach students practical skills.

Another concern of Paulette Nichols, met by this latest shipment, has been the children at the pre-school in Pluba. She writes, "In the poorest section of Bissau the school has become a model of what the Ministry of Education can do with a few resources—a remodeled abandoned building, a mo-

From page one

Prisoners to vote

Finally, in 1982, two prisoners filed suit against the state when all their efforts to register to vote in Boston and Worcester were refused. They argued that "the in-person voting registration law unconstitutionally prevents most prisoners from voting, just as literacy tests in the South once prevented most Blacks from voting." They based their case on a previous court decision on prisoners' voting rights which ruled that "legislation may not narrow constitutional rights."

Last August, in the case of *Cepulonis v. the Commonwealth*, the state's High Court decided that the prisoners' arguments were factual and true and it required the state Legislature to write new laws allowing absentee registration for prisoners. During the trial, AFSC staff worked to keep the media and lawyers informed.

Dave Collins is cautiously optimistic. "I haven't put it in the bank yet—till I see the Legislature act on it. Then there will be another round (as courts deal with technicalities and disparities). . . . We look forward to seeing a Young Republican Club and Americans for Democratic Action in the prisons. We'll see what comes out of it."

tivated teacher for director . . . and grateful parents pitching in to keep the school going.

"Today I was invited to visit the pre-school as they were celebrating the international day of the child. To make music the children were beating on boxes and old cans. Do you think you could send me a few tambourines and triangles for the kids?" So in the recent shipment to Bissau AFSC included the musical instruments Paulette requested as well as blocks, tennis balls and soccer balls.

NEW FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS

WORKFARE THE MYTH AND THE FACTS

A new eight-page booklet, in question and answer format, provides information about the myths and the realities of workfare. It was prepared by the AFSC because many people are being misled by false notions of what workfare is all about, and because many other people are being hurt by it.

Price 50¢ includes postage. Write Community Relations Division, AFSC National Office.

■ THE DEADLY CONNECTION: Nuclear War and U.S. Intervention

This book explores the relationships between U.S. nuclear war policy and U.S. foreign intervention.

Price \$2.50 plus 75¢ postage (10 or more copies \$2.00 each plus postage) from AFSC National Office or AFSC, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

■ TO SEE WHAT LOVE CAN DO

A slideshow that tells the story of AFSC's Material Aids Program, where donated clothing and supplies are sent, and how they are used by AFSC refugee programs.

Purchase \$40, rental \$15 from the Material Aids Program, AFSC National Office.



■ OUTLOOK ON JUSTICE

Outlook on Justice is a monthly newsletter from AFSC's Criminal Justice Program in New England. Recent issues included in-depth coverage of prison policies in Nicaragua and efforts in Massachusetts to win voting rights for prisoners.

Subscriptions are \$5/year from: AFSC, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

■ CENTRAL AMERICA Study/Reflection/Action Guide

A guide to the current crisis in Central America for churches and other communities of faith.

Central America is emerging as one of the most important areas of social and political crisis in the world today. Many lay and pastoral leaders—both Protestant and Roman Catholic—have been targets of repression, kidnapping and assassination. Here in the United States, churches and other religious bodies have been at the forefront in examining and protesting U.S. policy toward the region and in reaching out to help the thousands of Central American refugees who have come in search of safe haven.

The Central America guide is intended to help congregations respond to the Central American crisis, and even though prepared specifically for groups in the Pacific Northwest it can easily be used in other regions as well.

The Study Guide section focuses on a prayerful, compassionate understanding of our neighbors in Central America. This is followed by a Devotional Resource with readings and worship suggestions. The Action Guide provides ideas on activities the congregation might undertake. The resource section lists books, periodicals and audiovisuals on Central America.

For a copy write: AFSC, 2249 E. Burnside, Portland, OR 97214. Cost: \$5 each/1-5 copies; \$4 each for six or more.

■ SEIZING THE INITIATIVE: First Steps to Disarmament

This pamphlet presents historical examples of unilateral initiatives and outlines specific, independent steps either superpower might take to break through the current impasse of negotiations. By Paul Walker.

Co-published with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. \$2 each, 10-99 @ \$1.50.

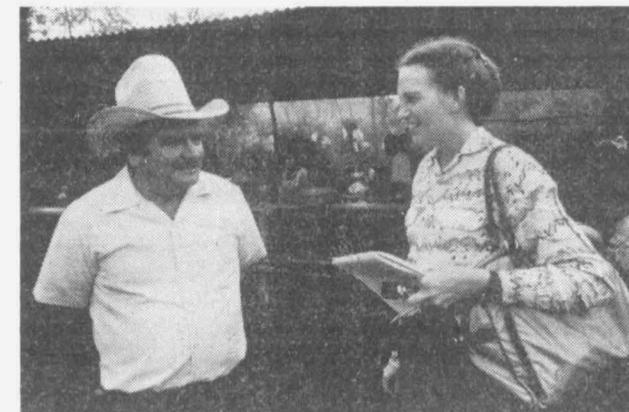
Write NARMIC, AFSC National Office.

■ "FREEZE THE ARMS RACE" Poster

Color cartoon of a general with nuclear bomb on tightrope over crowd of people. \$1.00 (add 50¢ for mailing tube), 100/\$50.

Button

Color cartoon with brief text. 50¢ each, 10-100 @ 25¢. Write NARMIC, AFSC National Office.



■ GUATEMALA 1983—A Report for the American Friends Service Committee By Nancy Peckenham

A report offering historical background and insight into the current social, political and economic situation in Guatemala, prepared by Nancy Peckenham. As a freelance journalist and consultant for the American Friends Service Committee, Nancy Peckenham spent several months in the summer and fall of 1983 traveling in Guatemala, interviewing peasants, soldiers, army and government officials, business people and others.

For a copy of her report send \$3.00, which covers postage and handling, to the International Division, AFSC National Office.

UPDATE

Jobs for dropouts

On the Lower East Side of New York more than 50 per cent of the young people are unemployed, over half are school dropouts. They have little education, few marketable skills and little work experience. In response, the AFSC's New York Metropolitan Office developed the Neighborhood Youth Employment Project (NYEP) to help young people prepare themselves for the job market or for further training.

The key in achieving this is the High School Equivalency Diploma (GED). Classes to prepare for the GED are given in the New York office two mornings a week. Thirty-five students are enrolled in the 1983-84 class.

Although the program was designed to meet the needs of youth on the Lower East Side, the project now draws students from all five boroughs of New York City. Many are young mothers; some are ex-offenders. Most have significant family responsibilities. A few have full-time jobs but need further training and/or education to advance. Most, however, are employed sporadically in part-time deadend jobs. The staff help them to develop a career plan, to deal with personal problems of family, finances or health.

Workshops help prepare participants to compete in the job market: how to complete an employment application, how and where to look for a job, how to relate to an employer, good work habits, and how to present one's best self in an interview situation. Speakers from various businesses in the city come to talk about entry level positions and the skills and aptitudes needed by their companies.

Aid to village in Ethiopia

Thirty thousand pounds of clothing shipped to Ethiopia in September by AFSC have arrived at their destination and AFSC staff are arranging for their distribution. Eric Metzner writes: "The winter season is now beginning in the mid-north drought and strife areas, and the clothing is really needed."

In the Mugayo area, where AFSC staff work with displaced nomadic people who are building a new village, Eric Metzner reports that construction is underway for the first school building, a third staff house, three staff kitchens and housing for seventeen families.

The residents have completed clearing the land for farming and are plowing the fields in anticipation of seasonal rain. Over 30 tons of food and materials are being transported to Mugayo.

In keeping with AFSC tradition, village meetings are held each week to discuss current issues and problems and to do whatever planning is needed. These meetings may also include educational sessions that touch on such subjects as sanitation, beekeeping, and formation of cooperatives.



Top: residents at Mugayo hold cow being treated for ticks. The procedure will be repeated again in two weeks. Above: cedar logs, which are relatively termite-resistant, become the wall supports and roof beams for the new elementary school at Mugayo.

Support for families of prisoners



Photo provided by Project Talents of Wilmington College, Deborah Ford and Michele Carr-Henderson.

Raising awareness about the plight of family members of prisoners was the purpose of a recent dramatization entitled, "Waiting on the Outside," co-sponsored by the AFSC Family Support Group (FSG) in Dayton, Ohio, and Wilmington College.

The play, a project of an Indiana theater group, was presented inside the Lebanon Correctional Institute for an audience of prisoners and staff, then again for a standing-room-only crowd at Sinclair College in Dayton. Each performance was followed by a discussion about the experiences of families with incarcerated members. AFSC staff Patty Johnson reports receiving a number of letters from prisoners who saw the play, acknowledging that their families have shared the experiences depicted, or saying, "I didn't know what my wife was going through."

The Family Support Group, a project of AFSC and supported by Wilmington College, is an organization of family and friends of inmates. With the philosophy, "Just surviving is not enough," the FSG works to provide support, to inform people of their rights, to raise public awareness, and to act as a referral service.

"**The biggest problem** that inmates have is that family and friends can't visit because the prisons are so out of the way," Patty Johnson says. A new bus network, co-sponsored by FSG, began meeting this need in November with twice-monthly inexpensive rides to three prisons in Ohio.

Project in Lebanon

School children in the Ain El Helweh refugee camp in southern Lebanon have proper desks to work at this winter, thanks to a project directed by Chris George, AFSC staff in Lebanon seconded to the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC).

Following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, fuel for cooking and heating was in such short supply that people stripped the wood from school desks in the Ain El Helweh area, leaving only metal frames. With the aid of a carpenter from Ain El Helweh, students from the Siblin Vocational Training Center, and other volunteers, Chris George undertook to refit 400 of these frames with seats, backs and tables, providing them to the newly-erected 12-classroom, prefabricated school by November 15.

Repair of the desks is only one of a number of projects completed under a work-study project developed by Chris George in Ain El Helweh, designed to give students practical experience while meeting the reconstruction needs of the people.

In late fall 1983, with severe fighting in the Chouf mountains south of Beirut and in Tripoli in the north, AFSC offered the MECC up to \$16,000 to help meet emergency relief needs in these areas.



Prison overcrowding

AFSC criminal justice staff Marc Mauer was called upon to testify to the Council of the District of Columbia's Committee of the Judiciary in October as they deliberated a prison overcrowding emergency powers act. Marc Mauer, who serves as a consultant to the Michigan Prison Overcrowding Project, spoke about that state's experience with this innovative plan which provides a process for early releases when prison populations hit a crisis level of crowding. Such a system, he testified, saves money and is more constructive socially than building new prisons.

"**I was the only person** from outside the District who testified," Marc Mauer reports. "It was important to have a person speaking from first-hand experience; it lends credibility." AFSC criminal justice staff in Michigan, who have worked closely with this program—the first of its kind in the country—have received many inquiries from those interested in pursuing similar approaches in other states.

Housing discrimination

When a state study showed that Blacks and Latinos had a 98 per cent chance of being discriminated against when they sought housing in Bakersfield, Kern County, California, newspaper editors deplored and realtors sought to explain the situation. One group, however, decided to take action.

The United Communities Coalition, staffed by David Burciaga of AFSC, recently had won a county-wide victory on providing medical care for poor people. The housing discrimination issue seemed a good next cause. The Coalition brought to the Board of Supervisors of Kern County a plan including education for both tenants and landlords, testing for suspected violators, mediation of complaints and advocacy for tenants.

When the supervisors failed to act, the Coalition attended a supervisors meeting at the end of September, with so many members that the room was packed. The supervisors who had been sitting on the plan quickly forwarded it to the city and county development officers for prompt study and action.

"**They know us now.** We are a power to be reckoned with," said Richard Prado, a vice president. "It was David that first got us together."

Clothing given for Poland

In December the AFSC Material Aids Program provided representatives of the Polish Institute of America with 30,000 pounds of clothing for a shipment to Poland.

At the time of the request, the only baled clothing in the AFSC warehouse was earmarked for Nicaragua and the Gaza Strip, but there was a "mountain" of unbaled clothing which AFSC could spare. Within 36 hours, volunteers of the Polish Institute had picked up, repacked and loaded the 30,000 pounds of adults and children's clothing. When it arrives in Poland local church committees will distribute the clothing to needy people, some may make its way to Solidarity union members who are still in detention; other items will go to orphanages, home for the elderly and to disabled persons.

Zimbabweans busy developing community projects

Zimbabwe in 1983 faced drought and internal conflict; yet AFSC field staff, working in rural areas, report the spirit in this three-year-old country is in ways like the spirit of a three-year-old child—full of curiosity, growth and possibility.

In Mhondoro District, the residents are involved in the excitement of building a community totally different from that which existed before the war for independence. In the past two years, people from 25 villages in the district have built a bridge-dam, built to retain water for irrigation and to join two communities, a clothing factory, a clinic, a primary school which is also a base for adult literacy and training, and organized a collective farming project.

James and Patricia Seawell, co-directors of AFSC's Technical and Material Assistance Program for Southern Africa (TAMAPSA), have played a significant role in the development of the community while at the same time maintaining a low profile. They have provided start-up grants for training and supplies, consultation on planning and administration, helpful resources and contacts. This strategy allows the local people to plan and act on collective decisions while benefiting from advice, and to build their own support structure.

Earlier this year, a group of women who had completed a sewing course at Mhondoro decided to use their new proficiency to produce clothing, normally imported and sold at a high price. They presented their proposal for a clothing factory to the Seawells and the Matsvaire Village Committee. Both agreed it was a good project idea. Evaristo Matsvaire, a community organizer and District Councilor, who receives a stipend from AFSC, was instrumental in obtaining an abandoned building at a crossroad between two townships. The building was renovated by teams of women from the dress-making classes and other volunteers. The father of the sewing instructor offered his services as a contractor free of charge. Students helped with construction during their holidays. The 60 seamstresses made uniforms for local schools their first priority. The Seawells are working with the women and community leaders to refine accounting, purchasing and inventory methods, and to introduce them to fabric manufacturers.

On the factory's large porch, men and women are being trained as welders. Their skills will give them an income and at the same time provide the community with pots, wheelbarrows, cots, door and window frames. Scrap metal collected from near-

by villages is stretching the funds the cooperative has available for training.

The factory may be the first organized by rural, grassroots people to serve their own community. It has gained the approval of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, who hopes local production may eventually expand nationwide.

Visits by government officials to Mhondoro and the publication of a booklet on the projects have carried the news of this development style to other areas. Community leaders have come from the rural villages of Inyanga, Masvingo and Chinhoyi to study the projects at Mhondoro, to get training and to exchange information. A number of them are now working with the Seawells on project proposals for their own area. In addition, a group of women visitors from Inyanga, where AFSC has a rural medical and community development project, has now begun their own sewing cooperative after seeing the project at Mhondoro.

What makes the Mhondoro model of development a success, and why is it spreading? AFSC staff feel it is because a careful process is used that starts small, endorses the desires of the community, and makes creative use of resources.



Left: the village women took the sewing course provided by AFSC and then started a clothing factory. Below: AFSC provided transport for tree seedlings to Nyanga District where there is a need for firewood, wood for construction and a way to decrease soil erosion. Right: the bridge-dam in Mhondoro District.



Why plant a tree if you will never sit in its shade?

One answer could be that you care about the future and the generations of people who will carry on life.

You can affect the future by writing a will. A will is your plan for the future. It enables you in a very personal way to direct how your resources will be distributed, to designate a guardian or trustee to protect the interests of your family and loved ones, and lastly, to minimize estate taxes and other related expenses.

Many people put off writing a will until "a better time." Others feel it is unimportant since the state has laws that dictate how an estate will be settled and divided. Because over 50 per cent of the population dies without a will, the state is, in effect, "writing wills" for over half the people in the United States.

We at the American Friends Service Committee urge everyone to draw up a will, knowing that we all have hopes and aspirations for the future. In making your will we hope you will consider including a bequest to AFSC, a gift that can help humankind through AFSC programs based on the Quaker principles of justice and peace. A charitable bequest becomes a living memorial to those who are served because you care.

You may also wish to consider the advantages of a testamentary trust in your will. With such a trust, estate taxes can be reduced while assuring income and even some principal to a surviving spouse. Your estate may also receive a charitable deduction. And your survivors can be freed from the administration and investment responsibilities that go with managing property.

If you would like information to help in formulating your plans, please write and we will be happy to share this with you.

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