

AFSC



AFSC helps to fight poverty, hunger in Brazil

Brazil has been described as a rich country with very poor people. With a \$100 billion foreign debt to pay, five and a half years of devastating drought in the northeast, and an oppressive, non-elected government that favors big business and the wealthy at the expense of the poor and middle classes, more and more Brazilians are experiencing poverty and hunger. Every day, a thousand children die of starvation.

Yet Brazil is also the land where poor people are organizing into Christian base communities seeking justice through nonviolent social change. For several years AFSC has nurtured a relationship with such communities, both to lend them support when possible, and to learn from them.

This fall AFSC Latin America Program staff Barbara Smith, along with her two small sons, spent three months living in Guariroba, a "favela," or shantytown, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She was there at the invitation of Carmen Kraemer and Father Alamiro Andrade (see p. 2) who work with church-based communities in Sao Paulo's favelas.

Favelas are squatter communities, usually consisting of hastily-built shacks. They house not only the large numbers of unemployed, but also increasing numbers of the middle class whose salaries—because of monetary devaluation and inflation—now barely cover food and transportation to work.

Through cooperative organizing, residents of Guariroba have succeeded in improving their conditions somewhat, including obtaining running water, electricity and a school.



Brazilian boy shown in his favela community. Inset: some favela dwellers are erecting permanent concrete block homes. These structures are against the law, but nonviolent community resistance has forced officials to leave them standing.

Barbara Smith's trip also included a three-week visit to Northeast Brazil where five and a half years of devastating drought are just now ending.

The tragedy, however, is not ended. "There is still an emergency situation," Barbara Smith says. "What you are dealing with is chronic malnutrition, chronic hunger." One state reported that half of all deaths are children under a year old. Of those children who do survive, many suffer from dwarfism or retardation as a result of insufficient food.

"The significant part about the Northeast of Brazil," explains Barbara Smith, "is that, with proper irrigation, wells and reservoirs, the rains could be sufficient. The

droughts are manageable. But the government does not have the will to manage them. There is an industry that profits from the slave wages of people who can't work their own land. Water is primarily available for large land owners engaging in agribusiness for export, not for small farmers trying to feed their families." While as many as 25 million Brazilians have been hungry in the Northeast, the country exported 600,000 tons of beef in 1984. Another drought cycle is predicted for 1989.

Acting for AFSC's Brazil Hunger and Development Fund, Barbara Smith has made two such grants, and anticipates making others. In the favela Beira Rio in Joao Pessoa state, an AFSC grant is helping community people who are building a child care center with volunteer labor. Once they have the child care center, they can pressure the government to pay teachers' salaries and provide a school lunch program for students. Parents will be freed up for other work which can put food on the table. AFSC funds will provide educational materials, training in child care skills and in childhood development, and also will support some sports and recreation activities for older youths and adults.

In the seaport community of Cabedelo AFSC is helping a small cooperative where women skilled in such crafts as sewing, knitting and crocheting will train one another and make items for sale in nearby vacation areas. All of these women have families and their husbands are unemployed.

Low-income women, AFSC organize for health care

For women who are poor, health care is a major community, family and personal issue. Addressing health care is an effective vehicle for organizing by low income women. AFSC is working in widely different places in support of efforts which provide health information and training, and yet do more. They develop women's capacity for leadership, they promote cohesion and mutual support in addressing health needs, and they enhance women's capacity to define and press for the resources they need.

West Virginia: "Too poor to be sick, too sick to be poor"

In West Virginia, some eighty women came together over the weekend of October 13-15 for the Rural and Black Women's Health Conference co-sponsored by AFSC's New Employment for Women program (NEW) based in Logan, West Virginia. The conference provided an opportunity for women from a nine-county Appalachian area to discuss health care issues affecting them, their families and their communities, and to understand their common situation.

Women who normally have little access to health information and resources attended workshops on health-related social problems including stress, racial discrimination, mental health, domestic violence, substance abuse, nutrition problems, teenage sexuality, rape, incest and child sexual abuse, and chronic ailments such as sickle cell anemia, hypertension and diabetes. Participants also had an opportunity for dialogue with health care providers and planners.

Participating in the conference helped women to recognize that the problems they face are not just personal problems or aberrations of the system, but that these problems reflect a longstanding pattern of poor quality and insensitive health care, lack of consumer education, and devaluation of rural and Black women.

Staff of NEW see this conference as an opportunity to begin addressing some of the problems identified at the meetings. NEW plans to assist in the formation of self-help



Margarita Sanchez (center), a church representative from Puerto Rico, visits with Brazil's Black Union and Consciousness Group to discuss common problems and working strategies. Her visit was sponsored by AFSC's Brazil Linking Program.

Hunger and foreign debt—a disturbing connection

By Warren Witte, Associate Executive Secretary, AFSC

Brazil exports 600,000 tons of beef a year while 1,000 of its children die daily from starvation, according to Alamiro Andrade, a Brazilian priest who spoke at AFSC's most recent annual meeting in Philadelphia. Meanwhile, reports come to us that Ethiopia continues to export its coffee crop to developed countries around the world—at the same time it is experiencing a severe famine.

Brazil, Ethiopia and many other third world nations are debtors in the international financial system. The International Monetary System, international banks and lending agencies, and private banks which offered huge and seemingly lucrative loans to third world countries in the 1970's now—in a time of world recession and depression—have imposed stringent conditions on these countries to ensure payment at least of the interest on their loans. These conditions must be met before further loans, refinancing or rescheduling of present loans will be considered. The conditions almost always require the debtor nations to increase exports of items which are in demand in the creditor nations and to impose austerity

measures on their own people in order to curtail imports and domestic government spending. The earnings and savings which result go toward the payment of the interest on the government's international debt.

The human consequences of these policies are harsh realities which confront AFSC staff in third world countries around the world. These consequences include massive hunger as in Brazil and Ethiopia. In other countries they include repression of people's struggles against severe hardships which are intensified by the imposed austerity measures. And in other countries (such as Mexico) they include massive displacement of people who leave their homes and ways of life to seek work and food.

These human tragedies, affecting millions of people around the world, have made the normally remote and intimidating subject of international finance an issue of major concern in the AFSC. It has become a matter of life and death for many of the communities in which we work.

The perceptions of the issue held by Alamiro Andrade and other

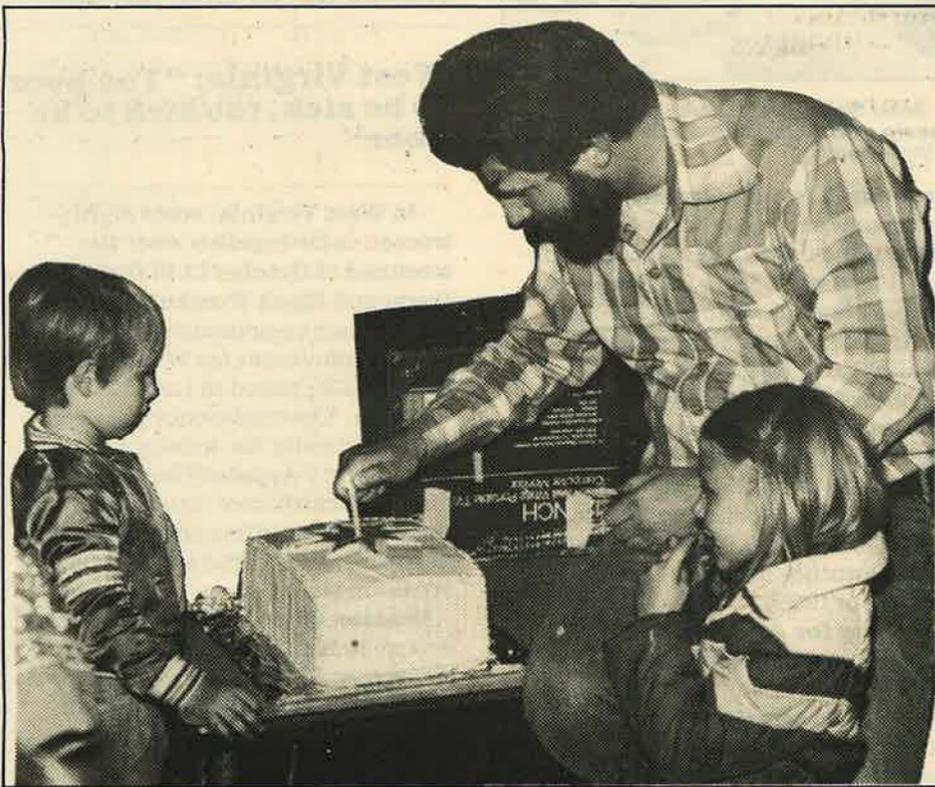
third world people could hardly be more different from those generally held in the United States. Here, the international debt remains a somewhat esoteric subject, a concern limited mostly to bankers, investors and economists. It is defined in the news as a threat to banking stability and international finance. The issue was barely raised in the recent political campaign.

But in Brazil, the international debt is a subject debated in precise detail by workers and the unemployed. Alamiro Andrade offered an urgent and stark perspective, different from the first world viewpoint: "A great many resources have been taken from the third world in the last fifty years . . . Workers have made microphones, cars and so on. The minimum wage for the Brazilian worker is \$38 a month; 70 per cent of the workers receive less than \$150 a month. We Brazilians demand a balance. We are the creditors. Once this is understood, then we can speak about the \$100 million (foreign debt)."

The conscience of the world is currently caught up in a compas-

sionate response to the starving people in Africa. While we focus on getting urgently needed food to them, it is essential that we look also at the causes of their hunger. Drought and military conflict are certainly two of those causes. Yet it is the impact of economic development models which were encouraged from the outside, which have benefited outside investors and trade partners, and which now must meet the demands of the lenders, that exacerbates the impact of periodic drought and leads to massive human tragedy. It results in the grotesque phenomenon of food exports from nations which are suffering starvation to nations which are affluent and well fed.

Our impulses for human compassion must be guided by careful assessment of need and of the causes of the tragedies we seek to alleviate. And they must be informed by perspectives of those whose survival is in the balance. For the cruel fact is that the requirements of bodies such as the International Monetary Fund can quickly negate all of the humanitarian work which can be accomplished by relief and development agencies.

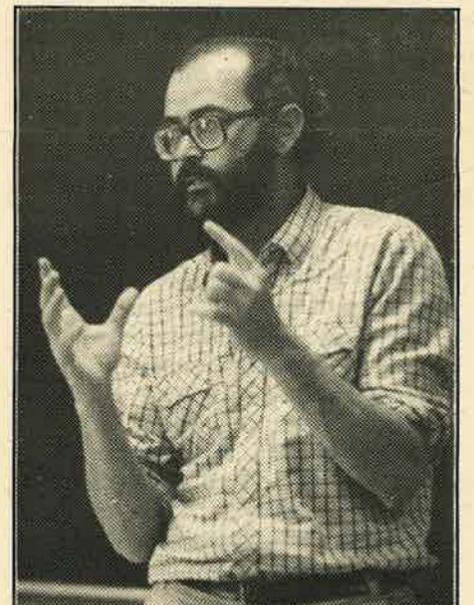


Paul Buckley slices AFSC merger cake.

Priest speaks —'For more than bread'

"The present system is killing through unemployment and hunger in the third world, through despair in the first world, and through violence everywhere," says Jose Alamiro Andrade Silva, a Roman Catholic priest working with Brazil's nonviolent movement for justice. Father Andrade gave the keynote address at AFSC's annual public meeting November 3. Speaking to the meeting's theme, "For More Than Bread," he demonstrated the close relationship between the Biblical scriptures about the five loaves of bread and two fish for the hungry (Mark 6:35-41) and the challenges of his work with the poor and oppressed. Some excerpts:

"The disciples, as well as ourselves, throw the problem back to God. We do not assume responsibility. This attitude is the starting point of theological and mystical escapism. There are religious bodies that justify this escapism by asserting that we cannot mix politics and religion. . . . This is not the question. The question is, is our political action consistent with God's will? We are always politically active. . . . Silence and omis-



Father Alamiro Andrade.

sion are one of the most cruel political forms."

"God trusts the men and women He created. He believes men and women have the capacity to solve the problems they themselves have created. In our present world, famine has been created not by God, but by people. Famine in our world is not an agricultural or technological challenge. It is a political challenge."

"We the people of God must withdraw from any oppressive system to arrive at a different system where organized people may live in communion and sharing . . . where people will be able to live 'for more than bread.'"

New AFSC region is created

A "merger cake" (chocolate, spice and vanilla layers) was presented by committee member Paul Buckley at the recent Great Lakes Region Celebration honoring a new AFSC region which combines the former Midwest Regional Office (based in Chicago) and the Dayton Regional Office (Dayton, Ohio). Offices will still be maintained in both cities.

Staff, committee members and families attended the weekend retreat. AFSC executive secretary Asia Bennett, speaking of her vision for the AFSC and for our society, concluded, "We are a community in the process of becoming whole and we are blessed with the strength and courage to pursue our vision."



QUAKER SERVICE BULLETIN

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National Office:
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
1501 Cherry Street

AFSC Regional Offices:

Southeastern Region
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
92 Piedmont Avenue, NE

Middle Atlantic Region
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
317 E. 25th Street

New England Region
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140
2161 Massachusetts Avenue

Great Lakes Region
Chicago, Illinois 60605
407 S. Dearborn Street

North Central Region
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
4211 Grand Avenue

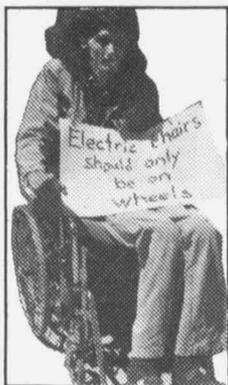
New York Metropolitan Region
New York, New York 10003
15 Rutherford Place

Pacific Southwest Region
Pasadena, California 91103
980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue

Northern California Region
San Francisco, California 94121
2160 Lake Street

Pacific Northwest Region
Seattle, Washington 98105
814 N.E. 40th Street

PROGRAM BRIEFS



Justice

"We are not going to let the public forget the millions of men and women who cannot find work," stated Elizabeth Enloe, executive secretary of AFSC's Atlanta, Georgia, office at a press conference there on September 7. She was speaking for the First Friday Group, a coalition of organizations which called national attention to unemployment problems on the first Fridays of September through January, when the government released unemployment figures. Much of the southeastern United States continues to see no lessening of unemployment.

In October, the AFSC Women in the Work Force program in High Point, North Carolina, became an independent organization. AFSC remains in contact with the staff as they expand and develop their program of support for low-income working women in the state.

On September 13, Dennis Banks, a leading figure in the American Indian Movement, surrendered to South Dakota authorities ending nine years as a fugitive. AFSC North Central Region committee member David Hastings and staff Mikel Johnson were present when Dennis Banks surrendered and when he was arraigned. The County Circuit Court judge was presented with an AFSC statement of support for Dennis Banks

In July, AFSC staff Madonna Thunderhawk met with the warden of the North Dakota State Prison to discuss problems that Indian inmates are having within the prison system. She then held two Native American awareness workshops for the guards and other administrative personnel.

In support of United Nations negotiations to develop a Convention against torture, the Quaker United Nations Office organized a briefing on November 13 for non-governmental organizations and church groups. The adoption of a torture Convention will create a legally binding agreement where only declarations and covenants have existed. For a free copy of the briefing paper, write: QUNO, 777 U.N. Plaza, N.Y., N.Y. 10017.



Developing Strength

Ethiopia: AFSC has sent an initial emergency food transport grant of \$10,000, after receiving an appeal from an ecumenical coalition urging European and North American governments and private agencies to respond swiftly "to the desperate shortage of relief food." AFSC funds are being used to rent trucks, buy gas, and keep the trucks in good repair to transport food to those who are starving in remote areas. . . . A second grant was made to the emergency relief desk of the Sudan Council of Churches for purchase and transport of food in Tigray and Eritrea—areas not accessible through Ethiopian government centers because of the war.

Laos: AFSC is helping promote the use of azolla, a plant that can be grown in the rice paddies to help replenish nutrients in the soil. This indigenous, nitrogen-fixing fern will enable two crops per year without the need to import expensive chemical fertilizers. Experimental crops are being grown and technicians have been trained. . . . Twelve booklets on such topics as sanitation and nutrition were produced by AFSC staff for Laotians living in Thai refugee camps. Ten thousand copies of the booklets were printed and distributed, and have also served as literacy materials. The Laotian government reviewed the publications and decided to use them in its own public health programs.

Vietnam: Ten hours a day, seven days a week, the women in the Tan Thanh Mat and Reed Cooperative sit on a concrete floor weaving twine into rugs and sleeping mats. They use a board pierced with nails to shred reeds into fibers to make the twine. AFSC is supplying gears, bicycle chaining, ball bearings and other materials to produce simple spinning machines which will ease the women's work and allow them to produce more twine to meet the demand for mats. Next, AFSC hopes to provide materials for looms so the women can sit on benches, thus reducing the physical strain and discomfort of their work. . . . AFSC is helping the Can Tho University's Agriculture Department develop and produce soybean products which can be used as nutritional supplements for small children.

United States: Through a program of AFSC's office in New York city, 60 young adults who had been high school dropouts have gained their high school equivalency diplomas. More than half have gone on for further training. Many are now working.



Peace

"Our concern is to link people with peace issues—to make a lively connection between the two—and to do it in a way that brings hope," says AFSC staff Jean Ishibashi. She is speaking of the new Martin Luther King Peacemobile, a double decker bus now on the road in northern California. During the pre-election period, the bus was used for voter registration. Now AFSC staff plan to use the bus and its resources for peace organizing in communities which, because of isolation, poverty, or people's age or disabilities, need the special outreach the Peacemobile can provide.

Nearly 700 people in Annapolis attended the four performances of the play, *Peace Child*, in a gospel version co-sponsored by AFSC's Baltimore office and Clergy and Laity concerned. The musical fantasy tells how children bring peace to the world. A VHS video tape of the performance can be rented for \$5 from AFSC, 317 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218.

At the height of this fall's tourist season visitors driving into Vermont to see fall colors also saw large banners calling for a nuclear arms freeze. AFSC staff David McCauley, who helped arrange for the banners in the 43 participating towns, said, "We must make the point again and again that the nuclear weapons freeze is unfinished business."

"Toward a Theology of Peace," was the title of a conference in Budapest attended by AFSC disarmament staff Bruce Birchard and by Central America program consultant Phillip Berryman. Participants from developing and industrialized nations, from the East and West, met to discuss peace, justice and Christian witness. One of the points of agreement that emerged was, "We should oppose the policy of military deterrence as much on the basis of its destructive effects on the human spirit as on the holocaust which would ensue should deterrence fail."

"Hopes and Fears," a conference organized by AFSC's New York Metropolitan Regional office, addressed American attitudes about the Soviet Union and nuclear war. It was designed to help leaders of local peace groups and individual peace educators address more effectively common concerns of the public about the USSR in order to broaden support for nuclear disarmament efforts.

'To reduce v Development a

"Development is a process through which people's vulnerability (economic, social, political, personal) is reduced."

AFSC carries out development work in a wide variety of communities, under both friendly and hostile governments in situations of disaster and of optimism for growth, and among both urban and rural populations. The goal of lessening the vulnerability of these communities puts the emphasis on **people** and on their increasing ability to deal with their own problems and needs. It obliges AFSC staff to work in such a way as to make themselves less necessary over time.

How does AFSC work abroad reflect this definition of development, and what are the difficulties and dilemmas that such work faces?

Africa: Mali, Goundam

The purpose: AFSC has worked in this region for ten years, first helping a diverse group of nomad families, displaced and made destitute by the drought of the early 1970's, to settle and form a new community. Tin Aicha, with a mixed herding-farming economy, now serves as an education, market and political center for the surrounding area.

AFSC has gone on to work with other nomad communities that have had to give up herding as a primary way of life. These groups have settled along seasonal branches of the Niger River and near depressions in the land that catch the rain that does fall. Here they practice agriculture but are hard put even to feed themselves in a good year. When the rains do not come, or the river does not rise sufficiently, they face disaster and further displacement.

AFSC's program involves employing community members to build and improve dams and inlets, level lands, and remove blown sand, so that the areas available for agriculture are enlarged and water retention is improved. Work that could be done in a very few days by the region's one bulldozer is done at the same cost in four months by crews of about 30 workers.

This way, AFSC funds go to provide salaries and work for many people instead of to the single owner of the bulldozer. The workers gain new skills and are reinforced in their belief that they can improve their circumstances through their own work in the community.

The challenge: this work is carried on in an area subject to repeated, severe drought which leaves people in need of immediate as well as long-term assistance. The questions are: how can long-term development help to alleviate the

impact of future natural disasters, and how can immediate relief during the current drought be provided in ways that enhance rather than impede continuing development? Relief assistance must somehow arrive to people where they are, help them to strengthen their capacity to survive, and avoid creating new dependencies—a large order in an extremely poor land.

Latin America: Santiago, Chile

The purpose: Since Chile's elected government was overthrown in 1973 by a military coup, agricultural reforms, social security, health services, education, and major industry have all been virtually eliminated or "privatized."

The gap between rich and poor has widened, and the poor have lost ground economically, in their health and nutrition, in their civil and political rights, and in jobs and education. In some communities there is more than 60 per cent unemployment, and social disintegration has resulted from the pressures.

AFSC programs in Chile have evolved over the years in response to changing circumstances, but one project has persisted in Santiago, the capital. A health education program for pregnant and nursing women reaches out into several poor communities.

Starting with classes given by a professional nurse/midwife, the program has by now trained many women residents as *monitores* or teachers. These women in turn conduct classes for their neighbors, classes that help them understand their own bodies, the needs of the unborn and newborn child, and the best use of their very limited resources for the nutrition of their families. From these classes, new *monitores* are trained, and so on. Besides providing useful health information, the program develops the women's capacity for leadership; and it strengthens the communities by promoting cohesion and mutual support in a society that is designed to atomize communities and make people worry only about themselves.

The challenge: such work in Chile requires courage and discretion. The military government does not want to see people empowered or with a sense of their rights and dignity. So, as the program helps women and their families reduce their vulnerability to health threats, it strives also to create understanding of the importance of community solidarity against



Monitores, Chile.



Tin Aicha, Mali.

'vulnerability' — around the world

repression. The dilemma is clear— as people are strengthened in one arena (health and community), are they made more vulnerable in another (the political)? The program tries to avoid exposing people beyond the exposure they themselves have chosen.

The Middle East: the Gaza Strip

The purpose: Palestinian refugees on the Gaza Strip, now occupied by Israel, have been a focus of AFSC concern since 1948. Yet a problem of economic development remains and grows apparently more intractable as the years of Israeli occupation continue and the economic situation of Israel itself declines.

Tightening restrictions on planting, fishing grounds, land and water use, and marketing have severely limited Gaza's economy, much of which now depends upon minimal wages from unskilled labor in Israel proper, resulting in increased dependency and increased vulnerability to actions of the Israeli economy and state.

AFSC is supporting a detailed study of the economy in Gaza, to identify human resources, material resources, market potential, and legal and other requirements for new income-generating activities.

The challenge: low-skill or artisan activities cannot generate sufficient income to sustain those involved. It appears that high-value-added manufacturing processes permitting a reasonable return to workers for their labor and also requiring fairly sophisticated technology and training will be necessary. Legal limitations through the occupation make the prospect difficult, especially because the clear intent of the study is to discover enterprises that can represent real community development—and reduce community vulnerability to outside forces, one of which is the occupation itself.

This effort is a risky one, but one that could be very important for Gaza residents and refugees who see no early prospect of a political change for the better.

Asia: Kampuchea (Cambodia)

The purpose: AFSC sent food aid to Kampucheans after the defeat of Pol Pot in 1979. We have remained with programs of development assistance. The principal focus of our work has been on agriculture. (See story on page 6.)

The challenge: major dilemmas for development in Kampuchea are largely related to politics and international relations. Kampuchea is a socialist state with central planning of development and other activities.

A private voluntary organization has no equivalent in Kampuchea, therefore no easy fit with the structure of the society. It is often a slow and difficult process to obtain visas for staff, or permission to travel and to undertake certain projects.

At the same time, the U.S. government intervenes. The State Department applies the "Trading with the Enemy Act" in such a way as to prohibit development assistance from U.S. sources and to limit even emergency assistance to Kampuchea.

For development activity, we have had to rely on funds from non-U.S. sources, handled by non-U.S. citizens, for purchases made outside the United States. It is a credit to the donors and a certain ingenuity all around that AFSC work does continue to reduce the vulnerability of Kampuchians to future disasters and pressures on them.

Conclusion

AFSC works in very marginal settings where extremes of poverty, of control, of repression, of national and international politics, and of violence can all too easily destroy what people are trying to build and AFSC to support. We put our faith in people and community and in the human capacity to respond creatively, especially when help is made accessible to them as they seek their own way to development, self-reliance, and a lessened

vulnerability.

[This article is adapted from Development: An AFSC Perspective, an address by Corinne Johnson at AFSC's 1984 Annual Meeting. A full copy of the address as originally presented may be obtained from AFSC's National Office.]



Gaza Strip.



Kampuchea.



A new AFSC program will address the draft animal shortage by seeking to replace traditional yokes with efficient harnesses so one bullock can plow a field where two were needed previously.

AFSC work in Kampuchea helps recovery from floods

There are few years when the rains in Kampuchea are completely favorable. Precipitation is often spotty or insufficient, or rains may come at the wrong time in the growing season. Meanwhile, melting snows in the Himalayas, and rains in China, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam may swell the Mekong river to dangerous levels. "Thus Kampuchea can suffer from drought and flooding at the same time," reports AFSC's Michael Call, "and that's just what has happened this year."

In September severe flooding of the Mekong river destroyed over 600,000 acres of planted crops, leaving the country with only 29% of the planted crops needed to feed the population.

The flooding has worsened a food situation that was already problematic. "We are seeing signs of malnourishment when we travel in rural areas," says Michael Call, "and the government is clearly worried. When we met with the Minister of Agriculture he told us of visiting rural villages where people have already eaten next year's seeds. Thus the problem could be greatly compounded unless seed rice is made available for the next planting season."

The government is organizing an urgent replanting effort, and

AFSC, along with other aid-giving organizations, is working to obtain significant quantities of rice seed for emergency distribution. AFSC staff will also provide basic tool kits for grassroots production cooperatives (each composed of 12-15 families) to help them rebuild the homes that were destroyed in the floods and rehabilitate their fields. Each kit contains hoe heads, saws, ax heads, nails, and an assortment of carpentry tools.

Twenty years ago Kampuchea was an exporter of rice. But years of international war and civil strife had brought the country to the brink of starvation by 1979. Since then Kampuchea has tried to regain its food-growing capacity, but it has been hampered by a lack of draft animal power for plowing, by damage to its water system, by a shortage of trained personnel in veterinary and agricultural science, and by a lack of fertilizers and seeds, as well as by periodic droughts and flooding.

Long-term AFSC projects in Kampuchea include assistance in rebuilding the nation's veterinary services, a draft animal vaccination program, reestablishing prosthetics and physical therapy services, aid to schools, and the supply and repair of irrigation pumps.

Women seek health care

from p. 1

community groups, where small groups of women can discuss health issues and advocate needed changes. NEW will also explore the feasibility of a home health care venture, operated as a cooperatively owned service. This project would not only offer needed services, but would also create needed jobs for women in local communities.

Mexico-U.S. Border: Workplace health and safety

In the "free trade" zone along Mexico's 2,000-mile border with the United States, workplace health and safety concerns are important organizing issues for women workers. Located in this zone are *maquiladoras*, assembly plants, where components and materials from the U.S. are assembled and then brought back across the border free of tariffs. Over 85 per cent of *maquiladora* workers are women, most of them between 16 and 25 years of age. They earn about \$22 for a 48-hour week.

Electronics assembly plants are the largest *maquiladora* employers. Health and safety problems are caused by chemicals that are used for soaking and cleaning components. Workers do not know the names of the chemicals. Fumes from these substances and from solder are major hazards. Most plants do not have adequate ventilation systems. Working in cold temperatures required for electronic components causes arthritis. Safety hazards include lack of fire exits or exits locked shut for security reasons.

AFSC's Mexico-U.S. Border Program and SEDEPAC (Servicio, Desarrollo y Pas), a peace and justice organization based in Mexico City, work together with the *maquiladora* workers to address these issues.

Two years ago, twenty medical students from the Universidad Metropolitana Autonoma de Mexico conducted a study of health and safety problems in *maquiladoras*.

SEDEPAC facilitated the initial contacts. Students and workers gathered in the plants and in private homes to examine issues of workers' health, government medical benefits and laws on health and safety. Out of these sessions came not only the expected reports, but also practical tools for use by workers in the form of three workbooks on health issues. The workers are using these workbooks as educational tools in their bi-monthly meetings, where they also study Mexican federal labor laws, and plan strategies for addressing their problems.

As the workers organize, they are finding they can make some strides in reducing workplace hazards. For example, some workers have secured masks, gloves and ventilation fans to protect them against the chemicals and fumes.

South Dakota, Chile: Community Health Education

Native American reservations in the United States are in many respects underdeveloped nations, and the health problems they face often parallel those in third world nations. On the Cheyenne River-Eagle Butte reservation in South Dakota, a 1.5 million acre area with a population of 4,500, there is only one health facility. Tuberculosis, diabetes and fetal alcohol syndrome are all way above the national average. An AFSC project is now in the early stages of development, drawing on a long relationship between AFSC and WARN (Women of All Red Nations). It will offer training in health care self-help, focusing on maternal and child health needs, with emphasis on nutrition education.

In Santiago, the capital of Chile, an AFSC health education program for pregnant and nursing women reaches out to women with very limited resources, offering them not only an opportunity to gain nutritional and other health information, but to develop their own leadership skills. (See story page 4.)

RESOURCES

IN AND AROUND THE U.N.

This short newsletter is produced eight times a year by the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). Recent issues have addressed: the Third Development Decade of the U.N., the U.N. Women's Decade, conscientious objection, the World Food Council, the Human Rights Committee and African refugee problems.

Also available from QUNO are BRIEFINGS on a variety of U.N. concerns. Recent topics include: "Antarctica," "Some Impressions of the Arab-Israeli Conflict," "The IMF Quota Increase and the U.S.," "Seventh U.N. Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders," "Update: U.N. Migrant Worker Convention," and "Warfare in Outer Space?"

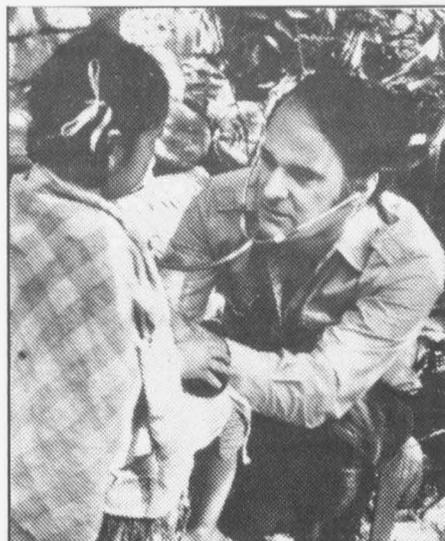
To receive the newsletter, or to request regular BRIEFINGS and reports on subjects of interest to you, write: QUNO, 777 U.N. Plaza, N.Y., N.Y. 10017. Con-

tributions to defray expenses are appreciated.

Similar reports are made available from the QUNO office in Geneva. Write: QUNO, 13, avenue du Mervelet, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland.

WITNESS TO WAR: Dr. Charlie Clements from Vietnam to El Salvador

This 30-minute, 16mm film documents the dramatic story of Dr. Charlie Clements' journey of conscience from Air Force pilot in Vietnam to doctor behind rebel lines in El Salvador. Through rarely seen news footage and previously classified Air Force films of the bombing of Southeast Asia, the film shows how Charlie Clements grew to question war, to become a pacifist and a healer. Produced by Skylight Pictures in cooperation with the AFSC's NARMIC program (National Action/Research on the Military Industrial Complex.)



Dr. Charlie Clements in El Salvador. Photo by Antonio Velasco, courtesy of Bantam Books, Witness to War.

To purchase or rent WITNESS TO WAR, write First Run Features, 153 Waverly Place, New York, N.Y. 10014.

VOLUNTEER: A Comprehensive Guide to Voluntary Service Opportunities in the U.S. and Abroad.

This new publication is both an introduction to the world of voluntary service and a catalog of voluntary service organizations (including AFSC) which seek volunteers for long and short-term projects in the U.S. and abroad. The 180-page booklet is a joint product of the Commission on Voluntary Service and Action and the Council on International Education Exchange. AFSC representative Nancy Duryee serves on the Commission's Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

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Embroidered paintings are a beautiful art practiced in North Korea. AFSC hopes to facilitate an exhibition of this work in a U.S. museum.

In quest of peace—delegation visits N. Korea

"It was a strange experience to stand on the northern side of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea and look at the South Korean soldiers and American GI's on the other side," reports Roberta Levenbach, AFSC Asia program staff. In September of 1984 she visited North Korea as part of an AFSC delegation.

Coincidentally, the visit occurred at a historic moment for Koreans. For 31 years the DMZ has been an impenetrable barrier between North and South Korea, seldom crossed except in acts of provocation. But in September, some 150 trucks from the North, bearing 7,500 tons of rice, medicines and fabric for flood victims in the South, crossed the DMZ. In South Korea, Red Cross representatives from both sides cooperated in unloading the supplies. Delegation members report that it was a moment of great significance to North Koreans who lined the highways to wave as the trucks passed.

The delegation was hosted by North Korea's Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. The two-week visit provided an opportunity to continue AFSC contacts on both sides of the DMZ and to discuss the possibility of a return visit from the North. AFSC has worked for a number of years in support of Koreans seeking reunification of their peninsula.

Other participants in the visit were Roland Warren of AFSC's Board of Directors, James Harvey, AFSC associate executive secretary, and Dorothy Ogle, a former United Methodist missionary in South Korea. A report of the visit is available from the AFSC National Office.

The delegation concluded from its observations, "We do not feel this is a society which the United States government should continue to boycott, ignore, and treat only as an enemy." Some 110 countries now have diplomatic relations with North Korea.

Student conference explores ways to end apartheid

Speaking to a cheering audience, Dennis Brutus, exiled South African poet and activist, delivered a rousing message at the Southeastern Regional Conference on Apartheid in South Africa. He was one of eighteen South African specialists and activists who participated in the regional conference held in Atlanta, Georgia, early in October.

The conference was organized by Tandi Gcabasche, AFSC southern Africa staff person in Atlanta. It was a major component of a speaking tour of the southeastern region

of the United States organized by the AFSC southern Africa program. Approximately one hundred students and community people participated in the two days of workshops, plenaries and presentations.

AFSC and the Interdenominational Theological Center co-sponsored the conference to explore current issues relevant to South Africa, such as destabilization, divestment, war in southern Africa and the economic effects of apartheid.

"Based on the reaction of the

audience and the standing ovation Dennis Brutus received when he was introduced as the keynote speaker, the issue of apartheid and South Africa is quite clear in many people's minds," reports AFSC staff Jerry Herman, coordinator of the tour.

The conference was directed toward students primarily because they hold a very special key to unlocking the financial support that many institutions of higher learning provide South Africa.

"Students are also important,"

says Jerry Herman, "because they can provide input into curriculum development focusing on African studies. They are crucial when it comes to sensitizing the larger community about institutional investment, and challenging institutions to divest. In addition, they can host speakers who will address Africa-related issues, and their involvement is essential in effecting a successful United Nations boycott of athletes and entertainers who visit South Africa."

S.E. Asian immigrants join California farmers' co-op

Each night the Stockton Farmer's Co-op warehouse, located just south of Stockton, California, is a scene of bustling activity as produce is boxed and made ready for wholesale buyers.

On one such night, four members of the Yang family sort and box a huge pile of okra. Teng Lo and his wife Khua Lee drive up their van and begin unloading and weighing a dozen boxes of bunched long beans. Other families from the Southeast Asian Farm Development Center and Catholic Charities Agricultural Project unload cartons of zucchini.

At the same time Raj Ramaiya and Mack Warner of AFSC count boxes of baby corn, jalapeno peppers and loofa, making up the orders for the wholesale buyers.

The Stockton Farmers Co-op, an outgrowth of the very successful Stockton Farmers Market, was organized four years ago with the help of the Rural Economic Alternatives Project of AFSC's San Francisco office. True to its purpose, the co-op has successfully developed wholesale marketing outlets for its small farmer members in the San Francisco and Sacramento areas.

Now, of the 50 or more families participating in the co-op, 35 to 40 are recent arrivals to the U.S. from Laos or Kampuchea. They have less experience in dealing with the American marketplace than more established growers.

In previous years the Stockton area refugee farmers had severe marketing problems. This was due to their inexperience in selecting and timing crops, lack of crop diversification, and the lack of a reliable, flexible marketing outlet. This year a more flexible marketing approach has redirected sales from consumer cooperatives to wholesale distributors and buyers of oriental produce—and the refugee farmers have begun raising a diversity of crops while improving their quality control.

They have benefited from the AFSC training program for co-op members that also deals with the intricacies of planting, picking, and proper packing and storage. AFSC works closely with the Catholic Charities Agricultural Project and the Southeast Asian Farm Development Center to provide the training.

The Stockton Farmers Coopera-



tive is a true cooperative—every aspect of the work is open to the grower members and participants. Names of buyers, prices asked, co-op commission charged, and the amount growers receive in payment are all freely shared with the membership so that the growers will be adequately informed as they

move into leadership positions.

Future plans call for AFSC and Catholic Charities to work closely with the Stockton Co-op to explore such services for the area's low-income farmers as a credit union, a farm supply co-op, and self-help housing on land that will be suitable for small-scale farming.



Heide Dann (left), of West Germany's Green Party, and Danielle Grunberg of the Women's Peace Alliance, Great Britain, speak against nuclear missiles during U.S. tour by European women working for peace.

Missiles opposed in Europe, Pacific

Does the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles at Greenham Common, England, violate international law? Believing that it does, AFSC joined in a lawsuit filed November, 1983 in the U.S. District Court by Greenham Common Women Against Cruise Missiles seeking an injunction against missile deployment.

Now, AFSC is renewing its witness against the cruise missiles by joining an appeal of the judge's decision to dismiss the original case.

In September, AFSC co-sponsored a speaking tour in the U.S. by five European women active in government circles and peace movements of NATO countries where the cruise and Pershing II missiles are now being deployed. They spoke about their concerns to audiences in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Ohio, Florida and Texas.

"We wanted to meet real American people—not the ones we see on 'Dynasty,'" said tour participant Luisa Morgantina, an Italian peace activist and trade unionist. Arguing that the majority of Europeans oppose the missiles and want disarmament talks to begin immediately, she added, "We are trying to find cooperation between countries. These nuclear weapons are matters of life and death—not only for us, but for the rest of the world."

AFSC staff are also deeply concerned with the sea-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles. "Just as Europeans are concerned that ground launched cruise missiles will destabilize Europe, there is a concern that the Tomahawks will have a similar effect in the Pacific," says Craig Shimabukuro, AFSC disarmament staff in Seattle.

Last year, AFSC staff in Boston, working in a coalition of local peace groups, successfully discouraged the Navy from basing the Battleship Iowa, carrying Tomahawk cruise missiles, in Boston Harbor.

Now Joseph Gerson, AFSC staff in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is providing consultation to peace groups

in other states who are trying to prevent battleships from being "home-ported" in their harbors. In August, he was invited to speak about his work at a conference in Japan, where concern about Tomahawk missiles is widespread and deep.

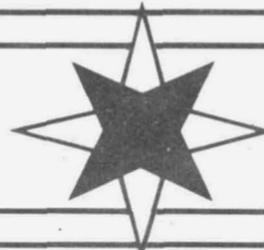
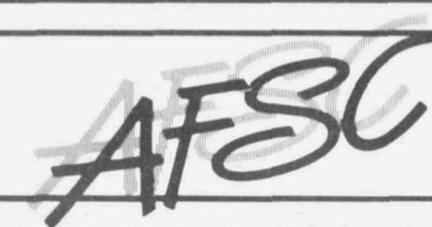
Roy Takumi, AFSC staff in Hawaii, reports similar work there against basing of the missile-

carrying Battleship Missouri in Pearl Harbor. "Hawaii is a very military place," he says. "We need constructive alternatives, so we keep coming back to economic conversion. We put out information about the effects of the military on the local economy, on water resources, and on how inefficient military jobs are compared to socially constructive work."

QUAKER SERVICE BULLETIN

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As a Quaker organization, the American Friends Service Committee carries on its programs as an expression of a belief in the dignity and worth of each person and in a faith in the power of love and nonviolence to bring about change. The work is supported financially by individuals of different persuasions who care about service, development, justice and peace.



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