

## Native Americans work for health changes

"The children decided to have an alcohol free community by the year 2,000," says Judy Fairbanks, director of the AFSC Health Education Project in South Dakota. "It is wonderful to see the children's energy." Having determined that alcohol, depression and suicide are "the stuff that bothers us in our lives," these young adolescents are talking to county authorities so that two new licenses to local bars will be revoked. After the suicide of two adolescents, children and parents met at the Parent/Child Center on the Cheyenne River Reservation "to express their grief and fears and to start a healing process," says Judy. As a result of the meetings, the youngsters took charge of many activities and surprised their elders with their success. The anti-alcoholism campaign is their latest effort. Other health-related issues have mobilized the community. At Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River, staff report that "educational campaigns were successful in stopping the dumping of toxic wastes on the reservation by off-reservation interests, thereby preventing future health problems for the people and securing (for now) the health of the environment."

**Work on behalf** of the environment has led the AFSC project to look for water supply alternatives on Pine Ridge. As part of the ongoing Nutrition Campaign, the community developed two collective and 40 home gardens, a school greenhouse and a cattle cooperative. However, because of the high alkalinity of the water, "last year our community gardens failed to produce anything but undersized potatoes," says Judy. This year there is a new well, and good water has been brought into some areas.

Staff are also interested in the development of cooperatives as income-producing ventures. Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River are located in Shannon and Ziebach counties, the first and second poorest counties in the United States.

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AFSC archives

AFSC staff delivering food to Russians after WW I.

## AFSC spurs East-West dialogue

**1919-1921:** The AFSC provided food for starving Russians following WW I.

**1948:** A massive epidemic in the Soviet Union led to AFSC gifts of streptomycin.

**1948-1951:** AFSC arranged for Soviet diplomats to meet U.S. diplomats at the United Nations at a time when the Soviets were generally ignored by western diplomats.

**1955:** The first AFSC goodwill mission to the Soviet Union took place, reported in the pamphlet "Meeting the Russians."

**Laurama Pixton**, who served as AFSC staffperson on East-West relations for 24 years, says, "In the 1950's, Quakers were saying that the U.S. should recognize the Soviet Union as a power that was here to stay, a legitimate power. AFSC also recognized that there were differences between the United States and the Soviet Union, but that didn't mean there couldn't be detente."

AFSC has worked throughout the decades to create dialogue between citizens of the United States and the Soviet Union. Starting with the

1955 trip to the Soviet Union, study seminars and reciprocal exchanges have been organized. AFSC and the Soviet Ministry of Education organized exchanges of teachers between U.S. schools and Soviet schools from 1961 to 1972. AFSC also organized exchanges of youth, journalists, and academic and professional leaders.

**Mike Simmons**, who started as coordinator of the East-West program in 1987, says, "I think you can say that the AFSC played a part in changes in people's attitudes. It's amazing how many people have been touched over the years by this process."

"Today, with glasnost in the Soviet Union and new initiatives on the U.S. side, there are many avenues for citizens of either country to meet their counterparts. But during the decades that the AFSC was organizing these exchanges, there were not opportunities," Mike continues.

Continued on page 8



Pat Goudvis

Rob McConnell looking for signs of pesticide poisoning.

## Nicaraguans face pesticide problem

**On an airstrip** in Nicaragua, a worker loads pesticide into a spray plane. The chemical splashes onto his skin and is absorbed into his system. Some spills onto the dirt runway. Ground water, then well water, becomes contaminated.

A powdery fungicide clings to a worker's clothes. When he arrives home his son runs to give him a hug. Both are now contaminated.

**Few people** in Nicaragua are happy about the heavy dependence on pesticides for export crops, yet they realize it will take a number of years to develop alternative pest control methods. In the meantime, the toll on workers, their families, and communities is frightening. In 1988, thirty-one

workers on one farm in one month alone were stricken with pesticide poisoning. AFSC works with CARE-Nicaragua on a project to reduce illness and death from heavy pesticide use on the cotton farms and banana plantations.

The Pesticide Health and Safety Project is a cooperative effort among Nicaraguan government ministries, cooperative and private farms, and labor unions. It is considered one of the most successful efforts to correct the problem of pesticide poisoning in a poor, Third World country.

**Education has** been the key to the project's success. Safety training workshops designed by AFSC health

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# The real problem: not enough affordable housing

by Jane Motz, Associate Secretary, Community Relations Division

Many of us are becoming inured to seeing homeless people sleeping on the streets, in subway passages or on park benches. We have become accustomed to reading articles about families living in overcrowded, sometimes unsafe, shelters and welfare hotels.

Others, the not-quite-homeless, are less visible. We do not see and do not read about the people, young and old, spending 50%, 60%, even 70% of their income on housing, cutting back on food and medications just to keep a roof over their heads. We do not see or read about the people living doubled and tripled up with family or friends or living in unsafe and unsanitary shacks in rural and urban settings.

Homelessness is a symptom of the real problem: there is not enough housing that low-income people can afford. Shelters, whether well or badly run, are bandaids. Unfortunately, shelters often allow policymakers to treat homelessness as a short-term aberration and to evade the need for permanent solutions.

AFSC's perspectives on housing issues come from a half century of experience. Our earliest domestic work was in western Pennsylvania,

during the Depression, when we helped unemployed coalminers join together to build houses. Over the years AFSC has aided rural and urban self-help housing development, helped get the fair housing movement going and supported tenant organizing. Today we work with homeless people in Boston, Massachusetts; East Oakland, California; and Hawaii, helping them to assert their needs and their rights.

Public discussion of homelessness has evolved over recent years, in part because of reports documenting the scope and causes of homelessness and in part because homeless people have organized themselves to advocate for change and in the process have proven wrong simplistic, blame-the-victim analyses of the problem. Organizations of homeless people have not only called for new policies, but have taken other initiatives. In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for example, the Union of the Homeless has set up a development corporation to rehabilitate buildings, providing both jobs and housing to homeless people.

In recent years, government aid for low-income housing has effectively stopped. This is

a major reason for the new and shocking level of homelessness and the growing affordability gap. This reality poses clear questions for policymakers and the general public. Can private enterprise supply the needed stock of affordable housing? Can private charities fill the gap? If the answer is no, as all our experience demonstrates, then there are only two alternatives — to accept homelessness and poor housing for millions of people or to make a large and continuing commitment of public resources to assure a supply of permanent affordable housing. That commitment can be implemented in flexible and varied ways, involving the for-profit sector, as well as nonprofit and public housing initiatives.

In making the choice in favor of a commitment of public resources to assure low-income housing, we champion the principle that everyone is entitled to a decent place to live, one of the basic economic rights along with food, clothing, health care, jobs and income. We affirm that these economic rights are as important as political rights, and that public action is required to assure them.

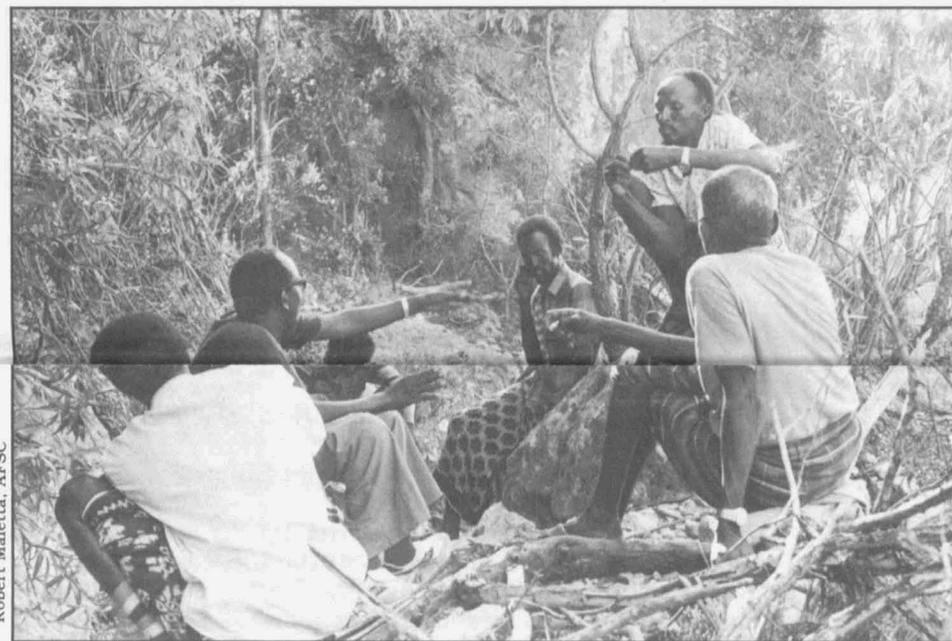
## Somalis increase water supply

"The ground was slick and one of our landcruisers skidded out of control and almost overturned. After several hours of kidney-jarring travel, we spotted the zinc roofs of Erigavo, backdropped by the 7,000-foot high escarpment sites where our village projects lay," writes Robert Maletta, AFSC staff based in Somalia. A northeast African country, Somalia shelters hundreds of thousands of refugees, most of whom have fled warfare and drought in Ethiopia. Some Somalis are as poor as the refugees.

At the request of the Somali government, Robert Maletta and his Somali counterpart, Mohammed Abdurahman, support village efforts to improve water supplies and increase food production.

"Cirbiye, about a kilometer up the side of the mountain, is an example of what a small village can do with a helping hand," writes Robert about one of the ten villages where he and Abdurahman work. "A reservoir has been constructed within the last six months and the last of the primary water channels finished. Now there are three reservoirs serving this village."

"The gardens and orchards of papayas, lemons and coffee are flourishing. As with most of the villages, tools were high on the priority list of the villagers, and we made a mental note of this,"



Robert Maletta, AFSC

AFSC staffperson Mohammed Abdurahman (left, arms outstretched) meets with Somalis.

Robert continues. AFSC then supplied tools at cost.

AFSC staff and villagers hope to make maximum use of the limited amount of water from twelve natural springs in the Bari and Sanaag regions of northeast Somalia. The villagers cement the small channels which run from the springs to the fields and construct small reservoirs to hold the spring water.

"I have encountered remarkably stable groups of people in the villages who see that everyone benefits by working together," writes Robert. "Witness the boulders moved to build roads, the channels dug through rock to irrigate fields, the land terraced to plant vegetables. All they needed was some help in the way of tools, cement and knowledge, and they were on their way."



Robert Maletta, AFSC

Villager improves water channel.

During staff visits to several settlements recently, many villagers said the same thing, "Other organizations have come, asked us questions and gone away. You were the first to stay and help."

## 200 years: Time for change

Why is the U.S. incarceration rate accelerating at such an alarming pace? Why are jails so disproportionately filled with people of color?

Why has the public perception of being endangered by crime increased dramatically while actual crime rates remain stable?

What economic functions are served by the prison system? What political functions?

Where do we start to turn the system around?

These are some of the questions addressed by an ambitious AFSC project marking 200 years of the penitentiary system. The project aims to broaden and deepen public discussion of these questions; to deal with these issues in a social, economic and political framework; and to facilitate engagement in the debate by communities of color and other constituencies most directly affected by crime and the criminal justice system.

Major components of the project include:

- development of a National Third World Commission on Criminal Justice, made up of leaders from the Black, Latino, Native American, and Asian American communities;

- active involvement of Friends and Friends' groups in planning and carrying out project activities;

- focused work with youth.

by Jane Motz, Community Relations Division



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# Immigrant workers meet with officials

Over 500 immigrant workers gathered in Sunnyside, in Washington's Yakima Valley, late this summer to direct questions and concerns to state and federal officials responsible for implementation of various provisions of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). The meeting, called by the AFSC Yakima Valley Immigration Program, the People's Legal Defense and Bail Committee and the One-Stop Immigration Center, is believed to be the first of its kind—a forum in which large numbers of those directly affected by the new law could question those charged with carrying out its provisions.

At issue were the educational requirements for Stage II of the legalization process and the resources to be made available for meeting them. Immigrants who are now "temporary resident aliens," having passed through the first stage of the program, have a limited time to apply for permanent resident status if they are not to revert to their original undocumented status. Part of the requirement for the second stage is to be satisfactorily pursuing language, civics and history courses by the time of application.

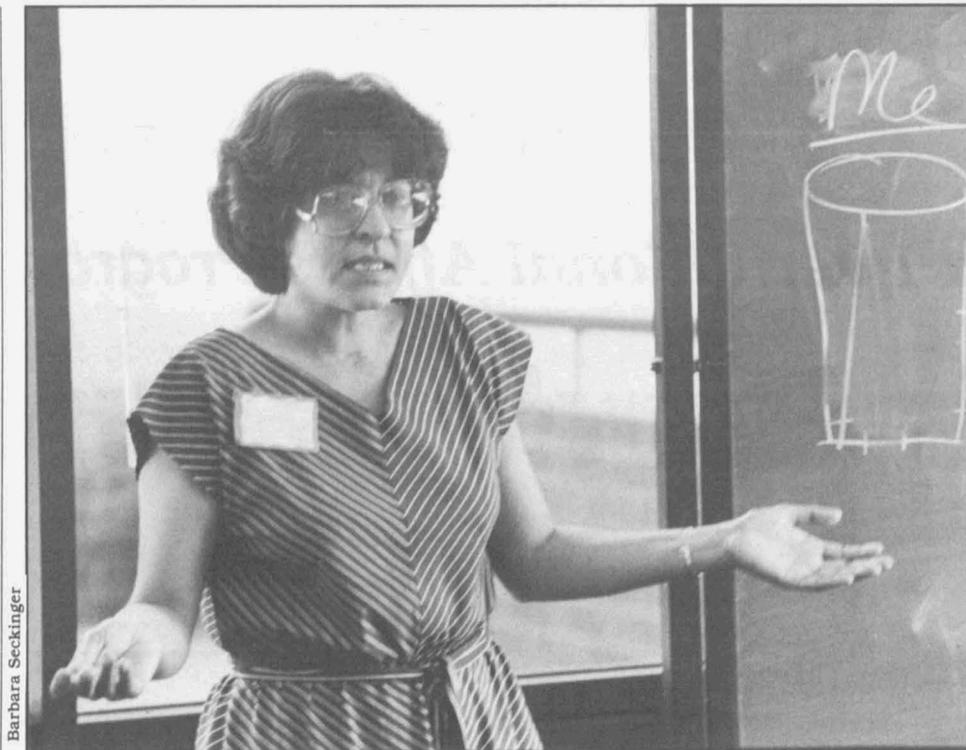
The People's Legal Defense and Bail Committee, a grassroots community organization that has formed with assistance from AFSC's Yakima Valley program, has already organized English classes which meet twice weekly. The qualifications and procedures for the second stage are of deep concern to its members.

The second stage regulations were still under review at the time of the meeting; it was timely in terms of enabling those about to face the second stage of the process of legalization to ask questions and share their perspectives.

Among the regulations under review were those concerning: how the courses are to be paid for, including whether applicants must bear any of the burden; the number of hours of course work needed; whether the Federal Textbooks on Citizenship are the exclusive resource for citizenship instruction.

Government officials present at the Sunnyside meeting represented the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the state's Employment Security Division and Department of Social and Health Services.

Immigrant workers at the meeting also voiced their concerns about the division of families in the legalization process—some members were found qualified, some not—and the new foreign contract labor provisions (H-2A) of IRCA. by Rita Smith and Barbara Moffett, Community Relations Division



Barbara Seckinger

Lorraine Granada responds to questions at a youth conference.

## Denver staff sparks community action

Twenty-five hundred people came to Curtis Park in Denver, Colorado this summer for a day-long Celebrate Life picnic and educational event. Lorraine Granada, staff of the AFSC, founded the Cross Community Coalition of Denver, whose drug and alcohol committee organized the event.

"It's part of a larger strategy," says Lorraine. "We're working on pulling together a youth leadership team to do drug and alcohol education work with other youth. This summer we're starting by sponsoring events that kids will enjoy and that are drug and alcohol free. Meanwhile, we're

identifying youth who would make up the core of the leadership team. We plan to work with them through the winter and next summer, giving them specific training in leadership, communication and organizing skills so that they'll feel confident in the educational work they'll be doing."

Building the youth team is just a part of Lorraine's busy schedule. The Cross Community Coalition she works with also sponsors Neighbors for a Toxic Free Community. Lorraine has also been involved with starting Colorado Women's Agenda and a group working on AIDS education.

Neighbors for a Toxic Free Community is analyzing the research and corrective measures prescribed for a toxic superfund site which is 50 feet, literally across the street, from a Denver residential area. The plant has released cadmium, arsenic, lead and magnesium in its 90 year history in the area. "Neighbors" wants a more thorough study of the health effects on the people who live nearby in addition to the environmental and natural resource studies which have been done.

### Women's Agenda

Three years ago February, Lorraine, Jean Gore of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Ruth Correll, former mayor of Boulder, started planning the first Colorado Women's Agenda conference.

The organizers hoped they would have 100 women attend that conference, focusing on national security issues and women, in the fall of 1986. Instead, they had over 360 women, including substantial numbers of women of color and low-income women. The first conference has led to an ongoing organization whose members analyze budget issues, write and distribute resources and do public speaking throughout the state.

### Against AIDS

This year Lorraine helped start the People of Color Coalition Against AIDS which has just received a \$230,000 grant to do AIDS education work in minority communities, primarily Black, Asian, Hispanic and Native American, in four states: Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado and New Mexico.

## The AFSC Holiday Gift Card Plan and Calendar

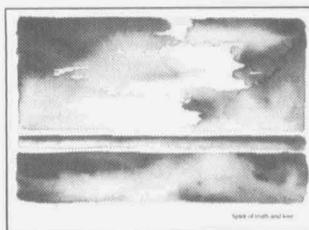
### A way to remember the upcoming holiday season's most important gifts—faith, hope and love.

This holiday season, honor your friends, relatives, colleagues—those who care about others—with a handsome AFSC gift card or 1989 AFSC calendar.

In giving these gifts you support the Service Committee and help people improve their lives through grassroots projects which promote self-reliance and improve economic conditions. You show a concern for justice, for a more secure and peaceful world.

Through the AFSC Holiday Gift Card Plan you send friends and relatives the message that you have given gifts in their names. This year's gift card was designed by New Hampshire's prize-winning artist Kate Emlen. It includes the quotation by John Marriott:

"Spirit of truth and love...  
Speed forth thy flight!  
Move on the water's face  
Bearing the gifts of grace,  
And, in earth's darkest place,  
Let there by light!"



Also included is the text "This card represents a gift in your name to the American Friends Service Committee for its programs which alleviate suffering, right injustice, and work for reconciliation and peace." Please note the requested minimum is \$6.00 per card.

The AFSC's 1989 wall calendar makes a beautiful year-long gift. Each month's black and white photo portrays people with whom AFSC works in the United States and around the world. Accompanying each photo is a brief explanation and an inspirational quote. The calendar opens up to 17 x 11 inches, with enough space for notes and reminders. The cost of \$8.00 includes postage.



To: American Friends Service Committee  
Finance Department  
1501 Cherry St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ gift cards and matching envelopes.  
(The requested minimum is \$6.00 per card.)

Total for cards \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ 1989 AFSC calendars @ \$8.00.

Total for calendars \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to American Friends Service Committee. Contributions are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

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## AFSC's Quaker International Affairs Programs

# Across Borders and Bound

Last December, 380 tons of rice purchased in Thailand by AFSC crossed the Mekong River into Laos through border ports which had been closed because of uneasy Thai-Lao relations for over ten years. The rice was destined for the people of drought-stricken Oudomsay Province in a remote part of northern Laos. It would have taken many weeks to reach them if it had been shipped through the nearest open crossing at Vientiane. AFSC staff were able to negotiate the opening of the border largely because of the good will of the Thai Ambassador to Laos who had participated in a Quaker-sponsored Conference for Young Diplomats in Indonesia some 15 years earlier.

The fruits of Quaker International Affairs Programs are frequently difficult to discern and long in coming. When they appear, however, our faith in this long-term program effort for peace and reconciliation is strengthened.

**Women in Mozambique** and Angola labor to grow food for their families in the midst of terrible conflict. They also suffer isolation from their sisters in neighboring countries—a legacy of colonialism. Earlier this year AFSC's Southern Africa International Affairs Representative arranged for Mozambican and Angolan women leaders to visit organizations and projects in Zimbabwe and Botswana. They shared and learned about rural technologies that might be appropriate for their development efforts at home. In addition to new information, links were forged among women and organizations which will allow continued communication and exchange.

**AFSC's International Affairs** Representatives are working in many of the world's most troubled regions—in Asia, Southern Africa, Central America and the Middle East. Their mission is to aid the causes of peace, justice and reconciliation among peoples divided by conflict, ideology, politics, or culture. They travel widely, engaging in and promoting dialogue with people on all sides of the issues. Their timely analyses and reports are used by peace networks, legislators and the media in the United States and Europe. As opportunities arise, they organize exchanges and

seminars to allow representatives of different perspectives and experiences to enter into informal dialogue toward greater understanding.

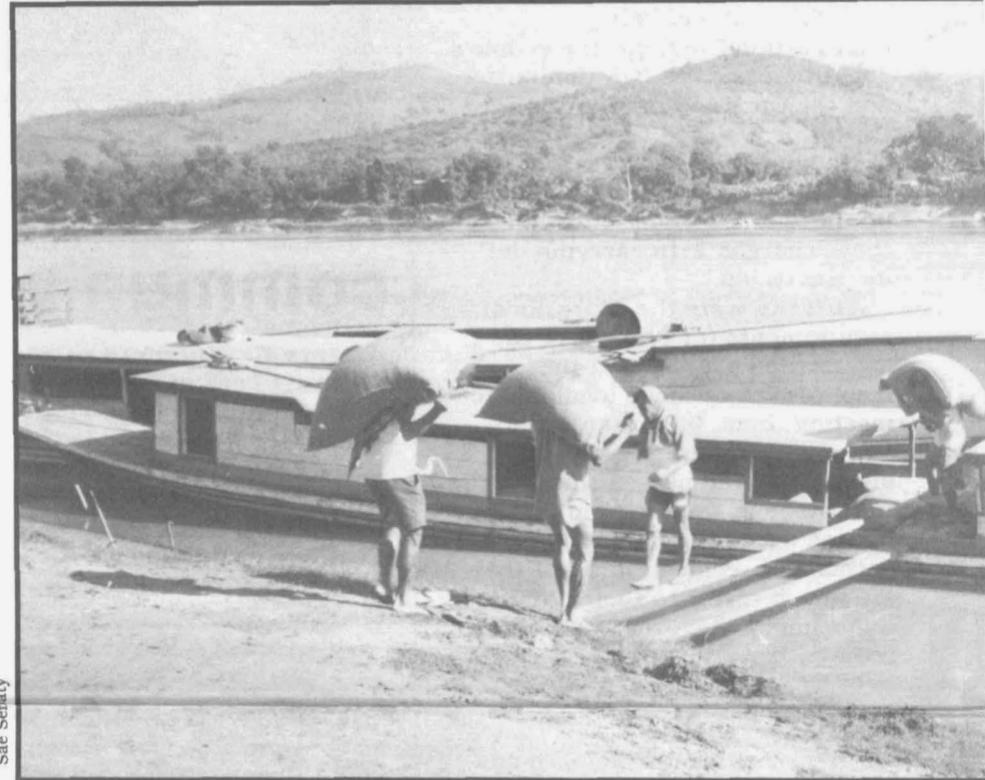
**In Southern Africa**, Carole Collins has built and supported links through activities such as the exchange seminar of Angolan and Mozambican women described above. She also enabled leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa to meet in Botswana last year. They discussed concrete ways of increasing communication among their members.

Carole has arranged for Quakers and other church representatives from South Africa to visit Zimbabwe to share with their church counterparts and seek new perspectives on post-apartheid options for South Africa. In a book, *Apartheid's Other War*, Carole has documented South Africa's campaign of war and destabilization against neighboring majority-ruled countries.

**In the Middle East**, AFSC has worked since 1948 to provide relief and development support to Israeli, Palestinian and Lebanese people caught up in conflict. Mary and Horace Autenrieth, the current International Affairs Representatives based in Amman, report that because of their many years of humanitarian service, Quakers are greeted with warmth and openness by people on all sides of the conflicts and from all walks of life.

This receptiveness enables the Autenrieths to meet with government and nongovernment leaders throughout the region, obtaining their candid views on the issues and sharing perspectives among individuals who are not able to meet face-to-face. During the ongoing Palestinian uprising, they have played an important role, helping in small ways to keep open the tenuous lines of communication in the area.

**In Asia**, Quaker International Affairs Representatives are helping people from across borders and political boundaries to come together to share experiences and forge new alliances for dealing with common problems. An editors' conference in Manila, arranged by Quaker representatives Catherine Shaw



Sac Secretary

Thai rice is loaded onto boats for shipment across the Mekong River to drought victims in northern Laos.

and Evans Young (see photo), is one example. In another recent conference in Okinawa, organized by AFSC staffperson Sandra Sturdevant, women working with prostitutes around U.S. military bases in Okinawa, mainland Japan, South Korea and the Philippines met to tell about their programs and to seek ways to support one another and the women with whom they work.

AFSC's International Affairs Representatives in Asia also travel and report on the struggles for justice, human rights and peace in the Philippines, Korea, Thailand and China.

**In Central America**, AFSC's representatives note that the Arias Peace Plan, though slow in bringing political results, has "catalyzed a movement towards unity among workers and peasants throughout the region." Community organizations and unions long supported by AFSC are taking advantage of the new political space to meet and build regional cooperative structures. "Though these meetings have been little publicized, they constitute a new development of crucial importance," writes AFSC representative Jim Stephens.

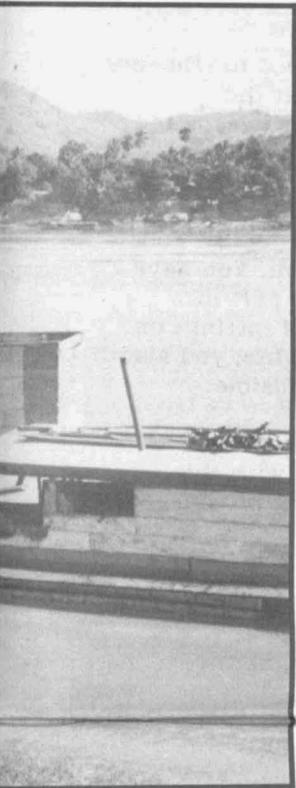
Through written reports and speaking tours in the United States, the representatives seek to provide perspectives from Central Americans themselves on the crises, struggles and opportunities in the region. Their reports and talks have informed the work of key activists, writers and legislators in the United States working for an end to U.S. intervention. Roberto Codas has travelled to Brazil to share information with church, student, labor and government leaders and has arranged visits to Central America by Brazilian delegations.

AFSC's International Affairs Programs are an expression of the Quaker faith in a common ground of goodness to be found in all people and in the unpredictable benefits that can slowly emerge in the work of reconciliation. The remarks of a senior diplomat in the Middle East encourage us: "You Quakers, who are neither partisans of the Israelis nor of the Arabs, but who support the hopes of all people, must continue your efforts for peace. In that attitude will be found the answers for this troubled region."  
by Edward Reed,  
International Division



Margaret Waller

Women from Angola and Mozambique inspect a baking oven during a tour to study appropriate development technology in Zimbabwe and Botswana.

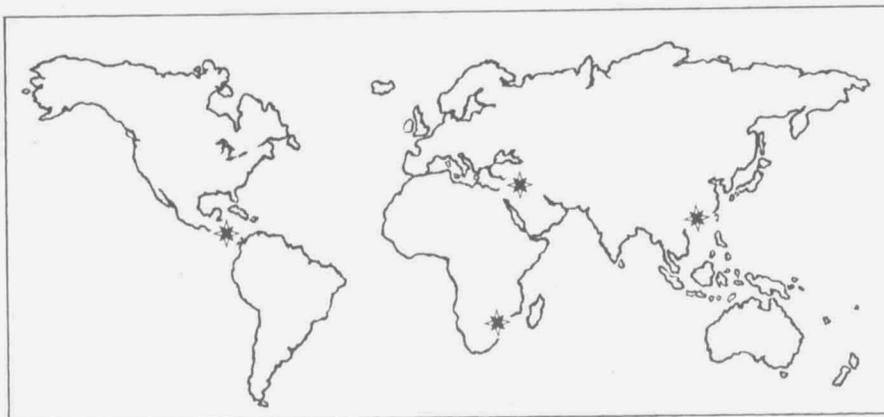


Horace and Mary Autenrieth (at left) visit in Amman, Jordan with Hanna Nasser, Palestinian President of Birzeit University, who was deported from the occupied West Bank.



Corrine Joston, AFSC

Popular movements for peace and democracy, such as this women's organization in Guatemala, represent a basis for hope in Central America. AFSC's staff report on the struggle of such groups to confront and address the problems at the root of the widespread violence in the region.



A number of major publications have resulted from AFSC's International Affairs work in recent years. Copies of the following may be ordered from Program Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

- *Two Koreas—One Future?* (paper, \$13.00)
- *South Africa: Challenge and Hope* (paper, \$7.95)
- *Voices from Apartheid's Other War* (booklet, \$3.00)
- *Missed Opportunities for Peace: U.S. Middle East Policy—1981-1986* (paper, \$8.95)
- *A Compassionate Peace: A Future for the Middle East* (paper, \$7.95)



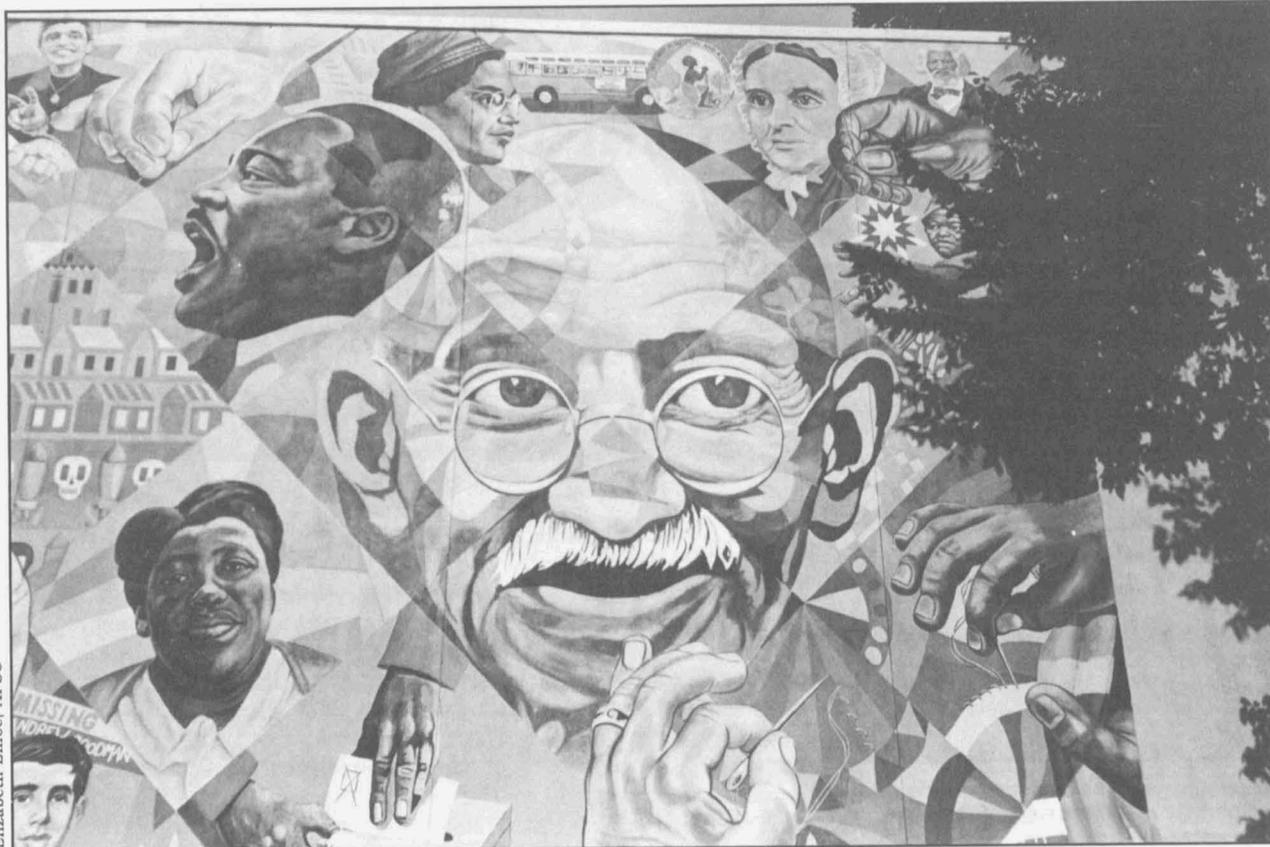
Alex Baluyut



Alex Baluyut

Newspaper editors from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and the socialist countries of Laos and Vietnam came together recently in an AFSC-sponsored seminar in Manila to discuss ways to break down the communication and political barriers separating their peoples.

# In Brief...



Elizabeth Enloe, AFSC

## Volunteers paint Freedom Quilt Mural in Atlanta

Shown above is the Mahatma Gandhi section of the AFSC Freedom Quilt Mural. Covering an entire wall of the Atlanta, Georgia AFSC building, the mural is obvious to drivers in Atlanta. AFSC, along with two progressive artists organizations and local business supporters, organized the creation of the

mural. Muralist David Fichter did the design with many local artists contributing time to its execution.

In addition to Gandhi, the mural features other well-known leaders from around the world and the United States, as well as a scene of a homeless person against the capitol dome.

## Advocates work with San Francisco students

An AFSC-led program at Galileo High School in San Francisco has significantly reduced the number of suspensions, transfers and expulsions through the use of student advocates.

The advocates, selected and trained by AFSC program coordinator Beverly Peoples, provide students and parents with information about their rights and obligations. They act on behalf of students who feel there has been an infringement of their rights or who need help to file a grievance. They are available for students who have questions about school life—especially new immigrants who may find U.S. customs confusing or strange.

**Beverly says,** "1988 has been a very active year; we reached 1,700 students."

Student advocates are introduced to students during classroom presentations at the beginning of the year while Beverly leads the class in a discussion about their rights.

Beverly tells them, "You have a right to be educated. You have a right not to be slandered, to be treated equally, without prejudice. You have a right to a safe environment. You have a right to organize, assemble, take part in activities as long as this does not infringe on your education. In addition to rights, you also have the obligation to be a responsible student."

The students, staff and parents of Galileo High School have been so happy with this program that the high school now provides half its financial support. Additionally, this fall, the program has expanded to include a second high school and a middle school.

## Refugees aid families in Vietnam

In the late seventies, when the State of Iowa declared itself a sponsor of Indochinese refugees seeking haven in the U.S., the Thai Dam settled as a group in Des Moines. Even though they have adjusted to life in the United States, they seek to retain their ethnic identity.

In 1982 some members of the Des Moines group asked AFSC to help them establish a project in their former area in Vietnam—a project which would benefit the people who stayed behind. The Thai Dam in the U.S. would raise money to support it.

In July, 1987 AFSC representatives in Laos and

Vietnam, Jacqui Chagnon and Roger Rumpf, visited Son La Province where Thai Dam leaders had told them some one million Thai Dam still lived. There they received a request for help for a district clinic, and the Thai Dam in Des Moines have agreed to make this their project. AFSC will act as intermediary in this effort for reconstruction and reconciliation.

Jacqui and Roger took photographs in Son La and made a videotape of their visit to give the Thai Dam in Iowa a glimpse of their former land.

Thai Dam villager leaving for market



Jacqui Chagnon, AFSC

## Chicago poster contest highlights peace

(Left) Two students study one of the entries in the Peace Poster Contest organized by *Proyecto Urayoan* of the Chicago AFSC. *Proyecto Urayoan* was started in 1981 to work with Chicago's Hispanic youth, many of whom joined the military as a way to improve their lives without knowing the implications of that choice.

*Proyecto Urayoan* helps young people to more firmly take charge of their own lives and futures by giving them a more balanced picture of what the military offers and the opportunity to weigh their decisions.

Today, the bilingual staff work with many ethnic communities in Chicago: Puerto Rican, Mexican, Black and white. Staff work in schools and with

community groups, giving presentations and advising young people one-to-one.

In addition to the poster contest, recent work has included:

- making presentations to school and community groups on "youth and the military" and the presence of the National Guard in Honduras;
- work on the National Conference on Youth, Militarism and Alternatives;
- planning a conference of Hispanic community leaders to evaluate proposals for school reform;
- involvement in a local "Stay in School" rally;
- helping plan and prepare a Teen Leadership conference.



Denis Doyan, AFSC



## Indians

from page 1

With a per capita income of \$3,200, an average of six people in a family, and 63 percent of the population under 21, the modest enterprises of the Nutrition Campaign become urgent measures. "The problems of survival tend to overshadow all other issues," says Myrna White Face, staffperson on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

**It takes a strong community** to resist the offers of a sewage and toxic waste project in the midst of such poverty. The threat of sewage and solid waste being dumped on the reservation from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area allowed the community to take a measure of its own strength and to find allies in unexpected places. Staff were required to undertake technical research in order to conduct a radio campaign on the environmental and health consequences of the sludge dumping project. As they looked for help, they expanded their networks and became well known.

"On this particular campaign we worked with the tribal council, the district chairman, the community college, print and broadcast media, the Oglala Lakota Women's Society, environmentalists and people who were knowledgeable about waste management," says Myrna. "Early in the campaign, we were referred to as the 'Sludge Sisters,' a dubious distinction which still holds."

## New York Youth Leadership Project builds on AFSC experience

**Young people talking to young people . . .** the Youth Leadership Project in New York trains older teens to lead workshops on pregnancy, decision-making and self-esteem with younger teens.

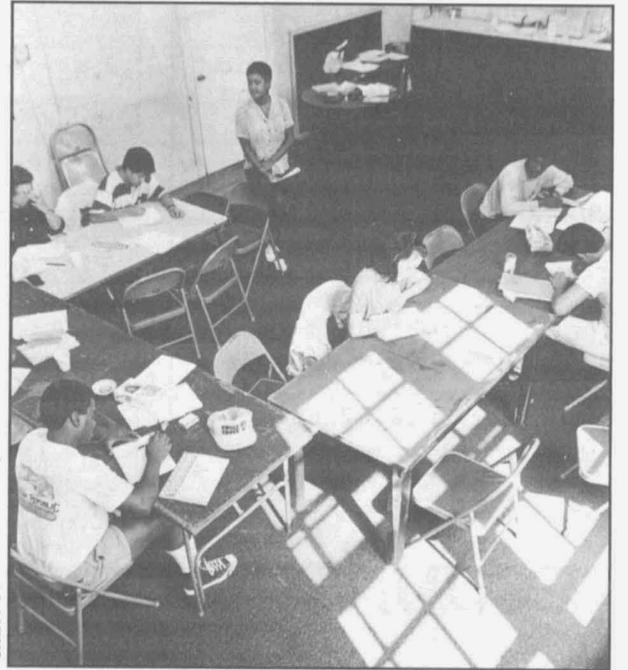
The Youth Leadership project grew out of New York AFSC's four years of experience offering teenagers free GED (high school equivalency) classes and job placement help. AFSC staff found that many of the students who had dropped out of high school and needed help were teen parents.

**The New York** office thus began this new work with youth. In the spring of 1987, and again in 1988, AFSC staff recruited and trained a small group of young people from throughout the city to serve as youth leaders. The training included communication skills, peer counseling, organizing, goal setting, and management skills, as well as training about sexuality issues.

The youth leaders developed a presentation suitable for younger teens, ages 12-15. The presentation addressed issues of sex and sexuality, but also focused on underlying self-esteem problems which lead many young people to become parents prematurely.

### In the '70s

The current New York AFSC work with youth evolved from a construction training program started in the late 1970's. The young people involved learned a skill, but they were often still unemployable because they did not have a high school diploma.



New York GED class.

To answer that problem, New York staff developed an on-site GED program. Some students needed more scholastic support than the GED could provide. This led the AFSC to work with the New York City Board of Education to develop an in-house alternative high school with a much broader curriculum for the students.

"We've taken it step-by-step through the years," says Lee Rosenfeld, project director. "We've built on our experience, as we've sought to help these young people grapple with the many problems they are facing."



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can mean a rough and tiring trip along the rocky cliffs of northeast Somalia to deliver cement to nomad farmers for their irrigation projects.

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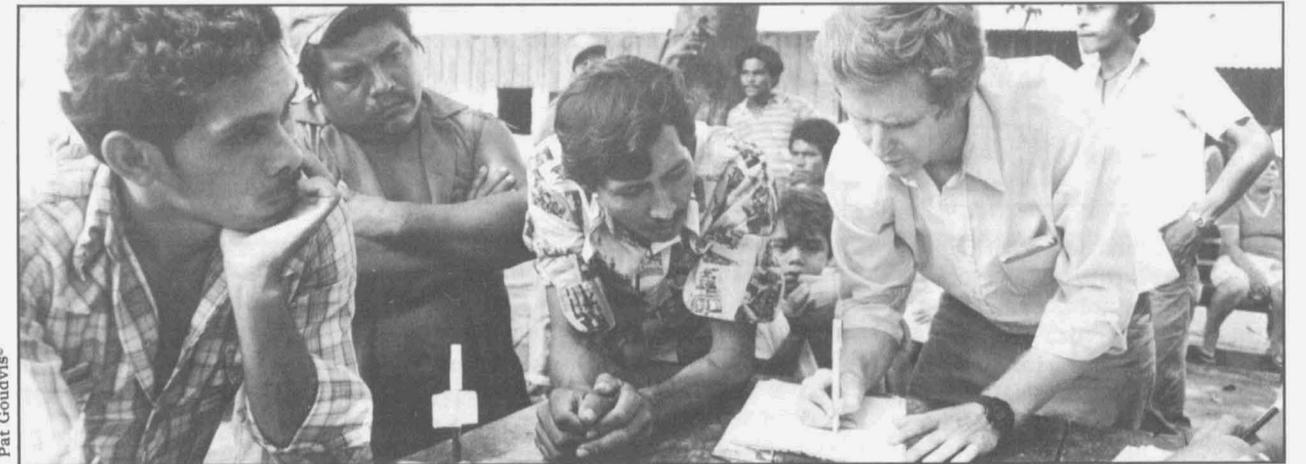
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## Nicaragua

from page 1



Rob McConnell, epidemiologist, takes notes on local pesticide use.

educator Nelly Torres and her husband, Ricardo Ibanez (employed by CARE), are helping workers understand the reasons for their health problems and what preventive or corrective actions are necessary, including changing their own work situations.

**In addition**, the Pesticide Health and Safety Project has introduced safety equipment and safety measures on some 30 farms—installed closed systems for loading chemicals, built showers, cemented the worksite where spray planes are loaded, set up a procedure for washing the plane and a filter for the water run-off.

AFSC staff Dr. Rob McConnell, a physician and epidemiologist, has helped the Health Ministry institute a medical testing-early warning system to identify poisonings. Technicians monitor some 100 workers a day for illness. Working from the tailgate of a car, they take blood samples and in thirty minutes can tell which workers are suffering the early effects of pesticide poisoning. To prevent them from becoming critically ill, they are

transferred to less hazardous duty or temporarily laid off with full pay.

**Rob McConnell** also trains those who provide health care—doctors, nurses and health specialists—so they can recognize and treat pesticide poisoning. A member of the Pan American Health Organization considers Rob one of the leading specialists in Latin America on pesticide illness.

Long-range, the Nicaraguans are developing nonchemical alternatives to pest control. One alternative is designed to destroy the worm which defoliates cotton plants. The worms are collected out-of-season when they are infected with a virus, made into a paste, frozen until the growing season, then mixed with water and sprayed on the new crops. As a species-specific virus it can be used fairly safely, and there is much hope for success.

**The interest** of other countries and the World Health Organization in the pesticide project gives AFSC hope that the work can be expanded to other Third World countries.

■ **Voices from South Africa** is a new video series that presents an uncensored picture of the current situation in South Africa.

Filmed by South Africans, within South Africa, and produced by AFSC's Academy Award winning filmmaker David Goodman, *Voices from South Africa* will be of particular interest to educators, religious, labor and community groups.

The five parts of *Voices from South Africa*, on two tapes (VHS or 3/4" U-Matic), may be used as a complete program or individually, depending on the interests and time available to the audience.

For more information or to purchase/rent the videos, contact NARMIC/AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Phone: (215) 241-7175.

## East—West

from page 1



(Above) One of AFSC's first delegations to the Soviet Union. (Below left) Mike Simmons, AFSC staffperson, meets with delegation from East and West Germany. (Below right) Mike Simmons and two participants at AFSC's first conference on U.S.-Soviet relations geared especially to women and people of color.

AFSC archives

According to Mike and Laurama, AFSC is now engaged in trying to move relations between the two countries forward in new ways. One step AFSC has taken is to organize seminars in the United States on U.S.-Soviet relations, with the seminars particularly geared to women and people of color who are opinion makers in their communities and jobs.

"It's been the common wisdom," says Mike, "that people of color are only interested in local, domestic issues. But of course we're interested in international issues. Who do you think gets called up to fight when the U.S. is in a conflict? A disproportionate number of people of color. And who are they sent to fight? Other people of color." In the last year two such seminars have been held, one in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and another in Atlanta, Georgia. Planning is taking place for a third seminar on the West Coast.

"I think AFSC has also had a modest impact in the Soviet Union by bringing people of color on our delegations. Again, the Soviets' point-of-view has been that Blacks who were interested in education or social problems might come, but that people of color were not as interested in international policy or arms control," says Mike. "I think in the Soviet Union, we are beginning to change some attitudes also."

## RESOURCES

■ **In the Shadow of Liberty** by Angela and Phillip Berryman.

*In the Shadow of Liberty* surveys the situation of Central American refugees in the United States in the late 1980's. The report provides an overview of the situation of refugees and refugee-related work which will help local groups relate their own concerns and work to what is happening elsewhere. \$6 each; 10 or more, \$5 each, plus 20% postage charge.

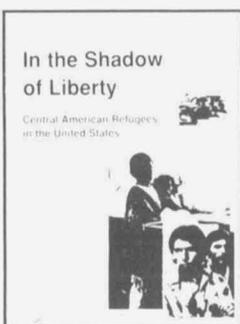
Write: Program Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.



Berry Foss, AFSC



Berry Foss, AFSC



■ **Reports from the Field.**

From the shantytowns that surround Sao Paulo, Brazil and Santiago, Chile, from the rural areas and urban barrios of Central America, come AFSC staff reports on conditions in these areas and on the steps people are taking through AFSC programs to meet some of their own health needs.

To receive a free single copy of any of these reports write: Anne Credle, Information Services, AFSC, Philadelphia.

■ **Bridges of Respect: Creating Support for Lesbian and Gay Youth**

Designed especially for parents, educators, religious leaders, community workers, health and human service providers and others who work with youth, *Bridges of Respect* presents a powerful analysis of the effects of homophobia on young people, creative ideas and approaches for effecting constructive change and an annotated directory of useful organizations, educational resources and program models. \$7.50 each.

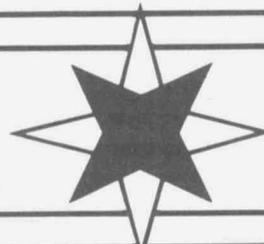
Write: Community Relations Division, AFSC, Philadelphia.

## QUAKER SERVICE BULLETIN

Quaker Service Bulletin is published in January, April and October of each year to report on the program work and perspectives of the American Friends Service Committee.

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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Sae Senpaty

Delivering rice to Laos (centerspread).