



Can Pacific nation stay non-nuclear?

"I always dreamed about going back home to help my country become self-sufficient. Now that dream is threatened by the Compact of Free Association. It will turn Belau into a military facility, bring social problems, and destroy the once peaceful way of life."

The speaker is James Orak. A native of Belau, which is 500 miles east of the Philippines in the Pacific, James lives in Portland, Oregon and is a member of AFSC's program committee. The "Compact" which he discusses, if ratified, would allow the transit of U.S. nuclear weapons or nuclear-capable ships and grant the United States unlimited military access to Belauan lands, violating Belau's non-nuclear constitution. James and other Belauans in Portland inform the U.S. Belauan community and the broader U.S. public about developments in Belau. AFSC disarmament staff, in Portland and elsewhere, join in this effort. They are a critical part of a small but increasingly effective campaign to challenge what many feel is the United States' obstruction of self-determination and justice in Belau.

While the Compact of Free Association violates Belau's non-nuclear constitution, it would also continue U.S. aid to Belau—aid which now approximates \$15 million per year and provides the main source of paid employment in Belau.

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Diane Shandor, AFSC

Paulette Wittwer talks with James Orak.

U.S. citizens work for Mid-East Peace

AFSC has staff throughout the United States involved with individuals and religious and community groups working on the possibilities for peace in the Middle East. In this article, Allan Solomonow, AFSC staffperson in San Francisco, writes about Middle East peace education work, including an AFSC-sponsored speaking tour of an Arab and an Israeli.

In the spring of 1984, two men who once lived near each other in the Middle East met for the first time—at the American Friends Service Committee office in San Francisco. The Israeli was a distinguished Zionist, Mordechai Bar-On. The Palestinian was the former mayor of Halhul (a West Bank town), who had been deported three years earlier by the Israeli Military Governor. Both had come to the United States for a national speaking tour under AFSC auspices.

The following day they spoke at a luncheon hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council and at an evening program at the Arab Cultural Center. In each case there were pickets who felt this dialogue betrayed the cause of their people; yet most of those who came were engrossed by the challenge of two would-be adversaries saying that peace and justice for both people were inseparable. An hour-long TV documentary, aired on PBS' Frontline, was made of the ensuing speaking tour. Following the tour and the TV show, dialogue groups where Jews and Arabs meet were started around the country.

The AFSC tries to listen to and illuminate all sides of the Middle East discussion in the United States. When eight Palestinian activists were arrested for political reasons by the Immigration and Naturalization Service earlier this year, AFSC staff in Pasadena took responsibility for publicity in challenging the government's action. Regional AFSC offices have frequently facilitated dialogue between the Arab and Jewish communities, often leading to cooperation on joint educational efforts.

Why has the AFSC become a gathering point for Americans searching for Middle East reconciliation? AFSC has a history of concern in the region going back to the 1940's. Drawing upon that experience, in 1970 AFSC produced a pioneering study, *Search for Peace in the Middle East*, which sought to reach beyond the dogmas that impede Middle East discussion.

Since *Search for Peace* was published, the Middle East program has become a major AFSC commitment. AFSC has distributed materials from Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers that would otherwise be hard to find. Slide shows have been produced to deal with sensitive concerns such as Lebanon and the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinian and Israeli peace groups know that they can turn to AFSC for support and to help interpret their vision of a mutual peace to

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Homeless people organize

There is a shocking crisis of low-income housing in the United States. While the number of low-income people is increasing, the number of housing units poor people can afford is actually shrinking. The supply of affordable housing is being ravaged—by condo conversion, by price hikes in gentrifying neighborhoods, and by demolition to make way for highways, hospitals, office buildings or luxury hotels. Today, there are 5.5 million more low-income families than there are affordable rental units, that is, with rentals not over 30 percent of income. By 1995, according to estimates, that gap will grow to ten million

unless massive new programs are put in place.

In the Bay Area of California, in Boston and in Hawaii, AFSC programs address this problem. Program strategies emphasize working with organizations of homeless people to strengthen and support their movement toward needed change and to help convey the reality of the housing crisis to policymakers and the general public.

In California, 350 people took part in a three day sleep-out in a parking lot in East Oakland to dramatize the crisis of homelessness. Homeless people and their supporters main-

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© Donald Cunningham

Homeless people in Oakland, California testify.

A journey to understanding

by Stephen G. Cary, Chairperson, AFSC Board of Directors

Readers of this issue of Quaker Service Bulletin will find a report about AFSC's work on gay and lesbian concerns. Undoubtedly a number of readers will be curious about why the AFSC has entered this area of social and theological controversy.

The Quaker faith places great importance on experience, and AFSC's first considerations of homosexuality were based on the experience of several staff and committee members. In the mid-1970's a number of people "came out," identifying themselves as gay and lesbian. They shared with their co-workers—and with the AFSC Board of Directors—examples of how they had experienced prejudice and discrimination not just in the wider world, but within the AFSC.

In an early discussion of the concern in the Board of Directors, one member noted, "There are many who feel the matter of sexual preference is so personal that it does not belong on the agenda of the AFSC Board. But, as long as persons are being discriminated against, and made to feel worthless because they are women who prefer social relationships with other women or men who prefer social

relationships with other men, it is a matter which needs our attention and thought. AFSC programs have long worked to end discrimination and to help people come together to communicate with and understand one another through love."

These early insights have guided the AFSC and its Board of Directors into a variety of expressions of concern for the rights of gay and lesbian people within our society. We have developed explicitly non-discriminatory personnel policies and have joined in lawsuits which challenge legal sanctioning of discrimination. We have stood beside gay and lesbian people as they have demanded recognition of their rights. And we have supported efforts within the gay community to combat AIDS through educational campaigns.

As we have sought to remove the blinders of fear and discomfort, we have been able to see God's love reflected through many lives. As AFSC has become known as a place in which gay and lesbian people are respected, we have learned that some old associates—and family members—are gay. Sometimes those revelations have been a shock and required that we

examine our own prejudices and assumptions. At other times that openness has engendered respect or a feeling of relief that at last we can really begin to know someone with whom we have lived or worked for years.

The journey of understanding that a few of our co-workers helped us begin more than a decade ago has led AFSC to a fuller appreciation of our own and the wider human family. Yet we are aware that our concern in this area is difficult for others in our society, including some within the Religious Society of Friends, to understand. How do we respond to the criticism that results?

We attempt to engage in respectful dialogue with those who are differently led, listening and sharing our insights and experience. At times we have had to simply agree to disagree—and to continue working together in areas in which we have agreement. But, as our executive secretary, Asia Bennett, reported to the AFSC Corporation this fall, "I believe our work in this area is rightly led and that I, personally, and the broader AFSC, can do no other."

AFSC builds Central America support

Central America has been the focus of many AFSC efforts over the last few years. However, one of AFSC's most significant roles in the Central American movement is not well known: the critical behind-the-scenes work staff and volunteers do to build both grassroots and national networks, drawing on AFSC's experience, staying power and resources.

In San Francisco, AFSC staffperson Dave Hartsough has long been a central figure in the peace and justice movement as a trainer and facilitator in building nonviolence campaigns on a variety of community and national issues. Most recently Dave helped develop a series of vigils at the Concord Naval Station where bombs are being stored and readied for shipment to El Salvador. The current project is called Nuremberg Actions, recalling the principles applied by the U.S. and other Allies against criminal acts of World War II. They read in part: "Complicity in the commission of a crime against humanity is a crime under international law."

It was at this base in September that Brian Willson, the Vietnam veteran activist, was run over by a Navy train which he and other vets tried to block from carrying munitions to the port. Brian lost both legs and suffered serious head injuries. Brian's tragedy has not stopped his resistance or that of the growing numbers of people who come to the base to protest; instead, it has intensified people's sense of commitment.

Dave Hartsough has been an important resource, providing the necessary training in nonviolence that enables Nuremberg Actions to continue its creative challenge to the U.S. role in the war in El Salvador. According to Dave, "People have poured out their hearts; they want to start similar campaigns at military



Diane Shandor, AFSC

bases throughout the country."

In Chicago, the Religious Task Force on Central America has been at the center of the nationwide sanctuary movement to aid Central American refugees. Mary Ann Corley of AFSC recalls how she and other colleagues worked to build the Task Force following the 1980 rape and murder of four U.S. churchwomen in El Salvador. Mary Ann says, "It was urgent that there be effective outreach to the religious community in response to growing military intervention and human rights abuses."

In the creation of the Task Force, there was particularly strong leadership from women in the various church organizations. The Task Force later developed the first national clearinghouse for the emerging sanctuary movement.

Recently Mary Ann traveled to the refugee camps in Honduras and took part in a unique pilgrimage through which over 4000 people returned to their home villages in El Salvador. For Mary Ann, being in Honduras while so many people were able to return home was the culmination of years of work to assist refugees in their struggle to regain their communities.

As part of AFSC's work from the national office in Philadelphia, Angie Berryman serves in a number of key leadership roles, particularly as chairperson of the Pledge of Resistance and as facilitator in planning major refugee support activities. As one who has lived and



Verl O'Bryant

(Left) Dave Hartsough consults with a local organizer at the Concord Naval station vigil. (Above) Janis Heine addresses a college class in Texas.

travelled in Central America for many years, Angie's knowledge of the region and its people brings an uncommon authenticity to AFSC's involvement in Central America peace and justice work in the U.S.

Under the direction of Janis Heine, AFSC's Texas/Arkansas/Oklahoma (TAO) office serves a wide range of communities in the three states, most of them small and isolated. "We rely a great deal on the leadership and resources of the AFSC Texas staff," said one activist in an Oklahoma church group. The critical role played by the AFSC TAO office can be readily seen in the formation of several statewide networks, including the Pledge of Resistance, the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Network and the Texas/Oklahoma Sanctuary Network.

In numerous other communities across the country, AFSC staff are quietly but effectively bringing people together in common cause around the search for peace in Central America. AFSC's expertise and solid resources support individuals and groups who are just beginning or who want to enhance their strategy for positive change in U.S. policy.

Jack Malinowski, Human Rights Coordinator for AFSC since 1978, has written many pieces on Central America work for the Quaker Service Bulletin. He has just been appointed fundraiser for the Southeast region.



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Legal aid provided in East Jerusalem

Makram is a 24-year-old school teacher in a village in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. He is single and lives with six members of his family in a three-room house in Jenin district. His monthly teacher's salary of about \$200 helps support his family. Arrested in May 1986, accused of membership in an illegal organization, and detained for one month in prison, he did not confess and no charge sheet was ever prepared against him. He was released without trial. The day after his arrest, Israeli authorities notified him he should stop working because of his imprisonment. He hired a lawyer to gain permission to return to work and permission was granted six months later. The AFSC Legal Aid Center in East Jerusalem contributed \$225 to help with the legal fees.

When Palestinians encounter legal problems in the occupied territories they frequently turn to the Quaker Legal Aid Center. Set up in 1974, with the encouragement of Palestinians and Israelis, the purpose of the Center is to provide Palestinians with information on social services available to them under Israeli law, and with legal advice and financial aid for legal fees. It has been the only office, since 1974, providing legal aid to this community. Over 50 lawyers, both Jewish and Arab, refer cases to the Center for assistance.

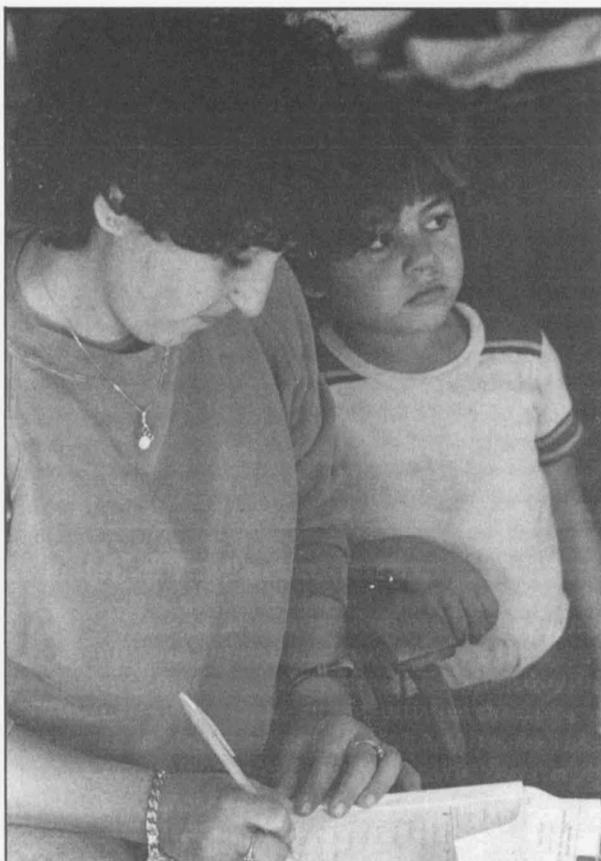
Most center cases concern the detention of an individual on security charges, ranging from membership in an illegal organization or writing nationalist slogans on the walls, to unlawful demonstration, throwing stones, or military training. The office also assists in cases of land expropriation, house demolition or sealing, damage to people or property caused by military personnel or material, and applications for family reunion.

If someone is arrested and the family does not know where he or she is being detained, relatives can inquire at the office and may be referred to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Often, however, a prisoner's whereabouts are not known until two weeks after arrest. Also, if a house is slated for demolition, a family might approach the Center for assistance in securing the services of a lawyer.

Center staff inform people of their rights, orient them to the legal system, and provide moral support. Haifa el Issa, the office intake desk worker, interviews clients, asking them the details of the legal case and of their socio-economic situation. When a case file is opened, fieldworkers Wafa Halaby and Abdullah Hammad visit the families' homes in towns, refugee camps and villages throughout the West Bank, to determine the families' need for help in paying legal fees. Finally Maha Abu Dayyeh Shamas, the first Palestinian director of the Center, reviews each file to decide the level of assistance the family will receive from the office. In general, the Center does not pay the full fee of the lawyer but makes a partial contribution.

Over the past several years, Center staff have noted a pattern in Israeli occupation practice of targeting a particular community for intensive pressure. Arrests are made, night patrols carry out house-to-house searches, and a curfew may be imposed. Following one such incident in June 1987, in Balata refugee camp near Nablus, 19 families applied to the Quaker Legal Aid Center in East Jerusalem for assistance in paying legal fees in the cases of their sons who were imprisoned. After a careful assessment of the families' level of need, the Quaker office contributed a total of \$2,500 to their legal fees.

The Center is also interested in assisting in legal cases which, if won, could potentially set



Larry Miller, AFSC

AFSC fieldworker takes notes on a client's situation at her home.



Warren Witte, AFSC

Legal aid receptionist does an intake interview.

an example and thereby help other people who are confronting similar legal problems. This is particularly important as Israel does not have the equivalent of a class-action suit on behalf of a group.

The Legal Aid Center is but one expression of the AFSC commitment to justice, human rights, and reconciliation in the region. Other programs include support to a curriculum project in Israeli schools which is helping Jewish and Arab teenagers understand each other better; 15 kindergartens for children in Gaza, and the Middle East Representatives Program which works quietly with regional leaders to support negotiated solutions to conflict.

Holocaust work documented

AFSC work with Jewish refugees and victims of the Holocaust grew out of Centers set up by British and American Friends in European cities after World War I. Jews came to the Centers in Berlin and Vienna asking for assistance; many were helped to get as far as the Paris Center where Friends gave them further aid. It is these contacts which produced the volume of now historical documents in AFSC files, files which Garland Publishing Inc. in New York now plans to publish as part of a representative selection from American collections on Jewish refugees and the Holocaust.

It has been a year-long project for AFSC archivist Jack Sutters, who comments, "It is sobering to go through this material. You read pathetic stories of people trying to escape, who are held-up by red tape, the harassment they endure. You find yourself rooting for them."

Several British Quakers were arrested briefly

AFSC programs for gay concerns

"A child's personality cannot grow without self-esteem, without feelings of emotional security, without faith in the world's willingness to make room for him (or her) to live as a human being." These are the words of Lillian Smith, a civil rights activist in the 1940's. Smith urged her audiences to become aware of the ways in which behaviors and attitudes directed against particular groups (in this instance, Black people) placed so many children in jeopardy.—From Bridges of Respect, AFSC's new guide for adults working with youth.

There are millions of young people in America and thousands of groups and organizations created to educate, care for and serve them. Just as "adults" are not a monolithic group, neither are young people. One of the most invisible groups is young people who are homosexually oriented.

"We've all grown up in a society where being gay, or thought of as gay, has been very difficult," says Kay Whitlock, who wrote the guide for the AFSC. "From kids taunting other kids with the words lezzy, faggot, sissy...to beatings (in some cases, resulting in death) of gay young people and adults."

This guide is intended to help educators, social service providers, religious leaders and others with information they need to create an environment where all the young people in their care receive safe and equal treatment.

(*Bridges of Respect* is available from the Community Relations Division, AFSC, Phila.)

In Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington, AFSC has begun a special program on gay and lesbian concerns. According to Catlin Fullwood, director of the program in Seattle, "Our work has three aspects. First, building understanding and support among religious groups and clergy. Second, working in a supportive way with gay and lesbian communities. Third, addressing issues around the connection of racism, sexism and homophobia."

Dan Stutzman in Portland works mainly with the religious community. He says, "We work with religious groups which are interested in becoming 'reconciling congregations,' that is, are interested in welcoming back their gay and lesbian members." Dan has also helped develop an interfaith council based in Portland.

In Seattle, AFSC's project works mainly with education and prevention information about AIDS in communities of color. Catlin helped create the Seattle People of Color Against AIDS Network which held its first major colloquium for doctors, social workers, religious leaders and activists this fall.

for sheltering Jews and associating with anti-Nazi groups. Other Friends and Quaker representatives visited individuals in the concentration camps as a way to pressure officials into giving the prisoners better treatment. There is a report of the visit of AFSC representatives to Gestapo officials on behalf of Jews, and a letter from British Friends to Hitler requesting permission to visit the concentration camps and calling for the release of Jews and other prisoners.

AFSC, with support from others, helped refugee children get out of concentration camps in Unoccupied France to live in special children's colonies. A number were brought to the States until the war was over.

Garland Press is documenting the work by AFSC and other organizations so that libraries, scholars and others will have access to this information.

FARMWORKERS a

“Over the years the farmworkers have changed. In the 30's and 40's, they were often refugees from the dust bowl, people who had owned their own farms in the South or Midwest who were forced off their land and headed to California. In the 40's and 50's, the U.S. and Mexico had various agreements. Under one, about 500,000 Mexicans came to the U.S. under a contract labor plan. Another 500,000 came illegally. They began to form communities here. And throughout this time, there were Black workers in the fields.

“In the mid-60's many farmers from South Texas, New Mexico and Arizona went out of business. This included my family. First my Dad became a farmworker, then we all did. Now the family is scattered all over the country.

“Today, there are Mexicans in the fields, Central Americans, workers from the Caribbean, from West Africa, from Southeast Asia. So there are always new groups of people moving into farm work. Partially this is because of the backbreaking labor, no one can last too long. And the employers want the population to change. Older laborers would want more benefits. They'd be more aware of pay rates for certain kinds of work. So the employer would usually prefer younger, new employees.

“That makes our job hard. You can work on self-help housing or health rights or the right to organize with an entire group of people. But five years later it may be a new population—from another part of the world. It means we always work two steps forward, one step back.

“The farmers are often between a rock and a hard place. They need to sell their produce for a profit. It costs money to run the farm. They cannot affect the price of fertilizer, price of water, of land, of packing, of shipping. The only thing they have control over is how much they pay the workers.

“However, they can give higher wages, even if they are small farmers...by cutting out middle people, contractors...by shipping directly, doing direct marketing.”

—Domingo Gonzalez, National Farm Labor Representative, AFSC.

California

Ernesto Laredo started working with the AFSC in 1955, when he was a farmworker and one of the renters of the Housing Authority's "tin shacks" in the Visalia area of California's Central Valley. "The shacks were so hot that we would get old pieces of scrap carpet, put them on the roofs, and pour water on them so that they could be cooled down a little to let the children sleep in the afternoon," says Ernesto.

Originally intended as free temporary shelter for people from the dust bowl during the depression, the shacks remained and were rented by the Housing Authority to farmworkers. The Authority tried to raise the rents, and some of the tenants struck.

The rent strike lasted 32 months, many people dropped out, but eventually the strikers prevailed. The Housing Authority built two new housing complexes in the area with attractive homes, yards, and playgrounds.

Ernesto and Pablo Espinoza, who joined the AFSC staff some years later, went on to help create a health care center, to work with school boards for farmworkers' children, to start self-help housing projects and to assist other

tenants who faced terrible conditions and high rents. Their work formed the basis for future farm labor projects of the AFSC around the country.

In 1970, David Burciaga was assigned by the AFSC to work directly with the United Farmworkers who were organizing in California for better conditions and pay. He stayed for eight years. The UFW has been commended for its commitment to nonviolent organizing in the fields, at the negotiating table, and with consumers through the lettuce and grape boycotts.

David Burciaga helped shape that nonviolence, according to Cesar Chavez in a letter he wrote to the Service Committee in 1978. According to Chavez, David developed credibility among workers and growers alike in critical periods of the negotiating process.

This work resulted in millions of dollars in health benefits and pay increases for farmworkers throughout the state of California. Perhaps the most important contribution David made, however, was his insistence that wherever he went, one of the farmworkers from the local ranch committees accompany him. He believed in

Two Florida farmworkers build self-help housing in the 1960's.



Jim Upchurch, AFSC

© Len Lahman

nd AFSC: 1955-1988

direct input from the farmworkers at every stage of the negotiations.

Florida and East Coast

In the mid-60's, work in Florida and up the East Coast was the second major focus of AFSC's involvement in farmworker communities. From 1965 to 1970, AFSC trained farmworkers who were part of the "migrant stream" of people who worked most of the year in Florida, migrating north to pick crops during the summer. The project was designed to train leaders who understood how to use the laws and social services available to the farmworkers as a way of empowering the entire migrant stream.

Although the Project helped individuals and some groups of people, it in large part failed because migrant stream workers were so dependent on crew leaders and therefore afraid to assert their rights.

AFSC changed its way of working to reflect the lessons learned about migrant farmworkers' incredible lack of power. Work was begun at the base in Florida where most of the migrants spent about half the year living and working.

Florida has one of the worst

farmworker housing situations in the country. Primarily working with Black farmworkers in the central part of the state, AFSC created Housing Development Corporations from the late 60's through the 70's. AFSC staff sought to organize a community of farmworkers who could then develop grant and loan applications and help other farmworkers through the construction process.

At this time AFSC was also working on the book, *Abuse of Power*, which documented the mismanagement of the Farmers Home Administration office in Florida. Local officers had enormous power to turn down farmworkers for housing loans. As a result of the AFSC book, personnel and policies were changed.

However, the main thrust of the Florida program was to help farmworkers through the housing process. Some of the housing corporations set up still exist today and are still building new housing for farmworkers, helping to create communities.

Texas

In the late 1960's and early 70's, AFSC's work in Texas focused on the health care system, in-

cluding its design and delivery of services to farmworker communities. A federal program was started in 1970 to expand access to the health planning process and health care. However, posing a major challenge to the program was the fact that in a four-county area of Texas, nearly half the population was made up of migrant workers, who were usually out of state when the federal health dollars were being distributed.

AFSC helped organize migrant workers and others concerned about health care issues into community groups that could have an impact on the health planning process. The project had two immediate results: farmworkers became members of the health planning boards and a family health care center was built.

To this day, the health planning board in that part of Texas has had a more representative composition than the boards in most parts of the country. Other long-term groups were also created as the people came together around health-care issues, including the Texas Consumers Association.

Ohio

In addition to its long-term work with the United Farmworkers, AFSC supported the efforts of the Farmworkers Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in the tomato fields of Ohio. Eventually, FLOC's work led to a ground-breaking agreement among the workers, the farmers and the corporate food companies which buy the farmers' produce. AFSC continues to work in Ohio and Kentucky with both the farmworkers and farmers.

Changing Policies

AFSC has published carefully documented studies about the situation of farmworkers which have influenced public policy at both the state and national level, including:

- *Child Labor in Agriculture*,

- *School Days, Saturdays, and Fiestas: Children Who Work in Commercial Agriculture*,
- *Abuse of Power: A Case Study of the Rural Housing Program...in Two Florida Counties*,
- *Catalog of Misery: A Report on Bad Rural Housing in Florida*,
- *The Hands That Feed Us* (AFSC and ACLU).
- *A comprehensive plan developed for the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs on the state's responsibilities to farmworkers.*

Thirty-three years after the first AFSC farm labor project in California, AFSC continues to support farmworkers in their efforts to assert their rights and organize for change in their living and working conditions. The changing composition of farmworker communities and other trends in farm labor have meant different responses by the AFSC.

Today, the majority of workers in the fields are Mexican, Central American and Haitian, meaning that AFSC not only continues to help farmworkers with workplace and living problems, but gives major attention to the immigration policies and practices that affect farmworkers' lives.

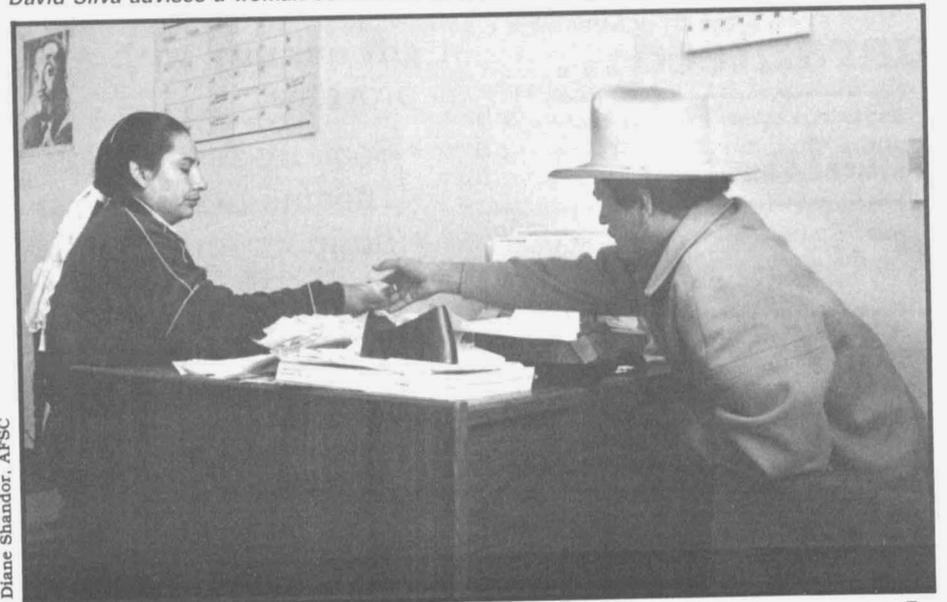
In Florida, where AFSC worked staff are now involved with the legalization of undocumented workers.

In the Yakima Valley of Washington state, David Silva works with farmworkers to organize legal defense committees, which function both as bail-bond groups if a worker is picked up, and hopefully, as long-term groups to help workers with the process of settling into the community.

Today, a special project of the AFSC documents abuses of the immigration process and seeks to bring the issue to public attention through both local and national media. The project draws on AFSC work in California, Texas, Florida and the state of Washington.



David Silva advises a woman concerned about the immigration status of a relative.



Diane Shandor, AFSC

In Brief...



Sharil Lind

Interns serve United Nations

Young college graduates from different cultures and backgrounds apply to serve as interns at the Quaker U.N. Office (QUNO) in New York City as an opportunity to continue their education in international affairs. In the past they have come from Peru, Kenya, Poland, Norway, Canada, the United Kingdom and the U.S. This year's interns (above) are Annie Levy from the U.S. and Noel Rajesh from India.

In addition to attending U.N. sessions and following the issues, the interns help prepare mailings, file and take care of visitors. They help organize QUNO meetings and events at Quaker House, write the monthly newsletter, prepare reports and speak to various groups.

Noel Rajesh says, "I've discovered the real effectiveness of the UN lies in the fact that it is a forum for the less developed countries to present their point of view, to ask for assistance from the international community and, in general, to make the more developed nations aware of their problems. I hope my work here will be a contribution to this process."

Salvadoran granted asylum

Forty-two year old Jose is now a free man—one of the very few Salvadoran refugees in this country who has been granted asylum. He has been released from the Krome detention center in Miami, has work authorization, and is entitled to apply for permanent residency. The Immigration Court judge ruling on Jose's case, after hearing testimony of extensive persecution in El Salvador, granted Jose asylum.

Jose has rejoined his son Miguel, 20, whose case is still pending at Immigration Court. Peter Upton, the AFSC staff lawyer in Miami who worked on both cases, said Miguel's bid for political asylum likely will be denied.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association says, "Immigration and Naturalization Service decisions on asylum cases consistently have demonstrated political and ideological bias. From 1983 to 1986, asylum claims for only 2.6 percent of Salvadorans, less than 1 percent of Guatemalans, and less than 1.8 percent of Haitians were approved by the INS. However, in recent months, close to 40 percent of Nicaraguans who applied have been approved.

In October, AFSC Executive Secretary Asia Bennett protested INS' proposed asylum regulations that would have put decisions solely within the Immigration Service. "One of the most disturbing elements of the proposed regulations," she said in her letter to the INS, "is the elimination of a political asylum applicant's right to have a hearing before an independent, impartial judge."

The proposed regulations were withdrawn in late fall because of widespread opposition, but were expected to be rewritten in the light of public comments received, and re-issued.



Susan Lobo, AFSC

Latin American Indians tour

Above, Blanca Chancoso, a Guichua Indian from Ecuador, addresses an audience in Washington state. Blanca, along with Maria Luc Traipe, a Mapuche Indian from Chile, and Amadeo Ramos, a Nahuat from El Salvador, made a tour of the U.S. in November to talk about the issues that face them in their countries as indigenous peoples.

Blanca said, "We want 1992 (the 500th anniversary of the invasion of the American continent) to be declared the year of self-determination for Indian people. We are suffering from imperialism in our lands. Corporations try to take our land, and religious organizations try to impose their beliefs on us.

Blanca, Maria, and Amadeo sought to build connections with both Indian and non-Indian grassroots groups during their trip, speaking in seven states and Washington D.C.

The group's tour was sponsored by the South and Central American Information Center, an AFSC project which is becoming an independent organization, and Oxfam America, Mass.



Terry Foss, AFSC

North Korean guests of AFSC visit a dairy farm in West Chester, PA.

North Koreans guests of AFSC

Two representatives to the U.N. from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Mr. Chang Yong Chol and Mr. Chong Chol Su, were guests of the AFSC in Philadelphia the weekend of October 10. Usually the U.S. State Department limits travel of U.N. diplomats from socialist countries to a 25-mile radius of New York City. To leave this restricted area requires special permission, which was granted in this instance because of the AFSC invitation. It was the first time North Korean diplomats at the U.N. had been allowed to leave New York for an overnight stay.

The Koreans began their visit

Saturday morning with coffee and tea at the home of International Division Secretary Corinne Johnson in Philadelphia, and then were given a tour of historical sites in the area. In the evening they were guests at an informal potluck dinner, attended by some 50 people, at the home of an AFSC committee member in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

One of the recommendations for improving relations between the U.S. and North Korea in AFSC's recent book *Two Koreas, One Future?* was that the U.S. allow North Koreans to travel outside the restricted area.

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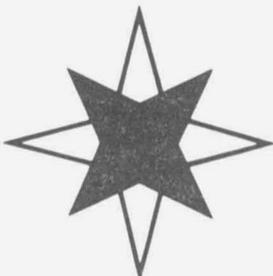
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AFSC staff working on Middle East education meet. From left, Denis Doyan (Denver, CO), Allan Solomonow (author), Linda Lotz (Pasadena, CA) and Norma Tower (Philadelphia, PA).

Mid-East

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Americans. In 1980, AFSC produced a new study, *A Compassionate Peace: A Future for the Middle East*. It has become a widely-used analysis that tries to place in context the contradictory claims that dominate Middle East discussion, asking that we reach a little farther to a broader, more positive position.

In "living our principles," AFSC does not see the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as requiring a choice between these two peoples. AFSC's commitment to the dignity and the right of self-determination of all peoples must apply both to Israeli and Palestinian.

Just as we are committed to Israel's right to exist within secure and recognized boundaries, we support the Palestinian people's right to national self-determination. An enduring peace must be made by all parties to the conflict, including the Palestinians. Therefore, we believe there should be a peace process in which the PLO can play an integral part. And in our non-violent witness we have opposed all violence, however it may be called. This leads us to oppose all arms shipments to the region, whether to Israel or the Arab nations.

When he toured the United States, Palestinian leader Mohammed Milhem said, "There is only one apparent course left: mutual recognition of both nations' right to self-determination, security and peace."

This has been hard for many skeptics to hear. The fears accumulated through history make it hard to break into new patterns even when they are necessary for survival. Yet this position has found increasing support in American Jewish and Arab leadership.

Mohammed Milhem is now on the Executive Committee of the PLO. The Israeli who toured with him, Mordechai Bar-On, has since served in the Israeli Knesset. Our challenge is to continue to make such voices heard in our nation as they are in the Middle East.

AIDS statement: a call for action

In AFSC's statement on AIDS, the Board of Directors says: "AIDS challenges society to respond in ways that affirm respect for all human beings and strengthen our sense of community. Aids is preventable. No one should die of AIDS."

The Board of Directors brings to its consideration of AIDS its Quaker belief in the dignity of all people and the organization's involvement with diverse communities around the world, including many that are particularly vulnerable to the AIDS epidemic.

The statement assesses the challenges and barriers to AIDS prevention, describes a set of actions to which the AFSC has committed itself, and addresses major public policy issues growing out of the epidemic.

The statement calls for AIDS education campaigns, noting that such efforts by the gay community in some areas have been credited with causing behavior changes and slowing the spread of AIDS in those communities. It emphasizes that education must be pursued most aggressively in those communities that are most poorly served by traditional information and health services.

The AFSC Board opposes mandatory testing in which whole groups are singled out—such as

prisoners, undocumented persons or military personnel. It urges less intrusive alternatives and calls for voluntary testing (with provision of counseling) and education efforts to meet legitimate public health concerns.

The Board also calls for major public funding of AIDS education, treatment and research programs. For its part, the Board commits AFSC to making AIDS education materials available at AFSC offices and events and to take other steps to work on AIDS education and related public policy issues.

In conclusion, the statement acknowledges that the continuing flow of new information on AIDS will undoubtedly change the specific terms of the public debate on AIDS. However, it states: "Certain principles must undergird society's responses to the AIDS epidemic under any circumstances. They include universal values of compassion, respect for the dignity of individuals and equal treatment of all individuals and groups. These principles alone cannot rid society of AIDS; they can assure that the disease does not attack the bonds of humanity and community."

THE AIDS CRISIS: Education and Policy Issues is available free of charge from the Information Services Department of AFSC, Philadelphia, or from other AFSC offices.

Pacific

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This economic dependence creates enormous pressure on Belau to conform to U.S. wishes. The result has been an endless series of plebiscites on the Compact, with voting surrounded by misleading political education, increasing intimidation, and economic pressures. Each time the Belauans have rejected the Compact (on five occasions since 1983), another plebiscite has been scheduled. After the fifth plebiscite, the President of Belau, who supports the Compact, laid off 900 workers (one-half the employed workforce), citing alleged financial strains resulting from Belau's failure to approve the Compact.

The Compact was finally "approved" in August, 1987, following a legally-questionable vote to amend the Constitution. A legal challenge to the constitutional amendment was dropped when the father of two pro-Constitution leaders was killed and a plaintiff's house was firebombed.

Where does AFSC fit in? AFSC works with Belauans living in the United States, who are able to vote on the Compact. According to Paulette Wittwer, AFSC staff in Portland, "People have had to vote on this enormous docu-

ment, which often they don't even get to see. We help by getting out current, accurate information."

AFSC also helps to bring the situation in Belau to the attention of a broader world public. As the crisis in Belau deepened in the latter half of 1987, this education work became increasingly important.

The U.S. Congress must now approve the Compact, which is expected to be reviewed early in 1988. One Belauan in Portland recently said, "We visited the staff of our congress-people and discovered they knew next to nothing about Belau and the recent violence. How can they decide on the Compact if they don't know what is going on?"

To educate Congress and the public, the community in Portland put together a comprehensive briefing book for activists. AFSC's National Disarmament Program has been working with regional programs and the Friends Committee on National Legislation to produce action alerts and information on the status of the Compact in Congress.

The message in all of this work is a simple one: Congress should not approve the Compact until there is a genuine resolution of the constitutional issues in Belau. We want the U.S. government to support real democracy and self-determination in Belau.

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AFSC is now able to provide the text of the Quaker Service Bulletin and some descriptive program brochures in large type. If you would like a list of brochures available for visually impaired people, please return the following coupon.



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RESOURCES

■ SUMMIT 1987: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A "Media Briefing Packet" which provides extensive background information for activists to use in working with their local print and electronic media. Information included on the INF (Intermediate Nuclear Forces) Agreement, strategic nuclear and conventional forces. Also three opinion pieces: "Next Steps for the Superpowers," "View from Europe," and "Why Did the Soviets Agree to 'Zero Options'?" \$2.50 includes postage.

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

■ VOICES FROM APARTHEID'S OTHER WAR:

South Africa's Aggression Against Its Neighbor. This 16-page booklet, written by the AFSC's Quaker International Affairs Representative in southern Africa, documents South Africa's efforts to bolster apartheid by destabilizing neighboring majority-ruled states through sponsorship of rebel groups, military attacks and use of its economic power. \$3

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



■ MINI-GUIDE TO APARTHEID

An AFSC overview of the problems and the roots of the struggle in South Africa. \$.25

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

■ IMMIGRATION "REFORM": HEAVIEST BURDEN ON WOMEN

Written in both English and Spanish by Annette Fuentes for the Nationwide Women's Program of the AFSC, this brochure explores the impact that the new immigration law will have on women in the workplace, in family life, and in the social service system.

To receive a free copy, send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to: Nationwide Women's Program, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

■ WHERE THE HEART STANDS

Experience Quaker Service around the world through the new AFSC 22-minute color slide show with audio tape... or VHS video if you prefer. It describes Quaker Service programs of development, peace, justice and community service both in the U.S. and overseas. You may invite an AFSC speaker to accompany the program or use it alone with its packet of informational materials. There is no cost for its use.

For a copy of *Where the Heart Stands* contact your nearest AFSC office, or the AV Dept. National AFSC office, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.



Terry Foss, AFSC

Homeless woman studies apartment ads at "My Sister's Place".

Homelessness

from page 1

tained a regular presence at City Council meetings to press their demands for funds to prevent the closing of the only shelter for homeless families in East Oakland. Last September, homeless people founded the Oakland Union of the Homeless, a local chapter of the National Union of the Homeless which now has units in ten cities.

In Berkeley, another Bay Area city, the Mayor's Task Force for the Homeless demanded prompt action by the city, including: declaration of a housing emergency until all Berkeley's homeless population is sheltered; a moratorium on demolition of low-rent single-room-occupancy hotels

and construction of additional low-rent hotels; and transfer of city-owned vacant housing to sweat equity programs.

Terry Messman-Rucker, AFSC staff member, works alongside homeless people in these efforts. Their basic demand is for permanent housing for the growing number of children and adults who are now homeless.

In Boston, AFSC has opened My Sister's Place, an "advocacy center for homeless women." Not a shelter, the center is a place where homeless women can gather information, gain assistance in finding their way through the

maze of housing and income support programs, and begin to organize to advocate for permanent changes.

Systemic problems abound. In addition to a severe shortage of affordable housing, there is virtually no childcare for women who desperately need it in order to seek homes and jobs; women are not informed of benefits for which they are eligible; families are often warehoused in cramped motel rooms, distant from the services they need. At the Center, staff members Angela O'Callaghan and Terri Russo are creating a welcoming place, where women share practical information, support and advice. In Boston, too, the local chapter of the Union of the Homeless is a source of strength.

In Hawaii, AFSC staff member Ho'ipo De Cambra was part of an interreligious group which was instrumental in getting transitional housing built for homeless people evicted from beach parks. In addition, she facilitated workshops where prospective residents decided what programs were needed to meet their long term goals; priority was given to education and job training. Now the project exists, with homeless people on the Board of Directors, and the education and training programs are in operation.

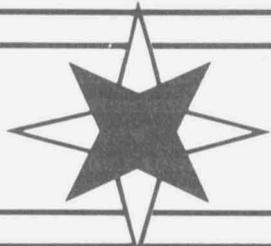
The bottom line of all these efforts is a demand for permanent housing. The bottom line of AFSC work is to help build a movement led by homeless women and men to deal with the crisis affecting them and their families.

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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Diane Shandor, AFSC

Vigil at Concord Naval Station.