

Linda Lotz, AFSC

Los Angeles, CA vigil for peace.

## Middle East uprising creates new needs

On December 9, 1987, a spontaneous popular uprising, born of 20 years of frustration with military occupation, erupted among Palestinians in the West Bank and on the Gaza Strip. Demonstrators blocked roads with burning tires, throwing stones and, on occasion, homemade molotovs at Israeli vehicles. The Israeli army responded with tear gas, rubber and plastic bullets, and live ammunition.

The uprising, or *intifada*, underscores the urgency of moving toward a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Over 50 Israeli peace groups have expressed sharp opposition to their government's response to the uprising and are pressing it to move toward a settlement. The *intifada* has also been marked by impressive organizing and infrastructure building in the educational, health and agricultural sectors of the Palestinian community in the occupied territories.

Immediate human needs in the area have escalated as has the need for educational work in the U.S. to encourage a settlement. The AFSC has responded both through its international field projects and through its peace education network in the U.S.

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## AFSC files complaint against Immigration Service

On November 22, 1988, the American Friends Service Committee filed a complaint in a U.S. District Court in Los Angeles against Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the United States of America. At issue are the obligations imposed on the AFSC and all employers in the nation by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). The AFSC asserts that complying with these requirements violates its right to the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In a statement for the press, AFSC's Board Chairperson and plaintiff Steve Cary said, "Under the employer sanctions provisions of IRCA, we must act as the government's agent in enforcing a policy that arbitrarily denies employment to a whole class of people, forces them underground, and opens them to the ruthless exploitation of the unscrupulous. The effort of a parent to feed a child is criminalized, and the AFSC, as an instrument of enforcement, must stand in a place of power, trampling on this need for dignity and self-respect, and cutting a human being off from a livelihood."

The obligations to all employers under IRCA consist of requiring employees hired after IRCA's enactment to submit proof of identity and work authorization in the United States. Employers must then sign a form known as I-9 along with the employee attesting that the documents, which appear to be valid, have been satisfactorily submitted. The form must then be kept for possible inspection by the INS. Steep penalties, both civil and criminal, are provided for employers who fail to comply with any of these requirements.



Terry Foss, AFSC

Plaintiff Aurora Camacho de Schmidt speaking at the Philadelphia, PA press conference.

Even harsher penalties are provided for employees who submit false documentation. Under IRCA, the AFSC would have to fire those employees who chose not to present documentation or sign an I-9 form.

The objective of these employer sanctions is to deny employment to undocumented workers in the United States, with the purpose of saving jobs for citizens and legal residents and stemming the flow of undocumented immigration.

IRCA also called for the legalization of some undocumented immigrants. It is estimated, however, that the legalization program, fraught with obstacles, left a residual population of three million undocumented immigrants, men, women and children, of which one-third may be Central American refugees of war.

Two years after the law's implementation there is evidence, witnessed by AFSC's programs in Texas, California, Florida and elsewhere, that these people are trapped,

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## Pioneering work against nuclear weapons plants

Recent disclosures about serious safety and environmental problems at major Department of Energy nuclear weapons production facilities—Rocky Flats, Colorado; Fernald, Ohio; Savannah River, South Carolina; Hanford, Washington—vindicate what AFSC disarmament staff around the country pointed to more than ten years ago: the production of nuclear weapons means serious health and environmental dangers for the people in whose "backyards" the weapons are produced.

Derided by government officials and ignored by most of the media, AFSC staff began in the mid-1970s to speak out about contamination of air, soil and water by the release of plutonium, uranium and other hazardous materials from these nuclear facilities, and about poor safety and waste disposal practices.

In 1974, AFSC staff Pam Solo and Judy Danielson began a community-based campaign of research, education and organizing focused on the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant, 16 miles northwest of Denver. Research turned up evidence of serious on-site and off-site contamination due to two major fires and careless waste-disposal methods at this plant which produces the plutonium "triggers" (atomic bombs) for all U.S. nuclear warheads.

Pam and Judy founded the Rocky Flats Action Group, a coalition of local peace, environmental, religious and community organizations, to develop citizen pressure for the closure and conversion of the plant. Out of this coalition came extensive public education efforts; large rallies at Rocky Flats in 1978, 1979, 1980 that called nationwide attention to

the nuclear hazards in many other communities; work with government officials to lessen or eliminate these dangers; and formation of the nationwide Nuclear Weapons Facilities Task Force.

To link up with the 1978 Rocky Flats rally, Bill Ramsey at AFSC's office in High Point, South Carolina organized a "nuclear caravan" from South Carolina's Savannah River Plant (producer of plutonium and tritium for nuclear weapons) to show graphically how truckloads of these deadly materials pass through many local communities on their way from Savannah River to Rocky Flats.

Rallies and press conferences along the way drew wide public attention to this danger as our nuclear caravan made its way to Rocky

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# AFSC challenges Immigration Policy

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

On the first page of this edition of *Quaker Service Bulletin* you will find a story of a legal challenge that the American Friends Service Committee has initiated to defend its free exercise of religion. The issue is the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act and its requirement of all employers to inspect documentation of all employees hired since November 1986. The AFSC Board of Directors, after lengthy study, consultation and reflection came to the conclusion that it cannot conform to those requirements.

The AFSC believes in the rule of law and has devoted substantial efforts to see that our nation's laws are just and vigorously enforced. So we do not wish to be in a position of non-compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, or IRCA. Thus, the lawsuit is an effort to have our position, and the conscientious objector position of individual plaintiffs associated with AFSC, recognized by the courts.

The substance of our legal challenge is our understanding that the immigration law's employer sanction provisions are designed to force undocumented workers out of our society by denying them the right to work. In effect,

the law seeks to starve out those three million refugees and immigrants who were not included in the law's legalization program and those who have come to the U.S. since the passage of the law.

As an organization that for nearly three quarters of a century has worked around the world with people displaced by warfare, disaster, oppression and poverty, we know the pain and risks involved in a decision to flee one's homeland. More particularly, we have been associated for a half century with groups and individuals seeking peace, justice and better conditions for life in Mexico and Central America—the origin of many of those who have recently immigrated to the United States. We are aware that our nation shares responsibility for the perpetration of poverty and warfare that has led many to emigrate. We cannot be a party to their exclusion from our society.

The American Friends Service Committee was founded on the religious conviction that there is a sacred quality to all of human life, that there is "that of God" within each of us. That faith has compelled our volunteers and staff to support and work alongside those who are caught up in events over which they have

no control. The requirement that we inspect documents, sign that we have done so and keep the required I-9 form on file for government inspection in order to deny a whole class of people the ability to support themselves or their families tramples on AFSC's ability to exercise its religious beliefs. Those beliefs lead us to assist, not exclude, those in need.

Clearly the injustices that we believe to be contained in the law cannot be overturned by our legal action. At best, AFSC, its co-plaintiffs and possibly other individuals and groups with religiously-based objections would be excused from the requirements the immigration law places on employers and employees. Yet such an outcome would serve to re-open a debate on the justice of our nation's immigration laws and to encourage others to seek changes in those policies.

Meanwhile, the AFSC is continuing its programs of public education about the nation's immigration policies, its documentation of the abuse and denial of legal and human rights of immigrants, and its efforts to defend the legal rights of undocumented people.

## AFSC urges humane response to AIDS crisis

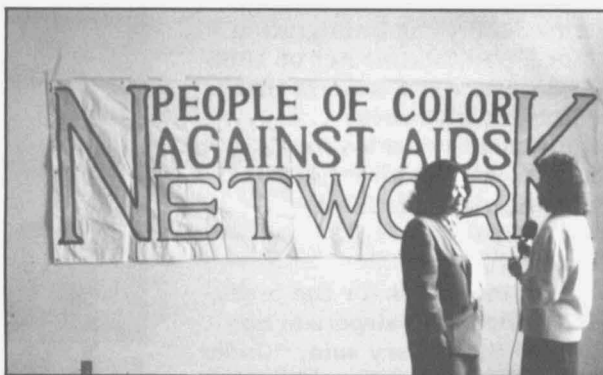
"Certain principles . . . must undergird societies' responses to the AIDS epidemic under any circumstances. They include universal values of compassion, respect for the dignity of individuals and equal treatment of all individuals and groups. These principles alone cannot rid society of AIDS; they can assure that the disease does not attack the bonds of humanity and community."

AFSC's 1987 statement, *The AIDS Crisis*, currently in its third printing, is receiving nationwide attention. It has been shared with some 150 national organizations—religious, civil rights, lesbian and gay, public health, people of color, and women's groups. The U.S. Sex Education and Information Council reprinted it in their June 1988 newsletter. National and local radio talk shows have used it as a basis for discussion.

Because the AFSC AIDS statement encourages humane public policy responses to the AIDS epidemic, based on facts instead of irrational fear, staff have shared it with legislators, with administrators in correctional and educational institutions, and with groups that have an interest in public policy.

AFSC criminal justice programs in northern California, New Jersey and Massachusetts are providing AIDS information to prisoners, prison staff and administrators. At the same time AFSC is seeking to change policies of the prison system, where prisoners who have AIDS or who test positive for exposure to the HIV virus are often segregated, shunned, and denied needed medical attention.

Recognizing that people of color are disproportionately threatened by the AIDS epidemic and that there has not been sufficient attention to reaching these communities with



Ann Stever, AFSC

First northwest People of Color Against AIDS conference.

prevention information, AFSC has collected, distributed and sometimes produced materials targeted to several groups.

In New York City, AFSC's Haitian Women's Program saw that this community, which is generally excluded by poverty and language from information and adequate health services, was not receiving usable AIDS information. The program created an AIDS prevention pamphlet in Haitian and English, *Learning English and Improving Your Family's Health*. New York AFSC staff, using amateur actors, have produced an educational film on AIDS, in Creole, for use in Haitian communities in New York, Florida and Haiti, where AFSC works with communities on health and education issues.

In Seattle, AFSC staff were the impetus for the new coalition People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN), which has generated collaborative efforts among a variety of groups of color to address the AIDS threat. POCAAN is now in the process of becoming an independent organization.

AFSC staff in Denver have played a major role in developing a local minority AIDS coalition and a four-state consortium, both offering AIDS education. Both POCAAN and the Denver-based consortium have attracted major federal funding to educate minority communities about AIDS.

Beyond the United States, in Chile and Brazil, AFSC programs have incorporated information on AIDS in their work on health with grassroots organizations.

## Afro-Americans join Brazilians

"Many people in the United States are aware of the richness of Afro-Brazilian culture," says Sande Smith who recently visited Brazil as a member of an Afro-American delegation. "But what struck us was the level of organization and assertiveness of black Brazilians in the face of severe discrimination." The U.S. delegation, sponsored by AFSC, was made up of seven black professionals and activists. They went to Brazil at the invitation of the *Grupo de Uniao e Consciencia Negra* to join Brazilian Blacks on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the abolition of slavery.

Brazil has the largest black population of any nation except Nigeria. Black groups are using the anniversary to review their history and call attention to the ways in which people of color continue to suffer racism and exclusion from full participation in Brazilian society. Their slogan is "Cem Anos, Sem Nada!" "One hundred years with nothing!"

The U.S. delegation visited Afro-Brazilian communities and cultural organizations throughout the country and met with political leaders, educators, church representatives and community leaders. In a Rio de Janeiro favela (shantytown) they met with Benedita da Silva, the first black assemblywoman in Brazil. In Sao Paulo they held discussions with members of the Union of Domestic Workers. The group also participated in a forum in Maranhao State, on blacks in the Americas, with representatives from Surinam and Senegal. In Bahia State they observed an innovative program for women and children living in the streets of Salvador.

With help from AFSC, delegation members plan to get out the message on the struggle of blacks in Brazil through radio programs, magazine articles and speaking engagements. A return visit by a delegation of black Brazilians to the United States is planned for 1989.



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National Office:  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
1501 Cherry Street

AFSC Regional Offices:

Southeastern Region  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
92 Piedmont Avenue, NE

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

New England Region  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140  
2161 Massachusetts Avenue

Great Lakes Region  
Chicago, Illinois 60605  
59 E. Van Buren, Suite 1400

North Central Region  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312  
4211 Grand Avenue

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

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

Northern California Region  
San Francisco, California 94121  
2160 Lake Street

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



# C.A. refugees forced to live in the 'shadows'

**July 4th weekend**, 1986, the eyes of the nation were focused on New York harbor. Pomp and fireworks celebrated the centennial of the Statue of Liberty, the symbol of welcome to the poor and refugees of the world. The same weekend, along the Arizona-Mexico border, a group of Salvadoran refugees met a different kind of welcome. They were captured in the desert by a paramilitary group, Civilian Military Assistance, which had spent the holiday weekend in a vigilante patrol aimed at keeping immigrants and refugees out of the U.S.

**The refugees** they caught were held in terror at gunpoint for several hours, finally gaining an ironic form of relief with the arrival of the official border patrol to begin the procedures for detention and deportation back to the home country they had fled.

*In the Shadow of Liberty*, published this fall, is the newest in a series of AFSC reports on the situation of Central Americans in the United States. It draws on the years of AFSC involvement in U.S. refugee communities, combined with AFSC experience sharing the lives of Central Americans in their home countries. This shared experience is not only the experience of AFSC as an organization: it comes directly from the lives of Angela and Philip Berryman, the AFSC staff who researched and wrote *In the Shadow of Liberty*.

After working for nearly a decade in Central America, Philip and Angela had to leave

Guatemala under threat from death squads, bringing their three children safely back with them to the United States, arriving with only a suitcase apiece. This further piece of shared experience contributes to their rapport with the refugee community which makes this report unique.

**The very nature** of the refugee experience in the U.S. is one of secrecy and caution. It is a community that is compelled to stay in the "shadows" as much as possible to avoid detection and deportation. The trust inspired by the Berrymans and other AFSC staff was crucial to gaining the basic information presented in the report, demonstrating the scope of the refugee presence and the nature of their needs and fears.

**In the Shadow of Liberty** combines statistics with the voices of the people who live behind the numbers. And many of the numbers are overwhelming:

—Over one million Salvadorans are uprooted from their homes, displaced inside El Salvador or living as refugees in other countries. 500,000 or more are in the United States.

—At any one time, about 4,000 Salvadorans and Guatemalans are in detention by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

—At times, the INS has held up to 2,000 Central American children in detention as hostages to force the surrender of their parents.

*In the Shadow of Liberty* concludes with policy recommendations and an overview of the new issues presented by the

1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act. Throughout, the report is organized and presented as a resource for action.

**AFSC has shared** the journey of the Central Americans who are

now beginning the next steps here in the United States. *In the Shadow of Liberty* is a unique map to the challenge and possibility of this journey.

by Mary Day Kent, staffperson, Friends Peace Committee.

(Right) Angela and Philip Berryman, AFSC authors of *In the Shadow of Liberty*. (Below) Angela speaking with Guatemalan Indian women during a recent trip.



Terry Foss, AFSC



Eva Gold, AFSC

## Middle East

from page 1

**Between December 1987** and September 1988, the Quaker Legal Aid office in East Jerusalem, which assists families in financial hardship with legal fees, opened over 1,800 "security" cases, almost triple the normal caseload.

In October 1988, also in response to needs created by the uprising, AFSC sent Canadian physiotherapist Jill Tarasuk to volunteer with the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees. Physiotherapy has long been an under-represented medical specialty in the Palestinian community and the need for it has now intensified. Jill is setting up a unit in a village near Hebron.

**Despite frequent** interruptions caused by curfews in the Gaza Strip refugee camps, the 15 AFSC preschools have remained open during most of the past year. When the level of tension and the use of tear gas by soldiers near kindergartens cause attendance to drop, teachers visit children's homes, distributing educational supplies and encouraging parents to help their children express their feelings and air their fears.

In August 1988, AFSC fieldstaff Huda Giddens completed a ten-

month training course for a team of early childhood educators who will staff the AFSC Resource Center in Bureij refugee camp. Established to help upgrade the level of preschool education throughout the Gaza Strip, the Center offers a range of workshops and consultative services to groups and individuals.

**Within Israel**, the AFSC contributed to a curriculum project of the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem which aims to counter stereotypes of Arabs and Jews in the Israeli school system. Alouph Hareven, project coordinator, prepared guidelines to assist classroom teachers in responding to students' reactions to the uprising. The Institute has also provided training to teachers to reinforce their efforts to improve understanding between the two communities.

### IN THE UNITED STATES

In the United States, public concern for the ongoing conflict in the Middle East has grown rapidly since the Palestinian uprising began. In cities and towns across the country, people have come together in houses of worship, schools and community groups to study and debate the issues. Many

Arab-Americans and Jewish-Americans have developed strategies to work together for Middle East peace, motivated by a shared sense of urgency.

**AFSC has supported** this growing public concern with written and audiovisual resources; tours of Israeli and Palestinian speakers; and its experience in coalition-building.

A national speaking tour, cosponsored by AFSC, brought two

members of Yesh Gvul, the Israeli soldiers' resistance movement, to 18 cities across the United States. Since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising, over 600 Israeli reserve soldiers have declared their refusal to serve in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; more than 50 have been imprisoned for their stand. The speaking tour built a U.S. network to support these resisters.

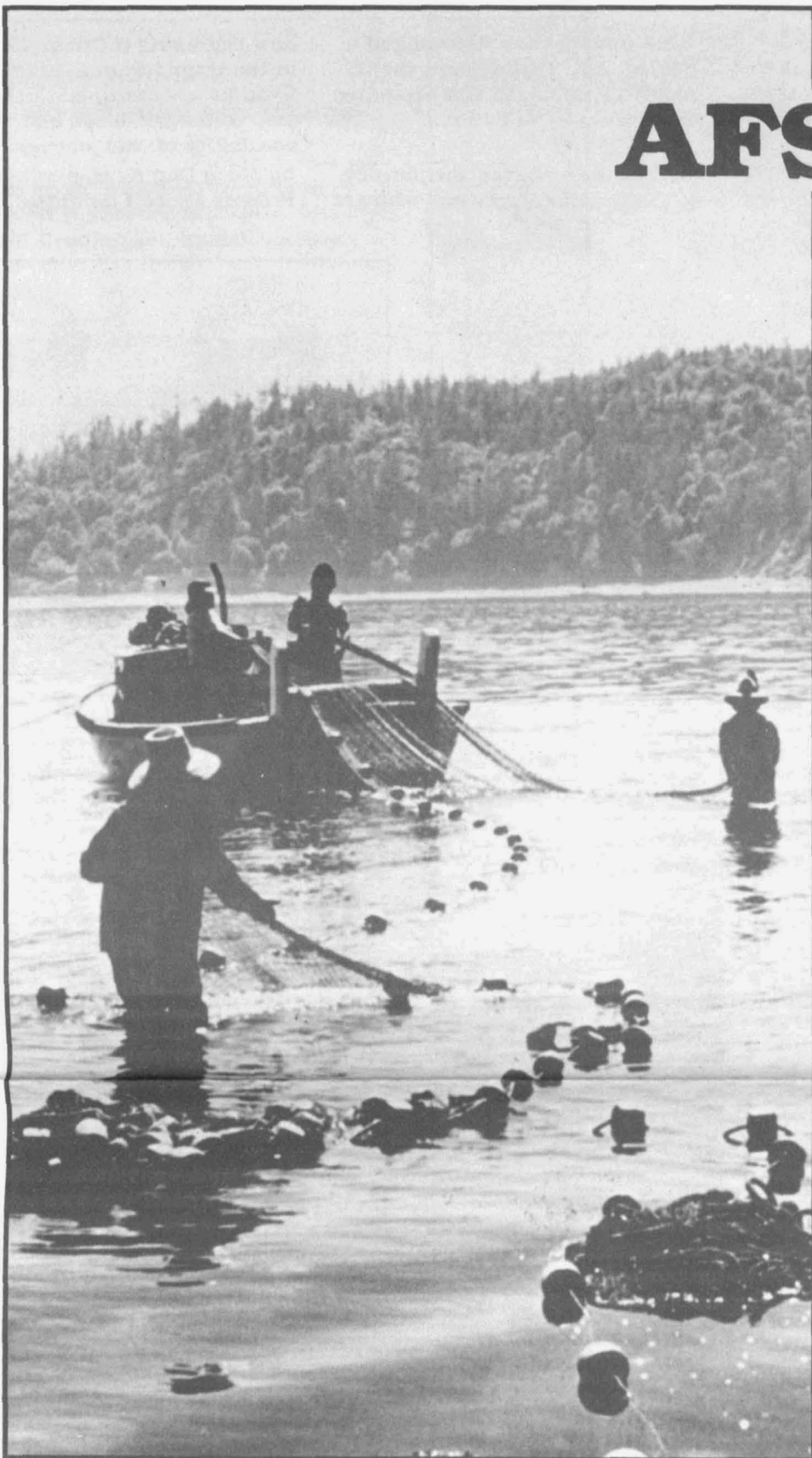
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Haifa el Issa, AFSC staff, interviews a client at the Quaker Legal Aid office.

Catherine Essoyan, AFSC

# AFSC supports Nat in struggle for



In Washington state, Native Americans have faced a long struggle to reaffirm their treaty-guaranteed fishing rights.

**B**eset by continuing violations of treaty commitments and brutal economic pressures, Native Americans in the United States struggle for survival. AFSC sees firsthand the assaults on Indian rights, identity and resources as it works with tribes throughout the United States.

## AKWESASNE

**The environmental** vulnerability of Indian people is most evident in Akwesasne, the Mohawk community encompassing parts of both New York state and two Canadian provinces.

The General Motors plant on the St. Lawrence has dumped over 100 tons of waste containing



Maliseet and Penobscot Indians review the Maine resource book for teachers.

cancer-causing PCBs into the river along which the Mohawks live. In addition to PCBs, there is a high level of mercury and fluorides which derive from the Alcoa and Reynolds aluminum plants.

**Mohawk leaders** asked AFSC to join with them and Cornell University in a major project to save their land and water from the destruction caused by the industrial dumping. AFSC staff on the reservation works with people to assess their problems with pollutants; to answer their questions with clear, accurate information; and to encourage grassroots organizing.

AFSC staff works in conjunction with the Cornell American Indian Program, which utilizes the scientific and technical resources of the university to assist the reservation.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota is home to most of the Sioux Nation, among the largest and poorest Indian communities in the United States. The AFSC Health Education Project is based in Rapid City, South Dakota, with fieldworkers on the Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River reservations.

Access to nutritious food is minimal. Only small convenience stores exist, offering mostly canned goods with long shelf lives. As part of the ongoing nutrition campaign, communities have developed two collective and 40 home gardens, a truck garden cooperative and an experimental greenhouse. The greenhouse will serve both to grow fruits and vegetables year-long and to provide hands-on education to the young people of the reservation.

**On both Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River**, the Health Project has waged campaigns in response to environmental health threats. On Cheyenne River, a Department of Energy proposal for a nuclear waste dump was defeated by a grassroots information campaign. A similar effort at Pine Ridge prevented the creation of an urban sewage repository. AFSC staff visited homes, organized community meetings, and spoke on the radio for months, earning the nickname "the sludge sisters."

**Another AFSC** program on the Pine Ridge reservation is the Oyate Resource Center. The staff and volunteers of the Oyate Center have played an active part in getting a local community health center built in Pine Ridge. Given the long distances to the cities,

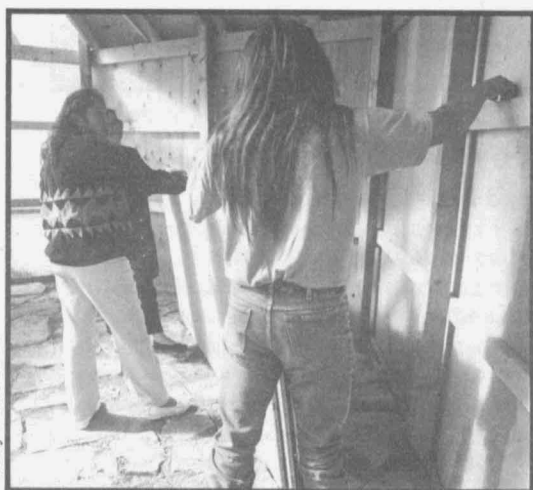


# ive Americans

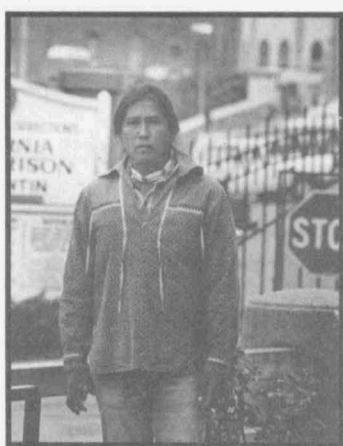
## survival



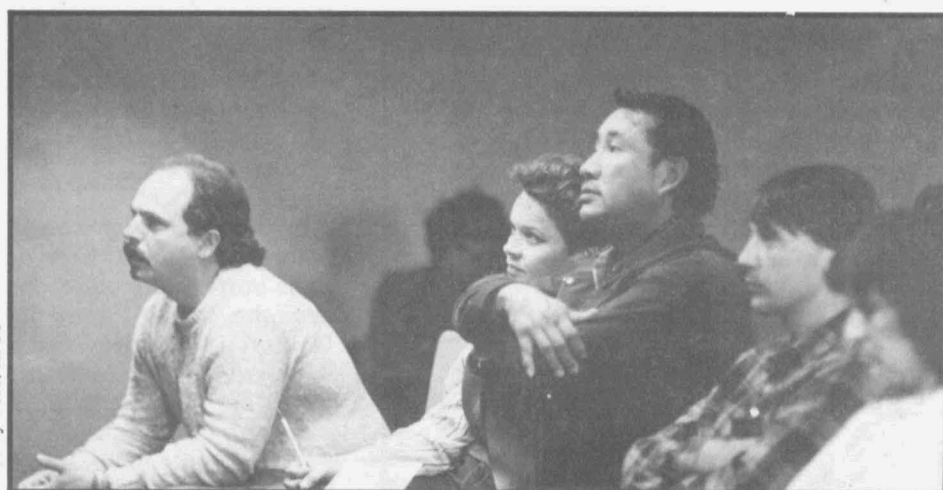
Indians and other environmentally concerned people march across the St. Lawrence River to protest the continued legal dumping of dangerous industrial pollutants.



On the schoolgrounds in the small town of Red Scaffold, South Dakota, AFSC and the Indian community have developed an experimental greenhouse.



Staff of the American Indian Prisoners Spiritual Advisors Project outside California's San Quentin Prison.



On the Pine Ridge Reservation, AFSC staff organized a working conference this fall on child sexual abuse. Native American community members, law enforcement officers, social and health workers, and educators attended.

this facility is crucial to improving health on the reservation.

In addition, the staff helped form a women's group and produces regular weekly programs on KILI, the local radio station.

### MAINE

The historic Maine land claims case, finally settled in 1980, brought to light both overt racism and Indians' invisibility within the state. AFSC was involved throughout the case, focusing on educational work in the non-Indian community.

Starting in 1979, AFSC brought together a group of Maine Indians to rewrite sections of the history textbook which was being developed for the Maine schools. Indians reading the original text were horrified to find themselves portrayed as "glum in character" and to read that they had not known how to use fire until Europeans arrived.

The textbook which was produced, *Maine Dirigio*, "I lead," has been used since 1980 by over half the eighth-grade teachers in Maine. After the book was published, AFSC developed an annotated bibliography which is used in Maine libraries.

The Indian working group has since developed a 400-page resource book for all grades of teachers, with special lesson plans for grades four, six and eight. In the book, background is given on the last 12,000 years of Native American life in Maine, legends are retold and Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac Indians are interviewed.

### WASHINGTON STATE

Washington state has been a major arena for the Indian treaty rights struggle. That struggle has taken place in fishing areas, public forums, the state legislature, the halls of Congress, and the courts. In an historic 1974 court decision, U.S. District Judge George Boldt upheld the Indians' fishing rights which were at the center of the disputes.

The controversy, however, did not die. The court decision was violated and contested, and although the Indians won each appeal, public misunderstanding and resentment continued to smoulder. AFSC has remained involved, through public forums bringing together Indians and non-Indians and explaining the rights of the tribes.

AFSC also recently published its second book, *Treaties on Trial*,

about the northwest treaty issues. *Treaties* begins where *Uncommon Controversy*, an earlier AFSC book, left off. Both books have helped create an atmosphere for change by providing information on Indians, treaty rights, and environmental issues involved with the salmon runs in the northwest.

Today, AFSC continues to organize forums on treaty rights in the communities. Staff are particularly involved with the Suquamish tribe, which plans to build 23 homes on their land. The homes will be adjacent to a non-Indian community which has reacted with deep resistance. Meetings with Indians and non-Indians are being held and family gatherings planned to help bring the groups together.

### HAWAII

Hawaii, the last state to be admitted to the Union, has the largest percentage of indigenous people of any state. In recent years, Native Hawaiians have been increasingly asserting their rights, including the right to their traditional lands and culture. AFSC staff and volunteers have supported these efforts, and have been involved with helping to address the problems of Hawaii's indigenous homeless population.

### CALIFORNIA

"Give us strength, Grandfather, and help us find our way"—from a prayer at the Indian spiritual ceremony at San Quentin Prison. AFSC has been closely linked for the past two years with the American Indian Prisoners Spiritual Advisors Project. Project staff has worked with prisoners, lawyers, the courts, and native spiritual advisors to bring regular support to prisoners in California.

From the mid-1950s to the early 1970s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Relocation Program moved many Indians from their traditional lands to the cities. AFSC helped establish Oakland, California's Intertribal Friendship House in 1955 as a gathering place for Indians uprooted from their homes and families. The multi-purpose Indian center is now an independent organization. AFSC still stays involved, with staff assistance to economic development projects and a community history project.

Intertribal House is also the home to the South and Meso-American Indian Information Center, which links U.S. Native Americans with other indigenous peoples who face similar struggles in many parts of the world: keeping their lands, defending their traditions and affirming their cultures amidst great opposition.

# In Brief

## Nicaraguan, Haitian hurricane victims receive material assistance

**Hurricane Joan**, which hit Nicaragua October 22, left thousands homeless. The high winds caused flooding and mudslides. Sea water washed over the town of Bluefields and contaminated well water, creating serious health problems, especially among children. About 15,000 square kilometers of tropical forest were leveled.

In southern Zelaya on the Atlantic Coast the hurricane wiped out wildlife and cattle, destroyed the fishing industry and a palm oil plantation, flattened sugar cane crops and washed away newly built port facilities.

**AFSC joined** with OXFAM-America and Bluefields Community Partners (groups of people from the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua who now live in the United States) to air lift 50,000 pounds of relief supplies to Bluefields on November 13. Included were water purification tablets, antibiotics, oral rehydration salts, outboard motors (so boats can reach remote communities), chainsaws, hammers, saws, nails, tarps, tents and plastic sheeting.

**On November 29**, AFSC's Material Aids Program shipped a sea container to Nicaragua filled with 25,000 pounds of clothing, cloth, blankets, soap, tools and school supplies.

The AFSC continues to accept contributions for its Caribbean Basin Disaster Assistance Fund (checks should be made out to AFSC) in order to provide aid to Nicaragua and other countries in the region suffering from storm losses.

The south coast of Haiti was hit hard by the earlier storm Gilbert. In November AFSC sent \$5,000 to a Haitian partner agency—to purchase cement, roofing and other materials for school repair, and to purchase banana plants and millet seed for replanting areas where crops were destroyed.



Sae Senpaty

Loading trucks in Thailand with rice for transport to Laos.

## AFSC provides drought aid for Laotians

In the last two years AFSC has provided emergency aid to three northern provinces of Laos suffering from crop losses due to drought. Over 51 tons of fertilizer helped rice farmers in one province boost the yield of their supplemental dry season crop.

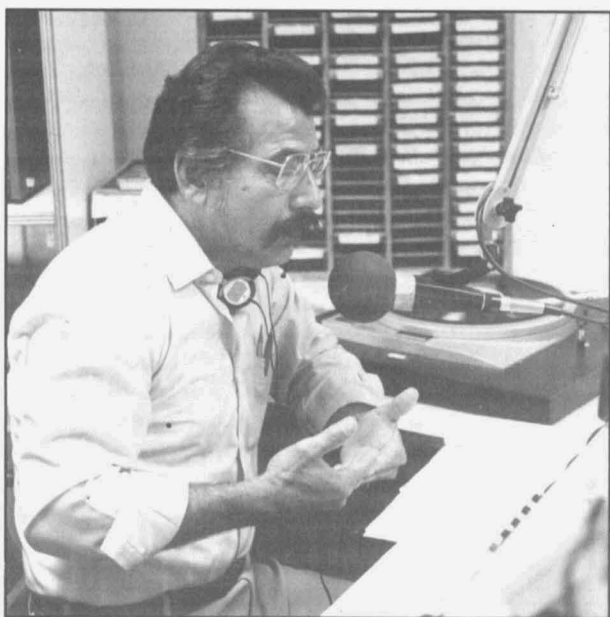
In a second province AFSC helped install two pumping stations to improve irrigation. Farmers built secondary canals. AFSC bought cement, steel, fuel and some electric supplies to complement existing materials and equipment. Oudomsay Province, which had not had a good harvest in three years, was given between 25 and 48 tons of rice per district. This supplemented the forage food which people generally depend upon when rice is in short supply.

**AFSC purchased** the rice in neighboring Thailand and arranged for it to be brought across the Lao border at Houei Sai, the Thai-Lao border crossing nearest Oudomsay. The

crossing had been closed for some years, so AFSC staff in Laos made a special appeal to the Thai government to expedite the emergency rice shipment. With help from the Thai Ambassador to Vientiane, a former participant in the AFSC seminar program, the Thai government granted permission to open the port. The Lao government transported the 380 tons of rice down the Mekong River to Oudomsay Province. AFSC staff spent two weeks overseeing transport and ensuring the correct quantity and quality of the rice.

**The rice project** brought together over lunch officials from Chiang Khong on the Thai side of the river and Houei Sai on the Lao side. Because of border conflicts they had not met for more than ten years. AFSC staff reported the atmosphere was congenial with everyone "talking, chatting, having discussions, telling jokes. . . . The luncheon occasion may make it possible for future relations between Houei Sai and Chiang Khong."

## Radio show vital to California farmworkers



Warren Witte, AFSC

Pablo Espinoza during his radio talk show in Fresno, CA.

**One hour** a week, in Fresno, California, AFSC's northern California Farm Labor Secretary, Pablo Espinoza, broadcasts a farmworker radio talk show over *Radio Bilingue*, playing lively music and giving out vital information to the large Spanish-speaking population of the San Joaquin Valley.

**Ideas for** the show come from questions people ask Pablo or the Associate Farm Labor Secretary, Nora Benavides, when they drop into the office. One broadcast dealt with hypertension. Another time the subject was pesticide exposure, how to protect oneself, the laws about use. But by far the most important

issue today is immigration. For one lunch-hour broadcast devoted to the new immigration law, Pablo included an attorney and Nora Benavides. They received so many phone calls the show went over its allotted hour. They may receive as many as 80 calls during air time.

One caller said, "My husband has already received his temporary residency, but employers are telling him he doesn't have the right to work until he is a permanent resident. Is that true? What can he do?" Another farmworker, poisoned by the pesticides in the fields, didn't know what medical care he was entitled to.

**If the caller's** question is too involved or difficult to answer, Pablo or Nora will take their phone number, get the information and call the person back after the show. "In most cases it is a question of people not knowing their rights, especially if they don't read English," Nora says. "And they may be reluctant to call a government agency if they don't speak English."

**Recently 35** farmworkers came to the office with complaints about a grower who had let them go when they asked to earn a minimum wage. They were without work for a month until the grower rehired them. In retaliation he gave them no sanitary facilities or drinking water while temperatures in the groves reached 108 degrees. Without sanitary facilities the workers contracted pesticide poisoning. AFSC staff arranged for medical treatment for the workers and sought legal aid to help the workers win the pay they lost and file a complaint of unfair labor practices.

## Help sent to Armenia

AFSC is accepting monetary contributions for relief and reconstruction work in Soviet Armenia where tens of thousands of people lost their lives in the December earthquake.

**AFSC has long-standing** relations with Soviet groups based on its many years of work on improving Soviet-U.S. relations and, as we go to press, is in consultation with these groups as to how AFSC might best respond. The donated funds will be directed to the devastated area through channels known to be doing effective work. Contributions should be made out to AFSC and earmarked for the "Soviet Armenian Earthquake Fund." AFSC is not accepting offers of material assistance at this time.

## Mexico Summer Re-union!

SEDEPAC, the Quaker supported service, development and peace organization in Mexico, has announced a Reunion of Former Volunteers for summer, 1989 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mexico Community Service Project. The reunion, jointly sponsored by SEDEPAC and AFSC, is tentatively scheduled for July 30 to August 4, in Mexico. For more information, write to: Latin America/Caribbean Program, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Phila., PA 19102. (215) 241-7146.



# Black farmers influence federal, state policies

AFSC has assigned staff to work with black farmers in Kentucky, bringing their knowledge and experience to bear on councils of a vital state-wide farmers alliance in Kentucky and through it into the state and national debate on the future of family farms.

**Blacks have lost** their farms in Kentucky at three times the rate of whites. The AFSC Kentucky Farm Program works in west and southwest Kentucky where most black farmers are located. About 75 black farm families still hold their land in those parts of the state despite historic lack of access to assistance available to other farmers. Most have survived by holding other jobs while carrying on their farming.

**The AFSC works** in the context of a state-wide rural membership organization, the Community Farm Alliance (CFA), formed in 1985 to enable rural and farm people to organize to change policies that adversely affect their communities. Bob Shanklin, AFSC's staff, is a Baptist minister whose family are long-time farmers in southwestern

Kentucky. Bob was formerly active with the Southern Christian Leadership Council in Dayton.

The AFSC effort has two immediate goals. One goal is to develop county chapters of Community Farm Alliance in western Kentucky. These chapters will be vehicles for action on the policies and practices which cause farm families distress. The second goal is to identify potential black farm leaders who, supported by core groups of farmers in rural communities, will participate in state agriculture policy and planning work.

**When the AFSC Kentucky Farm Program** began, there were no Community Farm Alliance chapters in the whole of western Kentucky. Today there are three chapters, all predominately black.

**Bob Shanklin** has helped CFA develop a leadership training program for internes chosen from across the state on the basis of their potential to become leaders in their farm communities. The interne from Meade County,

in the western part of the state, was a black farm woman who has now been elected to serve as Meade County's representative to the CFA Board of Directors.

CFA's annual membership meeting in 1988 had black participation (15%) for the first time and the membership approved a proposal to work actively on affirmative action in credit and other farm policies.

**In the area** of federal farm policy, AFSC staff and the black CFA membership are working closely with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (a long-standing organization concerned with the situation of black farmers across the South) and with the new multi-racial United Farmers Organization in North and South Carolina.

These groups worked successfully to build affirmative action language into federal credit policy, language that would assure both new loans and the sale of inventoried land to minority farmers. *by Barbara Moffett, Community Relations Division*

## Nuclear

from page 1

Flats in the spring of 1978," commented Bill.

Out of this action grew the Nuclear Cargo Transportation Project, which pressed local government officials and public safety personnel to establish stringent standards for the transport of these highly toxic materials. As a result of the Project's work, more than 70 municipalities passed ordinances in one year regulating the transport of these wastes. This action, in turn, led the federal government to use its pre-emptive authority and prohibit municipalities from regulating the shipment of nuclear weapons materials.

**Chip Reynolds** later headed the Nuclear Cargo Transportation Project when it moved to AFSC's Atlanta, Georgia office. His work continued the local organizing, but also reached out to Washington D.C. seeking national standards for the transport of nuclear materials and calling attention to a serious nationwide problem.

Bill Ramsey also organized work at Tennessee's Oak Ridge Plant, which produces most of the uranium and lithium parts for nuclear weapons. After conducting research and local interviews, he organized three public forums in

Oak Ridge in 1979 and 1980 to discuss health and safety issues related to the plant, as well as the economic impact of the plant on that area.

**Martha Henderson**, working out of the AFSC Dayton, Ohio office in 1978 and 1979, initiated research and public education about the Mound Facility near Dayton. She was a key organizer for the first public demonstration at the Mound Facility. Moving to AFSC's San Francisco office in 1979, Martha worked with the University of California Laboratories Nuclear Weapons Project, which aimed to make visible to people the nuclear arms race in their midst.

**From 1980 to 1984**, Bob Brister at AFSC's St. Petersburg, Florida office worked to expose the mission and dangers of the nearby Pinellas Plant. This plant produces nuclear triggers and other nuclear warhead components.

Linking these projects and other projects in many local communities was the Nuclear Weapons Facilities Task Force, initiated by Pam Solo and by Michael Jendrzeyczyk of Fellowship of Reconciliation, with Steve Ladd of the California Labs



Bill Ramsey speaking in front of the replica of a nuclear transport vehicle.

Nuclear Weapons Project as initial chair. The Task Force involved about sixty local campaigns focused on nuclear weapons production, storage and deployment sites, and emphasized local hazards as well as the global threat of nuclear weapons production, testing and deployment. "The goal," says Pam Solo, "was to give people an entry point in their own communities for understanding that the arms race is not something 'out there' but an everyday reality with a profound impact on our lives."

**Through all** this work on nuclear weapons facilities, AFSC played a significant role in the peace/disarmament movement of the 1970s. "When the Vietnam

protest ended," says Chip Reynolds, "there was no focus or unified strategy for the peace movement. AFSC, through its work on nuclear weapons facilities and its key role in the Task Force, provided a communications and organizing network for many groups. AFSC brought people together to plan unified strategies for educating the public and pressing for policy changes at both local and national levels."

**This widespread work** also built support for the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, which emerged in 1981 as an attempt to bring a radical change in the entrenched public policy of an

Continued on page 8.

## Make a New Year's Resolution that Lifts Your Spirit

Now, more than ever, we urge you to renew your commitment to peace and dignity for everyone. Find out about AFSC's Deferred Giving program. Together we can create a resource that:

- provides income to you and another beneficiary throughout both your lives;
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2/89

## Mid-East

from page 3

Since January, 1988 a coalition of Arab, Jewish, religious and peace organizations in the Los Angeles area has organized public forums, held vigils and demonstrations, and worked with the media, calling for a negotiated settlement in the Middle East. This coalition, brought together by AFSC, serves as a model for other local organizing efforts. San Francisco AFSC launched an educational campaign in support of a city ballot initiative which called for U.S. support for a negotiated two-state solution.

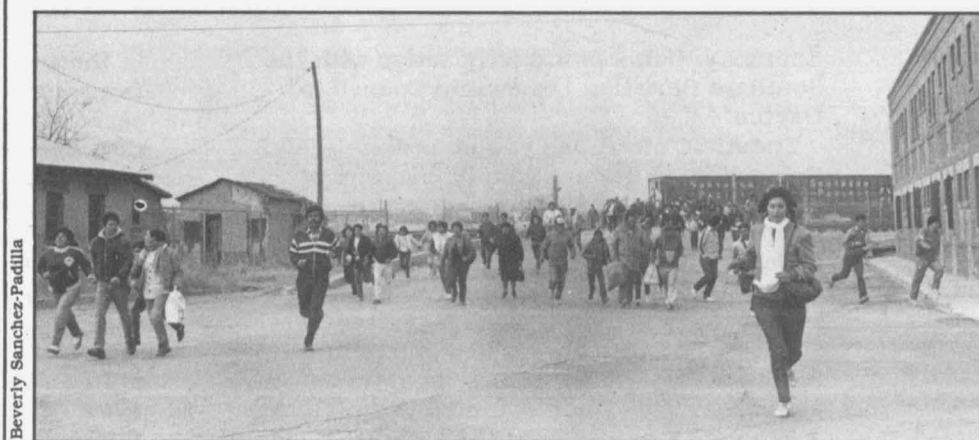
In Chicago, AFSC brought two Palestinian physicians to speak at major hospitals and medical schools. The tour identified U.S. health professionals willing to help community health programs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Staff in Iowa designed a six-part study series which has been presented ten times across the state, bringing together students, church leaders, Arabs, Jews and other community people.

Throughout the country, AFSC staff have worked at the community level to describe how the *intifada* has affected Palestinians and Israelis. But they have gone beyond, to explain the roots of the conflict, and to put forth a vision of peace based on mutual recognition, mutual self-determination and mutual security.

by Denis Doyon and Catherine Essoyan, Middle East staff.

## Immigration

from page 1



Crossing the border into El Paso, Texas.

not being able to return to their countries and unable to find employment in the legal labor market. They cannot seek medical help, police protection or legal representation. They are subject to abuse, exploitation and penury. They are being deprived of the means to satisfy the basic necessities of life for themselves and their families.

The legal challenge was also filed on behalf of seven individual plaintiffs, all related to the AFSC, who are individual conscientious objectors to employers sanctions, as employers or employees. Plaintiff Theresa Mathis, a member of the Executive Committee of the AFSC Pacific Northwest office, told the *Seattle Times*, "To deny anyone the right to work is to deny them dignity and equality. . . . I don't think the

right to work ought to be a privilege."

The legal action seeks exemption from all employer sanction obligations as employers and employees for the AFSC and co-plaintiffs. While this victory would be a welcome relief for the organization and its co-plaintiffs and an important precedent to establish in court, the AFSC is ultimately concerned about relief for the human beings directly affected by the law.

As the Board of Directors decided that the AFSC should take legal action, it also called for an intensified and more extensive immigration program, with special attention to policy work. Peter Schey, one of three attorneys representing the Service Committee, explained to the press, "The objection of AFSC to the law is based on its own religious

beliefs and also on its understandings of the law's devastating impact on the lives of immigrants and refugees in this country. It cannot, in conscience, be an agent in forcing these people who have fled poverty and violence to leave the United States through deprivation of employment." This strong stance has been supported by more than 20 religious organizations that are petitioning to be accepted as *amici curiae* in the case.

In 24 simultaneous press conferences across the nation, held on November 22, the AFSC protested the violation of its religious rights and those of the co-plaintiffs. At the same time it expressed the hope that the immigration debate would be re-opened on the basis of the evidence: the ineffectiveness of employer sanctions and their harmful effect on poor people. Steve Cary referred to the ultimate causes of undocumented immigration, "This legislation, hailed as the instrument through which immigration would at last be regularized, makes not so much as a passing reference to the two basic forces that are driving people northward: the terror of war and the economic conditions of the Third World."

Filing this suit was an unusual and difficult step for the AFSC. It was, however, a step taken in a spirit of hope. Saying no to employer sanctions, the AFSC says yes to our common humanity and equality, yes to the dream of justice.

## Nuclear

from page 7

ever-expanding nuclear arms race. Many AFSC staff and offices played a key role in the development of the Freeze campaign.

Few AFSC offices today—the Denver office's Rocky Flats Project is one exception—focus major program work on local nuclear weapons facilities. However, the work done by AFSC beginning in 1974 helped to build a network of local campaigns and to empower many people who later moved into the Freeze and other disarmament campaigns. These projects also developed a public awareness that is contributing to the informed and active response of so many people to the latest disclosures of how nuclear weapons production facilities continue to threaten public health and the environment in the name of "national security."

by Tom Rauch, Rocky Flats Project, Denver, Colorado.

The slidefilm *Acceptable Risk? The Nuclear Age in the United States* produced by NARMIC/AFSC in 1980, has taken on a new relevance as headlines draw our attention to the health and safety risks of nuclear weapons and power plants.

*Acceptable Risk* is available in slideshow and filmstrip format. Slideshow \$25. Filmstrip \$15. For more information, contact NARMIC/AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. (215) 241-7175

## 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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Marching across the St. Lawrence River (centerspread).