

American Friends Service Committee

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
American Friends
Service Committee

Quaker Service Bulletin

Number 171 Vol. 73 No. 2 Spring, 1992

75th Anniversary kick-off!

Dulany Bennett welcomed over 600 people on April 24 to the kick-off of AFSC's 75th Anniversary celebrations. Held at the Friends Meeting House at 15th and Cherry Streets in Philadelphia, Pa., the event included a final address by Asia Bennett and a first address by Kara Newell, the departing and incoming executive secretaries. Vincent Harding, an educator and civil rights activist for over 30 years, provided the keynote talk of the day on "Keeping the Faith in a Time of Turmoil."

The attendees also witnessed a first with the performance of the AFSC choir, which sang African-American and Methodist hymns. A brief meeting for worship in the Quaker tradition was also held.

Vincent Harding urged the attendees to "Keep on, keeping on, as the old folks' would say." He described his personal experience of meeting AFSC staff in Atlanta, Georgia, during some dangerous times of the civil rights movement. He also talked about the tremendous good that the AFSC Family Aid Fund provided at that time. (A fund which allowed hundreds of southern Black families to survive economic harassment as they exercised their legal rights during the period between 1965-75.)

Vincent Harding continued, "I hope that you will keep on your commitment to respond to human need at deep and powerful levels. I mean that I hope that you will keep on trying to make those responses not simply as social workers or even as political activists but as women and as men who are called to respond by some great sense of the Divine Presence in ourselves and in others, who are compelled because of the interaction of our spirit and our lives with others. And I know that out of that coming together great and unbelievable and unpredictable things can happen."

Asia Bennett, departing executive secretary of the AFSC, quoted Rufus Jones talk at the Bicentennial Conference of the University of Pennsylvania in 1941. Rufus Jones spoke of the "...significance of

Continued on page 8.



Educator and activist Vincent Harding delivers the keynote address at AFSC's 75th Anniversary celebration in Philadelphia, Pa.

Victory at Rocky Flats

In 1974, Denver Peace Education staffpersons Pam Solo and Judy Danielson and their small AFSC committee began organizing opposition to the huge nuclear weapons plant at Rocky Flats. Within a few years, Pam and Judy had helped to build a national movement against nuclear weapons facilities, and then the national Nuclear Freeze Campaign.

Colorado AFSC staff and supporters, now augmented by several other organizations and hundreds of activists, continued to inform and organize for an end to plutonium processing and the closing of Rocky Flats. On January 29, 1992, Energy Secretary James Watkins announced, "Rocky Flats will be closed."

Colorado Governor Roy Romer

is one of those who got the message. Speaking against a proposal that Rocky Flats be used for further processing of plutonium, Romer said, "I don't want us to continue plutonium operations at that location over the long haul. That's the whole point."

"Renewed efforts must now focus on the difficult transition for workers at the Flats. Four thousand are expected to lose their jobs by 1995. They should not be made to pay for the closing with their livelihoods. The government has an obligation to provide retraining, relocation assistance, and income support during the transition period," said David Gracie, AFSC Peace Education Secretary.

As for the Colorado AFSC program, Disarmament coordinator Tom Rauch says, "Now we need to push for the closure of the entire DOE (Department of Energy) production complex and even more radical reductions in nuclear and other arms."

What's inside

- 2 • *Lessons of Los Angeles* (Editorial)
- 3 • *Challenges to Quaker International Affairs work*
- 4 • *Drugs: A North-South Community Dialogue*
- 6 • *Somalia*
• *Criminal Justice*
• *Peacework*
- 7 • *Temporary Protective Status for Salvadorans*
- 8 • *Goodbye Asia Bennett, Welcome Kara Newell*



Tom Rauch, AFSC Disarmament Coordinator, speaking at a rally celebrating the closing of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility in Denver, Co.

Lessons of Los Angeles

by Jane Motz, Community Relations Division

In the days immediately after the verdict exonerating four Los Angeles police officers in the beating of Rodney King, AFSC people took part in marches, rallies and prayers, and spoke out on the issues.

The destruction of buildings and lives in the last few days is only an exclamation point at the end of decades of social neglect that just as surely have destroyed lives and eroded cities as have the fires and looting. The language of healing and hope is hollow and disingenuous if only directed toward restoring order; it will be given meaning only if translated into practical and bold programs that will change social conditions.

(From a statement by the AFSC national office, Philadelphia, Pa., May 2.)

For more than a decade, the needs of low income people, who are disproportionately people of color and women, have been sacrificed to the extravagance of

the military buildup, the careless greed of corporations and savings institutions, and the annual deficit they caused. Those who are poor and homeless, who are excluded from comfortable suburban enclaves, who are denied decent education and health care, who are subjected to a pattern of police harassment and abuse, are saying that they must not be told once again to take their place at the end of the line.

In the aftermath of the explosion of outrage in L.A., the federal government promised to help rebuild the city. Property and facilities that were damaged or destroyed should be replaced. But it is not enough to restore the city to the situation that existed before the days of wrath, a situation of neglect, decay and devastation.

If ever there was a need for a peace dividend it is now. The resources of this rich country must be redirected, away from war and preparations for war, and toward creating new economic and social conditions in cities across the country, and in impoverished rural areas as well.

To undo the years of economic and social neglect requires not only large-scale investment, but also full participa-

tion of the affected communities in decision-making and in the practical work of construction and reconstruction.

We are deeply concerned about race-baiting in portrayals of recent events, which are not only false but irresponsible in light of the already volatile interethnic tensions in Los Angeles. Race was not the issue; racism was. Republican apologists are wrong: the welfare system is not the issue; institutionalized economic disparity is.

(From a statement by the AFSC Pacific Southwest Region, Pasadena, Ca., May 5.)

Healing the conflicts that divide races and ethnic groups requires adequate resources - jobs, education, services - so that groups are not pitted against each other in the fight for crumbs. It also requires breaking the stranglehold of segregation that denies access to employment and education opportunities, which are increasingly located in suburbs.

There is an anti-poor rhetoric abroad in the country, a rhetoric that feeds racist and sexist stereotypes, and calls for punitive actions toward those who need government help. In his State of the Union address in February, the President plays into the image of women receiving public assistance as irresponsible, brushing over the fact that the rise in welfare and food stamp rolls is directly attributable to the recession. The same theme is heard in California and other states where governors struggling with budget deficits, due largely to the recession, are proposing severe cuts in public assistance, and justifying them by accusations against poor people, for whom the cutbacks will mean more hunger and homelessness.

For 50 years, the AFSC has monitored police abuse of immigrants, farmworkers, the poor and people of color throughout this region....[In the U.S.] we have policies that are described as a 'war on drugs,' a 'war on crime,' and a 'war against illegal immi-

gration.' These policies are not ill named. They are waged as real wars against communities of people we have chosen to repress and punish rather than help. 200,000 of us are behind bars in California alone - prisoners of our war on the poor.

(From a statement by the AFSC Pacific Mountain Region, San Francisco, Ca., May 1.)

On April 30, the day after the verdict was announced, AFSC called for timely and vigorous action by the Justice Department on the civil rights charges against police officers in the beating of Rodney King. The experience in Los Angeles underscores the need for police accountability rules and procedures, and for the federal government to use its power to assure that civil rights violations are prosecuted.

The Peace Dividend:

How to Get It and How to Use It

Earlier this year, AFSC issued a booklet, *The Peace Dividend: How to Get It and How to Use It*, written by staff and committee members who bring a range of experience to the issues. The publication affirms AFSC's position that the federal government has responsibility to assure basic economic rights - jobs, income, food, housing, health care, education and a healthy environment. Government should take leadership in assuring that these rights are fulfilled, through the private sector or by action of local, state or federal bodies.

To receive *The Peace Dividend*, write: Literature Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Phila. PA 19102. \$1 each; \$.75 each for 50 or more. Postage included.

March for women's lives

AFSC was among the hundreds of religious, women's, civil rights, health, labor and other organizations that sponsored the March for

Women's Lives that filled the Mall in Washington D.C. on April 5 to support the constitutional right to safe, legal and accessible birth control and abortion and the availability of maternal and child health and child care.

AFSC committee, staff members and volunteers had planned to gather and march together, but could not find each other because of the sheer size of the gathering, and so happily marched, heard speeches and songs and applauded along with an estimated 750,000 people in what is believed to be the largest demonstration ever held in the nation's capital.



Terry Foss/AFSC



QUAKER SERVICE BULLETIN

Editor: Diane Shandor

Published by the American Friends Service Committee

National Office:
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
1501 Cherry Street

AFSC Regional Offices:

Southeastern Region
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
92 Piedmont Avenue, N.E.
Middle Atlantic Region
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
4806 York Road
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
Pacific Mountain Region
San Francisco, California 94121
2160 Lake Street
Pacific Northeast Region
Seattle, Washington, 98105
814 N.E. 40th Street

CHALLENGES TO QUAKER INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WORK

“Quaker mediators are completely lacking in power, invisible, expendable, independent, enlisted for as long as necessary, and benefiting from a generally good reputation, often from prior Quaker work,” said Adam Curle, an Englishman who has served as a Quaker mediator in disputes across the world for over 35 years. Adam delivered the first keynote address at a day-long colloquium in Philadelphia, Pa. this past January on challenges to Quaker International Affairs work. Two hundred people gathered at the public event to hear Quaker staff, past and present, who have worked in conflict situations of extreme difficulty around the world, talk about their experiences and insights.

Adam continued, “But these attributes are not enough. Also essential is realization of, as Quakers put it, ‘That of God in all people,’ even those engaged in the most bloody conflict.”

Hizkias Asefa, a member of the Nairobi Peace Group and a participant in a number of reconciliation

through dialogue, beginning with work in India, Japan, several European capitals and at the then newly formed United Nations.

Quaker workers engage in direct mediation, and also develop conferences, carry messages, share information and interpretation.

For example, at a time when there was almost no communication between the countries of Indo-China and their neighbors in Southeast Asia, Quaker International Affairs workers in Hong Kong were able to bring journalists from both sides together in Cambodia to consider how they might better inform their readers about the realities in the other countries.

In the Middle East, says Brewster Grace, current staff in the region, “...there was a hiatus of about one year during the Gulf Crisis when we had no conferences because there was no way in which Arabs and Israelis were willing to talk to each other under the tensions at that time. Our role then became one of traveling back and forth and trying to explain to Israelis...how the Jordanians thought. And going back to the Jordanians and talking about how the Israelis thought.”

In response to these speakers, and in the four-day retreat that followed, present Quaker International Affairs workers, home office staff from AFSC and Quaker Peace and Service of England and resource people drawing on Quaker and Mennonite experience, shared thinking on their work amidst the enormous recent changes in the world order.

Staff shared the hope engendered in people of different parts of the world who watched on television as nonviolent political change took place in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Staff working in Asia, the Middle East and Central America shared a need to understand better the political impact of a rising religious orientation in their regions.

Participants in the four-day retreat cautioned against “Westism,” that is, assuming that the way of the West is the way for the world. They recognized the absence of a viable economic alternative to

capitalism as it is practiced in the West, yet the suffering of many under that system.

Elise Boulding, a Quaker educator and AFSC Board member, who offered the final reflection at the Friday session, emphasized that the real work of reconciliation and building peace relationships is done by people on the scene, by local people, with whatever assistance they can take from outsiders willing and able to help. It is incumbent on those outsiders to learn about, respect, and integrate into their work indigenous skills, techniques, and understandings in conflict resolution.

At the point of celebration of AFSC’s 75th anniversary, it is inspiring to look back at the work that has been done and challenging to consider how best to carry it on in the same spirit in a rapidly changing world. by Corinne Johnson, Secretary, International Division and Diane Shandor, QSB Editor



English Quaker mediator Adam Curle gives the first keynote address at the January AFSC colloquium on changes and challenges in international affairs work.



AFSC staff from the U.S. and abroad discussed how to work in a rapidly changing international climate. Above, Nancy Benson from Philadelphia, Pa. listens to Valeria Rezende from Brazil.

efforts in Africa, gave the afternoon keynote address in which he echoed Adam Curle’s emphasis on the spiritual element in peacemaking, and spoke of the concentric circles of reconciliation—with God, with self, with neighbors, and with the environment. For Hizkias Asefa, “Coming from a spiritual orientation must be combined with highly developed conflict resolution skills.”

Quaker International Affairs staff today work in Central America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Southern Africa and at the two United Nations’ offices in New York and Geneva. They follow in a tradition begun at the close of World War II of Quakers working for peace

The Friday public session and the four-day staff retreat were the first events in commemoration of AFSC’s 75th anniversary. Conference papers from the Friday session are available for \$2.50 (including postage). Stephen Cary, recently retired AFSC Board Chairperson, is the author of a monograph based on the entire colloquium. It will be available in summer, 1992 for \$5.

The current issue of *Bridges: Quaker International Affairs Reports*, is a transcript of Adam Curle’s comments at the colloquium. *Bridges* is a series of in-depth reports written by AFSC staff in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Southern Africa, Central America and Europe. One year subscriptions are available for \$25. You may receive a sample copy of the current issue for \$1 (for postage).

To order these publications, write: Literature Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Phone: (215) 241-7167.



Hizkias Asefa (center), a member of the Nairobi Peace Group, greets attendees following his keynote address.

Dealing with Drugs

A North-South Community Dialogue



The three visitors from the Andean countries met with young people in school assemblies, community groups and impromptu street discussions.



Eleuterio, Concepcion, Ana and Angela meeting with community leaders and Philadelphia, Pa. police.

The evening began with a home-cooked Puerto Rican dinner for 150, a slide show of the activities of the local anti-drug group and a dance routine by youngsters from the area. Residents of a North Philadelphia (Pa.) community, one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city, were gathered to talk about the cocaine trade with three Latin Americans, leaders from local communities in Columbia, Peru and Bolivia.

Ana Basilia Valasquez, a youth worker from Columbia, Eleuterio Romero Olivera, a labor leader from Bolivia, and Concepcion

Quispe, a peasant leader from rural Peru, came to the United States to participate in a people-to-people tour sponsored by AFSC.

"Our reason for bringing the Latin Americans to the United States," says Angela Berryman, coordinator of AFSC's *Latin America and Caribbean* program, "was to create opportunities for dialogue between people in the U.S. and those from Andean countries who come from communities that suffer most from the drug trade. Through the exchange of ideas and experience we hoped to contribute to the strengthening of the people and groups in the United States who must cope daily with drugs in their communities and those in Latin



Ana, Concepcion and Eleuterio participated in numerous anti-drug marches and vigils. Here they joined a group in Philadelphia, Pa., in front of a wall painted with the names of victims of drug-related violence.



Ana Basilia Valasquez, a social worker from Columbia, Eleuterio Romero Olivera, a labor leader from Bolivia and Concepcion Quispe, a peasant leader from rural Peru, getting ready for a community meeting in Lancaster, Pa.

America who find themselves the target of U.S. drug wars."

Themes touched on in Philadelphia during the first week of the "Dealing with Drugs—A North-South Dialogue" tour were repeated in many of the 17 cities visited across the U.S. When young Latino and African-American men in Holmesburg prison contrasted the hundreds of dollars a week they could make selling drugs with the minimum wage they could earn if they landed a job at a fast food restaurant, the Andean visitors could relate the situation to the economic desperation they know in their own countries.

Across the country, Ana, Concepcion and Eleuterio saw crack houses, talked to young men and women hanging out on corners, marched with anti-drug activists, addressed classrooms and school assemblies, visited neonatal centers where

they saw crack babies, and talked with rehabilitation counselors, politicians, police, members of the media and church groups and leaders. The Latin Americans learned firsthand the link between joblessness, poverty, drugs and race in the U.S. They saw devastated neighborhoods, but also witnessed community organization in the form of a land trust, community gardens, and halfway houses.

It was not always easy for everyone to hear what the Latin American visitors had come to tell them. In Chicago, Illinois, at a gathering of community leaders on the South Side, the dialogue stumbled at the question of who was profiting from the drug trade.

Eleuterio talked about the collapse of the economy in Bolivia where the implementation of new economic policies has contributed to the closing of the tin mines, the layoffs of government workers, and the curtailment of social services. He explained how former industrial and service workers have been forced back to the land and the only marketable crop is the coca leaf. Even so, several harvests a year only earn the farmer a few hundred dollars. Once it was clear that the peasant growers were very poor and that growing coca meant the difference between starvation and having something to eat, the conversation between the visitors and the community leaders opened up.

Concepcion Quispe, a Peruvian Indian, defended the right of Andean

peasants to grow coca, a crop they have cultivated for hundreds of years. She described the traditional uses of the coca leaf, as a medicine, tea, herb and sacred plant. Concepcion explained that she and other Peruvians drink coca tea just as we drink coffee, to relax and as a mild stimulant. The leaf is not addicting in the concentrations used by local Andean communities.

Both Concepcion and Ana talked about how the U.S. military is strengthening the military forces in Peru and Columbia who are involved in suppressing peasant, union, church and other activists as much as fighting the "drug war."

On several occasions mothers of adolescents involved with drugs felt the Latin Americans were insensitive to the real effects of drugs. However, most audiences came to see that coca is different from cocaine and that local Andean farmers eking out an existence are not the profiteers of the drug trade.

Chuck Dahm, a Dominican priest in Chicago, spoke at mass the week following the tour visit. He reflected on seeing and feeling things from the standpoint of the poor. This visit from people from the Andean countries, he said, "reminds us that we are world citizens and what happens in other countries has an impact on our communities. We should see the drug crisis from the standpoint of the poor."

by Eva Gold, Information Services

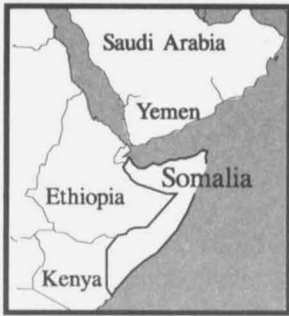
DEALING WITH DRUGS: A Dubious Battle in Latin America.

This packet gives a perspective on the U.S. military presence in Latin America around the drug issue and includes printed pieces on Columbia, Peru, Bolivia, and "The Political Economy of Cocaine." To order, send \$5.00 to Literature Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Phila., PA, 19102.



(From left) Angela Berryman, Concepcion Quispe and Ana Basilia Valasquez entering Holmesburg Prison where they spoke with young men imprisoned for cocaine possession and other drug-related crimes about the economic realities they face.

SOMALIA



Mohamed Abdirahman, AFSC's program director in Somalia, struggled to convey the catastrophe that has overtaken his country: "Scenes of human suffering are beyond my words to describe. It seems as if human life has lost its value."

Somalia, a mainly Muslim country in the Horn of East Africa, has been engulfed in a civil war pitching political factions and family groups against one another. The fighting is fueled by weapons that were supplied to the now overthrown dictatorship of Siad Barre by the United States and the Soviet Union during the period of super-power competition for control of the strategic region.

Since last November fighting has been intense in the capital city of Mogadishu. "More than half a million people have fled the capital, seeking peace in the countryside," according to Abdirahman. "Those who remain are often members of



Mohamed Abdirahman in Somalia.

the most vulnerable groups—orphans, women, children and Ethiopian refugees who have been abandoned by international agencies." The major hospitals in the city have been completely looted. "Large numbers of wounded arrive daily at the overflowing makeshift clinics where there are no drugs, equipment, beds or space to accommodate them."

Throughout the country there is a shortage of food and other basic necessities; herding and farming have been disrupted and infrastructure destroyed. "The young people involved in the war now are just like mercenaries," said Abdirahman.

"They are fighting for food and clothing. There is nothing left for the bandits to loot. If there was enough food, the war would cease by itself."

Abdirahman recently managed at great personal risk to travel out of Somalia in order to consult with AFSC staff in Philadelphia on plans for emergency assistance. He has worked with the AFSC program in rural and urban parts of Somalia since its start over ten years ago.

Even during the heaviest fighting Abdirahman assisted relief efforts in the capital and continued to support the AFSC nutrition project in Omara, an agricultural community

located in a relatively secure area south of Mogadishu. He described how the Omara community, made up of members of various groups which are engaged in the conflict, have strengthened harmony among themselves and have prevented armed groups from entering their area.

AFSC is urgently seeking funds to respond to the crisis in Somalia. Plans call for expanding support to the Omara project and initiating immediately a program of emergency assistance in the Mogadishu area. AFSC will provide food, clothing, and medicines to an orphanage just south of the capital where 450 young girls and 50 staff members are barely surviving on the kindness of the already impoverished local community. The part-time services of a physician and a nurse will also be arranged. In addition, AFSC will provide essential drugs and X-ray film to two hospitals in Mogadishu.

Abdirahman looked to the future as he prepared to return to Somalia. "Peaceful resolution of the conflict will not be easy. It will take responsible leaders. Assistance from the international community is also very much needed, both in terms of emergency relief and in the process of reconciliation. We pray Allah to save Somalia!"

by Edward Reed,
International Division

Rethinking Prisons

In Indiana, a grassroots organization has sprung from AFSC's national criminal justice work. The Rethinking Prisons Council was founded at a June 1991 conference organized by local activists as part of the AFSC's "200 Years of the Penitentiary: Breaking Chains: Forging Justice Project."

The Council has been working to bring attention to increasing violence in Indiana prisons and jails, and to human rights violations at the state's Maximum Control Complex in Westville. The Council also works to advocate for the development of alternatives to incarceration, to reduce prison construction in Indiana, to support the religious expression rights of prisoners, and to defend the rights of political prisoners in the United States.

The Indiana conference, "Rethinking Prisons: The Legacy and Lessons of 200 Years," drew together activists from throughout the Midwest. Evalyn Kellum, then an AFSC staffperson, played a key role

in the conference organizing, as did Rev. Gerry Cunningham of Church Action for Safe and Just Communities, a national prison reform and advocacy network, and the late poet and activist Ethridge Knight.

Presenters and participants in the conference included ex-prisoners, crime victims, prisoners' family

members, corrections staff, and prisoner advocates. Workshops and panels focused on issues including prison health care, legislation and public policy, alternatives to prison, and violence in the community. The keynote speaker was Dr. L.C. Dorsey, co-chair of the AFSC National Commission on Crime and Justice.

The first meeting of the Rethinking Prisons Council was held within a month of the conference. Since then the Council has offered monthly public forums and produced a detail-packed bimonthly newsletter.

by Linda Thurston, National Representative, Criminal Justice

Peacework

Along with the 75th anniversary of the AFSC, another Service Committee milestone is being celebrated in 1992—the start of the third decade of a networking newsletter for activists that is being celebrated with an anthology of its "greatest hits." *Peacework* is a monthly published since 1972 by the New England Regional Office particularly for grassroots social justice and peace advocates.

The book—*Peacework: 20 Years of Nonviolent Social Change*—was released late last year by Fortkamp Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland. It is a large-format, 288-page illustrated volume, with a foreword by noted peace activist and writer Grace

Paley. Its 147 articles, arranged in chronological order in 15 chapters, range from "Belief: The Basis for Activism" to coverage of the Persian Gulf War.

The anthology was used in several college courses during the spring semester. *Peacework's* co-founder and long-time editor, Pat Farren, believes it can be an eye-opener for students. "The anthology gives young people perspective on the journey that the peace and justice movements have taken since the sixties," says Pat. "The articles are brief, personal and opinionated—part of what I have come to call 'empowerment journalism.' The newsletter provides handles for using peace information at the local

level, and the anthology is a unique handle for grasping the recent past, which I feel is a prerequisite for taking informed action these days."

While the articles in *Peacework* were produced by New Englanders, said Pat, the issues they portray are pertinent for readers nationwide who care about nonviolence. A review in *Rural Southern Voice for Peace* calls the anthology "strong medicine—a powerful antidote for those days when we may feel overwhelmed by the work before us."

Copies of the *Peacework* anthology are \$20, including postage, from AFSC, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

Salvadorans Still Seeking Safe Haven

A promise of peace seems possible for the future of El Salvador. On January 16, 1992, a peace accord was signed by the Salvadoran government and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. A cease fire went into effect on February 1, 1992. Elections are scheduled for 1994. Between now and then Salvadorans anticipate the demilitarization of their society, the development of a participatory democratic government, and the implementation of land reform.

During the eleven year civil war more than one million Salvadorans were forced into exile. Though accurate figures are impossible to determine, over 500,000 Salvadorans entered the United States, most without legal documents. Denied safe haven and subjected to discriminatory political asylum judgements, Salvadorans lived in perpetual fear of deportation during the 1980s.

In 1990, the Immigration Act provided Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Salvadorans. Several AFSC programs, already providing direct legal, advocacy, and community education services to Salvadorans, undertook public education campaigns to inform Salvadorans of their rights under TPS and to assist them with the registration process.

AFSC staff have used the time of TPS to meet with Salvadoran



Salvadorans rally for continuation of Temporary Protected Status.

AFSC's Undocumented Workers Program in Miami, Florida. "Until we are more certain that the accords will succeed, we will continue to advocate for an extension of TPS beyond June 30, 1992, and defend the asylum rights of Salvadorans in this country." The AFSC Miami program has registered 350 Salvadorans, a small percentage of the thousands living in Florida, many of whom were driven to pay unscrupulous notaries due to the limited abilities of small, refugee advocate groups saddled with the responsibility.

With the potential termination of TPS on June 30, 1992, and the long awaited peace accords, Salvadorans in the United States face new pressures and dilemmas.

If TPS is not extended, deportation proceedings will commence on March 31, 1993, unless an individual submits a political asylum application prior to August 29, 1992. The likelihood of the

United States government's acceptance of an individual's claim of a "well founded fear of persecution" if returned was extraordinarily improbable at the height of the war. In light of the peace accords, it is unlikely that a political asylum claim will be looked upon favorably.

"The Salvadoran government itself is lobbying for an extension of TPS," said Angela Berryman, national coordinator of AFSC's Latin America and Caribbean Program. "The monies sent home by Salvadorans in the United States are integral to the Salvadoran economy. In a period

of reconstruction, the return of thousands of citizens may not be helpful. Both on humanitarian and pragmatic grounds at this time, the deportation or return of Salvadoran refugees would overwhelm an untenable and beleaguered economy."

Whatever the outcome of the extension, Denis Johnston says, "TPS has offered Salvadorans an opportunity to work legally without fear of recrimination. It has given them a chance to consider their rights in the work place and their rights as human beings."

AFSC will continue to address the reasons why Salvadorans come and remain in this country. While changes are inevitable in El Salvador, there will be resistance to major and necessary social transformations from some sectors, especially the oligarchy and the military. The tremendous division between rich and poor remains, as does lack of access to decision making and power.

"We hope that the peace accords will ultimately bring about a situation where those Salvadorans who wish to can return safely to their country and participate in the rebuilding of their society," says Angela Berryman.

by Elizabeth Enloe, Regional Executive Secretary, New York Metropolitan AFSC



AFSC staffmember Herman Martinez talks with immigrant workers in Florida about their rights.

communities throughout Florida and northern New Jersey, sharing knowledge of rights, documenting abuses, and encouraging actions on their own behalf. "It has been a blessing to work with hopeful people facing such suffering," said Denis Johnston, coordinator of AFSC's Newark Immigration Program, whose office registered over 600 persons under TPS.

"While we are glad for the accords, peace in El Salvador is not a reality. The conditions and the situation remain violent and uncertain," said Jonathan Fried of

MICROSOFT □ KODAK □ MERCK
INTEL □ PEPSI-COLA

A gift to the American Friends Service Committee of appreciated stock...such as any of these "big performers"...can provide you with life income and both you and the Service Committee will benefit. Your income may increase. You can report an immediate charitable deduction. And we will invest your gift using socially responsible guidelines.

To learn how you can use appreciated stock to make a planned gift and receive life income for yourself and/or another person, return the coupon below or call. Your reply will be confidential.

To:

Lyn Back, Director of Planned Giving
American Friends Service Committee
1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 241-7095

Please send me information on the following:

- ☐ How to use stock to fund a Gift Annuity/Pooled Life Income Fund.
- ☐ How to use stock to fund a Charitable Remainder Trust.
- ☐ How to include the Service Committee in my will.
- ☐ I have included the Service Committee in my will.

Name

Birthdate/s

Address

Zip

Telephone

Approximate size of gift \$ _____

75th Anniversary..... continued from page 1.

religion as essentially social....an affair of a beloved community." Asia continued, "That is the way I experience my Quaker faith and that is the way I experience my life in the American Friends Service Committee."

Later Asia said, "I continue to believe that the Service Committee's special genius is in the ability to confront large, complex problems and to find practical, particular, human ways to address them. That and the attempt to answer to that of God in everyone roots our work and makes it durable."

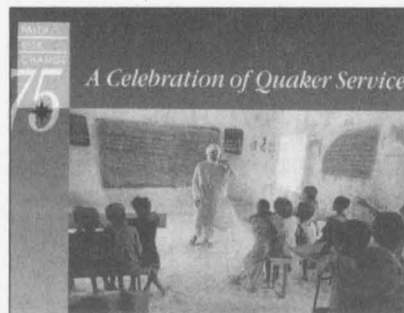
"I have confidence that these qualities will be present in the future, although the issues, approaches and methods will of course change over time," said Asia.

Kara Newell, the incoming AFSC executive secretary, said,

"...it helps me to be reminded that AFSC is people, individual lives lived with more joy, more dignity and more hope because AFSC people take risks for change based on faith. And yet, there certainly are more risks to be taken, more changes that are needed as we move into our next five, ten, and even seventy-five years. Being faithful will require fresh waves of faith, frequently renewed commitment, good analysis and finding the right partners, people of faith, people of color, people of skill and commitment, people from the margins and the center, old and young, differently abled, gays and lesbians, citizens of many countries and communities, Quakers of all kinds, and other peoples of faith, all with a faithful vision working together for peace with justice." *by Diane Shandor, QSB Editor*

Special Anniversary Publications

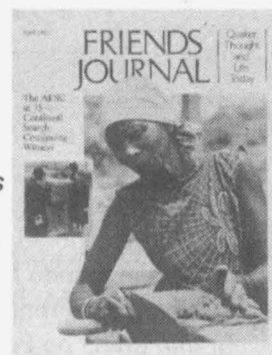
Faith, Risk, Change: A Celebration of Quaker Service, Ralph Weltge for AFSC, \$8.00. Available from Literature Resources, 1501 Cherry St. PA 19102.



"AFSC's Early Years" Jerry Frost, *Quaker History*, \$2.00. Available from AFSC Literature Resources (see above).

A special issue of **Friends Journal** celebrating AFSC's 75th Anniversary with articles by present and past AFSC staff, Board members,

volunteers and committee members, \$2.00. Available from *Friends Journal*, 1501 Cherry St., Phila., PA 19102.



Toast to AFSC

75th Anniversary mugs and AFSC buttons are available to help celebrate in 1992. Mugs cost \$5.00 each and buttons \$.25 each. To order, contact David Bates, Information Services, 1501 Cherry St., Phila. PA 19102. 215-241-7062.

For more information on AFSC's 75th Anniversary, contact Eva Gold, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Phila., PA 19102. 215-241-7057.

Goodbye to Asia Bennett

Asia Alderson Bennett, the first woman to be named Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee in its 75-year history, has resigned to become Executive Secretary of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas. The newly appointed Executive Secretary, Kara Newell, of Portland, Oregon, will assume the position in June. Asia is resigning after more than twenty years with the AFSC. She served as Executive Secretary from 1980 until today. Previously she was Associate Executive Secretary for Personnel in Philadelphia, Pa., and Regional Executive Secretary of the AFSC's Pacific Northwest Office in Seattle, Washington.

What do you consider AFSC's accomplishments in the last twelve years?

In each era the ability of the Service Committee to practice the kind of discernment and to choose the right priorities I feel has allowed it to make a distinct contribution. When I consider AFSC's accomplishments during my 12 years, I'd say it was in program work—work that has been sound, responsive, and at times risk-taking. The evolution of work on the Mexico-U.S. border has been a special accomplishment, and also the way we have found to work on criminal justice issues. During the post-Vietnam War era we witnessed for peace and reconciliation and sought to make a contribution in the wake of the war.

Thinking back to the Gulf war, it is significant, I think, that as AFSC considered how to respond to the crisis we were quick to recognize the



Asia Bennett (left) and Kara Newell (center) with an attendee at the AFSC 75th Anniversary celebration.

connections between a distant military venture and the despair and violence within our own society. At the same time, AFSC's historic support for conscientious objectors and military resisters found new expression in the work of the Youth and Militarism Program as it publicly exposed the situation of military resisters, many of them women and people of color.

You've spoken before about inclusiveness being an important goal.

In the last 12 years we have become very self-conscious about the need for diversity, and inclusiveness on our staff and committees. This opening up of the Service Committee community is another aspect of our Quaker witness, an essential dimension of our work for a more just and peaceful world. We have come to work in partnership with others—rather than on behalf of others. This has brought about a kind of organizational transformation as people from diverse backgrounds, with their experience and first-hand knowledge, have challenged our thinking and contributed

new and valuable insights and perspectives to program planning and direction. However, these leadings have developed gradually and out of long experience of cooperation with communities at home and abroad.

The possibilities for misunderstanding and mistrust are ever present when those included in a community bring very different experiences and assumptions and have different measures of influence. Some of my most baffling, and heartbreaking experiences over the past 20 years were complicated by such misunderstandings—but my deepest joys and satisfactions were also won in the struggle. I am convinced that we are called to the effort to become a truly inclusive community, where a level of trust, respect and shared vision is evident. Then our community may be a pattern and example for others. We have become richer because we have hired women, differently-abled people, Latinos, gays and lesbians, African-Americans, Native Americans.

Any final thoughts to share?

One of the things I love about the AFSC is the ability to experiment, to take risks, to make mistakes and learn from them. What brings us back to the center, I believe, is a fundamental loyalty to the values which undergird the work, to a search for truth.

by Beth Binford, Information Services

Welcome Kara Newell

Kara Newell, who assumes the position of Executive Secretary in June, has been a member of the AFSC Board of Directors since 1989. She brings to the position extensive experience with not-for-profit institutions, active involvement and leadership in the Religious Society of Friends, close contact in the interfaith and ecumenical communities, and a deep commitment to the search for justice and peace, "qualities and experience that will enable her to lead and inspire the AFSC community," said AFSC Board Chair Dulany Bennett. Kara Newell is currently Director of the English as a Second Language Program at Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon. Prior to that she was Executive Vice-President of Mercy Corps International, an international relief and development organization. As Administrative Secretary of Friends United Meeting, 1979-1986, Kara coordinated administration and program.