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AFSC supports Middle East peace process

KARA NEWELL, executive director of AFSC, was present for the historic meeting on September 13, 1993, in Washington, D.C., between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and P.L.O. Chairman Yasir Arafat. Later, in a letter addressed to both leaders, she expressed "our strong support for this act of mutual recognition and your bold and courageous steps toward building a future of peace for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples."

For decades, AFSC has publicly urged a settlement that would involve two states, Israel and Palestine, existing side by side in peace and security.

To keep the elements of a just solution in front of people in the United States, AFSC Peace Education continues its grassroots work. One example was the tour by four Palestinian educators, sponsored by the Middle East Peace Education

AFSC PHOTO/ DENIS DOYON



Kara Newell (right), executive director of AFSC, speaks with participants at Quaker Lobby Day last May in Washington, D.C.

Program in Chicago. The tour gave hundreds of midwesterners a picture of the daily struggles of Palestinians under occupation.

Out of this personal contact came pen-pal programs, teacher exchanges, and links between teachers' unions in the U.S. and the Occupied Territories—all aimed at supporting Palestinian education.

Projects in the Middle East

As we go to press, hopes that the

signing of the Israel-P.L.O. agreement would bring positive changes for Palestinians and Israelis have yet to be realized. The Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza continues, as does the cycle of violence and reprisal.

The Quaker Legal Aid Center in East Jerusalem provides legal assistance to families who need to hire lawyers to defend family members

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Refugees buy apartment complex for \$1

THREE YEARS AGO, when told they could purchase their apartment complex from the U.S. government for \$1, the natural reaction of Cambodian residents of Park Village in Stockton, California, was disbelief. Now that escrow has closed, residents are jubilant.

For the 193 families in Park Village, the complex has been the only home they've known since leaving refugee camps in Thailand. "Home," however, was a ramshackle group of rundown buildings in need of major repair. After Housing and Urban Development (HUD) started foreclosure proceedings against the absentee landlord, AFSC's Rural Economic Alternatives Program (REAP) in Stockton proposed the buyout to the tenants.

With the support and guidance of AFSC staff Raj Ramaiya, residents formed their own nonprofit housing association, APSARA which stands for Asian Pacific Self-Development and Residential Association. It is also the name of a centuries-old Cambodian goddess. APSARA was able to secure the \$7.5 million in financing needed for the rehabilitation of Park Village.

APSARA is the first HUD government-to-residents transfer project of its kind in the nation.

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AFSC challenges military contamination

MAKUA VALLEY (the word means "parents") is situated on the northwest coast of Hawai'i's O'ahu Island. Tucked between Ka'ena Point State Park and the Makua Kea'au Forest Reserve, this valley was once home to archaeological sites and a thriving farm community. Since 1941, it has been a 42,000-acre army military reserve, used for live-fire training maneuvers and bombing practice.

Ten years ago, the army obtained a temporary permit from the San Francisco regional EPA office to burn and explode—the acronym is OB/OD, Open Burn/Open Detonation—everything from obsolete hand grenades to napalm bombs. This activity went unnoticed because it sounds the same as weapons being fired.

In October 1992, the temporary permit ran out. And the army, which normally produced lots of noise, was quietly getting the EPA to make the permission permanent. That's when someone in San Francisco—they still don't know who—faxed a copy of the



An artist's sketch of the signs found around the military base in Hawai'i.

EPA papers to the AFSC Hawai'i office.

AFSC staff faxed this information to other community action groups, then organized a community meeting. Over 300 people came together, including representatives of

environmental groups who raised questions about endangered species living in the valley.

The meeting produced three demands: 1) that the EPA schedule a public hearing; 2) that a copy of the 900-page Environmental Impact Statement be made available throughout the island of O'ahu, not just in Honolulu; 3) that the permitting process be extended to allow for community response. The EPA agreed to all three.

AFSC staff were also present at a special meeting with the EPA regional representative where it came to light that combustion of the materials in question was releasing into the environment hydrochloric acid, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, phosphorus, and light and heavy metals.

On February 9, 1993, the EPA notified the community that it was suspending the permitting process because the army's response was inadequate and its reports improperly filed. In July, the army hired a

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AFSC PHOTO/TERRY FOSS



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Seattle's Lambert House drop-in center for youth

WE DIDN'T NEED TO hire a large staff and raise millions to open Lambert House," says Arlis Stewart, director of the Gay and Lesbian Youth Program and the AFSC in Seattle. "We just brought together the people and agencies capable of offering services to this population."

As a result, thousands of 14- to 22-year-old gay and lesbian youth have found help and companionship over the past two years at this drop-in center on Capitol Hill [Seattle]. Street kids find food and clothing, as well as referrals for shelter and health care. Youth with substance-abuse problems get counseling. And just about any college- or high-school-age youth can drop by to play pool, watch television or just hang out. Staffed by some sixty trained adult volunteers, the center is open fifty hours a week. Its vestibule is

PHOTO/ RAYMOND GENDREAU



Arlis Stewart, director of AFSC's Gay and Lesbian Youth Program, Seattle.

stacked with brochures on rights, services, and safe sex. Its comput-

erized resource line takes about 2,000 calls a month.

Lambert House is sponsored by four agencies: the American Friends Service Committee, Stonewall Recovery Services, Seattle Counseling Services for Sexual Minorities, and the Association of Gay and Lesbian Youth Advocates. In addition, organizations such as the Northwest AIDS Foundation and the University of Washington Adolescent Medicine Clinic offer targeted programs and services.

The needs are great. Gay and lesbian youth are at higher risk than the general population for suicide, assault, substance abuse, and sexually transmitted disease. "It's been estimated that 30 to 40 percent of Seattle's homeless teens are gay and lesbian," says Timothy Popanz, clinical director of Stonewall Recovery Services. "They need acceptance and

a safe environment where they can express themselves."

Lambert House has become more visible in the past year through public relations efforts. "The more youth find out about it, the fewer are going to feel as isolated and desperate," Stewart says. But Lambert House may not be the appropriate place for all gay and lesbian youth—especially those who aren't yet ready to "come out." Recognizing this, Stewart and other sponsors are working with mainstream agencies to help them understand gay and lesbian kids' needs. "These young people need the same breadth of opportunity in sports, recreation, arts, and crisis services that heterosexual youth do," Stewart says. "We need to help the whole community become more responsive to them."

— Reprinted with permission of *Seattle* magazine, December 1993

AFSC PHOTO/ TERRY FOSS



Left to right: Chinese visitors Madame Yu Wen and Mr. Liao Dong look at old photos with former AFSC Board Chairman Stephen Cary.

Chinese visitors pay tribute to AFSC

IN NOVEMBER 1993, a delegation from the People's Republic of China—members of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIU)—toured the country as guests of the AFSC, visiting AFSC offices across the country. Their purpose was "good will" and to deepen understanding.

The director of the New York office, Elizabeth Enloe, welcomed them with a display of photographs and articles from AFSC's work in China over the years. One was a hand-embroidered banner presented to the AFSC by the Chinese in the 1940s to thank staff and volunteers for their work as ambulance drivers and medical technicians.

Professor Qi Xiyu said those in China who know of Friends work view AFSC like the cypress and the pine. "When spring comes there are many blossoms.... It is a time of beauty that all can appreciate. In the winter there are no flowers, no bright colors. During the war in China, people felt it was like winter, the colors and beauty that celebrate life were not to be seen. Then our friends from AFSC came to stand beside us. We saw them like the cypress and the pine whose solitary green in winter is ever more radiant and lovely than the blossoms of the spring. We shall always be grateful."

African-American delegation visits Mexico

AFRICAN-AMERICANS are highly affected by events in Mexico, from immigration to trade relations," says Primitivo Rodriguez, national representative for the AFSC's Mexico-U.S. Border Program. "In spite of this, African-Americans have practically no relationship with Mexican-Americans and vice versa. We believe the groups need to interchange for the sake of their own common well-being," he points out.

The growing economic integration between the United States and Mexico has prompted concerns and apprehensions on both sides.

Since 1990, AFSC has led five delegations of Latinos and African-Americans to Mexico to increase the participation of people of color in the shaping of U.S.-Mexico relations, and to promote economic development between African-Americans and Mexicans.

To date, three Latino delegations and two African-American groups have traveled to Mexico in this historic effort. The groups consisted of community activists, human rights advocates, lawyers and politicians, scholars, and labor leaders.

The most recent African-American delegation traveled to Mexico in August 1993. They met with a variety of people including President Carlos Salinas, opposition leaders, business representatives, community organizers, and human rights advocates. Some of

the key issues discussed were: Mexico's economic reform, human rights, narcotics trafficking, and issues of racism in Mexican society.

Several follow-up activities are planned including an expected visit to the U.S. by Mexican Secretary of Commerce Jaime Serra-Puche who offered African-American delegates opportunities in trade and investment. A delegation of African-American mayors and business persons is planning to visit Mexico to explore this idea further. AFSC will lead three more African-American delegations to Mexico; and an African-American-Latino working group is being developed to continue the dialogue.

One of the major outcomes of the Mexico-U.S. Economic Integration Project is the recognition of the common struggles against injustice and inequality shared by African Americans and Latinos. In September 1993, a bronze statue of Martin Luther King, Jr., was unveiled in Mexico City to honor the civil rights leader. Many African-American dignitaries were present for the unveiling, including Coretta Scott King. She remarked in part, "We are building a bridge today that unites the hopes and aspirations of the people of Mexico and the United States to [end] poverty, racism, and violence through creative nonviolent action."



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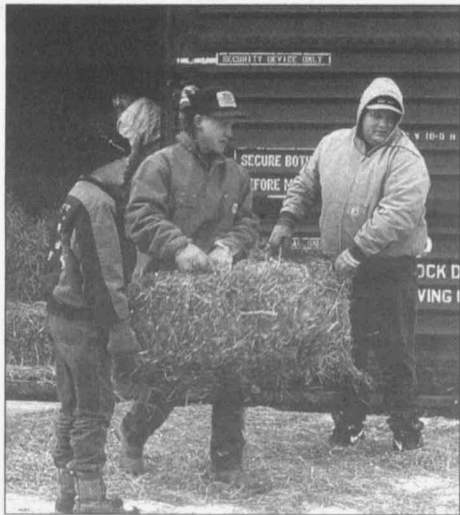
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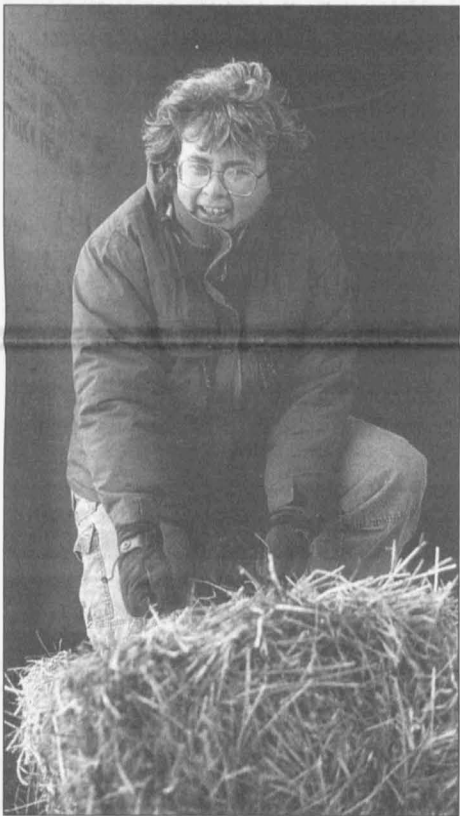
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OPERATION HAYLIFT

ON THE DAY before the New Year, Kay Whitlock, program coordinator for the AFSC's Midwestern Long-Term Recovery Program, reported that the first shipment of 45 tons of good quality hay had arrived in Central Iowa for distribution to disaster-stricken Iowa farmers. She wrote:

"Farmers and staff of AFSC and PrairieFire Rural Action were on hand today, at 10:00 A.M. CST,



to unload the first two boxcars of hay from Pennsylvania (one loaded at Port Royal, the other at Lebanon). Each car contained about 450 bales.

"It's a cold, grey day, with some snow starting up, but it was worth all the effort to see farmers driving off with their trucks filled with hay. Altogether about 17 small family farmers were served today, some with dairy cattle, some with beef cattle, some have sheep."

According to Pat Eddy, coordinator for PrairieFire's Rural Recovery Program, "Hay is running low on many farms, and some producers have had to sell livestock because they have been unable to find or pay for hay. This shipment enables us to help some very hard-pressed farmers."

Whitlock added: "This tremendous gift was primarily from eastern Pennsylvania farmers associated with the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite Disaster Committee. And it has been made possible by the generosity and support of Iowa's religious community and participating railroads. AFSC is coordinating the hay operation with the cooperation of ConRail and the Burlington Northern Railroad. Hay was also purchased in some



areas to fill out box cars."

Additional shipments of hay were distributed throughout January and February.

AFSC is helping to fund the haylift and in its coordinating efforts is involved in locating and arranging for transport of hay that has been donated, or purchased at reduced cost.

Whitlock said, "No other organizations have had staff on the ground to devote significant time and effort to this critically important recovery initiative.

"We have also involved part-

ners from other communities of faith in this effort: Among those who have committed financial resources to augment AFSC haylift efforts are: the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa, Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response, Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, Des Moines Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ."



WOMEN'S LIVES, labor, and responsibilities for family and home are profoundly affected by global economic and political forces. Yet when labor and community activists come together to discuss changes wrought by the increasingly global economy, women's perspectives are all too often omitted. Women need forums in which to meet with one another, across ethnic and national boundaries, and to ask one another how they can alter unjust economic and social structures.

AFSC has organized a number of such forums over the past year, on four continents.

Always at the core of the dialogue lies a search for ways to create respectful relationships within communities, families, and nations.

The women do not always agree, but they always learn from one another.

Finding common ground in the Americas

During a month-long exchange between Latin American and North American women in October 1993 in the United States, the Latin American women heard their U.S. counterparts express compassion and frustration at the violence of poverty in Latin America.

Seen through Latin American eyes, the face of poverty in North America looked almost bright. Poor

AFSC PHOTO/ TERRY FOSS



The East St. Louis city manager (left) points out the bitterly poor urban centers and their need for jobs and investment.

AFSC PHOTO/ TERRY FOSS



Left to right: Nicaraguans Ligia Orozco and Isolda Espinosa and AFSC staffperson Virginia Druhe meet with women organizers of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, at the Center, to share strategies for the survival of small farms.

WOMEN'S EXCHANGES

Enabling women to develop strategies for confronting militarism, violence against women, and economic injustice.

AFSC PHOTO/ TERRY FOSS



In economically depressed North Philadelphia, the Latin American women's delegation discusses the housing crisis with community organizer Pedro Rodriguez. Next to Pedro: Isolda Espinosa of Nicaragua, Lourdes Paredes and Gloria Telles of Mexico.

communities in the United States have access to more funds, compared to the stark lack of resources in Latin America. But the Latin American women also learned about the harsh conditions experienced by many poor people, especially immigrants, in the United States.

In Chicago, an immigrant woman explained: "People come here to improve their lives and end up with broken dreams. Sometimes there are

twelve people in two rooms, no work, and no way to pay the rent."

As the women from Chile, Nicaragua, Mexico and the United States probed the roots of the economic pain familiar to poor communities in both North and South, they discovered common ground. An organizer in St. Louis commented, "Debts in both North and South are owed to the same banks"—and debts in both places are to a great extent the result of excessive military spending.

While learning about one another's experiences, the women shared strategies for change. They emphasized that it is important for women to recognize their own power and not to wait for the government to resolve problems.

Confronting violence against women in Asia

In August 1993, the Quaker International Affairs representatives in Asia facilitated Part I of a two-part exchange among women from China, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. Harmony House, a shelter and service organization for women and children in Hong Kong, hosted counselors from the newly organized Beijing Women's Hotline and from a similar Malaysian organization.

The exchange connected grassroots activists in these three countries who are working to stop violence against women. They addressed domestic violence, single parents' problems, housing, and employment discrimination, among other issues.

Wang Xing Juan, director of the Beijing Hotline, said: "I felt lonely fighting the struggle in China. Coming to Hong Kong I realize there are many women's

AFSC PHOTO/ CORINNE JOHNSON



Hungarian Judit Hatfaludi (left) facilitator of the Balkan Women's Exchange, enjoys a moment of camaraderie with Albanian Briseida Mema.

organizations... working on the same issues we face."

Linda To, Director of Hong Kong's Harmony House, commented: "We learned so much about each other. The Beijing Women's Hotline gives faith that such a thing is possible to Hong Kong people who want to do NGO work."

Part II of the exchange, to be held in Beijing in Spring 1994, will train fifty hotline counselors. An additional fifty women from different provinces in China will learn how to counsel women on topics such as sexuality, marriage, violence, and AIDS.

Building new relationships: Budapest, Brazil and Istanbul

During an exchange held in Budapest in October 1993 women from Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, and Hungary identified economics as their most urgent concern. They criticized policies of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund which have contributed to unemployment, depressed wages, and social service cuts.

But the most poignant moment came when one participant made a racist remark about Gypsies. In an eloquent response, the older of the two Gypsy women present demanded simply that the others "think of Gypsies as human beings, some good, some bad." Few of the women present had been openly confronted on their racism before, and the experience offered them a new challenge.

When a group of women health workers from São Paulo, Brazil, visited Brazil's Northeast region, they found it was like visiting another country. The exchange impressed them so greatly that they are attempting to replicate the effective methods for community health care they encountered in the Northeast.

In November 1993, AFSC's Quaker International Affairs Representatives in the Middle East sponsored a consultation among Arab women educators and grassroots activists in Istanbul. The participants, including Algerian, Egyptian, Lebanese, Moroccan, Palestinian, and Sudanese women, discussed how to establish a network to link Arab women engaged in similar work.

In all these exchanges, the women participants encourage one another to define, analyze, and take action on issues that affect their lives. These meetings are strong catalysts for change. The exchanges help establish new networks for ongoing dialogue, often across formidable divides of nation, ethnicity, culture, language, religion, and class.

Along the border with Roberto Martinez

Before I knew it, one agent was coming at me with his motorcycle.... He ran me over, breaking my arm. As I lay on the ground, the man turned around and ran over my back.... I thought he was going to kill me and I pleaded for mercy. He [also] ripped my shirt off and threw my shoes away. The agent continued to hit me and said they were doing this to teach all Mexicans a lesson.

Testimony by
Ramon Celaya Enriquez

This month [May] we received an extraordinary amount of complaints of abuse by the border patrol, U.S. Customs, INS, and police. We are averaging three to four complaints a day. Our main concern has been to effectively refer the cases to attorneys willing to represent the victims pro-bono.

Roberto Martinez,
Coordinator of the AFSC's
U.S./Mexico Border Program
in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO is located on the busiest border crossing in the world. Combined with a high ratio of Border Patrol agents and the law enforcement policies of the Border Patrol, this has created a volatile situation. Staff members Roberto Martinez and Maria Erana spend

AFSC PHOTO/ DIANE SHANDOR



Roberto Martinez (above, being interviewed by reporters) won an international human rights award last year for his work on the border.

their days working with those who cross the border, informing them of their rights, documenting abuses, and providing services and advocacy not offered by any other organization.

The program has organized and participated in numerous major conferences and public hearings on the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986, on human rights, migrant issues, and hate crimes. Staff members have helped change local police

policies regarding undocumented immigrants and have influenced INS training policies. Martinez appears regularly in the national and international media, and has published several booklets on immigration law. Staff members have documented hundreds of rights violations and testified frequently before governmental commissions.

A picture of the work comes from excerpts from Martinez's monthly reports:

March, 1993: I was interviewed

by several newspapers, TV, radio, European and Mexican reporters, around border and immigration issues.

We see the introduction of the Federal Immigration Enforcement Review Commission Act as a first step toward creating some form of accountability of the Border Patrol, a sign of encouragement that the federal government is showing an interest in finding a solution to abuses by the Border Patrol and other border agencies. We pointed out the need for this kind of oversight at a congressional hearing in Washington, D.C., in 1990. Local oversight committees have been introduced in El Paso and Tucson. We plan to introduce a similar ordinance in San Diego with the backing of the city Human Relations Commission and others.

I met with the city Human Relations Commission to prepare for a hearing on hate crimes impacting San Diego County; and made a presentation to the National Lawyers' Guild conference in San Diego.

April: Prepared testimony for a U.S. Commission on Civil Rights forum held here in San Diego.

Maria worked with a volunteer at Casa del Migrante in Tijuana, putting together a list of services available for migrant workers in the region. She contacted two regional healthcare agencies who agreed to treat migrants who are victims of abuse when they need medical care.

For AFSC's Immigration and Law Enforcement Project (ILEMP), we completed fact sheets on the cases of abuse received in the office from 1991 until the present, including a list of cases against women. This will be part of testimony before the United Nations June 1994, presented by the Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Services.

June: Documented law enforcement abuse and hate crimes from the border to North County. I testified at the Human Relations Commission Hate Crime Hearing; Maria did medical and legal referral for victims of law enforcement abuse and hate crimes. She finished abstracts of cases to be reviewed by attorneys and started working with a volunteer attorney on developing a mechanism to refer people to the Volunteer Lawyers' Program.

August: I arranged a meeting for Maria Jimenez, AFSC's director of ILEMP, and me to meet with Attorney General Janet Reno and Senator Diane Feinstein. We presented our concerns over a proposal to expand the border patrol on the U.S./Mexico border without improving training, supervision and screening, and without a system of accountability with respect to human rights.

Maria Erana continues to develop fact sheets on immigrant contributions to California's economy, and to gather information on effects of immigration in San Diego.

AFSC holds health and safety workshop for maquiladora workers

ON THE MEXICO-U.S. border, working can be dangerous to your health.

For years, staff of AFSC's Maquiladora Project and the Comité Fronterizo de Obreras (CFO—the Mexican women's organization that grew out of the Maquiladora Project) have been troubled by the inadequate safety and health measures in the maquiladora plants along the border.

Despite the many chemicals maquiladora workers must handle and breathe each day, adequate safety and health protective equipment is rarely provided. Many workers suffer symptoms of toxic exposures—rashes, headaches, stomach pains. Warning labels are rarely—

if ever—translated into Spanish. For women of child-bearing age, they face additional exposure when they must work double-shifts and forced overtime.

Two years ago, Phoebe McKinney, director of the Maquiladora Project, and Maria Guadalupe Torres, regional coordinator of the CFO, attended a conference on occupational safety and health. Out of the conference emerged a project to gather and distribute information in Spanish about hazardous substances and a goal to hold a health and safety workshop for maquiladora workers. That goal was realized this past July when over forty women and men maquiladora workers attended such a workshop in

Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Bi-lingual volunteer health and safety educators facilitated the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to increase the ability of workers to identify chemicals they are commonly exposed to and to recognize symptoms of exposure; to identify and analyze dangers in the workplace and assess health risks; to explore problem-solving techniques; and to learn ways of protecting themselves.

A "train the trainers" method was used for a multiplier effect, enabling workshop participants to pass on to other workers the skills and techniques they had learned.

In one especially revealing exercise, facilitators provided an array of protective equipment (gloves, masks, earplugs) and asked workers to select the equipment most appropriate for their particular work. "Without exception," Phoebe McKinney reported, "the workers picked the wrong kinds of masks, gloves, and earplugs," demonstrating that wearing the wrong protective equipment was giving them a false sense of security.

"Based upon comments from the participants, the workshop was a success," McKinney concluded, and besides, "it was a lot of fun." Both participants and trainers gained a clear recognition of the urgent need to continue informing workers about health hazards and safety measures in the maquiladora plants.

PHOTO/GARY MASSONI



Maquiladora workers in a plant on the Mexico-U.S. border.

AFSC receives Human Rights Award

On October 7, 1993, in Buffalo, New York, the Sisters of Social Service presented AFSC with the seventh Margaret Slachta Human Rights Award in recognition of "its history of risks undertaken out of commitment to service based on faith; its dedication to working at the local level, designing and implementing projects that help create independence and self-sufficiency; its support for the rights of all people, especially those who are marginalized, including prisoners, refugees, laborers, women, children, and the poor; its pursuit of peace, justice, and dignity for diverse peoples throughout the world."

Margaret Slachta, who founded the Sisters of Social Service in 1923, was a gifted woman of vision who prophetically, fearlessly undertook hardships,



Elizabeth Enloe, left, executive director of the AFSC New York Metropolitan Regional Office, receiving the Margaret Slachta Human Rights Award on behalf of the AFSC.

poverty, and misunderstanding in order to live out the social implications of the Gospel.

Redirecting military money to meet human needs

Over the next five years, the military bite, even with Clinton's modest reductions, will take a \$14,000 chunk out of the average U.S. household—unless budget priorities change.

AFSC fosters that change by its active involvement in national coalition efforts, such as Citizens Budget Campaign, and Common Agenda. Last July, AFSC was especially proud to be a co-sponsor of a conference that launched WE CAN (Workplace Economic Conversion Action Network).

According to an AFSC participant, the conference showed "strong resolve to become a unified force for economic conversion."

What does WE CAN want?

Here are some of the critical policy

imperatives it identified:

- Channel all defense cuts into economic development and conversion, not into debt reduction. Remove jurisdiction over conversion funds from the Department of Defense.
- Replace the national security mission with an industrial policy whose national goals include jobs, public amenities, sustainable environmental benefits, and new markets.
- Launch a major effort to create jobs that are in the public interest.
- Establish an Office of Economic Conversion that reports directly to the president and is judged on the basis of its success.

AFSC holds nuclear disarmament conference

"New Contexts, New Dangers: Preventing Nuclear War in the Post-Cold War Age" was the title of a major conference organized by AFSC's New England regional office and held at M.I.T. in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the weekend of October 29-31. Two hundred activists and organizers came from eight countries, eighteen states and sixty organizations to find ways to reinvigorate nuclear disarmament education and organizing.

All eyes were on 1995, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The anniversary will provide a unique opportunity to build support for a comprehensive test ban treaty and a fairer and more effective non-proliferation treaty to succeed the one which expires in 1995.

A second conference will convene in New York in April of that year.

AFSC PHOTO/ DAVID GRACIE



Kazuaki Tanahashi painted a "Circle for Peace" at the New Contexts for Peace conference in October in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Conflict resolution program works for better understanding

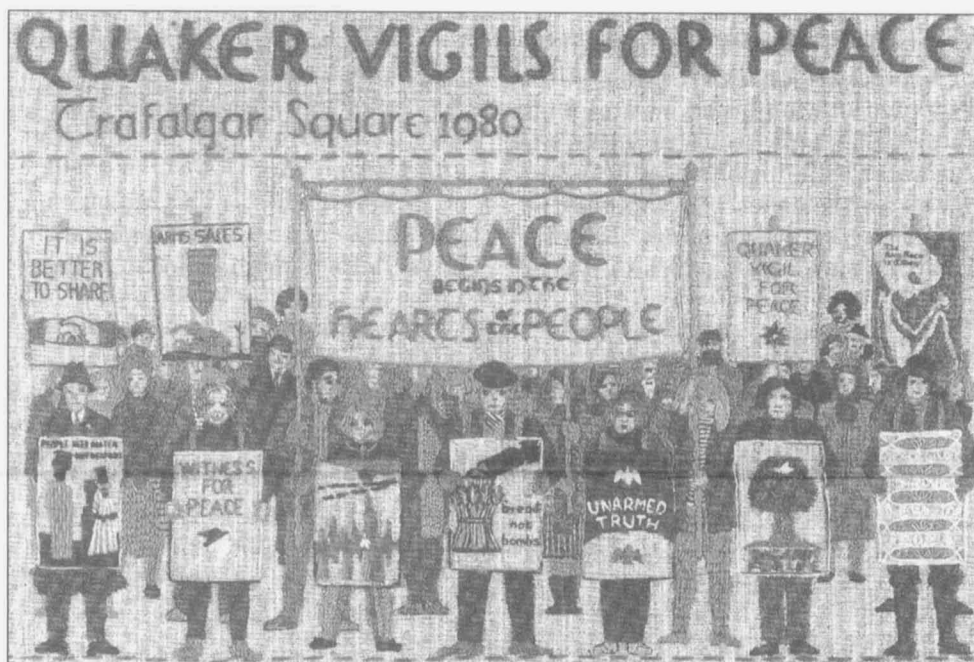
New York City's Increase the Peace Volunteer Corps (IPVC) was inaugurated in 1991 by the mayor to increase intergroup understanding and cooperation in the city. The 1,200 community volunteers, representing every borough, are trained in conflict resolution, intercultural understanding and community organizing. Their work led them to recognize a need for information on what the conflicts and conditions were in the immigrants' home countries. AFSC agreed to increase understanding of the conditions that brought these new neighbors to New York, and what continues to concern them about their homelands.

In January, AFSC held the first of

four Immigrant Affairs Briefings for the volunteers, focusing on the Korean community. Future scheduled briefings will focus on Haitians, Dominicans, and the Arab community.

Graphics and a video are used to present conflict resolution concepts. Selected guest speakers describe principal divisive issues in the immigrants' home countries. Volunteers increase their knowledge of what major challenges face these communities in New York City.

AFSC staff say, "We expect many stereotypes to be shattered, similarities to be discovered, and a renewed sense of community to be affirmed."



PHOTO/ BARBARA ELFBRANDT

Quaker tapestries shown at AFSC benefit in New York

On December 11, 1993, while snow brought a hush to New York City streets, over 150 friends of the AFSC and the Quaker United Nations Office gathered at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Manhattan to view an exhibit of twenty-four touring panels of the Quaker Tapestry Exhibit.

The guests—who came from Long Island to California, Canada to East Timor—were moved by the simple elegance of the crewel embroidered panels depicting the values and visions which have led the Religious Society of Friends. And they could reflect upon

photographic essays of AFSC's work which were interspersed throughout.

After refreshments, guests walked to Quaker House in nearby Turtle Bay. A tour of the House showed recent repairs and renovations that had been necessary to the dwelling built in the 1880s. Later, over warm cider and cake, conversations centered on the "quiet diplomacy" of Friends at Quaker House and at the United Nations.

The occasion helped to raise over \$7,500 for AFSC's worldwide programs and for the fund to repair and renovate Quaker House.

Unique 'school' brings change in N.E. Brazil

THE NORTHEAST section of Brazil has been called "the largest pocket of poverty in the western hemisphere." But two people, Valeria Rezende and Paulo Alfonso Barbosa, are working to bring dignity and a new dynamism to this area of 35 million inhabitants. With salaries provided by AFSC, they partially staff EQUIP (Escola Quilombo dos Palmares), a combination school, training, and research center.

In an October visit to AFSC Philadelphia headquarters, Rezende described EQUIP as: "the space where people from the whole region and the different grassroots movements, from rural and urban areas, can meet, exchange their views of the reality and the data they are collecting in their particular situation, put this together, think about it, and begin elaborating projects of action and change."

The format for this coming together is a three- to five-day workshop (EQUIP held 34 of them in 1993). Whatever the workshop's topic—for example, using radio for social change, generating interest in community groups, helping organizations become more effective—each participant must bring related information from his or her region.

Workshop participants combine their information with what staff and resource people have gathered from universities, research centers, and government institutions. Besides the new knowledge and understanding this discussion generates, the participants also learn a process. As their discussion goes from step to step, they're told the rationale for the direction: How they got to where they are; where the next step will lead them. In that way, the whole workshop becomes a lesson in how to duplicate the process back in their own surroundings.

Once the workshop is over, Rezende explained, the next stage begins. The items discussed, the conclusions reached, the plans formulated—all these are compiled into a booklet and distributed to each participant back at home. The booklets also go to universi-

ties, civic groups, and a network of former participants.

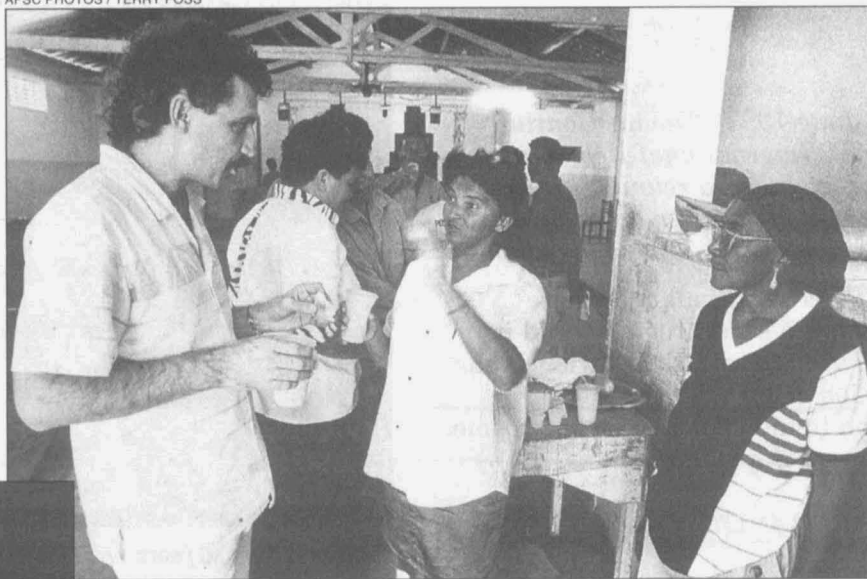
This accumulated information is also merged with the outcome of scores of similar workshops to become an extensive storehouse of information and analysis about the Northeast region. Scholars who want to help poor people are now coming to EQUIP to do research, and to discuss



their ideas with the people they're trying to help.

Now in its sixth year, EQUIP's impact is being felt more and more. Rezende told of people they've trained who are now participating in local government as well as health and education councils at the state and even the national level. What's more, they are speaking out—to the amazement of public officials—about their concerns and their expectations. A number of rural union leaders, trained by EQUIP, recently ran for city council. When the EQUIP team arrived at one town to do follow-up training, they found that several participants weren't there because they were attending an important national health conference.

AFSC PHOTOS / TERRY FOSS



Above: Paulo Alfonso Barbosa (left) during a break in a training session in Northeast Brazil, discusses with community leaders how to increase democratic participation in their organizations.

Below: In a visit to AFSC headquarters in Philadelphia, Valeria Rezende talks about the work of the school, training, and research center in Northeast Brazil.

In fact, three of them were on the coordinating team for the conference.

Asked by an AFSC staff member why the government wasn't interfering in EQUIP's work, Rezende replied, "The economic repression is so strong that they don't need to worry. When you are at the level of just struggling for survival, you don't seem politically dangerous." Then she added, "In this space that nobody cares about, we have the freedom to create something new."

Cambodia

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Park village will be owned by the residents through APSARA. Residents expressed pleasure and satisfaction when asked about the sale. Cheak Nam Eang, 66, says he's happy to see all the work done in the past months on the roofs and the heating and air conditioning systems. He credits APSARA with envisioning the safe, healthy home and making good its promises to represent the tenants.

Trust has been the major factor in the project's success. Seeing rehabilitation taking place strengthened residents' belief in APSARA, and they learned to trust the democratic townhall process that allowed them to voice their opinions.

However, the struggle to bring everyone on board was tough, says Mao Oum, 25, the new property manager. "In Cambodia, the Khmer-

PHOTO/ PAULA SHEIL



A Cambodian refugee family in the tenant-owned and managed Park Village apartment complex, Stockton, California.

Rouge was a government that used the people. Here we have learned that a governing body can serve the people. The residents had to see APSARA meeting their needs.

HUD required each family to put up a \$200 good faith deposit as a condition for the purchase. Residents feared the money would disappear into private pockets. Many families refused to participate. Now everyone knows the money is held in account for supplies and equipment for the proposed new community center. When finished, the center will house Head Start, English as a Second Language classes, and recreational activities.

Judy Carpenter, on-site teacher and supervisor for English classes, says, "We study the Declaration of Independence, specifically the right to pursue happiness. We learn that making our own decisions and having the right to our own opinions is the foundation of happiness. From there we can go on to pursue our goals."

"If any resident has a complaint," says Mom Khath, the wife of APSARA President Hak Nheth, "I tell them to go to the Board. We have a way to do things. We built up an organization, we work as a team to allow for everyone's ideas."

In Sacramento, in November, a crisp, new one dollar bill changed hands between APSARA and HUD, making the decision final. "I held my tears," states Sovanna Koert, Program Coordinator for APSARA, "until the moment we signed the contract." Her advice for other potential resident ownership projects is, "trust in the process."

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SPRING 1994

AFSC invited to reunion of Holocaust survivors

In June 1993, Thomas Conrad, AFSC International Representative, attended a reunion in Vichy, France, of children who survived the Holocaust. This is his account.

See that wall over there? There's a secret room behind it. We used to call it the Zwiebelkeller (onion cellar). That's where we used to hide when the police came.

—Joseph Dortort



Last June, after 50 years, the "children" of La Hille Castle—now in their 60s and 70s—gathered to remember their days together in the children's colony near the city of Foix. AFSC PHOTO/ NICOLE GOTTHELF

WE WERE walking through a crumbling chateau in the foothills of the French Pyrenees where Joseph Dortort and nearly 90 other Jewish children survived the holocaust. Last June, after 50 years, the "children" of La Hille Castle—now in their 60s and 70s—gathered to remember their days together in the children's colony. AFSC, which had provided support to this Red Cross-run refuge and saved some of the children, was invited to the reunion. AFSC Chicago staffer Nicole Gotthelf and I had the great good fortune to participate.

The children of La Hille had been sent out of Germany by their parents in a last effort to save them. The Swiss flag flew over La Hille and some of the 16 Quaker children's colonies that were part of a network of refuges and sanctuaries. But when Nazi forces swept through southern France, the children—especially the older boys—were at grave risk of deportation. At La Hille they kept watch from a tower. When the police approached, the alarm was sounded and the older boys fled.

One day a truck rumbled up to the gate and unloaded a shipment of AFSC relief supplies that had made its way from the United States. Two boys, now in their sixties, have never forgotten what it meant to get a pair of Quaker overalls that day fifty years ago.

Children at an AFSC-administered shelter for child refugees in France in 1941.

Quaker aid to refugees from Nazi persecution began in the 1930s. As the violence against Jews grew, workers at Quaker centers in Berlin, Frankfurt, Vienna, Copenhagen, Paris, Marseilles, and elsewhere worked feverishly to provide food, money, safe haven, and, when possible, emigration assistance. In France AFSC had been trusted by the Vichy government to care for refugees, starving children, and prisoners. Quakers were "proficient at carving out for themselves an ethical space within which they could move with comparative freedom," according to Philip Hallie, author of *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*. By the early '40s, AFSC was feeding 84,000 children daily in southern France with food imported from Switzerland. Funds came from Quakers in Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, and AFSC supporters in the United States.

We knew AFSC's support had been modest. We knew the reunion would be an intensely personal experience for the survivors. We were grateful for the invitation. But we were outsiders: would AFSC's presence dilute, distract, disturb? Alexander Frank, one of the former colony directors, dispelled the concern on the first evening as he introduced us with a warm, reassuring wel-

come. So did another survivor. "If anyone should be here, the Quakers should," she said. "You helped save our children." Twenty-two La Hille children joined one of the several AFSC children's convoys that provided safe passage out of Nazi-occupied Europe to the United States. Alexander Frank has asked AFSC's help in re-establishing contact with them.

Images from the gathering remain: the strength of the survivors and their closeness to one another. A walk around the outer wall with Jacques Roth who now lives in Paris. A visit to La Vernet Concentration Camp and a riveting account by Rosli Naef, the rock-hard, saintly Swiss director who stormed her way into the camp and persuaded the authorities to release La Hille children who were slated for deportation. Stories about digging a cistern and hiding with local farmers. A dinner was thrown by the local mayor and villagers, many of whom helped the children during the war.

The La Hille reunion was a celebration of survival. The survivors remembered how as children they had taken care of one another—and were loved by those outsiders who could care. A precious spirit was kept alive.

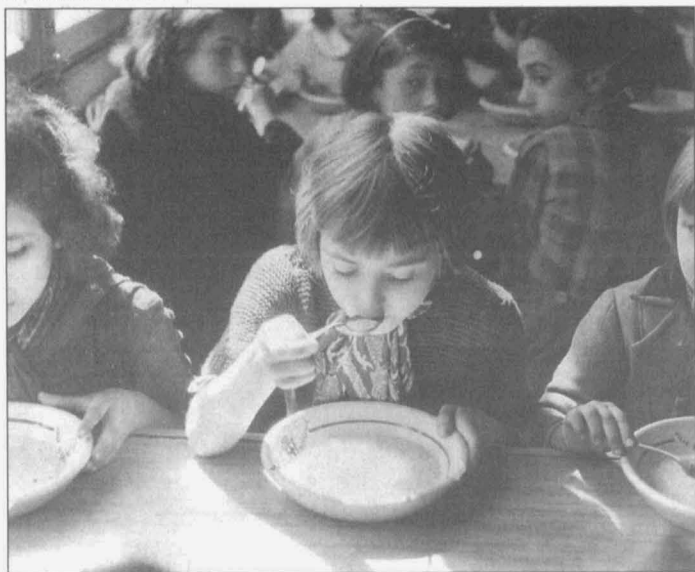
Were you at La Hille or one of the Quaker Children's Colonies in Pringy (Annecy), Marseilles, Condom, or elsewhere?

Did you take part in a Quaker convoy out of occupied Europe? Do you know anyone who did?

The AFSC is interested in hearing from you. We would like to learn about your experiences, and we will try to put you in touch with other survivors.

Contact: Jack Sutters, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

PHOTO/ AFSC ARCHIVES



The Middle East

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in Israeli military courts. Center lawyers also make legal challenges to protect the rights of Palestinians and uphold the rule of law.

AFSC will base future work in the region in partnerships and strive to help strengthen capacities within the Palestinian non-governmental sector. In preparation, AFSC has moved the East Jerusalem Legal Aid Center and the Gaza Preschool Program toward local control. The Gaza Program is now in Palestinian hands, and the Legal Aid Center is currently the joint responsibility of a local Board of Directors and the AFSC.

AFSC will seek ways to foster intra-communal reconciliation and cooperation as the Palestinians seek to build their civil society. It will also seek, where appropriate, to help build bridges of cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian non-governmental sectors. This work will build upon AFSC's many years in the region working across the lines of conflict and bringing people together in constructive dialogue.

AFSC, through its programs in the region and the work of the Quaker Middle East International Affairs Representatives, will continue to support the peace-building efforts of Palestinians and Israelis as they move into this new era.

Hawai'i

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contractor to identify the places where soil and groundwater would be tested for contamination—a step overlooked in their previous application.

The contractor chose four sites on the eighteen acres used for OB/OD and scheduled the drilling to begin on November 3.

AFSC staff asked to send environmental observers to the testing. The army said no. Staff protested loudly. The army relented—but only if the observers wore steel-reinforced boots.

The observers (properly shod) monitored the drilling. They later reported that in their opinion four test-holes were not sufficient to test

for contamination in an area that size. AFSC staff also pointed out, while they were glad for this testing, it totally ignored the impact of 50,000 tons exploded over the entire 42,000 acres during the last 53 years. Neither the EPA nor the army has responded.

In a major victory for AFSC, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a state agency that protects the interests of the Hawaiian people, approved a resolution last December calling for the army to return Makua Valley to the state.

But the struggle continues. The AFSC staff and community people say they won't be happy until the army has cleaned up and cleared out.