Technical Cooperation Administration
Department of State

VOLUNTARY GROUPS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE POINT 4 PROGRAM

Many non-governmental organizations and institutions participate in the Point 4 Program, either in partnership with the Federal Government or in coordination with it.

Sharing American technical knowledge and skills with other peoples began many years before Point 4 became an American policy of aiding in the general development of low-income countries.

It began with the work of medical and educational missionaries, of forward-looking business and industrial firms, of private foundations and benevolent societies, and of many others who saw both the practical and humanitarian values of helping improve the miserable conditions under which millions of people in many countries live.

The Point 4 Program is making extensive use of the experience, facilities, and knowledge of these pre-Point 4 technical missionaries. It is also drawing on the "know-how" and "show-how" of still other American firms, colleges and universities, research institutions, service agencies, and government bureaus, Federal, State and local.

Private participation in the Point 4 Program will continue to grow and expand. In fact, it is a major aim of Point 4 to enable private capital and private institutions to carry the major responsibility of assisting other countries in diversified economic, social, and industrial progress.

Far from being a substitute for the humanitarian work and the progressive development that business and voluntary organizations have fostered for many years, Point 4 opens up new fields in which their experience can be used. It provides greater assurance that their goals can be reached. It provides channels through which still other groups and individuals can contribute their abilities. It helps create greater opportunities and more favorable conditions for the constructive employment of private capital.

Now that the Point 4 Program has become established in most of the countries where it is needed, the role of private agencies and organizations will increase in importance. The long process of negotiating agreements, working out country-wide development plans, and setting up effective organizations and technical staffs for carrying them out has been largely completed. Point 4 is moving out of the stage of individual projects to deal with individual problems, and into the stage of diversified country development.

During the early stage, Point 4 work with private organizations has consisted mainly of contracting with them or granting them funds to carry

out specific activities. Now, a systematic program has been undertaken for making wider use of private organizations and for coordinating all Point 4 activities with those of non-governmental agencies and groups.

The Council of Voluntary Foreign Agencies, under a grant from the Ford Foundation, is studying how the integration of government and private operations can be made more effective. The Technical Cooperation Administration is actively participating in this study and will make effective use of its findings. The Federal Council of Churches is interested in developing closer ties with TCA, and many other voluntary groups have assured TCA of cooperation in activities of mutual concern.

At present, more than 70 agreements are in effect, through which private participation in Point 4 is being achieved. These fall into several general catogories:

*Agreements with colleges and universities for assisting a similar institution in another country to improve its research, resident teaching, and--in the case of agricultural colleges--its extension program.

> The University of Arkansas is cooperating with the Department of Agriculture of Panama and the Agricultural College at Divisa in a broad program of extension, experiment station operation, and general agricultural development...Michigan State College is working with the Faculties of Agronomy at Medellin and El Valle, Colombia, to improve curricula and develop extension and research activities...A similar partnership arrangement between Texas A and M College and the School of Agriculture in Mexico is under consideration...Purdue University has sent specialists to help develop the extension program at the Rural University of the State of Minas Geras at Vicosa.

*Agreements with business firms for work of a highly specialized nature or for projects requiring special skills and equipment.

> In this year's locust control campaign in the Near East and South Asia, American contracting firms are training pilots, providing airplanes and crews, and furnishing insecticides... Another firm is carrying out an aerial survey in Liberia, another in Saudi Arabia...Consulting firms are assisting in town planning in India, municipal development in Pakistan, housing in Egypt...An engineering firm is restoring ancient resprvoirs in Jordan, unused for centuries.

*Agreements with non-profit private organizations, non-proselytizing church service groups, and privately financed American institutions abroad to enable them to expand and diversify their programs of education, health, and social services.

> The Near East Foundation has stepped up and extended its rural improvement program with Point 4 assistance...American Friends Service Committee has strengthened its rural and community

projects in India, and is creating an effective program for treatment of mental diseases...Booker T. Washington Institute of Liberia is expanding its training program for technicians...Unitarian Service Committee is providing medical training in Israel...American University of Beirut is undertaking the training of technicians for public service in many countries of the Near East.

*Agreements with American institutions to enable them to conduct conferences and workshops for specialists of many countries in particular fields of economic and social development.

Last year the University of Wisconsin, with Point 4 cooperation, sponsored a World Land Tenure Conference, which enabled administrators and scholars of 40 nations to exchange ideas and experiences which have already greatly accelerated progress toward better conditions of land tenure in several countries...Similar conferences are in the planning stage on agricultural credit and cooperatives and on farm management.

*Agreements with American educational institutions for training of students and leaders from other countries in specific technical fields.

Among the institutions taking part in the Point 4 Program for technical training of nationals of other countries are Institute of International Education (Nashville)...Louisiana State University... Massachusetts Institute of Technology...New Mexico A and M College... University of Denver...University of Florida...University of Maryland...University of Miami...University of New Mexico...University of Pennsylvania.

Both grants and contracts have been used to cover these working arrangements. Generally speaking, contracts are used to obtain the special services of business firms or individuals, and grants are used for programs undertaken by educational institutions and non-profit foundations.

Grants provide greater flexibility of operation. An agreement covers what is to be done by the grantee and the probable cost. The grantee submits a plan of work prior to actual operations, outlining the undertaking step by step and presenting a detailed cost estimate. After review, with revisions as necessary and agreed upon, TCA releases funds for the project and work begins. Regular reports of performance and expenses are submitted by the grantee, and when the program is completed TCA conducts an audit of program costs. Unexpended funds are returned to TCA. If the original grant proves insufficient to complete the project, the agreement may be amended to increase the allotment.

Under a simpler type of grant arrangement now being tried out, funds are released to the grantee in several stages, as the work progresses, and the "plan of work" is not necessary.

TCA is now planning to extend its work with private organizations in several ways, along lines that have been suggested by numerous group leaders:

*In recruitment of personnel. National churches and benevolent and service organizations reach into every community in America. Through their opportunities for personal contact and counsel they are well equipped to recruit specialized personnel for Point 4 missions. Many church groups and organizations have already offered their services in locating young people who are willing and able to undertake Point 4 assignments abroad.

*In disseminating information about Point 4. Many churches, foundations, and other groups carry on their own technical missionary work. They are vitally interested in what Point 4 is doing and in its policies and aims. While TCA has worked closely with many such groups, it is now undertaking systematic cooperation with national and regional groups in their educational programs by keeping them supplied regularly with the information they require.

*In exchange of experience and ideas. Technical missionaries were in the field for many years before Point 4 became a national policy. The lessons they learned, the techniques they developed, the methods they proved, and the reputations they established are of great help to the Point 4 Program. And TCA can be of assistance to the groups supporting such missionaries by making its knowledge gained freely available to them. TCA is prepared to carry on this two-way exchange, and organizations interested are urged to participate.

*In direct cooperation in field programs. Many suggestions have been offered by non-governmental groups and organizations for cooperation in activities of mutual interest. These are under active consideration, and a number of them will be adopted. TCA welcomes the submission to it of specific and practical plans for cooperation with private agencies in extending the work of technical cooperation with underdeveloped areas of the world. From such offers have come many sound projects which are now in successful operation.

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