foa and u.s. voluntary agencies

FOREIGN OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION
Washington D.C.

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Material Aid

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Technical Cooperation

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VOLUNTARY FOREIGN AID

Out of the many U. S. voluntary agencies which serve humanity overseas, 55 are today working with the Foreign Operations Administration in carrying out programs of material aid and relief; programs for the settlement and training of refugees and escapees; and, most recently, programs in the field of technical cooperation.

It is the Foreign Operations Administration's policy to work with U. S. voluntary agencies to an increasing extent in overseas

When help is needed . . . Americans have contributed, through U. S. voluntary agencies, nearly two billion dollars for the aid of distressed humanity since the fall of Poland in 1939.

projects for which the voluntary agencies' objectives, experience, resources, and status as private organizations particularly qualify them.

Service to Humanity

The service of the American people to distressed humanity is traditional. Through all the voluntary agencies they have contributed, since the invasion of Poland in 1939, nearly two billion dollars, over and above the assistance provided directly by governments of the world and the aid by such intergovernmental agencies as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the International Refugee Organization and others. With these privately raised funds American voluntary agencies have been quick to mobilize their relief services and resources to meet emergencies arising in the theaters of war, from civil disorders, natural disasters, epidemics, or famines. They have willingly accepted the responsibility for long-term follow-up services in the fields of health, welfare, economic development, self-help and aid to refugees.

History of Voluntary Foreign Aid

Following the Nazi invasion of Poland in September 1939, leaving in its wake destroyed cities and destitute people, a flood of emotional appeals to aid the victims engulfed the American people. Hundreds of hastily organized war relief committees developed as country after country became involved in the conflict. It became necessary for the Federal Government to impose controls of a regulatory character over various forms of voluntary war relief.

The Neutrality Act of November 4, 1939 was designed to protect the neutral position of the United States by the prohibition of various forms of economic relations with countries designated as "belligerent" by proclamation of the President. In consequence, all American voluntary relief agencies (with the exception of the American National Red Cross, which has its own Congressional Charter), if engaged in the solicitation and collection of funds and contributions from the American people for relief in belligerent countries, were required to register with the Department of State.

On July 25, 1942, the President appointed a committee to examine the whole problem of foreign war relief. As a result of this committee's findings, the President's War Relief Control Board was established to regulate voluntary agency activities in the field of foreign aid, and to control the shipment of their war relief supplies.

The Control Board was succeeded by the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid in May 1946. This Committee was transferred

A canteen established in a European disaster area by the U. S. Government with the help of U. S. voluntary agencies.

from the State Department to the Foreign Operations Administration in 1953.

Liaison

The Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid advises and consults with the Director of Foreign Operations Administration concerning the relationship between governmental and voluntary agencies in the field of voluntary foreign relief and rehabilitation. It confers with voluntary agencies abroad concerning relief resources. Its executive body is the Voluntary Foreign Aid Division of the Foreign Operations Administration which acts to carry out its various functions and responsibilities. It serves as the central point of contact within the Foreign Operations Administration for those voluntary agencies desiring to develop cooperative relationships with the United States technical cooperation programs.

The Foreign Operations Administration's Voluntary Foreign Aid

Division also aids other Foreign Operations Administration offices in Washington and the United States Operations Missions overseas in obtaining information about voluntary agencies or in developing cooperative or contractual arrangements with them.

Registration

The Foreign Operations Administration's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid acts on requests of voluntary agencies for registration.

To be eligible for registration, an agency must establish its firm intent to provide voluntary foreign aid. It must show its purposes are neither political nor propagandistic. Its history and financial records must indicate stability and efficiency. It must present proof that contributions to it are tax-deductible.

Benefits

A voluntary agency registered with FOA's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid receives certain benefits:

1. It becomes eligible to participate in the Ocean Freight Subsidy Program in which the Foreign Operations Administration reimburses U. S. voluntary agencies for ocean freight costs on relief and rehabilitation supplies shipped to certain countries.
2. It is able to take advantage of agreements in which certain receiving countries provide for duty-free entry of supplies into that country and provide free transportation to the point of ultimate distribution.
3. It becomes eligible to receive donations of U. S. surplus foods—such as milk, butter, cheese, cottonseed oil and shortening—from the Department of Agriculture which, under Public Law 480, makes these surplus commodities available to registered agencies for distribution to needy people in foreign countries.
4. It receives assistance from the Department of Commerce which has amended certain of its regulations to enable voluntary agencies to export materials in short supply.

An intangible but important benefit is the fact that registration indicates United States Government approval of the aims and purposes of that agency.

Autonomous Nature

Registration with FOA's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid does not mean government control. Each agency is left free to carry out its programs along its own characteristic line and in its own characteristic spirit.

I

MATERIAL AID

The Case of the Cable-stitch Sweater

In Congress, Colorado, Mrs. Mary F. Taylor, 45, farmwife, at the request of her church welfare society, knitted a warm, grey, cable-stitch sweater for someone made homeless by an earthquake in Greece. It was a fine, thick sweater, medium size. Mrs. Taylor hoped it would go to a farmer. She knows farmer's ways and knows how cold it can be at early milking time and how important it is to keep warm. Into every stitch she wove good wishes for the unknown Greek farmer, his family and his crops.

Mrs. Taylor delivered the sweater to her church welfare society, or voluntary agency. The sweater was packed along with other articles of wearing apparel given by Mrs. Taylor's neighbors and shipped to the voluntary agency's headquarters in New York. The shipping charge on the package of clothing from Colorado to New York was paid by the voluntary agency.

On its arrival in New York, the grey sweater and the other articles of clothing with which it had traveled went to the voluntary agency's warehouse where they were packed in a large bale. The bale was put into a truck and driven to the pier. That trip was also paid for by the voluntary agency. The bale was then lifted aboard a ship sailing for Greece. The sweater's ocean voyage was paid for by the Foreign Operations Administration.

When Mrs. Taylor's sweater arrived in Greece, its entry into that country was duty free. This was the result of an agreement between the United States' and Greek Governments. The Greek Government also paid the costs of transporting the sweater from dock-side to its final destination where the U. S. voluntary agency was responsible for delivery of Mrs. Taylor's cable-stitch sweater to the unknown farmer.

Thus, in close to two months, the sweater, knitted in the confort of Mrs. Taylor's warm Colorado farmhouse, reached—through the co-operative work of a U. S. voluntary agency (and its overseas representative), the Foreign Operations Administration and the Greek

Since 1948, the U. S. Government has reimbursed U. S. voluntary agencies $33.6 million for ocean freight paid by them on voluntary relief shipments.

Government—its ultimate destination: the back of a destitute Greek farmer.

Ocean Freight Subsidy Program

In 1953, the Congress appropriated close to two million dollars for this program. However, the substantial quantities of surplus commodities subsequently made available to the voluntary agencies by the Department of Agriculture made necessary the provision of additional funds to pay ocean freight charges if these surpluses (dried milk, butter and cheese) were to be distributed to needy persons abroad. President Eisenhower authorized the use of an additional $2.5 million for this program. He also authorized the use of $1.5 million to defray U. S. costs of transporting the surplus commodities from inland points of storage to United States ports.

At the present time (March 1955) the Foreign Operations Administration will pay the ocean freight charges on relief supplies sent by 27 U. S. voluntary agencies to Afghanistan, Austria, Bolivia, Egypt, Formosa, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran,

Italy, Jordan, Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Trieste, Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

Voluntary relief agencies, from July 1, 1953 through June 30, 1954, shipped overseas a total of 76,087,673 pounds of food, clothing, medical and other relief and rehabilitation supplies obtained from the contributions of their members. The value of these commodities was $25,834,383. The ocean freight paid by the Foreign Operations Administration on these commodities was approximately two million dollars.

"Puerto Acosta, Bolivia!"

The day Mrs. Taylor finished her cable-stitch sweater, she and her husband drove to a nearby processing plant where all the surplus milk from their farm had been sold. They were curious to see the process which turned liquid milk into powder.

The foreman showed them through the spotless plant. When the tour was ended, the foreman poured a little of the dried milk into Mrs. Taylor's hand. She found it hard to believe the dried particles had once been liquid milk.

"What happens to it now?" she asked. "Does it go sit in some big old warehouse in Washington?"

"Warehouse?" The foreman laughed. "Here. Let me show you". He took a snapshot from his wallet. "That's my friend there". He poked a stubby finger at the picture. "He sent it to me from Bolivia". There was a trace of wonder in his voice that he should know anyone in such a far-off place. "Puerto Acosta, Bolivia!"

The snapshot showed an American missionary surrounded by a small crowd of children. The missionary was pouring milk into a bowl held by a raggedy looking little girl. At the missionary's feet was an enormous tin washtub filled with milk.

"Best darn preacher we ever had," said the foreman proudly. "Now he's in Bolivia. What's more," he continued, "that's your milk. Yes, sir, not growing a beard in some old warehouse at all—it's in Bolivia, South America. See that kid smiling up at my friend? She sure likes that milk."

The foreman told the Taylors that the U. S. Government, through the Department of Agriculture, purchased the dried milk from the processing plant.

"We ship it to them," he said, "and they notify the registered U. S. voluntary agencies they have a certain amount of dried milk, amongst other items, available. The agencies order from the Depart-

Surplus foods for U. S. voluntary agencies. Food valued at $44,642,283 was given in one year alone by the Department of Agriculture.

ment of Agriculture the amount of dried milk they need. After the order is approved, it is shipped at government expense to the desired location, in this case a U. S. port of departure.

"There the milk is loaded on a ship sailing for Peru—that's the nearest a ship can get to Bolivia," said the foreman, happy to be able to show off a little. "The U. S. Government pays the ocean freight.

"The Bolivian Government picks up the shipment at the pier in Peru and delivers it to Puerto Acosta. The milk goes through both countries duty-free. The Bolivian Government pays the freight costs from Peru to Puerto Acosta.

"The representative of the U. S. voluntary agency which ordered the milk picks it up at that point and is responsible for its distribu-

tion. Getting it mixed and given to the kids doesn't seem to be any trouble," he said. "So many of them need the milk, they're glad to help."

"They look like they need it pretty bad," said Mr. Taylor to his wife.

"They certainly do," she answered, looking firmly at him. "Ralph Taylor," she said, "you just make sure you take good care of those cows. That milk just has to be good—those kids may not know it, but they're counting on us!"

Surplus Food

During the period, July 1, 1953 through June 30, 1954, a total of 145,395,132 pounds of surplus food commodities valued at $44,642,283 was given by the Department of Agriculture to U. S. voluntary agencies for shipment overseas. The ocean freight bill amounted to over three million dollars. The U. S. voluntary agencies were reimbursed for this amount by the Foreign Operations Administration.

Total Export Figures

The total weight of all relief supplies (including those made available by the U. S. Government) shipped by voluntary agencies during this period was 221,482,805 pounds. The value of the shipments amounted to $70,476,667. The ocean freight paid by the Foreign Operations Administration on these commodities amounted to $4,828,387.

The total value of U. S. voluntary agencies' worldwide exports in 1954 amounted to $165,000,000. This includes supplies shipped to countries with which the U. S. has no voluntary aid agreements.

II

U. S. ESCAPEE PROGRAM

The Schwarzinskis' Pleasure

A slim American woman, a representative of a voluntary agency, drove up a dirt road and stopped at a neat white cottage that stood on a hillside overlooking a fertile Virginia valley. It was just past the noon hour and the tenant farmer and his family were sitting on the front porch. They all looked up inquiringly as she stepped from the agency's car and walked toward them. She noted their clean but worn clothing; suddenly she wished she had not made this stop; for all at once she remembered the Schwarzinski family were escapees from behind the Iron Curtain—a family only recently resettled in the United States. How could she ask them to give money to an organization of which they had probably never heard? She decided she would pretend she had lost her way.

The family stood, a shy, close-knit group, as she approached them. The man separated himself from them and stepped forward with a welcoming smile on his face.

"I'm glad you've come," he said before she had a chance to speak. "We have been waiting for you."

His words were more Czech than they were English, but the friendliness in them was unmistakable. From his shirt pocket he removed a neatly folded piece of paper and handed it to her. She took the folded bit and stared at it speechlessly. It was a crisp ten dollar bill.

"It's the Schwarzinskis' pleasure," he said proudly. "Your people" —indicating the emblem on the car door—"did so much for us."

Without knowing quite how it came about she found herself sitting on the porch with a cool glass of water in one hand and the warm hand of a little girl in the other listening to the man tell the story of how the Schwarzinski family escaped from their communist-dominated homeland. . . .

The Schwarzinskis were a deeply religious Czechslovakian family who had been hounded by the Communists for their leadership in church affairs. From the calm, sure way he spoke it was obvious Mr.

Schwarzinski was a man who had been looked up to by his neighbors. What he did, they did. Mr. Schwarzinski didn't say that, but the American woman felt it. At last it became so dangerous, he told her, he feared to go out of his house. It was the neighbors themselves who insisted the family escape.

In the dark of night the Schwarzinski family fled across country to the outskirts of a small manufacturing town located on a main railroad line. One of their guides, a man adept at such things, undid the seal on a freight car without breaking it and Mr. and Mrs. Schwarzinski

The nursery in the Escapee Center in Wels, Austria. It is not uncommon to hear six or seven different languages being spoken here.

and their two children were lifted into the dank car where they stood forlornly trying to get a final look at their homeland before the sliding door slammed shut and left them in total darkness.

It was a terrifying three-day journey that seemed to last a lifetime. The worst moment of all came when, on that third day of their nerve-wracking trip, the door of their car was finally pushed open. Two men entered and the Schwarzinskis dared not speak lest they still be somewhere behind the Iron Curtain. They were not. They were in Austria, and their joy was great.

They were directed to the "store with the U. S. flag in the window," the reception center operated by the American military authorities. There, with no questions asked, they were given food. After that they were thoroughly examined and questioned by the military authorities to insure that they were *bona fide* escapees. Once cleared, the Schwarzinskis were turned over to a participating voluntary agency—in their case to the one whose emblem was on the car driven by their visitor—so that they might receive U. S. Escapee Program assistance.

The Schwarzinskis were fortunate for they were sent directly to the Escapee Center in Wels, Austria—one of the most modern and completely equipped centers. On their arrival, they were presented with Welcome Kits containing essentials such as soap, toothbrush, toothpaste and many other necessary and personal items. Each kit was marked "A Gift from the People of the United States." Then they were assigned quarters. The Schwarzinski's housing for their entire stay at Wels was paid for by the Austrian Government, although U. S. Escapee Program funds had gone into the renovation of the Center buildings. Their food was paid for by the Austrian Government but supplementary rations were supplied by the U. S. Escapee Program.

Next day the Schwarzinskis, who had been unable to bring anything of their own with them, were supplied with clothing by the USEP. Then, as soon as they were registered, the procedure for their resettlement was started. Counselors of their voluntary agency, who could speak Czech, gathered from the Schwarzinskis information about their family background, their health status, their vocational abilities and other necessary subjects. This history was then compiled by the voluntary agency and a resettlement plan was worked out for them. The voluntary agency decided the Schwarzinskis should, if possible, go to the United States. Through their home office in the United States the voluntary agency sought, and found,

a sponsor for them—the farmer on whose place in Virginia the Schwarzinskis now live and work. The sponsor had to be willing to give his assurance of a home and a job for them. Next the voluntary agency sent the Schwarzinski dossier to the U. S. Consul asking they be given a visa. The cost of all of this labor was assumed by the U. S. voluntary agency.

While waiting for all these necessary steps to be completed—they were lucky, they only had to wait a little over a year in Wels—the Schwarzinskis had to live. Mr. Schwarzinski, being a farmer, worked in the Center garden where he was able to use his skill and where he was able to learn new methods taught to him by trained U. S. technicians. Mrs. Schwarzinski, a skilled seamstress, worked in the Center tailorshop where she helped make and repair clothing for her fellow escapees. The equipment for these two jobs was paid for by the U. S. Escapee Program.

The children went to nursery school where they were taught by competent instructors supplied by a voluntary agency. Extra rations of fresh milk and other foods were given them through the U. S. Escapee Program. They spent much of their time happily playing in a playground well-equipped by the U. S. Escapee Program.

The Schwarzinskis made use of the well-stocked library at Wels, they attended English classes and they took advantage of the fine medical and dental care made available to them through the joint programs of the voluntary agencies and the U. S. Escapee Program.

At last the day for departure arrived and the Schwarzinskis were off for their new home in the United States—well and happy. Their trip from Wels, Austria, to a United States port was paid for by the U. S. Escapee Program.

The Schwarzinskis were met on their arrival in New York by a representative of the voluntary agency who provided them with tickets, paid for by the voluntary agency, to their new home in Virginia.

In the United States, the Schwarzinskis were making more than a living—they were making a new life. As soon as possible, Mr. Schwarzinski told his visitor, he and his family would become citizens of "this wonderful country where everyone is free."

The American woman reluctantly got to her feet. She shook hands all around and promised to call again. She walked to her car, chin a little higher, shoulders a little straighter, fingering the crisp ten dollar bill—the Schwarzinskis' pleasure—her day made brighter by the richness of this poor family's generous gift.

This Bulgarian farmer who fled communist tyranny is one of nearly 17,000 escapees who have been resettled from western European countries by the USEP with the help of U. S. voluntary agencies.

Escapee Program

Since the beginning of the United States Escapee Program almost three years ago in March, 1952, over 60,000 escapees have been registered for assistance under the USEP in Western Europe.

To assure that these people are cared for and, ultimately, will be given the opportunity to work, to live and raise their families in freedom, the Escapee Program has two major tasks:

1. To supplement the care provided by the Governments and welfare agencies in the countries of asylum.

2. To bring about, in cooperation with private voluntary agencies, the resettlement of escapees in the free countries of the world and to give them language and vocational training needed for their new environments.

Resettlement Activities

Voluntary agencies have been particularly effective in resettlement activities which, in nearly every case, require some person in the West to take an interest in a homeless unknown escapee, to agree to act as sponsor and to provide assurance for a job and a home. The agencies also help refugees with problems necessitating action in other countries—frequently vital when finding a lost contact abroad might lead to a visa.

Escapees naturally gravitate to groups where they will feel most at home in terms of cultural backgrounds, language, national origins and religion. Because the voluntary agencies are organized along nationality and religious lines, they can obtain a greater number of assurances on the part of sponsors than would be possible through government channels.

Concern for the oppressed is reflected in the sympathetic professional approach of trained agency staffs who assess the needs of escapees for clothing, shelter and supplementary food allotments. They provide counseling and advice on resettlement prospects and arrange for language and vocational training to qualify escapees for resettlement.

Approximately one third, or 10,163, of the escapees now awaiting resettlement are living in centers. The remaining two thirds are integrated into the local populations.

Up to December 1954, a total of about 17,000 escapees had been resettled from western European countries.

Voluntary Agency Contracts

Foreign Operations Administration has obligated $9,161,809 in 602 contracts with 20 voluntary agencies to help escapees with clothing, food, dental and medical care, vocational and language training. These contracts provide for the necessities of the centers—maintenance, repairs, cleaning and laundry supplies as well as books and periodicals in many different languages.

III

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Jungle No Eye Remembers

All blinds were closed to keep the rays of the hot Indian sun out of the high-ceilinged, whitewashed room. An old-fashioned ceiling fan spun lazily, stirring the heavy air and bringing faint relief, more mental than physical, to a group of people seated in a semi-circle facing a man behind a desk. The man was an American. The rest of the group was a mixture of nationalities; perhaps eight were Indians, the remainder either American or English. Two were women.

Each one of the persons was different from the other as to face and figure yet over each lay some intangible similarity; an eagerness of eye, and intensity of interest.

The room in which they sat was the office of a U. S. voluntary agency in India. Everyone in the room was a teacher of varying sorts. A few of them were experts in the fields of health, village industry, agriculture or education. The rest of them were trained village workers—a handful selected from a thousand applicants—who had recently finished an eight-week training course and a three-month stay in the villages to which each had been assigned. They were now gathered together for the first time since their graduation to discuss their experiences.

The gray-haired man seated at the desk was the representative of a U. S. voluntary agency. He was also the Director of the Community Development Training Project run jointly by the voluntary agency and the Foreign Operations Administration. His salary was paid by the voluntary agency. The salaries of the technicians and expenses of training the village workers were paid by the Foreign Operations Administration.

One of the teachers, a young Indian of about twenty-five, stood with his back to the shuttered windows. He spoke softly—as if from out of the past.

"Kasanpuri was almost a hostile village at first. No one talked to me when I arrived. So I decided not to try to talk but to do some-

Educational material specially developed by FOA and U. S. voluntary agencies is being used by Indian teachers and workers in local improvement programs.

thing good. The thing most needed was a school, so I gathered children together—only a few at first—and taught them. After a while I had forty to fifty children. I lived in a stable and soon this embarrassed the villagers and they found me a house. Then we all began to build a school, and a class for parents was started. They began to trust me and after a while, although it was not easy to convince them, we began to dig a clean well. This all took a long time."

The Foreign Operations Administration, besides supplying this village worker with his training, gave him educational material for his school and sent a trained technician to help the villagers build their well.

"I also met with distrust," said another one of the village teachers. "This made my start very difficult. Villagers seem to go through

three stages: the fearing stage, the liking stage and the learning stage. Acts, not words, are necessary to inspire people to do things. When we helped them start a poultry project for breeding of better chicks, the twenty families who had each exchanged scrub roosters for a pure-bred one, came to trust me because of the proof of gain in the size and number of eggs. They feared their chicks would be taken from them, but when they could see larger eggs and keep their chicks, they became convinced."

The Foreign Operations Administration supplied the roosters.

It became apparent soon from the talks that many different problems had been met and many different programs started.

One of the teacher-technicians, a woman doctor, who traveled through the area, spoke of holding weekly classes for local midwives. Another woman, who with her husband makes up a "village improvement team," told how she had given lessons in sewing, child care and nutrition. Another had lent his assistance to the stocking of a village pond with food fish. Still another told about his difficulties in starting village gardens and the happiness of the villagers when they saw what benefits were to be derived from their work.

One teacher spoke of the cleanliness of his pupils in contrast with the other village children who did not attend his school. In another village health conditions had been improved by an intensive fly-control program.

The Foreign Operations Administration, besides supplying most of the workers with their village training, supplied other items needed for effective demonstrations: seeds, medical supplies, training and educational material, utilities and house supplies, tools and machines.

The last teacher rose to speak.

"The plain on which my village lies was denuded of its forests a century or more ago. I have talked with many old men and none remembers any forest in this area. Nor did their fathers speak of forests in their time. Yet each village has a piece of upland known as the 'village Jungle'. This area is now treeless, eroded, washed and cut-across with ever-deepening gullies. I started to encourage the villagers to undertake small plantings. It was difficult, but at last the villagers got together in a true cooperative spirit and plowed a patch of their jungle. Then with drums and cymbals and a piper leading, a small procession of enthusiastic planters trooped over the plowed land. The villagers were happy and said they would plant more each year until all that barren land would be covered with trees as it had been centuries ago."

Technical Cooperation Programs

The Voluntary Foreign Aid Division of the Foreign Operations Administration informs and advises voluntary agencies who are interested in making or have made contracts with the Foreign Operations Administration to undertake certain aspects of the technical cooperation programs which the U. S. Government is carrying on with nearly 60 foreign countries.

The Voluntary Foreign Aid Division also promotes and develops non-contractual or informal relationships between the Foreign Operations Administration and the voluntary agencies.

Contract Programs

In India, the Foreign Operations Administration has a contract with the American Friends Service Committee for a rural demonstration and Local Workers Training Project. The amount of this contract is approximately $375,000.

The Foreign Operations Administration has entered into several contracts with the Near East Foundation in Iran. These contracts call for the Near East Foundation to work with the Iranian Government in country-wide community development programs.

They call for the training of teachers and village level workers who will go into small towns and villages with specially developed educational materials to help teach such varied subjects as reading and writing, sanitation and health care and better agricultural methods. The Iranian teachers, frequently no more than two to three years older than their pupils, and the new Iranian educational programs are reminiscent of their counterparts in the early history of U. S. education. Although the educational standards of these young teachers cannot, of necessity, be on a high level at first, it is expected that the level will be raised each succeeding year.

Another program in Iran calls for 31 trained specialists who will go about the country working with village councils advising them on self-help activities: building of housing, water supply, sewerage and agricultural development. Funds for these local improvements will come from the proceeds of the Iranian Village Council Act which taxes local landlords ten percent of their crop return.

The combined amounts of these contracts have been entered into between the Foreign Operations Administration and the Near East Foundation are approximately $1,296,000.

In Iraq, the Foreign Operations Administration has a contract with International Voluntary Services, Inc., for a program which includes

Educational standards in Iran have been raised by programs jointly conducted by FOA and U. S. voluntary agencies.

agricultural education and demonstration, home and child care, health and sanitation and basic education at the village level. The amount of this contract is $240,000.

In Lebanon the Foreign Operations Administration is working with voluntary agencies in a differently-constructed relationship: a joint project with the Lebanon Ministry of Social Affairs for technical assistance to eight Lebanese private institutions such as the YWCA, the YWMA (Young Women's Moslem Association) and the Amelite Society of Beirut. This contract calls for the promotion, in apprentice schools, of technical service programs in printing, book binding, auto mechanics, electricity, woodworking, improvement of shoe manufacture, woodcarving, home economics and health. It calls for library and visual-aid programs and equipment. It also includes some building costs. The Foreign Operations Administration has made $140,000

available, and the Government of Lebanon 312,605 Lebanese Pounds, for this project.

In Bolivia, the Foreign Operations Administration has a contract with the International Development Services, Inc., to work out a program of supervised agricultural credit. Farmers whose land and farming methods meet a required standard can obtain loans for the purchase of seeds, livestock and equipment from farm banks established under this program. Farmers who cannot meet conditions required for loans because their lands are substandard will be taught by agricultural technicians in an effort to raise the standard of their land. The amount of this contract is $262,000.

The Foreign Operations Administration has another contract with the International Development Services, Inc., for a program of development in the Artibonite Valley of Haiti. Under this contract a

Multipliers of technical knowledge . . . these American nurses give a bed-care demonstration to hospital personnel in Saigon. Many such projects have been developed through cooperation between FOA and U. S. voluntary agencies.

U. S. technician will be supplied to advise the Haitian Government on activities such as agriculture, health and sanitation, rural education and housing.

Foreign Operations Administration-financed contract projects have been completed in Jordan with the Near East Foundation; and in Latin America with the International Development Services, Inc.

In December, 1954, a special fund was established for the purpose of stimulating special contractual relationships with voluntary agencies and to encourage wider use of voluntary agencies on the part of the United States Operations Missions.

Non-contractual Programs

On an informal basis the Foreign Operations Administration and the voluntary agencies cooperate in the exchange of information. Overseas the United States Operations Missions actively draw upon the voluntary agencies' experience in working with the local peoples in order that they may better understand their customs, traditions and values.

Often the voluntary agencies call upon Foreign Operations Administration's technicians for specialized technical advice and are able to share Foreign Operations Administration equipment for demonstration purposes. In this fashion the voluntary agencies serve as multipliers of technical knowledge provided through the Foreign Operations Administration.

In addition, through the Foreign Operations Administration many worthwhile projects which for one reason or another cannot be financed from Foreign Operations Administration funds but which a voluntary agency might be willing to support, are called to the attention of U. S. voluntary agencies.

Such informal cooperative programs under way are:

1. A five-village improvement project in Jordan conducted by the American Friends Service Committee in conjunction with the Ford Foundation. The United States Operations Mission and Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture are furnishing technical advice and certain supplies for demonstration purposes.
2. A self-help housing project in Formosa which is being conducted on a large scale basis. Among those U. S. voluntary agencies helping are the Aid to Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc. and the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The Foreign Operations Administration is providing technical advice in cooperation with the U. S. voluntary agencies involved.

IV

HOLIDAY FOOD PACKAGE PROGRAM

In 1953, the Foreign Operations Administration, in conjunction with certain governments, the U. S. Army and three U. S. voluntary agencies, organized a Holiday Food Package Program for needy

U. S. Holiday Food Packages in Lebanon; one of the 45 countries in which a total of nearly 6 million gifts was distributed.

people of the world. Four-and-a-half million packages weighing over sixty-one million pounds were distributed. The value of the food in these packages was $11.5 million dollars.

The Program was repeated in 1954 when the Foreign Operations Administration, working with twenty U. S. voluntary agencies, distributed 5,941,500 holiday packages in 45 countries during the holiday season. The average weight of each package was fourteen pounds and contained, variously, according to dietary habits of the different peoples, six or seven of the following surplus items: butter, cheese, dried milk, shortening, cooking oil, wheat flour, rice and dried beans. These items shipped abroad were enough to have filled 1,100 freight cars. The weight of these items was 90,597,000 pounds.

For the Holiday Food Package Program in 1954, the Department of Agriculture made available $16.7 million worth of surplus food. In addition, the Foreign Operations Administration allotted $8 million to purchase meat to include in the packages, to purchase paper bags in which the food was packed, and to pay for packaging and ocean freight.

The voluntary agencies assumed the cost of handling and distribution in the foreign countries.

Each package was marked "Donated by the People of the United States of America."

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Executive Director, William H. McCahon

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