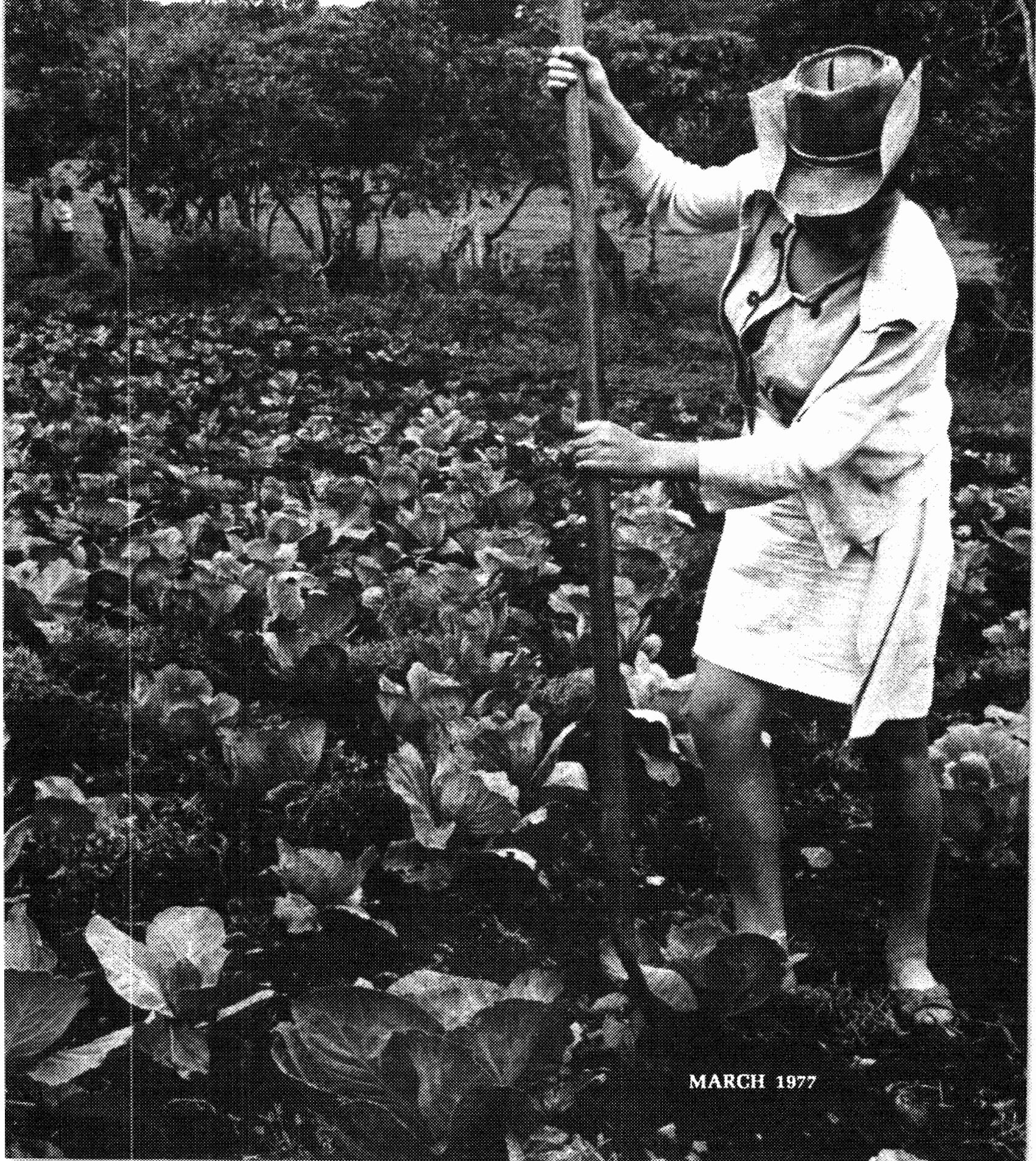


PN-ACZ-454

# War on Hunger

A Report from The Agency for International Development



MARCH 1977

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John E. Murphy, Acting AID Administrator  
Clinton F. Wheeler, Director, Office of Public Affairs



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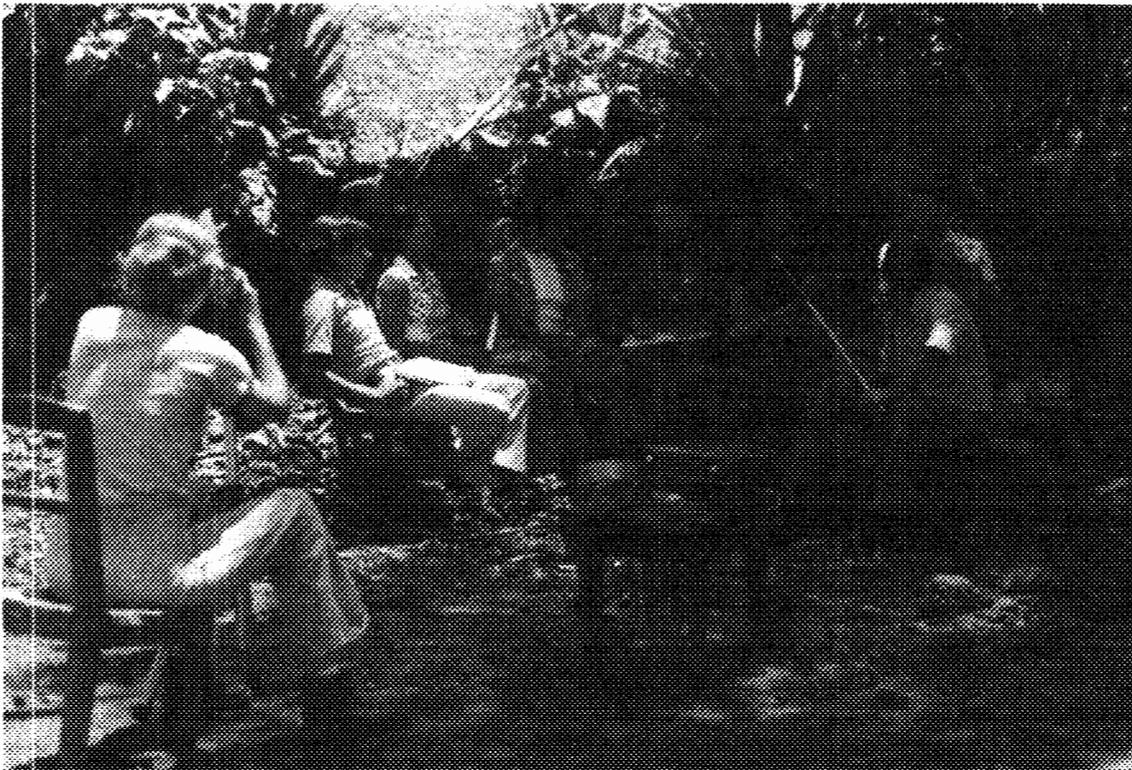
COVER: Sergio Juan Palacios and his wife Julia weed the cabbage patch on his father's farm in Nicaragua. INVIERNO, an AID-assisted program, is providing hope for many farmers there. (See page 7)

*Photo by John Metelsky*

Publications Division  
Office of Public Affairs, AID  
Room 4886, State Department Building  
Washington, D. C. 20523. (202) 632-9141

Jerry E. Rosenthal, Division Chief  
Betty Soead, Acting Editor

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Some villagers are being videotaped in El Salvador. Their comments and suggestions will enable the Ministry of Health to better plan projects and programs. (See page 4)



Mr. Parker's duties as Administrator led him around the world, visiting some 30 developing countries assisted by AID. He went

into marketplaces such as this one in Haiti to assess economic conditions. He emphasized interdependency of nations.

## PERIOD OF CHANGE

# *Parker Stressed Interdependence*

AID Administrator Daniel Parker resigned January 19, after 40 months of leading the Agency successfully through one of the most difficult periods of its existence—a period which witnessed profound changes in the policies and priorities of U.S. economic development assistance.

Mr. Parker, then Chairman of the Board of the Parker Pen Company, Janesville, Wisconsin, was nominated as AID Administrator by former President Richard Nixon in September 1973. Mr. Parker took the oath of office while in Paris attending the 12th annual High Level Meeting of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The ceremony took place in the headquarters of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development on October 18, 1973.

Mr. Parker's career as Administrator was marked by a change in direction of the U.S. foreign assistance program. Greater efforts were made to reach the people of the poorer countries in such areas as nutrition and

agricultural development, public health and population, and education.

There were shifts, too, in geographical distribution of aid as U.S. foreign policy underwent a profound transition. Economic assistance to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia ended, while assistance to Israel, Egypt, and Syria resumed and expanded. Programs in several countries such as Brazil, Colombia, and Turkey either phased out or neared their end, while those in a number of African countries and Bangladesh stepped up.

Mr. Parker was convinced that foreign aid is an indispensable element of present U.S. foreign policy essential in an interdependent world. But, as he said, "The U.S. foreign aid program probably is one of the least understood and at the same time one of the most misunderstood programs that exists in the Federal Government."

On many occasions he stressed the theme that there are "no separate futures for the rich and the poor of

the world. All countries, both rich and poor, benefit if the international economic system as a whole is healthy and vigorous."

Mr. Parker was particularly aware of the role played by private and voluntary agencies. He called for more direct involvement by them in the social and economic development of the world's poorest countries.

Throughout his administration, Mr. Parker advocated adaptation of U.S. technological expertise to poor countries to help them achieve their development goals. His contention was, "Poor countries must do much for themselves, but until their productivity can become self-regenerating, they will need massive technical and managerial resources from the industrial world."

He saw the possibilities of satellite technology as an instrument for development and took advantage of time available on NASA's "Teacher in the Sky" satellite to launch a demonstration project that was beamed to 27 developing countries.

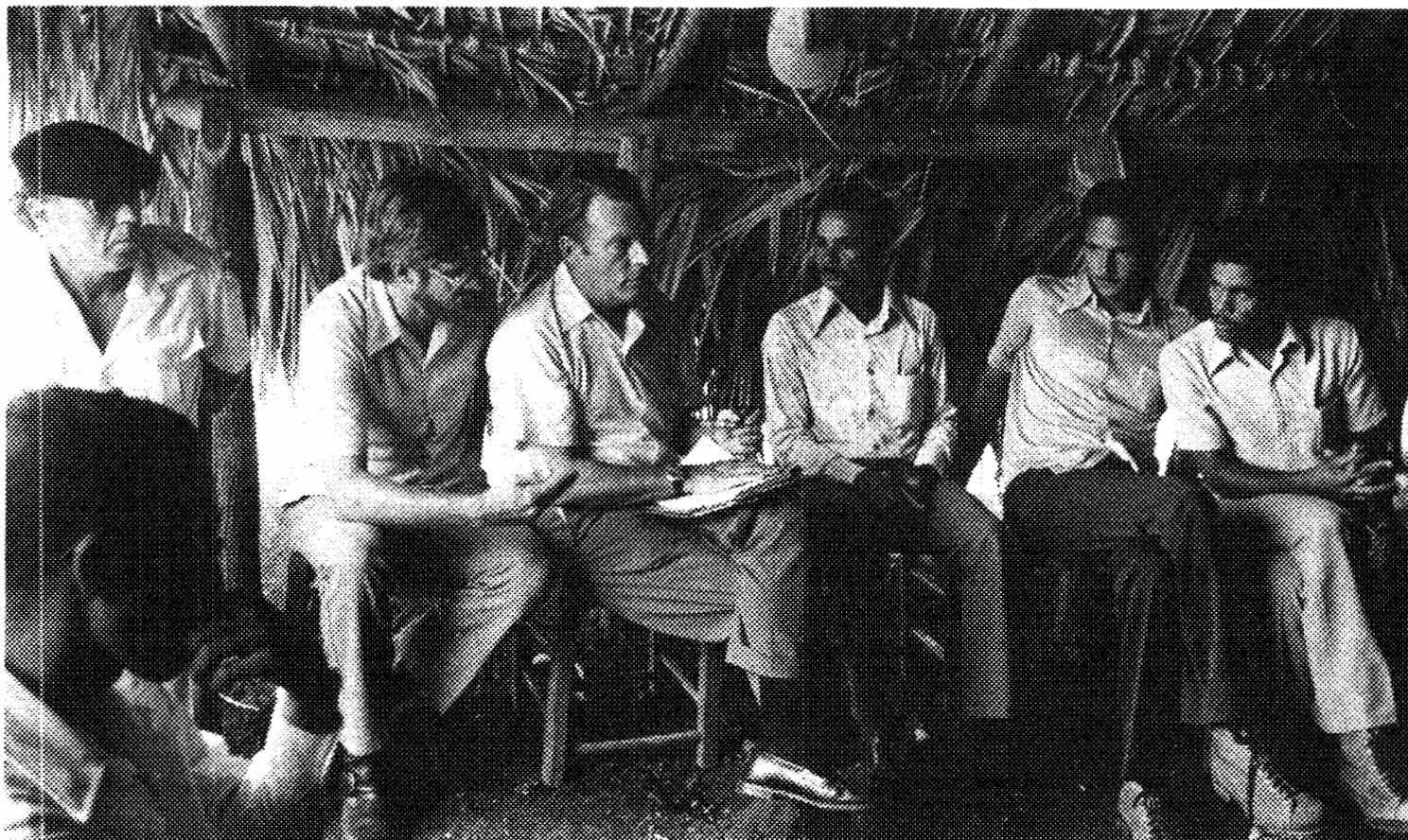
In the same vein Mr. Parker was an advocate of agribusiness systems abroad. He said such systems "will improve crop yields, create transportation, give small farmers prices for their products that are high enough to justify their own labor and their investment in high-yield seeds and fertilizers."

For those developing countries reaching a stage of development where they no longer needed concessional

assistance, Mr. Parker suggested a program of reimbursable technical assistance, saying, "Many countries need technical advice and services long after they no longer qualify for concessional financing for further development. Certain oil-rich countries are prime examples. They need help in defining development priorities, in designing programs and in identifying the best sources for training, advice, and equipment."

He was intensely interested in improving and speeding U.S. efforts to help victims of disasters. He often said: "I can think of no element of U.S. activities overseas which more directly reflects the spirit of America and Americans than coming to the aid of stricken people who have suffered natural calamities."

His emphasis on humanitarian assistance and interest in technology led to a precedent-setting relief effort in February 1976 when Guatemala was struck by a severe series of earthquakes. As the President's Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance, Mr. Parker requested the U.S. Department of Defense to fly the U-2 reconnaissance plane over Guatemala to survey the damage. The results of the high resolution photography identified the critical areas of damage, saving literally weeks of time, and permitted an AID-financed detachment of U.S. Corps of Engineers to reopen the main highway between the capital city of Guatemala and Puerto Barrios on the Caribbean Sea before the spring rains.



Mr. Parker meets with farmers in the Dominican Republic to discuss drought conditions and what steps might be taken to re-

lieve the situation. Such meetings provided a first-hand knowledge of serious situations faced by villagers.

Some of the other highlights of Mr. Parker's tenure included:

*September 1974:* Signed an AID Policy Directive emphasizing women's role in development efforts to implement an amendment to aid legislation authored by Senator Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.).

*November 1974:* Attended the World Food Conference in Rome, serving as chairman of the U.S. delegation to the committee considering increased food production and consumption. This conference created the World Food Council to help developing countries feed their hungry.

*June 1975:* Participated in the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City as Co-Chairman of the U.S. delegation. Signed agreements with the National Council of Negro Women and the American Association for the Advancement of Science that financed special seminars for conference participants preceding and following the conference.



Above: Sipping coconut juice in a village. Below: Meeting Pakistani women who provide family planning services.



*March 1976:* Led the U.S. delegation to the Dakar meeting of the Club des Amis du Sahel, a group of African donors and recipients which was organized to undertake long-term development programs in Sahelian countries.

*May 1976:* With Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, inspected the areas of northeast Italy damaged by earthquakes. Mr. Parker later reported to President Ford. As a result of AID's survey there, the United States is now helping Italy develop shelters for many of the homeless.

*December 1976:* Signed the Articles of Agreement at the United Nations in New York, pledging \$200 million for the United States to the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

During Mr. Parker's administration, there was a substantial increase in both Congressional and public support for development assistance programs. This was clearly evidenced in the voting records of Congress during the AID authorization and appropriation processes. Public opinion polls, too, showed approval of AID's humanitarian approach in combatting hunger, disease, and illiteracy.

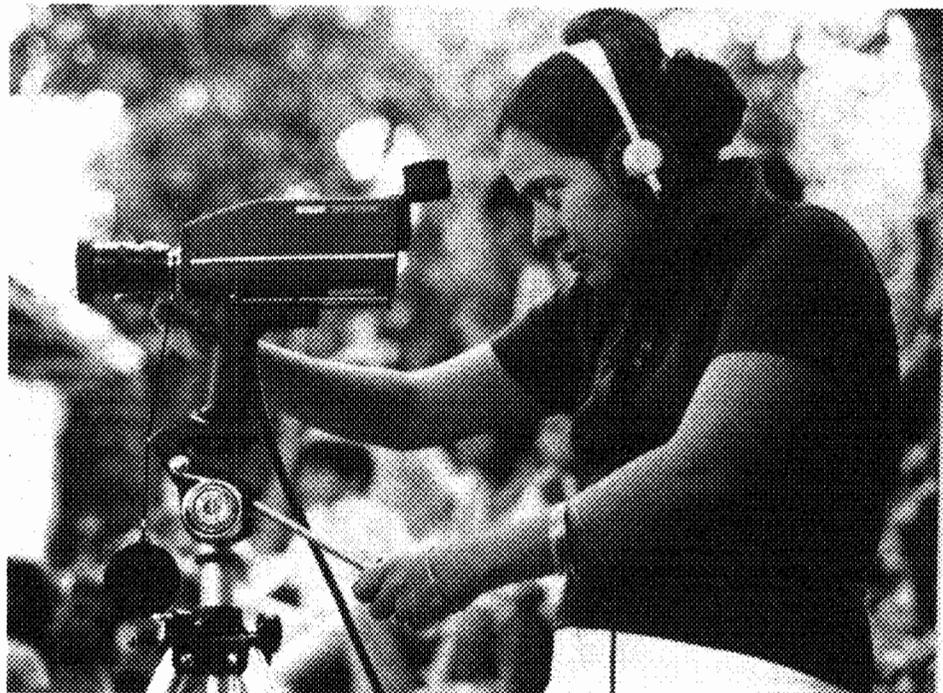
Mr. Parker was particularly successful in his relationship with key Congressional leaders, a factor that helped see AID, for the first time in 28 years, operate with an approved appropriation bill, instead of a "hand-to-mouth" continuing resolution at the outset of the fiscal year. This historic event occurred October 1, 1976.

Mr. Parker was an original appointee to the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, which he subsequently chaired as AID Administrator, and had been active in the National Association of Manufacturers, Committee for Economic Development, U.S. Council of the International Chamber of Commerce, and the Council of Foreign Relations.



Mr. Parker explains the Italian earthquake relief effort to President Ford and Vice President Rockefeller.

# Instant Replay for Development



By Helen Nash

*A Salvadoran Ministry of Health worker videotapes a meeting of local villagers. This "instant replay" is aiding development.*

A new technique in communications may have a tremendous impact on development projects in many parts of the world—including the United States. Videotaping, which is best known for its use in "instant replay" for television, is now being used for gathering information about situations which are not easily described by statistics and written reports. Videotaping simultaneously records sound and scene and, unlike motion picture film, requires no processing. Playback is immediate. Interviewees can hear and see themselves describe the situation.

The videotape interview technique is being used by the Agency for International Development in its Development Studies Program, a 12-week seminar for AID officers who have been working in economic and social development programs. The seminar is designed to give AID personnel, especially those serving overseas, the chance to learn about development other than their own. After nine weeks of intensive study in Washington, D.C., the participants in the program are sent to a U.S. community to put their newly learned techniques, including the use of videotape as a development tool, into practice. They collect data to be used in the socio-economic and political analysis of that region. This information then is incorporated into community development projects by local planners.

It was in this survey work that videotape was first used by Sam Taylor, an AID population officer stationed in El Salvador. Mr. Taylor was a participant in the first Development Studies group sent to Garrett County, Maryland, to work with the local

planning commission. Since one of the aims of the Development Studies Program is to give an officer the opportunity to learn about development disciplines other than his field of expertise, Mr. Taylor was assigned to work on a land-use project.

Garrett County is presently faced with an increased demand for commercial, industrial, and residential land in the Pleasant Valley area—an Amish community. This demand has resulted in the sale of much of the fertile farm land to commercial developers. The county's Development Plan includes a section on agriculture which sets a goal "to assure the continuation of agriculture as a vital social and economic element."

Mr. Taylor undertook the task of interviewing Amish farmers to gather information which would serve the planning commission in its efforts to help the Amish farmers buy and farm the land in Pleasant Valley.

"It was very much like working in a foreign country," Mr. Taylor said. "The Amish were reluctant to be videotaped at first. Later, one farmer, watching the playback of the interview, exclaimed, 'I saw my whole life pass before my eyes!' The same farmer said he finally recognized what his real problem was—in this case, transportation. The horse and buggy means of transportation traditional to the community simply was not as economical as an automobile.

"One of the myths that was destroyed by the interviews is that the Amish are united in every social aspect," he noted. "Several Amish pointed out that there were differences of opinion among the members of the group—especially between the age groups. I also found that some had electricity and others had telephones. It was really amazing how little even their close neighbors knew about the Amish. A woman who

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*Ms. Nash is an AID Public Information Officer.*

runs a country store and bar in the area mentioned in an interview that she has never spoken to an Amish.

"The tapes were a revelation to the planning commission staff," Mr. Taylor said. "All they had gone by previously were statistics gathered during the last census. There were no spokesmen to 'lobby' for the interests of the Amish community. On videotape the planners could see and hear the Amish talk about their own needs and desires now without waiting weeks or months for reports to be written."

Impressed by the results of the interviews, Mr. Taylor decided to use the technique in his population work in El Salvador. That Central American country has an active family planning program which AID has been assisting for several years. Information on contraceptive methods is offered to the Salvadorans. "The problem here," Mr. Taylor pointed out, "is to gain acceptance by the people and to dispel unfavorable myths. We decided to try by interviewing 'satisfied users.' Men who had had vasectomies were interviewed. They told how the simple operations were effective and did not affect their strength, their health, or their sexual powers. These tapes were replayed to men in other villages. No amount of persuasion by doctors or health workers have resulted in the attitudinal changes that came about by testimony from their peers. We used the same technique for other kinds of contraceptive methods."

Mr. Taylor was careful to point out that this time neither he nor any member of the AID staff conducts the interviews. This is done by Salvadorans—employees of the Ministry of Health. "That's the only way we can hope for real openness by the interviewee," he explained.

To get the interviewing project underway, Mr. Taylor had to convince the Minister of Health that the technique would be effective and that it would be worthwhile for the Ministry to assign staff to go out into the rural areas to conduct the interviews and operate the cameras. The Minister thought it would be worth a try. Several teams of two persons each were assigned to the project. The AID Mission contracted for the services of Margaret Mims, an instructor at Rice University's Media Center, to come to El Salvador to help the Ministry of Health teams learn how to conduct interviews and operate the cameras. The equipment was supplied by AID.

Ms. Mims arrived in El Salvador in May 1976 and worked for two months with the assistance of a Peace Corps volunteer. "We taught the teams how to use black and white, half-inch videotape," she reported. "Our main task was to build the health workers' confidence in using the equipment. We stressed the fact that this was not to be a professional film to be used for public broadcast but merely a device for recording situations and attitudes."

From viewing the tapes brought back from the field, Mr. Taylor found that they could be used in exactly the same way as they were used in the land-use project in Maryland—to keep project managers informed about

how things were going in the field. "I learned things that neither I nor the officials at the Ministry of Health knew about. We had very little time to go out to rural areas and observe for ourselves and written reports from field workers just don't have the same impact. We thought we had a very good vasectomy project, but we learned that it could be improved. The men who came to the clinic expected to be taken immediately, but were told to come back in some weeks. This placed considerable hardship on men who had to leave their work in the fields and walk long distances to get to the clinic. That strong motivation wears off."

Problems in other facets of the program—such as lack of supplies, snarls in the distribution system where there were sufficient supplies, and personnel problems with volunteer workers or paramedics—showed up on the videotape.

AID Mission Director Edwin A. Anderson saw this device as a great boom to project management in El Salvador. "Sam Taylor demonstrated some playbacks for the Minister of Health. He was extremely interested and thought the videotape would serve as a powerful tool. I understand that the Minister's staff was also much impressed by the potentials of the new gadget."

Mr. Anderson himself was so impressed with the technique he asked the heads of his other departments to try using videotape on their projects. "We're con-



AID put together a lightweight portable videotape package for use overseas. Total cost for the equipment is slightly over \$2,000.

vinced that project management will be made easier and more effective by this technique. We'll be able to bring to the Minister the problem as seen by Salvadorans—his own staff. As one of my staff remarked, 'If host country cabinet ministers are too pressed for time to visit the rural areas on a regular basis, we can bring the rural areas to them.'

"All of the problems we're experiencing in education and agriculture, for example, have been reported to the Ministers," explained Mr. Anderson, "but they have stacks of written reports on scores of subjects." The brief presentation in sight and sound is expected to make an immediate impact. Mr. Anderson noted that he discussed this technique with the Planning Minister. "He saw great possibilities in videotaping. He thought this technique could bring problems directly to the President. He also thought the tapes could be used to point out important implementation problems to other cabinet members.

"I see tremendous potential in the land reform program which is now underway. We can determine what farmers are growing; what they want to grow and why; how they respond to interest rates and prices; all sorts of information on attitudes and desires and practices which development planners need to mount a successful project."

Mr. Anderson feels the possibilities are limited only by the number of projects undertaken. "Some projects may be discontinued because of the information we received on the tapes, but it's better to have no project than one that looks good on paper but doesn't work for lack of sufficient follow-up.

"Then there is the whole area of anthropological research which is so important for our work in development," he continued. "Think of the possibilities for

studying the problems of involving women in the development process."

To institute the use of the technique in all the AID projects in his Mission, Mr. Anderson requested that Andre Jesequel, audio-visual production specialist with AID's Manpower Development Division, come to El Salvador to advise on the kind and amount of equipment which would be most suitable for use in that country.

Mr. Jesequel recounted his observations of the conditions under which taping would be done. "The interviews take place in the fields, in crowded clinics, and market places. To reach their subjects, the interviewers have to travel by jeep, on horseback, and sometimes fairly long distances on foot. Many of the places they visit have no electricity. This means that the equipment must be light in weight and battery operated. Also, it has to be easy to operate and be relatively maintenance free and, of course, it has to be inexpensive."

Mr. Jesequel put together a package which met all the necessary requirements and included everything from the camera to an eleven-inch monitor and carrying case which cost under \$2,100.

Dr. Richard Blue, Director of the Development Studies Program, is encouraged by the success of the technique in El Salvador. "When we first introduced the technique it was regarded as a gimmick or a toy." He is quick to point out, however, that videotaping is not a panacea for all development communication problems.

"It is extremely useful as a tool for investigation and reporting and there is considerable scope for similar uses in other AID Missions. But," he cautions, "conditions vary from country to country and the technique may not be acceptable in every situation."



*Salvadoran mothers discuss health and nutrition needs with a Ministry of Health representative who will take a tape of the*

*session back to the home office. The tape playback will enable the Ministry to detect weaknesses and strengths in its program.*





Juan Palacios Blandon and his family. Clockwise: Juan; daughter Silvia; son-in-law Julian; Juan's wife Valentina; a neighbor; son

Sergio Jose; daughter-in-law Julia, and granddaughter Marcia. This family is experiencing new hope for their future.

## Nicaragua's Farmers

# Hope for the Future

By John M. Metelsky

For more than 25 of his 53 years, Juan Palacios Blandon has grappled with the earth, weather, and insects in a never-ending struggle to feed and clothe his family. Juan is a small farmer—a campesino—in the north central mountains of Nicaragua. He and his wife Valentina and family—11 in all—live in El Mojon, a tiny hamlet near the city of Jinotega. They grow corn, beans, cabbage, lettuce, and other vegetables. They live in an old dirt-floor house that has no running water, electricity, or toilet. Juan, a friendly man with dark brown eyes and a quick smile, wears tattered baggy pants. Patches cover his blue workshirt.

"Life has always been hard here," he says, as he swings his sharp machete at the weeds attacking his corn field. "There are many of us here and we do what we can." Yet, he is luckier than most campesinos who live in the mountains of Jinotega.

*Mr. Metelsky is an AID Public Information Officer. Photos are by the author.*

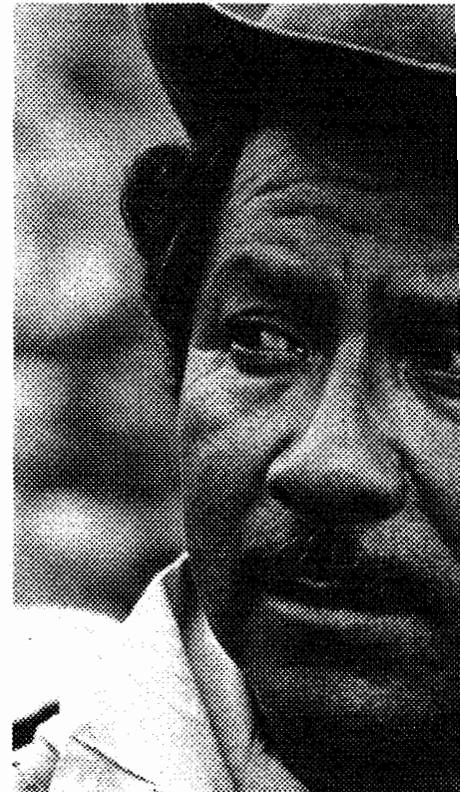
Juan owns 17 acres of land, two horses, two oxen, four cows, two pigs, about 20 chickens, a few dogs and cats, and a transistor radio. He finds it difficult to feed, clothe, and shelter 11 people. "Last year," he explains, "we earned about \$2,300 cash. It's a lot of money, but we still have problems trying to make ends meet."

In addition to Juan and his wife, nine others live in the weather beaten house: two sons—Sergio Juan, 18, and Sergio Jose, 21, his wife Julia and their three small children, Biron, Zobeyda, and Marcia; Juan's daughter, Silvia, 15; Juan's mother-in-law, Candelaria; and Juan's brother-in-law, Jose.

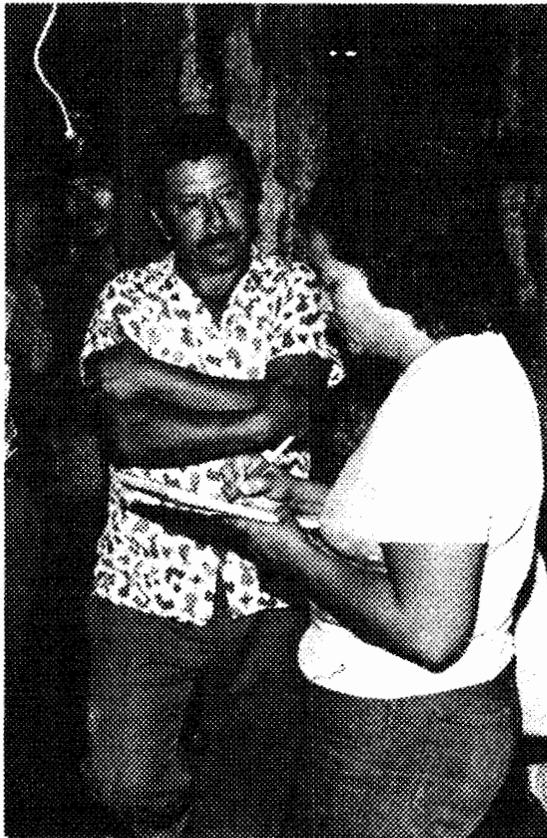
Like most farmers, Juan toils from sunrise to sunset. He awakens at 5 a.m.; Valentina prepares a fried egg, a piece of homemade bread, and strong black coffee. Juan likes the serenity of early morning when he and Valentina talk quietly over coffee.

Right after breakfast, Juan goes to the field to spread fertilizer or insecticide, or to weed, plant, or plow. The boys are up early, too, helping in the fields.

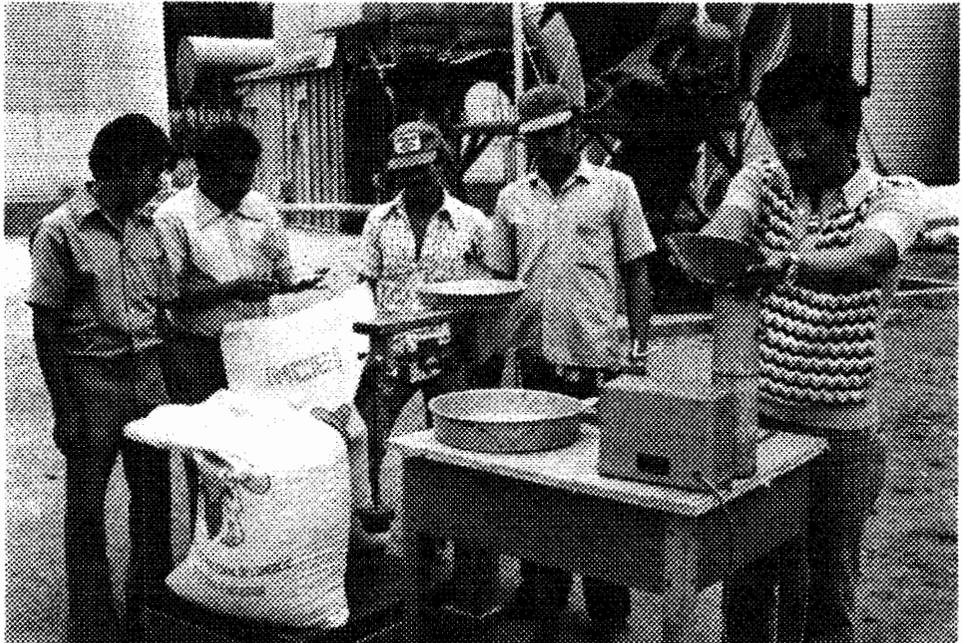
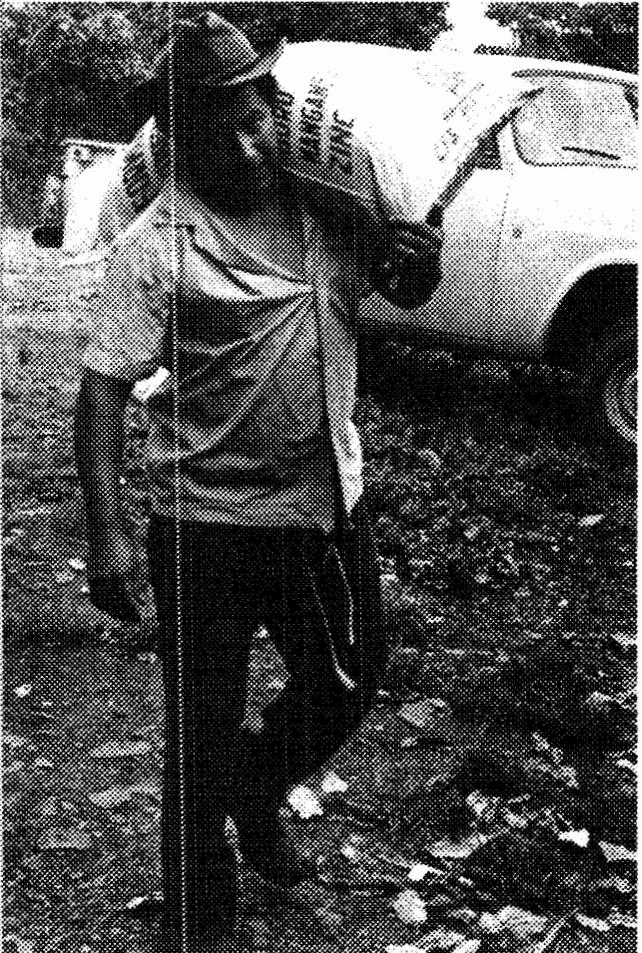
*(Continued on p. 10)*



*Juan and his family enjoy a better life*



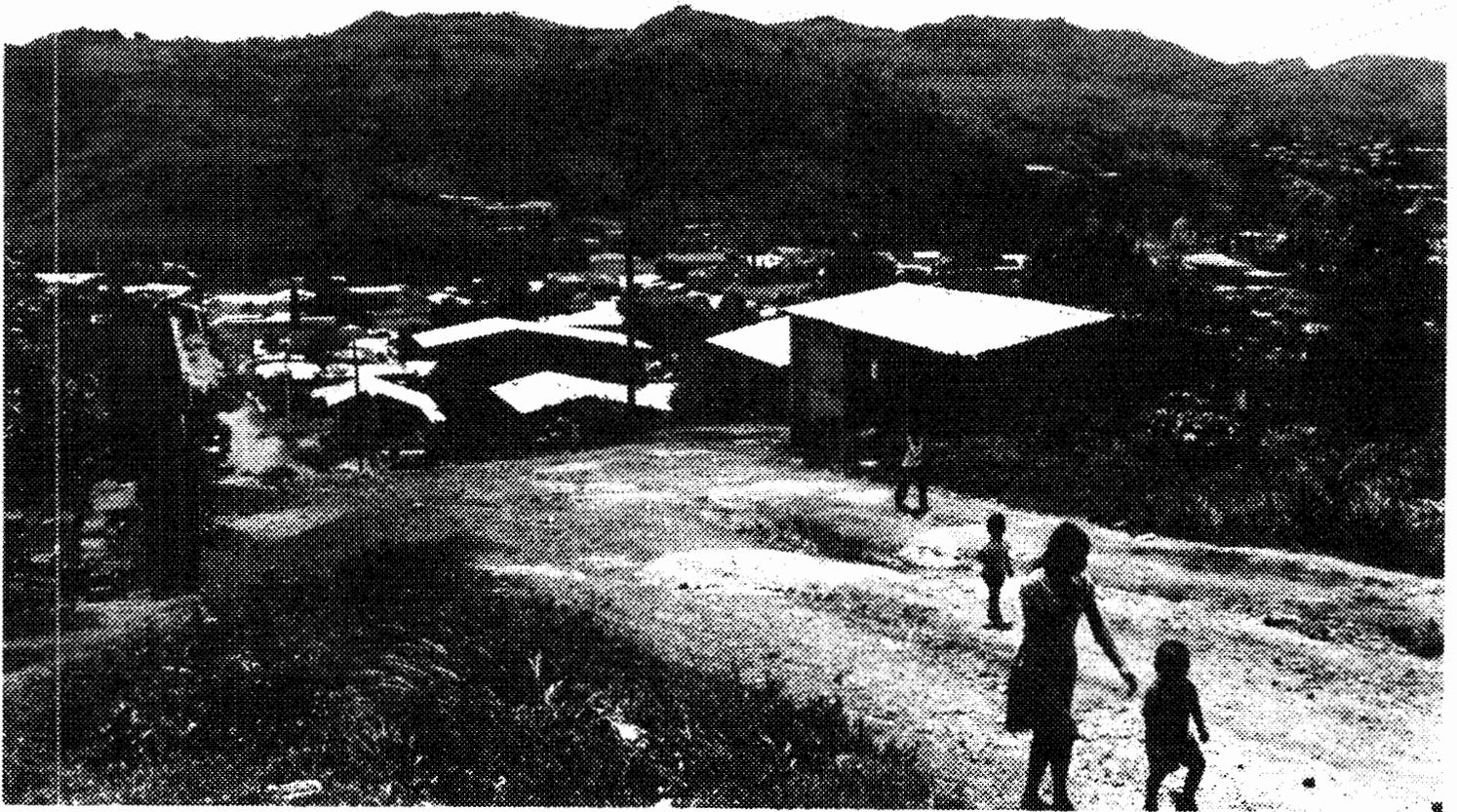
Above left: Farmers and INVIERNO representative holding meeting in Juan's yard. Above: Juan. Right: Juan examines cabbage crop. Right below: Juan talks to INVIERNO agronomist Vicente Hayle Martinez about crop production. Below: Juan sells some of his crop to an agency of the government. Far left: INVIERNO enables Juan to obtain fertilizer and insecticide. Left: Juan talks with INVIERNO social worker Libia Salinas about polio vaccination for children.





Above: Juan's family at church. Right: Daughter (white socks) attends school. Below: Valentina talks to her mother. Below left: Valentina teaches her daughter sewing. Left: Coaxing Juan's granddaughter to take a pill.





The city of Jinotega. Juan and his family live in El Mojon, a tiny hamlet near Jinotega. INVIERNO has a pilot project in Jinotega

which provides loans at 13 percent interest and technical assistance to farmers. Juan has an INVIERNO loan.

At noon, Juan comes in for a lunch of rice and beans, toast, and a soft drink. He does not drink or smoke. He returns for supper about 5:30 p.m. and has rice and beans, guajada cheese, and sometimes tripe or beef soup. Valentina often prepares a tasty beverage called "pinolillo"—made from corn, cinnamon, sugar, and milk or water. Bedtime is usually seven o'clock.

Valentina, Silvia, and Julia cook, wash, and mend clothes—and work in the field when necessary. Silvia, an energetic girl who attends a nearby secondary school, prefers field work. "I don't like to cook," she says, wrinkling her nose. "I like the fresh air and sunshine and the good feel of the earth."

At harvest time, the whole family works as a team. When they harvest corn, the men work in the field, breaking off the ears of ripe corn from the stalk and piling them in the field. They then carry the crop to the house where the women and girls sort the corn by ear size.

The little children—Biron, Zobeyda, and Marcia—like to follow Juan in the fields and chase birds or watch the farm animals grazing or working.

Juan often pauses in his labor to smile at the children or pat them on the head. Sometimes, after chopping weeds, he lassos his white horse and takes Biron, his five-year-old grandson, for a brief bareback trot through the fields.

Proud of his grandchildren, Juan boasts about their accomplishments. He enjoys lifting little Marcia on his lap at mealtime to watch her drink milk from a glass. When the child spills the milk which she always does—

Valentina, a kindly woman, good naturedly scolds Juan. The whole family joins in the laughter.

On special occasions, Valentina, who enjoys a reputation as an "artist in the kitchen," makes "tortitas de maiz"—a golden corn pancake made of young, tender corn, butter, salt, eggs, and sugar. "They must be good, because the family eats them faster than we cook them," she grumbles in mock anger.

"Like all the other campesinos around here, we eat a lot of beans, corn, and guajada," she says. Guajada is a salty white cheese somewhat similar to cottage cheese. The campesinos put the guajada on a corn tortilla, roll it up, and eat it. "It's a very popular dish in these parts," Valentina notes.

"My mother is the best cook in El Mojon," proclaims Sergio Juan, as he finishes his third bowl of tripe soup. Sergio Juan, a growing boy with a big appetite, likes sports, particularly baseball and boxing. He has tacked a newspaper photo on the wall of the former featherweight boxing champion of the world Alexis Arguello, who is a Nicaraguan and a national hero.

Although Sergio Juan is enrolled in a nearby school, he is skipping classes—a common practice of students during planting season—for several weeks, "because there is too much work to do on the farm now." He says, "I am preparing the field for the cabbage planting. I like school and my father says an education is very important, but we have too much work now. I will go back to school when the harvest is over." Uncertain about his future, Sergio Juan says, "I am still young and would like to do many things in my life. I like sports very much and I also like farming."

Juan's house often is filled with singing and guitar music. Friends and relatives crowd in to hear Valentina and Sergio Jose play the guitar and sing Nicaraguan folk songs. Valentina has a pleasant voice and, when she sings, the children and neighbors gather around her and join in. The singing helps ease the sting of poverty.

Juan always has been poor and comes from a long line of poor people. When he was a young boy, his father worked near the Honduras border, chopping down trees, and carrying logs for a lumber operation.

Juan was born in Jinotega—"The Misty City"—where his father worked as a carpenter. "Jinotega is a beautiful place," Juan says pointing to the fertile green mountains, "but it's a poor place, too."

Juan learned carpentry from his father and for a time worked as a carpenter in the city of Jinotega. About once a week, Juan went to dances sponsored by a local workers' organization. That's where he met Valentina. Smiling broadly, Juan remembers that when he first saw Valentina, "It was love at first sight." Valentina chuckles and her eyes twinkle as she recalls the meeting.

"He was a very handsome man—and still is," she insists. "He was a true gentleman," she says. In due

course, they were married. Because Juan did not like the pressure of city life, he and his bride moved to the plot of land where they live today. The land was then owned by Juan's mother-in-law.

Like other campesinos in El Mojon, Juan and Valentina worked side by side in the fields from sunup to sundown. "We did not have good luck or fortune, and often bad weather ruined our crops. But we worked hard together and little by little we saved a few cordobas. One year, we had a very good cabbage crop. I sold it for \$2,000. Then we bought the land from my mother-in-law for about \$1,500," Juan explains.

"It is a wonderful thing to own your land," Juan says "but it still takes a lot of hard work by the whole family to survive. Life is difficult, but the good Lord blessed us with fine children and many good friends."

The good friends recognize Juan as a born leader. The campesinos, young and old, greet him warmly, vigorously shaking his hand, and patting his back. One farmer, 76-year-old Pancho Cruz, who grows corn, beans, and cabbage, is noted in El Mojon for his sense of humor. He enjoys playing practical jokes and teasing Juan.

The campesinos often hold their meetings in Juan's backyard. They discuss a new access road, new insecti-



Farmers meet in a rural INVIERNO office to pick up supplies. The INVIERNO program is expected to help more than 2,800

small farmers double or triple their corn and bean production. Eventually the program may assist over 400,000 rural poor.



Above: INVIERNO Vice Manager Luis Navarro (right) talks with Angel Benavides Moreno at demonstration corn plot. Below: A farmer demonstrates hoeing techniques in a bean field while other farmers and AID and INVIERNO officials observe. Hoes and other small hand tools are provided under INVIERNO.



cides, fertilizer, and the weather. "Yes, the weather," Juan says. "I imagine we must be like small farmers in America and everywhere else and always talk about the weather."

One of the principal things they talk about is a new program of the Nicaraguan Government aimed at helping the campesinos improve their living standards. The program, Institute for Campesino Development, popularly known by its Spanish acronym—INVIERNO—is financed by \$22.6 million contribution from the Nicaraguan Government and a \$14 million loan from the Agency for International Development.

The goal of the program is to improve the over-all

well-being of the rural people, primarily small farmers, through the agricultural program already in operation and through programs in education, health, road construction, market town development, and local government. INVIERNO provides Juan and 73 other campesinos in El Mojon with a line of credit, agricultural supplies, agricultural training and advice, and marketing facilities. About 400,000 rural people are expected to benefit under INVIERNO.

Under the program, Juan received a \$470 loan last year for the first crop cycle to grow corn, cabbage, and beans. It was the first time he had ever received a low-interest loan (13 percent as compared to the 100 percent or more charged by some traditional lenders). It was also the first time he received agricultural advice from experts. With the loan funds, Juan planted 3.5 acres of corn, 1.7 acres of cabbage, and a half acre of beans.

He bought 14 one-hundred pound bags of fertilizer, 2 one-hundred pound bags of insecticide, improved cabbage seed, improved corn seed called H-5, 80 pounds of improved bean seed called H-46, two machetes, one hoe, and other farm supplies.

But, in spite of improved farm technology, Juan says, "I had bad luck with my corn. So did all the other campesinos in El Mojon. The very strong winds and heavy rains ruined almost all of the corn. The corn is too small to sell at the market. I will keep it for our own use and to feed the livestock. I also lost about half of my bean crop because of the bad weather."

Juan noted a newspaper story that said much of Nicaragua suffered from a severe drought. "Since we are so high in the mountains, however, we had too much rain. It's an irony of destiny," he says. But Juan, an optimist, adds, "We will have a very good cabbage crop. When we harvest the cabbage, I plan to sell it to INVIERNO. We will get a fair price."

For his next crop, Juan plans to borrow about \$700 to plant cabbage, potatoes, beans, and lettuce.

Juan and other campesinos in El Mojon are taking active roles in agricultural activities under INVIERNO.

About 40 percent of the families own their small plots of land. Another 40 percent of the campesinos are sharecroppers. They own no land but rent from a landlord who usually gets half of the crop.

The campesinos generally sell corn and beans at the start of the year to buy necessities. Even though they keep food for their own needs, they often run out before the next harvest and are forced to buy food for cash—sometimes buying back, in effect the same corn and beans they sold. Many campesinos earn food money by taking seasonal jobs on commercial farms for extremely low wages or by borrowing—while hoping their food will last till the next harvest.

"But things are changing," Juan says. "INVIERNO gives us hope for the future. The agronomists are showing us how to use insecticide and other modern farming methods. We finally are beginning to make a little progress."





# Africa's Population Problem

By Emmett George

When questions are raised about family planning in Africa, African leaders generally look out at their vast geography and its untold acres of uncultivated soil and say: "What population problem?"

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*Mr. George is an AID Public Information Officer.*

They insist that what is really needed is more people, not fewer, to work the land. But this bit of traditional thinking has made the work of population advisors extremely difficult as Africa continues to lag behind her counterparts in Asia and Latin America in terms of implementing and developing family planning programs, according to delegates who met recently at the First AID World Population Conference.

The 240 delegates, composed of AID population and health officers and other specialists concerned with

Third World population planning, expressed concern for the African continent where current growth rates will double the present population of about 402 million people by the year 2000. Unless the growth rate is reduced the experts said there will be a further erosion of health services and general standards. About half of the countries in Africa are among those with the lowest per capita gross national product in the world, ranging from \$60 to \$120 per year per person.

In the developing world, the dele-

gates agree that Asia leads the way in the implementation and extension of family planning services and Latin America is second. Africa, where average life expectancy is about 45 years, is slowly recognizing the pressures of rapid population growth and is beginning to provide family planning services for health reasons with the support of AID and other donors.

"We have listened too long to how poor, illiterate people can't understand how important it is to control fertility," Dr. R. T. Ravenholt, Director of AID's Office of Population, told the conference. "Poor, illiterate people are just as intelligent as you and I, but they have limited options. When they have gained new fertility control options they have responded.

"Wherever these services are made available the demand is great. We will continue to emphasize programs to make family planning services fully available in the developing world. We also are going to develop a powerful program aimed at preventing adolescent pregnancies.

"We see no evidence that there is a quick fix for the population problem. It can't be done in a year. It takes a good 10 years to implement a strong national population program."

### Country-by-Country Approach

Conference delegates agreed that regional strategies for implementing population control programs were unworkable; that only a country-by-country approach was realistic, and all programs should be promoted carefully based on close consultation with host governments.

In the Sahelian countries of West Africa where 26 million people have been victimized by a massive drought over the past several years, population and family planning programs appear critical.

"Family planning in Africa is at about the same stage as it was in Asia a decade ago," one delegate remarked at the African workshop. "We have to be alert to seize the opportunities to provide family planning until national programs are de-



*A strong family planning program could improve the overall quality of life in Africa.*

veloped and become effective."

In a statement at a plenary session, Dr. Julius Prince, AID health and population officer for Ghana, said: "The people of Africa have a problem perceiving the need for population and family planning when they see all this unused land around them. The male children are used as bread winners for the family which lives on subsistence farming. If family size is reduced, 'Who's going to do the work?' they ask."

### People Must Be Convinced

Barbara Herz, an AID economist, emphasized that, "People have to feel that it's in their interest to reduce their family size. No amount of preaching from Washington is going to achieve this unless the people are convinced that it will reduce unemployment; improve maternal, child, and family health; and lead to an improved regard for the status of women."

Stanley S. Scott, AID Assistant Administrator for Africa, reminded the group that "you are concerned about infant nations, 20 to 25 years old at

best. You are working with military governments with discipline from the top down. You are involved with some countries where leaders believe that population policy and family planning is a case of white policy of genocide against black nations," adding, however, that he was encouraged by progress in nations like Mali, Ghana, Botswana, and Zaire.

The delegates concluded after four days of workshops and seminars, that what is needed in Africa is a gradual approach, "one of working with whom we can, when we can, and for as long as we can," as one delegate put it. Their main challenge is to make information on the various means of fertility control available to people in the remote areas of Africa. The delegates were heartened by the already government-assisted programs in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Kenya, Mauritius, Ghana, Liberia, Zaire, and Botswana and by "low key" programs now under development in Togo, Gabon, and Niger.

### Growth Rate High

"Although the current growth rate in Africa is one of the highest in the world, it does not yet face the acute population problems found in Asia and Latin America," Dr. Willard H. Boynton, Deputy Director of AID's Office of Population, said. "If assistance to support effective population family planning delivery systems in Africa is undertaken, that continent may be able to avoid the crushing population problems now being suffered by Asia and Latin America.

"At a recent meeting sponsored by the World Health Organization in Yaounde, Cameroon, the Ministry of Health representatives of the African countries uniformly supported the provision of family planning services as an important element of comprehensive maternal and child health services.

"In my judgment," Dr. Boynton concluded, "strong family planning assistance offered to Africa at this time has a good chance for improving the overall quality of life in Africa."

# IN PRINT

## Responding to the Poor

A Review by Daniel Shaughnessy

*What Do You Say To A Hungry World?* by W. Stanley Mooneyham. WORD Books, Waco Texas, 1975. 272 pp., \$6.95.

Stanley Mooneyham has written a challenging personal book calling for the reader to look world hunger and poverty directly in the face and respond to it as a human being. His subjective call is to be emotional, humane, and moral in response to the degrading and crippling malnutrition that is found in small and large pockets around the world. The author, President of World Vision International, has traveled extensively and presents a challenge to those accustomed to thinking about development in terms of economic theory, statistical compilation, intervention identification, and management systems.

To the extent that there is strength in the book, it is in the concise portraits of hungry individuals and families. The descriptions and interviews are with people who are in the worst possible circumstances, often facing death from starvation. However, the impression received by the reader is more than one of unending misery; indeed, the wisdom and philosophic understanding of these people is often remarkable. This should be comforting to those who believe that understanding of the human condition and sound judgment are found in all places and under all circumstances and are not limited only to the educated and the rich. Dr. Mooneyham's obvious effort is to promote a response that the strength and dignity of these people should be matched by some significant sacrifice on the part of the more fortunate.

What is it that has made some people and countries in the world very poor and keeps them that way?

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*Mr. Shaughnessy is Deputy Coordinator in AID's Office of Food for Peace.*

The author recognizes the cycle of lack of resources, restrictive trade patterns, ineffective governments, population explosion, illiteracy, lack of education, and social patterns that have shaped the Third World. He also believes that society within Third World countries is not designed to provide upward mobility for the disadvantaged. Nor, in his opinion, are the developed nations prepared to surrender their well-being for the more disadvantaged nations. Dr. Mooneyham dismisses U.S. foreign aid as being in the U.S. commercial interest and ignores any values relating to resource and technology transfers. Trade patterns are said to be exploitive and an example of 250% profit realized on investments in the Third World over a 10 year period is cited. Churches are criticized for spending more on buildings at home than on hunger abroad.

### Government Attitudes Important

A particular target is the attitudes of Third World governments. Dr. Mooneyham views Third World governments as part of the system that is designed to take advantage of the people. Third World governments are criticized for down playing reports of famine, for having repressive land laws, inhumane transmigration policies, and for over emphasizing the military. At a time when most voluntary agencies, including World Vision, are taking serious new initiatives in the development field, it is curious that the author is willing to go on record as being disappointed with the very same governments with whom he will increasingly have to deal.

*What Do you Say To A Hungry World?* also follows a pattern set by many journalists and self-professed experts by over simplifying the world

food situation in terms of efficiency of consumption. The generally overweight American is compared to the underfed in the Third World and the need for a food ethic is self-righteously emphasized. Dr. Mooneyham assumes that reducing our food intake will allow aid exports of that much additional food to hungry countries. However, he glosses over the cost and feasibility of such a plan and had no apparent recognition of the fact that even if it were possible to increase food donations to the degree necessary to eliminate malnutrition in the Third World, this would only be a means of meeting short-term needs without correcting the longer-term problem. Dr. Mooneyham does recognize that the long-term answer is increased and more efficient food production, storage, and distribution in the developing countries as well as large-scale efforts to break the vicious circle that generates poverty. However, he concludes by tying our overconsumption to a plea for personal constraint and voluntary contributions to organizations like his that are working on attacking the world hunger problem. The unstated implication is that "the system" will go on generating poverty and hunger and that the Western individual who benefits from this inherently immoral situation must compensate on a personal level with self-sacrifice and generosity.

In all, Dr. Mooneyham indicates that much of the misery in the world is the product of "the system." However, other than soliciting funds, he is not prepared to offer constructive proposals to change the system; rather, he criticizes and poses questions. Two hundred and seventy-two pages for a fund-raising appeal is somewhat excessive.

If you want to read this book, borrow it from the library, and send the seven dollars to charity.



# IN BRIEF

## Research in Bangladesh

AID is providing help for Bangladesh to diversify its food crops, principally rice. The financing, which includes a \$4 million loan and a \$2.56 million grant, is to be used by Bangladesh to improve and expand its Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) to undertake research on such food crops as wheat, legumes, oil-seeds, and vegetables. These crops are particularly suitable since they can be grown during the winter season when rainfall is light and inadequate for non-irrigated rice production.

The loan will finance completion of the research center, which was started in 1974, as well as establish a research farm, and provide for housing for staff, a drainage system, road construction and machinery.

The grant will fund long-term advisory services and training and short-term practical training courses in non-rice food research and cropping systems. Services of agricultural consultants will be in the fields of agricultural production, economics, agronomy, horticulture and agricultural engineering.

ARI researchers will concentrate on developing new, fast-growing seeds in an effort to produce more food in a nation that presently cannot feed itself. The program is expected to increase rural incomes and create more jobs for landless farmers.

Bangladesh is contributing \$7.9 million to the project.

## Guinea-Bissau Gets Aid

AID is providing \$500,000 to help the 750,000 inhabitants of the West African coastal nation of Guinea-Bissau increase food production. This grant is the first bilateral assistance provided by AID to the former Portuguese colony.

The serious decline in agricultural productivity as a result of Guinea-Bissau's 13-year war of independence has been one of the most

critical problems facing the new government. To increase production for both domestic consumption and export, the Commissariat of Agriculture and Livestock is giving priority to providing essential supplies and services to farmers.

The grant funds will be used to assist the Commissariat in carrying out programs in seed production and storage, crop disease control, and land reclamation.

## Beekeeping Project Continues

Veteran *War on Hunger* readers may remember an article that appeared in the December 1970 issue entitled "Pumps and Bees and a Man Named Moon." The story was about an American, Floyd Moon, who had initiated small pumping projects in remote areas of Kenya, enabling farmers to increase and stabilize rice crops, and a beekeeping program for the coastal area to improve fruit and nut production.

Mr. Moon, now 68, has since retired to Oregon, although he is considering taking a "bee" assignment in Jordan. For those who suspect that such projects die out when the technical advisor leaves, a recent letter from Moon is encouraging:

"Hassan (a Kenyan he trained) advises that he still works with the bee program and has greatly expanded the program along the coast. Another chap I trained in beekeeping was Harrison Mrabu who has been transferred to the Nakuru area and is working with a honey cooperative. Most of the pumping schemes are still going and have expanded so I feel some satisfaction from my work there."

## Manual on Storage Available

A manual on small farm grain storage that could help farmers in developing countries to substantially increase their food supplies has been published by the Peace Corps in con-

junction with Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA).

The manual introduces innovative adaptations of simple grain drying and storage methods. It is designed for use by community development workers and agriculture extension agents throughout the world. The manual includes information about proper grain preparation, grain dryer models, measures to be taken against insects and rodents, and plans for various grain storage methods for individual farmers or cooperatives.

Approximately 3,000 copies of the manual, *Small Farm Grain Storage*, have been published in English; Spanish and French translations are planned.

The 500-page volume may be ordered either from: ACTION, Peace Corps, Office of Multilateral and Special Programs, 806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20525 or from VITA, 3706 Rhode Island Avenue, Mt. Rainier, Maryland, 20822.

## Rural Poor To Benefit

AID has provided two loans totaling \$4 million to Colombia to help the rural poor of that country. These loans are the last of a series of AID credits to Colombia in an overall package of \$53 million.

One loan for \$2 million to the National Apprentice Service (SENA) is designed to benefit the rural poor. The second loan for \$2 million will assist the Accion Cultural Popular (ACPO) to undertake programs to educate and train farmers.

The National Apprentice Service will use most of its \$2 million loan to purchase equipment and obtain some technical assistance for rural mobile training units. The organization has made the commitment to reach more than 150,000 rural poor in 1977 and 1978. This represents a 50 percent increase over programs that were carried out in 1974 and 1975.

Short-term courses in agriculture, rural industry, farm management, rural cooperatives, etc., will be offered by SENA throughout the country.

# QUOTES

"A most significant development in human history has been taking place during recent decades: it is the fissioning of the world into two mega-cultures—the rich and the poor. There used to be a great many countries in-between; now there are almost none. We have many striking indicators of this fissioning: the numbers of people living at various levels of energy consumption, for example, and the disparity between rich and poor nations as regards per capita GNP or steel consumption. This imbalance is so pronounced that the total disappearance of the poor countries—two-thirds of the world's population—would decrease total world consumption by only 10 percent."

Harrison Brown  
RF Illustrated  
December 1976

"In the 1950s it was generally thought that the 'hard' technology of the West—that is, complex, costly and capital-intensive equipment—was the key to the economic development of the Third World. But while highly automated plants might make sense in a place like Libya, which has enough oil revenue to afford them and a population so sparse it won't miss the jobs they eliminate, it soon became clear they have little place in poorer and more populous countries like Bangladesh."

Elizabeth Sullivan  
The Interdependent  
January 1977

"Development has not been looked at as a total process, and the technocratic approach which has influenced thinking and action for the past quarter century has fragmented the process into narrow specializations. It is necessary now to get an overview and a total approach if social scientists are to respond to the needs of the times."

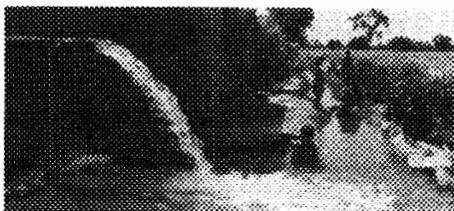
Ponna Wignaraja  
International Development Review  
September 1976

## Films, Publications Available

The AID Office of Public Affairs has produced a number of documentary films in 16 mm color and sound dealing with development and foreign aid. All are based on articles that appeared in *War on Hunger*.



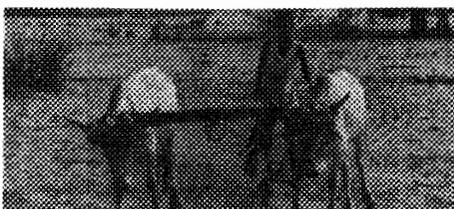
Bangladesh: A Beginning or An End? (Running time: 14:30.) Problems of hunger and overpopulation in one of the world's poorest nations. Award winner.



Pakistan: Land of Promise. (Running time: 14:30.) Use of water for power and agriculture in a developing country with great potential.



Guatemala: In the Face of Disaster. (Running time: 14:30.) Relief efforts of United States, other countries, and agencies in 1976 earthquake.



Survival in The Sahel. (Running time: 14:30.) The drought and efforts to relieve the suffering in the countries on southern edge of Sahara. Award winner.



Nicaragua: Planting the Seeds of Change. (Running time: 27:00.) Problems faced by small farmers and the rural development program designed to help them.

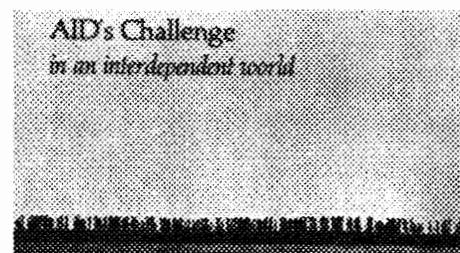
These films are available on a free loan basis. "Bangladesh" and "Pakistan" may be obtained from RHR Filmedia, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036. Phone: 212-869-9540.

"Sahel" and "Guatemala" from Association Films, 600 Grand Avenue, Ridgefield, N.J. 07657. Phone: 201-943-8200.

In addition to being available on free loan, these films can also be purchased on a cost basis by contacting Rick Houck, Capital Film Labs, 470 "E" Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

### Publications Available

A new booklet, *AID's Challenge in an Interdependent World*, is now available. The publication describes the functions and purpose of economic assistance and AID's programs in food and nutrition, population planning and health, education, disaster relief, housing, and other areas.



The special Bicentennial issue of *War on Hunger* which is devoted to the partnership between AID and private and voluntary agencies is available for further distribution to individuals and groups. This issue presents the voluntary role of Americans in foreign aid and describes the work of numerous agencies. The issue recently received an award.

Also available in limited quantity is a publication by the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., entitled: *World Population Growth and Response—1965-1975—a Decade of Global Action*.

Copies of these publications may be obtained by writing to the Press and Publications Division, A.I.D., Department of State, Room 4886, Washington, D. C. 20523.

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