

WHAT IT IS...

P. Point

4

HOW IT WORKS...

The hopes of hundreds of millions of people in the economically underdeveloped countries for a higher standard of living can become a reality only with the development of the resources of these countries. The main effort in developing their resources must come from the people of these countries themselves. Some assistance from the outside, however, is essential. Such assistance may be in the form of loans or grants to finance supplies. It may be in the form of technical training needed by these countries. In the total program of the United States Government for the economic development of these countries, the provision of technical knowledge plays a vitally important part. This booklet deals with this part of our government's total program.

what is Point 4?

IN A VILLAGE in India a former county agent from Nebraska helps Indian agricultural students and villagers repair a well, dig a compost pit, build a road to the highway.

In Liberia a group of children lines up to be vaccinated against smallpox. A nurse-instructor from South Carolina watches carefully and gives occasional suggestions to the Liberian girls administering the vaccine.

High in the Andes of Peru, an educator from Rhode Island demonstrates modern methods to Peruvian teachers.

Within the United States—in agricultural colleges, hospitals, vocational schools, industrial plants, offices, universities—technicians from many lands are learning new skills and modern methods.

All of these people represent Point Four. They are Point Four in action.

In simplest terms, Point Four is a way of helping those who want to help themselves through their own efforts and their own resources. Point Four means sharing our knowledge with the peoples of underdeveloped areas—and it means learning from them. Point Four, as a part of the foreign policy of the United States, is one of the several ways by which we help to improve living and working conditions for peoples whose way of life—in many respects—is hundreds or even thousands of years behind the twentieth century.

Point 4 is person-to-person

WHAT the county agent from Nebraska, the nurse from South Carolina, and the educator from Rhode Island are doing can be multiplied many thousands of times. Today about 1,500 technicians from every corner of the United States are working in 35 countries of the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Whatever their job—forestry, livestock improvement, land reclamation, mining, irrigation, child welfare,—their main task is to teach, to train, to demonstrate the special skills which raise living standards and promote the lasting development of the country.

Each year about a thousand technicians from underdeveloped countries come to the United States or go to training centers nearer their homeland to study advanced methods and techniques they cannot learn in their own countries. When they return home, these technicians help train their countrymen and thus multiply the technical knowledge they have gained.

Far reaching as the Point Four Program is, the job to be done is bigger. More than a billion human beings—about half the population of the earth—live in the areas where Point Four is working. Eight out of 10 are ill-fed; 7 out of 10 are chronically ill; only 3 out of 10 can read or write. In India the average span of life is only 27 years. In Iran one out of two of the babies born alive die before they are a year old. These are the basic problems the people themselves are attacking with Point Four help.

technical cooperation
is not new

SHARING skills and knowledge is not a new idea. For two hundred years Americans have drawn on skills and capital from all parts of the world to build a nation and develop a continent. Even today we are profiting from the knowledge of technicians and scientists from other countries.

For generations past, American missionaries have taken seeds, medicines, and homemaking arts to far corners of the earth, along with their spiritual message. American industry has exported know-how with its foreign investments. Philanthropic foundations have worked for health and agricultural improvement. And for the last 10 years the United States Government has carried on technical cooperation programs in Latin America and Liberia.

But it was not until President Truman in his Inaugural Address of January 1949 proposed a "bold, new program" for all the underdeveloped areas that technical cooperation became a major arm of foreign policy and an important activity of the U. S. Government.

The President's proposal was translated into law when Congress passed the Act for International Development in May 1950. The proposal was translated into action when the Technical Cooperation Administration (TCA) was created within the Department of State in September 1950 to administer the Point Four Program.

how Point 4 works

THE United States gives Point Four cooperation only at the request of a government. The terms of cooperation are put into the legal language of a Point Four general agreement between the two governments. Officials and technicians of both countries then discuss the exact nature of the jobs to be done and the contributions—in technicians, funds, services, and equipment—that each government will make. These understandings are fully described in “project agreements.”

Before the United States agrees to a specific project, a careful check is made to see that the same job is not already being done by somebody else—an agency of the United Nations or a private group such as the Ford Foundation or the Rockefeller Foundation. Duplication is avoided.

Once the United States and another country have decided on the work to be done, TCA recruits the best technicians to be found for the job. Often they are found through one of the agencies of the Government—engineers from the Department of Commerce, nurses and doctors from the Public Health Service, agriculturists from the Department of Agriculture. Some experts come from land-grant colleges. Some are on leave from universities. Often TCA contracts with private firms to do a job. This program is doing its best to draw upon all the varied technical resources of the American people.

American technicians do not tell other nationals what programs they should have or what they must do. They study the problems of other countries and try to put their knowl-

edge at the disposal of people who adapt it to their own needs and customs.

Nobody can set a deadline for finishing jobs like crop improvement, malaria control, rubber production, or sanitation. But every Point Four technician is trying to work himself out of a job by training other people to take over. Already in Latin America there are some projects which originally required the cooperation of the United States but which no longer need our help and are being run by the people of the country.

Point Four tries to put first things first. Hence in countries where most of the people suffer hunger, disease, and poverty, the greatest activity is in the fields of health and sanitation, agriculture, and education.

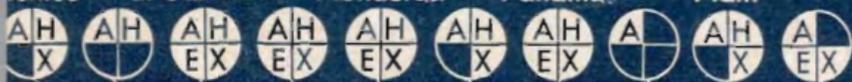
But a great deal of work is going on in industry, transportation, mineral development, and other fields. Point Four has technicians working abroad in the development of natural resources; in public administration and government services; in transportation and communications; in industry, housing, social services; and in the field of labor. But by far the largest number are working in agriculture, forestry, fisheries; in health and sanitation; and in education.

Point 4 means cooperation

PPOINT FOUR is a program of cooperation—of people working together. Scientific knowledge and skill cannot be given away. They must be shared.

POINT 4 AROUND THE WORLD

Guatemala Nicaragua Costa Rica Cuba Dom. Republic
Mexico El Salvador Honduras Panama Haiti

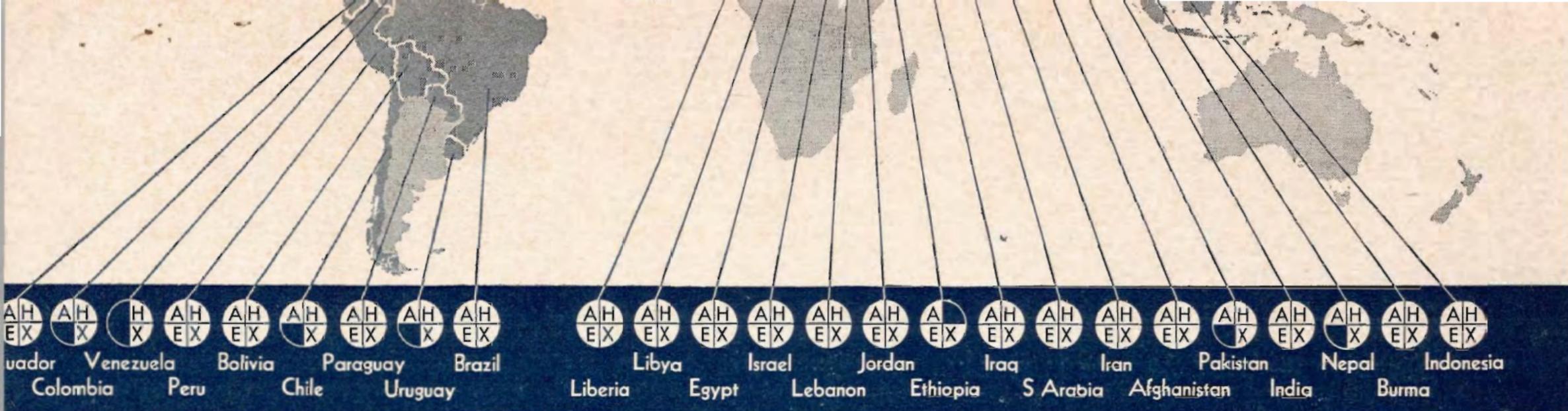


AGRICULTURE
EDUCATION



HEALTH & SANITATION

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRIAL
& OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES



Boundaries shown are not necessarily
 recognized by the United States Government

----- status in dispute

Technical Cooperation Administration—Department of State
 January 1953

BEST AVAILABLE

Each technical-cooperation project clearly states the contributions of the United States and those of the cooperating nation in terms of manpower, equipment, and money. Experience shows that as the program goes forward the participating countries develop their interest and the size of their contributions increases. The United States contribution generally consists of technicians plus the cost of the equipment they need to demonstrate their skills and to make them effective. In some cases, because of special circumstances, the United States is providing supplementary funds, which may be administered jointly by the United States and the cooperating government.

The principle of cooperation prevails in dealings with the people themselves. When farmers are taught modern ways of planting and provided with improved wheat seed, as in Iran, they are expected to share their improved seed from the next harvest with a neighbor who has received none. In Liberia and Iran farmers pay for better breeds of poultry by giving up their own inferior chickens.

Point 4 and private investment

TECHNICAL cooperation also lays the foundation for the investment of the private and loan capital needed for long-range development.

It helps to create conditions that make investment worth while: public-health improvement boosts the productivity of labor; vocational schools increase the supply of skilled workers; more food, clean water, irrigation

help raise standards of living, create demand for goods and services, and give the people the purchasing power to buy these goods and services.

Extensive services to business and investment are provided by other Government agencies. Point Four is able to advise American business on how to adapt its methods and products to resources and markets in particular countries served by the program.

Not long ago, Point Four sent a marketing expert to a Middle East country which gets a large part of its export income from citrus fruits. There he demonstrated American methods of picking, grading, packing, and shipping. Adapting these methods to local conditions increased production, cut down losses, and opened a market for American tools.

In the past, most Americans thought only large concerns had the capital and experience to go into foreign investment. Point Four may well show that the small businessman can do it, too. Often his best opportunity will be in partnership with local capital.

what does Point 4 cost?

THE entire Point Four Program for the year ending July 1, 1953, will cost the American people \$156,576,000—less than the price of one battleship. (Since Point Four started in 1950—nearly 3 years ago—the total cost will have been about \$2.17 to each American.) This includes the cost of United States contributions to technical assistance through the United Nations and the Organization of American States as well as TCA.

what do we get out of

Point 4?

PPOINT FOUR has been called humanitarian—idealistic: If Point Four is idealism, it is hard-headed, practical idealism.

There are sound economic reasons behind Point Four. We know that with rising national income and greater industrial activity other nations can produce more and sell more. They can also become better customers. The result is that world trade as a whole improves. Our share in this expansion of trade creates markets for American businessmen and farmers and jobs for American workers.

Point Four contributes to American security. As it strengthens the independence and stability of countries where it operates, Point Four helps the free world in its struggle against Communist inroads.

Another point to keep in mind is the need to develop the raw-material resources of the world. The development of these resources will benefit both the underdeveloped and the developed countries, including the United States, which depends on underdeveloped areas for about 75 percent of the raw materials it uses. For example, we get rubber from Indonesia, tin from Bolivia, manganese from India, coconut and other essential oils from Latin America, iron ore from Venezuela. We have become in many respects a "have-not" nation. We import raw materials to maintain our standard of living as well as our defense.

But, beyond considerations of self-interest, there are underlying motives for Point Four—motives imbedded deep in our American democratic traditions and deep in the heart of man.

The billion human souls who live in the underdeveloped areas are now beginning to awaken to the potentialities of life in the twentieth century. Many of them have gained national independence. They are learning that hunger, disease, and ignorance need not be their everlasting heritage.

In Point Four we have created an instrumentality and have taken the initiative to help them.

Point Four provides not only the means for mechanical and material advancement, but also the means for demonstrating the social and spiritual values which are the deep strength of the democratic way.

Point Four is the vehicle on which scientific knowledge, technical invention, and material progress become traveling companions with our ideals, our hopes, and our aspirations for achieving real brotherhood among men.

POINT 4 CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

1949

Jan. 20 Technical-assistance program first announced as Point Four of President's Inaugural Address.

Jan. 27 Department of State assigned responsibility for Point Four Program planning.

1950

June 5 Point Four enabling legislation (P. L. 535) approved by the President.

Sept. 8 The President, by Executive Order 10159, delegates authority for administration of Point Four to the Secretary of State.

- Oct. 19* First Point Four agreement signed with Iran covering Village Improvement Project.
- Oct. 27* Departmental Announcement 212 establishes the Technical Cooperation Administration.
- Dec. 1* Henry Garland Bennett becomes Administrator of the Technical Cooperation Administration.

1951

- Oct. 10* Mutual Security Act approved.
- Oct. 31* Mutual-security appropriation (fiscal '52) approved.
- Dec. 22* Dr. Bennett with his wife and three members of the TCA staff killed in an airplane crash near Tehran.

1952

- May 1* Stanley Andrews becomes Administrator of the Technical Cooperation Administration.
- June 20* Mutual Security Act approved. Under this act TCA took over technical-assistance programs in Burma and Indonesia.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PUBLICATION 4868
ECONOMIC COOPERATION SERIES 39

Released February 1953

Division of Publications
Office of Public Affairs

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
PRICE 5 CENTS