

AMERICAN  
PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES  
PROJECT

of the

INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION  
ADMINISTRATION



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*What It's all About*  
*Making The Benefits of Civilization Available to All*

Adult foreign technicians of all professions are being brought to this country by the International Cooperation Administration and given training in our American knowledge and skills. Approximately 2,500 are here now; and, since 1942, at which time the program was instituted, there have been about 31,000, - 12,000 of this number coming from the underdeveloped countries.

It becomes obvious, therefore, that we Americans, through our Government, are making a tremendous investment in an attempt to raise the world's standard of technical competency.

These thousands of technicians are being brought here for further education and training in the full expectation they may more effectively contribute to the economic and cultural development of their several countries. And, by reason of this experience afforded them, they return to their homes favorably disposed toward the United States of America.

The desired effectiveness of the program becomes imperiled, however, when, following departure for their homelands, adequate continuing friendly professional contact is not *maintained*. There is such a splendid potential here, both in terms of building a world-wide backlog of good will and in the mutual sharing of knowledge and skills, that it seems a pity to invest millions of dollars annually in training these persons, when so little more is required to make possible an effective *continuing* contact. Such contact could prove to be of inestimable benefit to the technicians themselves, to the people of their respective countries, and, at the same time, further United States self-interest abroad. Furthermore, it would contribute toward the very basic

need of encouraging in the underdeveloped countries the growth of free institutions.

To *fill* this tragic void, then, - this is the concern of leaders in our Government today.

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### ***The American Professional Societies Project It's Beginnings***

While an ongoing program of follow-up has been in the making for some time, the present project utilizing the services of American professional associations was authorized late in 1955 under ICA Director, John B. Hollister. Numerous professions are involved. The task is to provide these foreign technicians the type of continuing contact needed with their professional colleagues. Essential to the program, therefore, are services U.S. professional associations are peculiarly well qualified to render; and the program is based upon the assumption that, once interested, these associations will cooperate whole-heartedly.

There may be as many as 2,000 or more American professional societies. It is obvious that all of these societies cannot be used, and should not be. But some will; and choice of these, in the beginning stage at least, is made as a result of recommendations submitted by as many as 200 persons: representatives of the various agencies of Government having responsibility for training the technicians while they are in the U.S., training officers of USOM's (United States Operations Missions) who usually have personal knowledge of them, and other U.S. professionals, - all of whom themselves are directly affiliated with, or possess accurate information concerning, U.S. professional associations.

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### ***Wisdom in Taking Precautions***

The program at present includes only those technicians brought here by the International Cooperation Administration.

Furthermore, it includes only those technicians from the 51 underdeveloped countries, - which excludes Europe, except Greece and Turkey. In most European countries, professional associations have existed for many years.

In launching the project, it was thought wise to learn through experience; and, as a means to this end, a pilot group of technicians was selected from a limited number of fields of activity, and involving but a small number of U.S. professional societies. Areas of greatest human need were decided upon: public health workers, nurses, home economists, public administrators, soil conservationists, foresters, and statisticians, - about 2,500 technicians in all.

And, for these, seven societies were selected:

- American Public Health Association ✓
- American Nurses' Association ✓
- American Home Economics Association
- American Society for Public Administration
- Soil Conservation Society of America
- Society of American Foresters
- American Statistical Association

To speed completion of the program, a second group was drawn up for use in the next stage. And, in like fashion, the plan is to add group after group of societies until all foreign technicians trained in the U.S. under ICA auspices (or predecessor agencies) have had opportunity to enroll under this program. The response of the technicians themselves, of course, is entirely voluntary. They may elect to participate, or they may not; and the choice, in any event, rests with them.

Only after giving the matter painstaking study was it decided that, for their part, the technicians, in order to participate, should be called upon to pay directly to their respective U.S. professional association a nominal fee.

It is recognized, of course, that incomes of persons in the underdeveloped countries are scarcely comparable to U.S. incomes. In some of these countries, for example, an experienced commissioner of education may be receiving compensation less

than that received in the U.S. by a beginning teacher in the primary grades. A cabinet minister may be paid less than American stenographic help. The U.S. Government, therefore, feels compelled to pay the major portion of the costs involved. Fees to be paid by the technicians are really token sums in amounts such as take into consideration the local economy and, at the same time, are fair to the technicians. Amounts were determined after first consulting USOM's in ten areas of the world possessing different levels of economy, and a study made of comparable incomes of Americans and foreign technicians in the same fields of activity.

Inquiry was made of approximately 500 participants residing in 16 countries, and it has been gratifying to note that, without exception, they themselves appear to desire to pay what they can. In order to help preserve their own dignity and self-respect, it has been deemed best they be required to do so.

Shortage of foreign exchange on the part of foreign governments can afford a formidable obstacle to obtaining funds; but, following a careful check, it seems apparent that media are available to participants of all but a few of the underdeveloped countries, and that, for these few, it will be possible for USOM's to provide means of exchange.

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### ***Specific Services to be Rendered by Societies***

Contracts are drawn by ICA with the U.S. professional associations to render certain specific services, although the associations themselves, because the Government assumes they know best just what should be done and how, are encouraged to use their own imagination and initiative. Minimum services requested by the Government are: (1) the granting of some status of membership, depending upon provisions of constitution and by-laws, and an attractive certificate indicating this status; (2) subscriptions to journals, bulletins, and other publications supplied state-side members; (3) replies to requests or questions of a professional character; and (4) assistance in the formation of indigenous organizations.

Initially, these agreements between ICA and the professional associations cover a period of three years, ICA paying the societies the difference between the amount paid by the foreign technician and costs to the society.

Every effort is made to stress the importance of the individual, and, through practical professional channels, to afford him proof conclusive that the American people are interested, concerned, and wish to help. The ultimate goal is obvious: to link, in fellowship and mutual sharing, persons of a given field of activity, - to link them on a world-scale basis, rather than on national lines.

Americans, generally, are more or less aware of the fact that their country, in many ways, is aiding countries of the world. It may not be as true generally that all who have been made aware of this fact possess an understanding appreciation of the philosophy prompting such aid.

For this reason, it may be well to speak of *philosophy*, - the philosophy undergirding the project just described, and, to an extent at least, perhaps the whole of our U.S. program of technical assistance.

### *The Philosophy*

"Ours is a time when great things must again be dared in faith." The words are those of President Eisenhower, spoken in the summer of 1954, in addressing the Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

Peoples of the world are hungry for peace; and, obviously, this deep and widespread urge should be encouraged. But there is danger that, in their desire for peace, people merely long for a time when the free world can be "free from worry." Peace is not just the absence of war. *Peace is a state of being in which mutual interests between nations are developed. Action is mandatory!*

People are prone to ask why we give technical and economic assistance to other nations. They wonder what our motives are.

The answer, in great measure, certainly, resides in the hearts of our people. America has always demonstrated readiness to respond to cries for help, whether issuing from home or abroad. Anywhere in the world, let tragedy strike, - be it fire, or flood, or famine, America responds as though by instinct. This spirit of benevolence is commendable, as it is obvious; but there are considerations less apparent.

It is to our own interest, as it is that of other free nations, that we band together in order to attain mutual ends. The future of the United States of America and the future of the free world are interdependent. That each and every one of the other free nations grows in strength and vitality and equips itself to benefit fully from opportunities which lie ahead is to our own self-interest. The stronger the individual player, the stronger the team; and the self-interest of each becomes the mutual interest of all.

America looks upon herself and the other free nations as *partners* in a common enterprise. She knows her representatives abroad are guests in sovereign nations; and she will go nowhere uninvited.

The British historian, Arnold Toynbee, tells us our time will be remembered "not for its horrifying crimes or its astonishing inventions, but because it is the first age since the dawn of history in which mankind dared to believe it practical to make the benefits of civilization available to the whole human race."

It goes without saying that our country is giving support to the plans of many nations for their own development, both economic and cultural. Sharing techniques create conditions attractive to many investment sources. Such growth will be of mutual benefit, since progress at any one point tends to induce progress generally.

Conditions of life in vast areas of the world present a formidable challenge to the entire free world.

Underdeveloped areas of Asia, Africa, and Latin America contain two-thirds of the population of the free world. Average incomes are a fraction of those of the people in the more highly

developed areas of the world. They have an average life expectancy of thirty-six years, compared with sixty-seven years in the developed areas. They have an average illiteracy rate of 70%.

In many of these areas, poverty, misery and oppression are ancient and familiar conditions of life. The peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America are no longer willing, however, to accept the hardships of the past as being natural and inevitable. They know that progress is possible and they are willing to work for it. In this situation, individuals and nations often become susceptible to the blandishments and false promises of dictatorship, but the prospect for continued independence and freedom, so recently won in many of these countries, remains good if economic and social progress can be made.

In order to make such progress at a rate sufficient to sustain their confidence in their free institutions, these people desire and need capital and technical skills. They need additional help in learning modern methods of agriculture and to obtain water for their lands; they need help with their educational institutions. They need the facilities of modern transportation — roads, railroads and harbors. They need electric power facilities, hospitals and health services, trained research and extension workers, adequate communications systems and, indeed, all the basic knowledge and abilities necessary to the functioning of their governments and economies.

As a people, we do not wish to stand aside from this struggle. It is our interest as a nation to help these nations help themselves. We must deliberately press forward in this spirited effort to make the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress of use in the underdeveloped areas.

Ask officials of almost any country in the world what were the principal responsibilities of their governments before the war. Almost invariably their answer will be: Maintenance of law and order, and collection of taxes. Ask these same officials about their governments' present responsibilities, and their answer will come back with equal unanimity: Growing more food, building more schools, digging more wells, eliminating malaria, ridding

the countryside of tsetse flies and rinderpest, building roads to help get village goods to market.

What more convincing evidence could there be of the momentous changes now taking place! It is not surprising that the new awakening has profound political implications.

Before the war, things were done *to* peoples of the underdeveloped countries. More recently, things were done *for* them. The task now, however, and our challenge, is to do things *with* them.

If a partnership is effected between America's capital and scientific know-how and the human and natural resources of the underdeveloped countries, the future may be infinitely more prosperous and satisfying for America as well as for the underdeveloped countries.

We can and should help promote this essential partnership which will serve to enlarge the areas of freedom and material well-being for men everywhere. In fact, this objective is ethical in character. And, too, it may hold for us something of a warning, since the strategic metals, for example, will remain available to us over a period of time only if the strategic peoples of the underdeveloped countries remain our friends.

In the manufacture of an American automobile, 184 different materials are used; and, of these, 38 are imported.

The U.S. has 6% of the world's population, the free world as a whole more than 65%. The U.S. relies upon foreign countries for 100% of our natural rubber, 100% of our tin, 99% of our chromite, 95% of our manganese, 72% of our tungsten, and for a large portion of many other commodities essential to our military strength and economic well being. We export 30% of our wheat and cotton, 25% of our tractors, 11% of our machine tools.

Peoples of the world progress to the extent they share their experiences in meeting life's problems. A discovery by a rice planter in Thailand benefits a man in Brazil. The Brazilian, in turn, improves the technique and so increases still more benefits accruing to the Thai discoverer. This is the essence of technical

cooperation. Throughout its history, our country has held open the door to skills and experiences of all peoples; and today our society benefits directly from the contributions of Japanese scientists, Indian agriculturalists, Egyptian irrigation experts, European technicians, and so on.

President Eisenhower refers to this program of technical assistance as being "an indispensable part of a realistic and enlightened national policy, directed towards the fixed and un-wavering objective of a just and enduring peace."

Through it, as we have seen, we help to increase the economic strength and well-being of our friends abroad. This is the means by which we bring our technical knowledge to people who ask our help in developing their economies, in producing the food, in providing the education, in creating the health necessary to the better life they seek. Through this program we help accelerate the economic development of nations struggling to advance and whose continuing progress is of deep concern to us. Through it we are able to encourage economic progress, political stability, and growth in freedom and independence.

We are closer to the rest of the world today, more dependent upon it, more deeply effected by what goes on in it, than ever before. Our future is directly and intimately affected by events which will take place, which are now taking place, in distant lands on other continents.

New events and situations have made it important that we turn our efforts toward *helping to shape events for peace and progress* in this Hemisphere, In Europe, in the Near East, Africa, and the great areas of Free Asia.

Employment of military power, violent revolution and subversive infiltration has subjected hundreds of millions of persons to domination. In five short years between 1945 and 1950, fourteen nations in Europe and Asia, covering over five million square miles and including more than seven hundred million persons, were required to learn and practice undemocratic ways. But employment of military power, violent revolution and subversive infiltration are most likely to succeed where there is

want of economic and military strength, where there is political disorder and social disunity, where democratic institutions are poorly developed, and where there is lack of awareness of the sweeping consequences of dictatorship. And, conversely, these methods are least likely to succeed in a country which is prosperous, well governed, united, devoted to liberty, democratic and alert to the virtues of a way of life based upon human rights and responsibilities.

Undemocratic ways stand to lose eventually by anything that benefits an underdeveloped nation economically. Such assistance may not breed gratitude, and it assuredly does not produce military alliances. Our far-flung aid programs since World War II have produced neither. What it has done, and does do, however, is help build economic strength and thereby contribute to political stability, strengthen insistence upon national independence and create conditions out of which a love of freedom can grow. Our present U.S. approach, which leaves a people to develop along lines of their true self-interest, is bound in the long run to be the sensible approach, - psychologically sound, socially acceptable, and morally right.

Senator Theodore Francis Green (Rhode Island), in reporting (Jan. 13, 1956) his Study Mission covering eleven countries of the Far East, South Asia, and the Middle East, pointed strongly to the need of less emphasis upon supplying equipment and more upon *training people*. "(One of the principal problems facing these countries) is the lack of trained craftsmen of all kinds. The United States can make a great contribution by constantly emphasizing the fact that *people*, not things, are really important."

ICA's American Professional Societies Project is a worthy witness to America's conviction that people, - *persons*, that is, are important.