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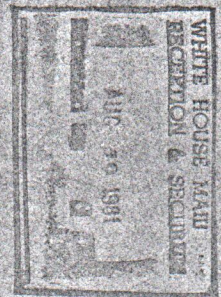
Peace Corps

Washington, D.C. 20525

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Honorable Francis S. M. Hodson
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500



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ACTION



PRESERVATION COPY

**1961
1981**

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**PEACE
CORPS**

806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525

AUG 18 1981

Honorable Francis S. M. Hodsoll
Deputy Assistant to The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Frank:

I am delighted to bring you good news following my first extensive domestic trip in support of the Peace Corps under the leadership of President Reagan. The objectives of my itinerary to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Denver were fourfold:

- to continue to inspect and review our recruitment program,
- to kick off major recruitment drives in each city,
- to continue this year's special 20th Anniversary celebration, and
- to take the word to staff, former Volunteers, and current recruits that the Reagan Administration solidly and conscientiously supports a strong Peace Corps.

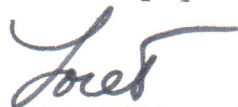
At the well-known and prestigious Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, before an audience of nearly 500, I was proud to be able to say that the Peace Corps is a government program that works. Volunteerism being the lifeblood of this Administration, I related to those Bay Area community leaders that Peace Corps is a cost effective investment that pays excellent dividends to the receiving countries and to the United States alike. I am enclosing for you a copy of my address. The speech represents my hopes and plans for the Peace Corps.

In each of the three cities, I was on local television and radio and met with editors and reporters, again imparting the message that Peace Corps development assistance is needed in the 1980's more than ever. A highlight was the Sixth Annual Peace Corps Fair, held at the University of Denver. There, local Peace Corps alumni and our recruitment office jointly sponsored activities that included fifty country booths and displays, dances, music and international food. More than 2000 Denver citizens attended. This sort of community initiative and interest is one reason Colorado is the top provider of Peace Corps Volunteers on a per capita basis. As I spoke at the Town Hall of California, in Los Angeles, my newly confirmed Deputy, Everett Alvarez, was off to San Diego to meet the media and Peace Corps alumni, likewise stimulating our recruitment efforts.

While this trip was highly successful, it is but the beginning of a concerted nationwide effort to boost recruitment, our life's blood. Our organization is effective and respected by host governments in direct proportion to the quality and quantity of dedicated and well trained Volunteers America sends overseas. Prime Minister Edward Seaga, of Jamaica, speaking at our 20th Anniversary National Conference in June, called for more agronomists. Africa needs more health workers today than it did in the 60's. The world's rapidly shrinking forests call for more and more Americans with forestry and natural resource degrees. Latin American governments are requesting Volunteers to help initiate beginning special education programs. The public needs to know the severity and urgency of the development problems that threaten peace, and it needs to know that Peace Corps is alive and well in the 80's, working on these problems.

I will continue in the weeks and months to come to report to you our success and improvements, as well as our challenges and problems. I count on your leadership and guidance. I hope, with your help, that we can rekindle in the public's mind the enthusiasm and support for the Peace Corps that we need to confront these monumental development problems overseas.

Sincerely yours,



Loret Miller Ruppe
Director

Enclosure

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806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525

ADDRESS BY

LORET MILLER RUPPE

DIRECTOR

PEACE CORPS

COMMONWEALTH CLUB

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

JULY 24, 1981

I AM VERY HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ADDRESS THIS ILLUSTRIOUS FORUM TODAY. WHENEVER I TOLD ANYONE IN WASHINGTON DC THAT I WAS FLYING OUT HERE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS, THEY WERE IMPRESSED. AND YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO IMPRESS WASHINGTON ABOUT LIFE BEYOND THE BANKS OF THE POTOMAC...SO I COME TO YOU TODAY WITH RESPECT AND I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME TIME.

AS PEACE CORPS CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY, THE QUESTION ARISES, "WHY A PEACE CORPS IN THE 80'S?" IT'S A QUESTION WHICH COULD NOT FIND A BETTER FORUM THAN HERE TODAY, AND IT SHOULD BE TREATED AS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS TOPICS OF OUR DAY. SPEAKING OF TODAY, THE QUESTION OF "WHY A PEACE CORPS IN THE 80'S?" SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ON THE TODAY SHOW, GOOD MORNING AMERICA, AND I HOPE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, IT WILL BE. IT SHOULD BE ON DONAHUE, ON THE TONIGHT SHOW, ON EVERY NEWS AND TALK SHOW. IT SHOULD BE WRITTEN AND DISCUSSED IN EVERY NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, AND JOURNAL IN AMERICA, AND I HOPE DURING THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, IT WILL BE. A START HAS BEEN MADE DURING THIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY, TO RE-FOCUS OUR IMAGE BUT MUCH OF THAT FOCUS WAS ON THE PAST. THE FOCUS NOW MUST BE ON THE FUTURE, ON THE CHALLENGES OF THE 80'S. THE PEACE CORPS' WAY OF VOLUNTEER, PERSON-TO-PERSON,

SELF HELP PROJECTS SHOULD BE FOREMOST IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL AMERICANS, AND IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL LEADERS OF THE FREE WORLD WHO HAVE SIMILAR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS: GERMANY, JAPAN, CANADA, BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND THE UN WITH ITS UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. PEACE CORPS'---AND OTHERS'--WAY OF HUMAN CARING AND SHARING--- WHICH THE DEVELOPING WORLD HUNGERS FOR, AND WHICH SHOWS "THE BEST THAT IS IN US" WHEN WE RESPOND---THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE PRIMARY TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AT OTTAWA, OR AT ANY GATHERING OF WORLD LEADERS, AND WE HOPE TO BUILD SUPPORT SO IT WILL BE, BECAUSE IF WE ARE TO LIVE IN A WORLD TRULY AT PEACE, IT MUST BE.

I REPRESENT A GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT HAS GREAT CREDIBILITY, LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION, BUT WHOSE FINE WORK FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS OR SO, CONTRARY TO YOURS, HAS BEEN SUBMERGED WITHIN THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN LIFE. THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES WHO, WHEN PEACE CORPS IS MENTIONED, SAY, "OH, IS THAT STILL AROUND? I HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT IN YEARS." TO SAY THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN FOR US WOULD BE TO CHARACTERIZE IT TOO LIGHTLY. IT IS OF GRAVE CONCERN. RECENTLY I ATTENDED AN EMBASSY GATHERING GIVEN BY ONE OF OUR HOST COUNTRIES. I WAS TALKING WITH A WELL-KNOWN COLUMNIST'S WIFE. I HAD MY PEACE CORPS

BUTTON PINNED PROUDLY ON MY DRESS. SHE LOOKED AT IT AND ECHOED THE QUESTION WHICH IS TOO PREVALENT TODAY: "PEACE CORPS? IS IT STILL ALIVE? IS IT STILL AROUND?"

HOW CAN THIS BE? HOW CAN AMERICANS NOT KNOW? WHY AREN'T THEY GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAND UP AND BE PROUD OF A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM THAT HAS TAPPED THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA? THAT BOARD SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM, OF WHICH PRESIDENT REAGAN SO OFTEN SPEAKS, CALLING IT "A SPIRIT THAT FLOWS LIKE A DEEP AND MIGHTY RIVER THROUGH THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION..."

THIS LOSS OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORK OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, I FEAR, HAS MADE US LOSE SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF POTENTIAL AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS AT A TIME WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED MORE THAN THEY EVER WERE. WHEN I AM OUT IN THE FIELD TALKING WITH VOLUNTEERS, I LIKE TO ASK THEM, "HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN PEACE CORPS?" THEY ALMOST UNIVERSALLY SAY THEY STARTED THINKING OF BEING A VOLUNTEER FROM THE TIME THEY WERE 13 OR 14 YEARS OLD. BUT YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY, AND AMERICANS OF ALL AGES, ARE NOT AWARE OF THE FACT THAT RIGHT NOW, OVERSEAS, THERE ARE 5400 OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, 725 OF WHOM ARE FROM THIS GREAT STATE OF CALIFORNIA. THESE 5400 AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS ARE WORKING IN 60 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING? 45% TEACH SPECIFIC SKILLS OR ACADEMIC SUBJECTS; 19% WORK IN HEALTH OR NUTRITION; 15% WORK IN AGRICULTURE; 7% IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; 5% IN ENERGY CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE; 4% IN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION. THEY ARE LIVING UP TO THE TRUE AND BASIC MANDATE OF THE PEACE CORPS ACT---PROMOTING WORLD PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP BY SHARING AMERICA'S TALENTS AND SKILLS, ITS TRAINED MANPOWER, WITH COUNTRIES WHO MORE AND MORE ARE ASKING AMERICA FOR THESE VOLUNTEERS, AND WHO NEED THEM MORE NOW IN 1981 THAN IN 1961 WHEN THE PEACE CORPS WAS BORN. THEY NEED THEM MORE BECAUSE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, DUE TO INFLATION, DUE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS, DUE TO GROWING POPULATIONS AND SHRINKING FOOD SUPPLY, ARE PUTTING WORLD PEACE AND SURVIVAL ON THE LINE.

SO I COME TO YOU TODAY, TO REAFFIRM THE PEACE CORPS, TO PRAISE A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, TO TELL OF THE WORK, THE DEDICATION, AND THE COMMITMENT OF OVER 80,000 AMERICANS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS. 80,000 PEOPLE, OVER 14,000 OF THEM FROM CALIFORNIA (THANK YOU!!), YOUNG, OLD, IN BETWEEN, ALL RACES, ALL FAITHS, MEN AND WOMEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE---SOME HIGHLY SKILLED FROM A LIFETIME OF HONING THAT SKILL IN THE MARKETPLACE---SOME NEWLY GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE WITH A PARTICULAR SKILL---SOME WITH GENERAL

SKILLS THAT WE CAN TRAIN IN AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, BASIC HEALTH, RURAL SANITATION, TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE AGENT OF CHANGE IN A COUNTRY THAT IS REACHING OUT TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF ITS PEOPLE, THAT SEES THESE AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS AS A NECESSARY ELEMENT OF ITS BASIC DEVELOPMENT.

AFTER 20 YEARS, I AM PROUD TO TELL YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA THAT THIS IS A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM THAT HAS WORKED. THIS IS A COST EFFECTIVE VENTURE THAT YOU, AS AMERICAN TAXPAYERS AND AMERICAN BUSINESS PEOPLE, CAN BE PROUD OF. YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO ASK ME, "HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, HOW CAN YOU SAY IT'S WORKED? I HAVEN'T HEARD OF THE PEACE CORPS IN YEARS---AND WHEN I HAVE HEARD OF IT, OFTEN IT'S BEEN SOME INCIDENT---PEACE CORPS BEING ASKED TO LEAVE A COUNTRY, OR PEACE CORPS BEING A BUNCH OF DRAFT DODGERS OR LONG-HAIRED HIPPIES..."

WELL, LET ME TELL YOU THE REAL STORY. IN THESE MONTHS SINCE TAKING OFFICE, I HAVE BECOME AN EXPERT---THOUGH I WOULD BE THE FIRST TO SAY THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO BE LEARNED...DEVELOPMENT WORK IN A COUNTRY IS A LONG AND SLOWLY EVOLVING PROCESS, AND DEVELOPMENT WORK OF A GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR MAY TAKE EVEN LONGER!...BUT I AM BECOMING AN EXPERT AT LISTENING TO THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE WORK OF OUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, MOVING FORWARD FROM THOSE FIRST VOLUNTEERS

WHO GOT OFF THE PLANE IN GHANA IN 1961 SINGING THAT COUNTRY'S NATIONAL ANTHEM IN TWI, GHANA'S NATIVE TONGUE, TO OUR LATEST GROUPS OF TRAINEES WHO JUST LEFT FOR MALI, SIERRA LEONE, AND SENEGAL, THIS VERY MONTH...AND A VERY SPECIAL GROUP THAT JUST LEFT FOR GHANA, WHICH MAKES A 20 YEAR LINK OF VOLUNTEER WORK WITH THAT COUNTRY.

IF YOU WERE TO ASK, "WHY A PEACE CORPS IN THE 80'S?"... WHO WOULD YOU GO TO TO GET A VALID REPORT? WOULDN'T IT BE LOGICAL TO ASK AMERICANS WHO HAVE LIVED AND WORKED OVERSEAS, OF THEIR IMPRESSIONS? IN WASHINGTON, ALL THE NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADORS MAKE COURTESY CALLS ON THE HEADS OF WHATEVER AGENCIES HAVE INPUT INTO COUNTRIES THEY REPRESENT. I WANT TO REPORT TO YOU THAT I HAVE NOW HAD MEETINGS WITH APPROXIMATELY TWENTY AMBASSADORS, WHO REPRESENT EXTENSIVE OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE. EACH ONE HAS TOLD ME THAT THEY CONSIDER OUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR WORK TO BE ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE AND APPRECIATED AMERICAN PRESENCES IN THE COUNTRIES THEY HAVE SERVED IN...AND THEY ASK ME TO KEEP THE SAME NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, OR BETTER YET, SEND MORE. WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU GO FOR A VALID REPORT. I HAVE MET WITH EACH ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT--- THEY EACH REPRESENT A REGION OF THE WORLD---AND THEY TELL ME THE SAME THING. THE REALIZATION THAT THE WORK OF THE VOLUNTEERS

IS TRULY HELPING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, EVEN IF AN INCH AT A TIME. IT'S HAPPENING! TWENTY YEARS OF INCHES HAVE PRODUCED A YARDSTICK OF POSITIVE RESULTS, AND HAVE MADE PERMANENT BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP, IN MANY CASES KINSHIP BETWEEN THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS AND INDIVIDUAL VILLAGERS, FARMERS, EDUCATORS, BUSINESSMEN, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THOSE 90 COUNTRIES WHERE PEACE CORPS HAS HAD PROGRAMS.

JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, PEACE CORPS SPONSORED ALONG WITH THE PEACE CORPS INSTITUTE AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RETURNED VOLUNTEERS, A 20TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON DC. NEARLY 2000 FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, FROM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, ATTENDED. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN THE DAY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE. THERE, IN THE OVAL OFFICE, WITH A PEACE CORPS BUTTON PINNED TO HIS LAPEL, HE TOLD ME OF HIS DEEP INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT TO THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT OF AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT AND I TALKED ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS---TALKED ABOUT HOW IT AND ACTION, THE DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER AGENCY, ARE REALLY THE HEART OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. THERE IS NO LESS A NEED FOR "HEART" IN 1981 THAN THERE WAS IN 1961. IF YOU WERE RESEARCHING "WHY THE PEACE CORPS IN THE 80'S?" WOULDN'T YOU GO TO COUNTRIES WHERE PEACE CORPS HAS PROGRAMS, TO SEE WHAT THE LOCAL LEADERS AND PEOPLE SAY? I DID, AND WHEN I WAS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN, I TOLD HIM OF MY FIRST TRIP ABROAD. IN MAY, I TRAVELLED TO GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND ECUADOR. I BARELY WAS OFF THE PLANE IN GUATEMALA CITY

WHEN I WAS DRIVEN QUICKLY TO THE NATIONAL BUILDING. THERE THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SPENT AN HOUR EXTOLLING THE WORK OF THE VOLUNTEERS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN OUR FISHERIES PROGRAM.

ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS IS FRESH WATER FISHERIES, IT HAS SUCH QUICK RESULTS AND SUCCESS. WE CAN TAKE A WELL-MOTIVATED AMERICAN---IT IS BEST IF THEY HAVE SCIENCE OR BIOLOGY BACKGROUND---AND TRAIN THEM TO BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE VILLAGE FARMERS TO DIG A POND, FILL IT, STOCK A FAST-GROWING FISH, AND WITHIN THREE MONTHS THEY CAN HARVEST A CROP OF PROTEIN-RICH FOOD AND REFILL THE POND AND START THE CYCLE ANEW. YOU HAVE TO REALIZE THAT WE ARE PRIMARILY LOCATED IN COUNTRIES WHERE THERE MIGHT BE A 50 PERCENT INFANT MORTALITY RATE...50 TO 70 PERCENT MALNUTRITION, A PER CAPITA AVERAGE INCOME OF \$160 A YEAR. TO PROVIDE SUCH A PLACE WITH A SYSTEM OF PRODUCTIVE FISH PONDS GIVES A WHOLE AREA A SOURCE OF INCOME AND A SOURCE OF PROTEIN. IT GIVES THEM A FUTURE. A HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL WHO WAS AT A RECENT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU, QUOTED THE PRESIDENT AS SAYING:

THE BEST WAY FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO HELP
"HAVE NOT" NATIONS IS TO TEACH THEM HOW TO FEND
FOR THEMSELVES.

AT THIS MEETING, THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE
STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT

THE BEST THING WE CAN DO FOR THE LESS-DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES IS TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEM EXACTLY HOW
THEY CAN BRING ABOUT ECONOMIC ADVANCE AND GROWTH
ON THEIR OWN.

WHO IS BETTER EQUIPPED TO GIVE THAT DEMONSTRATION IN 1981
THAN PEACE CORPS, OUR VOLUNTEERS, AFTER 20 YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE?

AT OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER SEAGA
OF JAMAICA CAME TO WASHINGTON, DC SPECIFICALLY TO ADDRESS
US. HE IS A HARVARD EDUCATED ECONOMIST. HE KNOWS THE
PEACE CORPS, HE WAS PRESENT AT THE SWEARING IN OF THE
FIRST GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS IN JAMAICA, AND HE HAS FOLLOWED
OUR HISTORY CLOSELY. HERE IS WHAT HE SAID:

IN THIS WORLD OF ORDINARY PROBLEMS AND ORDINARY
FOLK, HELPING TO BUILD A WATER TANK, TEACHING
FARMERS IN THE FIELD, BRINGING LITERACY TO THE
UNSCHOOLED, ARE MIGHTIER MESSAGES OF INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDSHIP THAN THE TREATIES AND CONCORDS WHICH
RESOLVE CONFLICTS AND HOSTILITIES BETWEEN STATES.

PRIME MINISTER SEAGA IS ONE OF OUR GREAT SUPPORTERS TODAY. HE IS ASKING US FOR AGRICULTURALISTS, AGRONOMISTS, AND OTHERS WHO CAN HELP TRAIN HIS TRAINEES. HE WANTS TO SEE THE PEACE CORPS DO MORE OF THIS IN THE 80'S---TO HAVE MORE OF A MULTIPLIER EFFECT. THIS IS ONE OF OUR CHALLENGES FOR THE 80'S AND I HOPE YOU CAN HELP US MEET IT.

TIME AFTER TIME, DURING MY TRIP TO CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, IDENTICAL SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE PEACE CORPS WAS VOICED...BY PRESIDENTS, MINISTERS, LOCAL OFFICIALS, HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS... THIS IS TRULY IMPRESSIVE...IT IS A TESTIMONIAL TO WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. BUT WHEN IT ALL REALLY HITS HOME, IS WHEN AFTER HOURS OF BOUNCING AROUND ON DIRT ROADS, TRAVERSING MOUNTAIN SIDES WHERE NO SUCH THING AS A GUARDRAIL EXISTS, YOU COME TO A SMALL VILLAGE WHERE ONE OR TWO AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SERVING. THEY MIGHT COME FROM A SMALL FARM TOWN NEAR SALINAS, OR ONE OF THE MANY CALIFORNIA CAMPUSES THAT HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS TO PEACE CORPS...

SUDDENLY, THE WHOLE VILLAGE ASSEMBLES AT THE ADOBE SCHOOL HOUSE AND YOU JOIN THEM, SITTING ON KINDERGARTEN CHAIRS ON A DIRT FLOOR, NO GLASS IN THE WINDOW SPACES, LITTLE CHILDREN, OLD PEOPLE, FARMERS, ANIMALS MINGLING AS FAMILY... THE ENTIRE POPULATION POURS IN, AND A SPOKESPERSON STANDS

UP AND SAYS, "WE WANT TO THANK AMERICA FOR THIS HELPER YOU HAVE SENT US. WE KNOW WE ARE POOR, BUT THIS PERSON IS HELPING US AND OUR CHILDREN TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE." HOW I WOULD LOVE TO BRING A FILM CREW WITH ME, AND BRING THESE SCENES BACK TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER VIA NATIONAL TELEVISION! THE TAXPAYERS DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THEIR GIFT AND THE GIFT THESE VOLUNTEERS BRING---IS APPRECIATED. I KEEP TELLING PEOPLE I HAVE THE BEST JOB IN THIS ADMINISTRATION. I GET TO WORK FOR WORLD PEACE, TO TRAVEL, AND EVERYONE THANKS ME FOR THE WORK OF THE VOLUNTEERS! WELL, I WANT TO THANK YOU BECAUSE IT IS THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM IN AMERICA AND YOUR TAX DOLLARS THAT MAKES THIS ALL POSSIBLE.

EVERETT ALVAREZ, OUR NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR, A NATIVE OF THIS GREAT STATE AND THE LONGEST HELD PRISONER OF WAR IN VIETNAM, GREW TO KNOW RONALD REAGAN WHEN HE WAS GOVERNOR HERE. HE WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BACK FROM NEARLY NINE YEARS IN A HANOI PRISON CAMP, AND GIVEN INCREDIBLE FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT BY THE REAGANS IN THE EARLY '70'S. HE WANTED TO WORK FOR PEACE IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, AND HE CHOSE THE PEACE CORPS. HE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM NORTH AFRICA AND FOUND THE SAME STRONG SUPPORT FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS, AND AGAIN, REQUESTS FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS.

FOREIGN AMBASSADORS FROM PEACE CORPS COUNTRIES COME TO SEE ME, AND THEY ECHO THIS ENTHUSIASM FOR AMERICA'S WORK. AMBASSADOR TAU FROM LESOTHO WAS IN MY OFFICE LAST WEEK; SHE BROUGHT WARM GREETINGS FROM HER GOVERNMENT AND THEN SAID:

WE KNOW AMERICA HAS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, BUT IT IS OUR ENDLESS PLEA AND EARNEST REQUEST THAT YOU DO NOT CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS IN MY COUNTRY.

IF ONE STILL ASKS, "WHY A PEACE CORPS IN THE 80'S?" TO THEM I SAY, ASK TUNISIA...ASK MOROCCO...THAILAND, THE PHILLIPINES...JAMAICA...ASK AMBASSADOR TAU...ASK ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES WHERE OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE SERVING. YOU'LL CONTINUE TO FIND THAT OUR PROGRAM OVERSEAS HAS BEEN A WISE INVESTMENT.

WHY DO I USE THAT TERM "WISE INVESTMENT?" BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT HAS BEEN. DID YOU KNOW THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME THE FASTEST GROWING CUSTOMERS OF US EXPORTS, TRIPLING THEIR PURCHASES SINCE 1973, AND NOW BUYING MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF ALL US EXPORTS...?

ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE ACRES OF AMERICAN FARMLAND PRODUCES FOOD FOR EXPORT, MUCH OF IT TO THE THIRD WORLD. ONE POINT TWO MILLION AMERICAN MANUFACTURING JOBS NOW DEPEND ON EXPORTS TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

AND CONVERSELY, DEVELOPING NATIONS CURRENTLY SUPPLY US WITH MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF OUR IMPORTS.

THE UNITED STATES IS INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES FOR ESSENTIAL RAW MATERIALS VITAL TO OUR ECONOMY AND SECURITY. WE IMPORT FROM DEVELOPING NATIONS 85 PERCENT OF THE BAUXITE REQUIRED FOR ALUMINUM PRODUCTS. WE OBTAIN 93 PERCENT OF OUR TIN FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. OUR COUNTRY EARNED MORE THAN \$16 BILLION FROM OUR DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD IN 1978. THAT SAME YEAR, US FIRMS INVESTED NEARLY \$6 BILLION IN THAT WORLD.

THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT MEANS MORE TRADE AND MORE JOBS FOR MORE AMERICANS. WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MORE TRADE AND MORE JOBS FOR AMERICANS, BY HELPING COUNTRIES DEVELOP A VIABLE ECONOMY, WHICH IN TURN MAKES LIFE MORE LIVEABLE FOR ITS CITIZENS...THEN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A DOUBLY WISE INVESTMENT-----AN ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND A PEACE INVESTMENT- PETER MCPHERSON, A FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER AND NOW ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IS WORKING ON GETTING AMERICAN BUSINESS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MUCH MORE INVOLVED IN THE THIRD WORLD. PEACE CORPS AND AID OFTEN MESH RESOURCES ON PROJECTS ALL AROUND THE WORLD. WE PROVIDE THE VOLUNTEERS AND AID PROVIDES THE FUNDS FOR

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. WE WANT THAT WORTHWHILE COORDINATION TO CONTINUE AND TO BE AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE. AND ONE OF THE REASONS IT IS TRULY MORE EFFECTIVE NOW IS THAT OVER 500 FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ARE NOW WORKING AT AID. THIS IS ANOTHER BENEFIT OF PEACE CORPS' 20 YEARS AS AMERICA'S FINEST GRADUATE SCHOOL IN INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

AND YOU KNOW, IT IS A SCHOOL, BUT WE NEED TO REMIND OUR OWN COUNTRY OF A RESOURCE SO HIGHLY PRIZED ABROAD. DO YOU REALIZE, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE US TODAY IS EDUCATING FEWER PEOPLE IN A LANGUAGE THAN IT WAS IN 1915??

THE PEACE CORPS HAS EDUCATED OVER 80,000 AMERICANS IN A SECOND LANGUAGE AND THIS IN A STEADILY SHRINKING--- EVER MORE INTERDEPENDENT WORLD....

ONE OF OUR PEACE CORPS' GRADUATES HAS EXPRESSED SOME SPECIFIC IDEAS FOR UTILIZING MORE FULLY THE SKILLS OUR VOLUNTEERS BRING BACK. CAL WILLIAMS, NOW 2ND VICE PRESIDENT WITH CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, ADDRESSED OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE ON WAYS TO STRENGTHEN AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND THE PEACE CORPS. YOU IN THIS AUDIENCE CAN HELP US IMPLEMENT SOME OF HIS SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY:

WE'D LIKE TO SEE RETURNED VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIPS,
IN PLACE, IN MAJOR CORPORATIONS:

WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY FOR RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS;

WE'D LIKE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FURTHER EXPANSION
OF SABBATICAL PROGRAMS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE FROM PRIVATE
CORPORATIONS;

WE WANT TO BORROW THE EXPERIENCE OF MIDDLE
MANAGEMENT AND, FOR AN EVEN TRADE, GIVE THEM OVERSEAS
EXPOSURE THAT WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT THEIR COMPANIES BACK
HOME HERE IN AMERICA.

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE WE CAN SHARE! CAL MADE ONE
STATEMENT WHICH SAID IT BEST: "THE VALUES EMBODIED IN
THE PEACE CORPS, AND THE DYNAMISM OF AMERICAN PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE, ARE TWO PILLARS ON WHICH TO BUILD A MORE
JUST WORLD."

PEACE CORPS NEEDS YOU AND YOUR HELP IN THE 80'S.

CAN YOU SHARE YOUR RECRUITING SKILLS WITH US? WE HAVE
BEEN UNABLE TO FILL ALL THE REQUESTS WE RECEIVE FOR PEOPLE
WITH MANAGEMENT, MARKETING, AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE...

WE WANT TO REACH OUT TO EARLY RETIREES WITH VOCATIONAL
AND MECHANICAL SKILLS...WE NEED MORE MINORITIES...MORE
OLDER AMERICANS...WE NEED FORESTERS, SCIENTISTS...TRADES-
PEOPLE...AND VERY IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED YOU TO COMMUNICATE

THE PEACE CORPS STORY, TO PUT IT BACK IN THE MIND AND HEART OF AMERICA, WHERE IT BELONGS.

I'D LIKE TO LET YOU KNOW ABOUT SOME OF OUR PEACE CORPS ALUMNI. WE HAVE TWO FORMER VOLUNTEERS IN THE SENATE. WE HAVE 3 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. A FORMER PCV WAS JUST MADE AMBASSADOR TO MALI...A FIRST FOR PEACE CORPS. WE HAVE PETER MCPHERSON AND HIS DEPUTY ASSISTANT AND 500 OTHERS WORKING AT AID.

IN SAN FRANCISCO, WE HAVE BILL STRAWN...A VOLUNTEER IN THAILAND...NOW WORKING AS DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY TO MAYOR DIANE FEINSTEIN. I WAS JUST GIVEN A BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE BY YOUR MAYOR'S OFFICE, COMMEMORATING THE OFFICIAL PEACE CORPS WEEK COMING UP JULY 27 THROUGH THE 31ST... WE ARE GOING TO PUT ON AN INTENSIVE RECRUITING DRIVE DURING THAT WEEK...(THANK YOU MAYOR, AND BILL!!)

ROBERT HAAS, A VOLUNTEER FROM THE IVORY COAST, IS NOW HELPING THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT OF LEVI STRAUSS AND COMPANY AS ITS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT...SUSAN SILK IS HERE, BACK FROM VENEZUELA DUTY AND NOW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COLUMBIA FOUNDATION...SUSAN'S WORK WITH THE FOUNDATION WILL HELP OUR THIRD GOAL, TO EDUCATE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT THE DEVELOPING WORLD...WE HAVE BETSY WHITE, A PAKISTAN VOLUNTEER AND CURRENT LEADER AT THE ASIAN FOUNDATION, CONCENTRATING ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT...BOB BUFFIN SERVED IN VENEZUELA, AND

HE'S HERE NOW ON THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD.
AND CLAY COLE WAS IN COLOMBIA WITH PEACE CORPS...HE'S
NOW VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALL LATIN AMERICAN OPERATIONS FOR
WELLS FARGO BANK. AND FINALLY, HERE WITH US TODAY IS
BILL REESE, FROM LOS ALTOS HILLS AND STANFORD, AND CURRENTLY
OUR IN-HOUSE SUCCESS STORY FOR THE PEACE CORPS. BILL WORKED
EIGHT YEARS IN BRAZIL BEFORE TAKING ON HIS MOST RECENT
"24 HRS. A DAY DUTIES" AS DIRECTOR OF OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY
ACTIVITIES.

I COULD GO ON, AND ON. THE PEACE CORPS IS A MULTI-COLORED,
MULTIFACETED TAPESTRY IN THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN LIFE.
BUT LET ME END WITH THIS. THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF PEACE...
THAT BEAUTIFUL FIVE LETTER WORD WHICH WE ALL TREASURE AND
SAY WE CRAVE FOR...IS UP FOR GRABS IN THE 80'S. A QUESTION
MUST BE ANSWERED ABOVE AND BEYOND THIS FORUM: IS PEACE
SIMPLY THE ABSENCE OF WAR, OR IS IT REALLY THE ABSENCE
OF CONDITIONS THAT BRING ON WAR? THE CONDITIONS OF HUNGER,
DISEASE, POVERTY, ILLITERACY, DESPAIR...

WHEN 50 PERCENT OF THE CHILDREN IN A VILLAGE DIE
BEFORE THEY ARE FIVE...

WHEN A CHILD DIES OF DYSENTARY OR MEASLES FOR LACK
OF MEDICAL ATTENTION...

WHEN A WOMAN, FOR LACK OF A WELL, HAS TO WALK TWO
MILES TO A STREAM FOR WATER AND THEN SEARCH FOR
SEVERAL HOURS FOR WOOD TO COOK WITH...

WHEN A FARMER OR VILLAGER HAS NO SOURCE OF INCOME...

WHEN A VILLAGE'S YOUTH AND MEN FLEE TO THE CITIES

WHICH HAVE NO JOBS FOR THEM...

WHEN RAIN FORESTS ARE STRIPPED AND NO NEW PLANTING DONE.

WHEN INFANT MORTALITY HOVERS AT 50 PERCENT AND

MALNUTRITION BETWEEN 50 AND 70 PERCENT...

WHEN MILLIONS OF REFUGEES LANGUISH IN SOMALIA,

SUDAN, AND BANGLADESH...

THEN LET'S FACE IT, AMERICA, THE WORLD IS NOT
AT PEACE.

I THROW DOWN A CHALLENGE TO YOU...THE CHALLENGE OF PEACE.

AND FROM MY VANTAGE POINT AS DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS,

REPORTING DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN, I SAY TO YOU:

"WHY THE PEACE CORPS IN THE 80'S?" BECAUSE IF WE HERE

IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY, SO BLESSED, DO NOT FULLY ACCEPT AND

STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PEACE MAKING ROLE OF VOLUNTEER DEVELOP-

MENT WORK, EPITOMIZED BY THE PEACE CORPS, THEN, TO PARAPHRASE

LINCOLN...TO "BIND UP THE NATION'S WOUNDS..." BUT IN THE 80'S

IT'S "THE WOUNDS OF THE WORLD"...THERE WILL BE NO TRUE PEACE.

JOIN US, SUPPORT US, BE A VOLUNTEER FOR PEACE.

THANK YOU.

Peace Corps

Washington, D.C. 20525

Office of the Director

July 13, 1981

*File
Peace Corps*

Honorable Francis S. M. Hodson
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Frank:

The Peace Corps began its celebration of its 20th Anniversary on October 14, 1980, at the University of Michigan. During the succeeding months many cities across the United States and many countries overseas have held birthday celebrations and there are more scheduled during the rest of the year.

These events have been planned not just to commemorate twenty years of Peace Corps service but to highlight to our Returned Volunteers, who now number over 80,000 and the American public, just how effective this government program continues to be. Peace Corps volunteer development type work is needed more now in the 80's than in 1961 when it was started.

The central event planned for Peace Corps' 20th Anniversary was to be a National Conference of Returned Volunteers, the first held since 1964. I am pleased to report that it was a tremendous success. Close to 2,000 Returned Volunteers, former staff, panelists and special guests participated.

President Reagan sent a special message to the Returned Volunteers which I delivered in my welcoming remarks (a copy is enclosed). It was warmly received.

Prime Minister Seaga was one of our honored speakers. This is taken from his message.....

"80,000 volunteers have, in 20 years, become missionaries to a common cause; helping people to help themselves. In one single month the Peace Corps affects the lives of more than one million people in 60 different countries. This unblemished success can only mean that in the design of the Peace Corps a unique formula emerged, defying social law, equivalent to an international friendship perpetual motion machine. That formula is in fact the theme of my address."

Other highlights included talks from Cardinal Kim Sou Hwan, Archbishop of Seoul, South Korea; and Peter McPherson, Administrator of the Agency for International Development. In addition, the registrants participated in a number of interesting and thought provoking workshops which addressed the major issues facing the developing world.

The media coverage was widespread and included The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times and CBS network news. The reports were very positive.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the conference was imparting to the Returned Volunteers that the Peace Corps is alive and well under the leadership of the Reagan Administration. They returned to their communities with a renewed commitment to help recruit a new generation of Peace Corps volunteers with the scarce skills that so many of the Third World countries are asking us for now.

Again, thank you for your continued support of the Peace Corps.

Sincerely,



Loret Miller Ruppe
Director

Enclosures(2)

*The only negative report was an attack leveled by Human Events three weeks after - written by someone who did not attend the Conference & never talked to me to check on the truth.
Hope we can visit soon.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON


June 18, 1981

During the past twenty years, more than 80,000 American men and women have left their families, their jobs, and the security and familiarity of their homes to help the people of other lands under the banner of the Peace Corps.

For twenty years, these citizens have volunteered their time, their talents, and their goodwill to help others help themselves.

I congratulate the men and women of the Peace Corps and Loret Ruppe, your new Director. May this Twentieth Anniversary Conference on the campus of Howard University underscore a continuing dedication to involved citizenship and serve as an inspiration to all of us.

You have my best wishes for a successful conference.

Handwritten signature of Ronald Reagan in cursive script.

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE EDWARD SEAGA

PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

TO THE PEACE CORPS CONFERENCE

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1981.

IT HAS BEEN TWO DECADES SINCE THE PEACE CORPS WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, IN 1961.

IN THAT PERIOD, A NEW DIMENSION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HAS EMERGED WHICH HAS CREATED A CHAIN OF PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS AROUND THE WORLD OF IMMEASURABLE STRENGTH AND CHARACTER.

THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY HAS PRODUCED ITS EMISSARIES AND NEGOTIATORS DIRECTED TO OFFICIALLY IMPORTANT TASKS.

TO THE WORLD OF THE PEACE CORPS, INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS ARE STRATOSPHERIC ARRANGEMENTS, BEYOND THE PERCEPTION OF THE HUMBLE FOLK WITH WHOM THEY TOIL.

IN THIS WORLD OF ORDINARY PROBLEMS AND ORDINARY FOLK, HELPING TO BUILD A WATER TANK, TEACHING FARMERS IN THE FIELD, BRINGING LITERACY TO THE UNSCHOOLED, ARE MIGHTIER MESSAGES OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THAN THE TREATIES AND CONCORDS WHICH RESOLVE CONFLICTS AND HOSTILITIES BETWEEN STATES.

80,000 VOLUNTEERS HAVE IN 20 YEARS, BECOME MISSIONARIES TO A COMMON CAUSE; HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES. IN ANY SINGLE MONTH THE PEACE CORPS AFFECTS THE LIVES OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION PEOPLE IN 60 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

IN A SENSE THE GREATEST TRIBUTE THAT CAN BE PAID TO ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST 20 YEARS IS THAT THE WORK OF THE PEACE CORPS HAS BEEN A CUMULATIVE AGGREGATION OF INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL, DEVOID OF THE SCARS OF CONTROVERSY AND HOSTILITY WHICH HAVE INEVITABLY DEGENERATED THE MOST CAREFUL PLANS.

THIS UNBLEMISHED SUCCESS CAN ONLY MEAN THAT IN THE DESIGN OF THE PEACE CORPS A UNIQUE FORMULA EMERGED, DEFYING SOCIAL LAW, EQUIVALENT TO AN INTERNATIONAL-FRIENDSHIP PERPETUAL-MOTION-MACHINE.

THAT FORMULA IS IN FACT THE THEME OF MY ADDRESS.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOUNDED ON PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE ARE TRADITIONALLY BASED ON THE PREMISE OF AN INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL, TECHNOLOGY, OR ACCESS TO MARKETS.

THE PEACE CORPS TOOK THE NON-TRADITIONAL ROUTE: IT IS AN INVESTMENT OF PEOPLE IN PEOPLE.

WHEN THIS CONCEPT WAS FORMALISED AND INITIATED WITH THE BIRTH OF THE PEACE CORPS IT GAVE RISE TO THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE LEVEL MANPOWER CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN PUERTO RICO AND PRESIDED OVER BY VICE-PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON IN 1963.

I HAD THE HONOUR TO ATTEND THAT CONFERENCE AS THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PEACE CORPS IN MY OWN COUNTRY.

THAT CONVERGENCE SPAWNED MANY MORE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER MOVEMENTS WHICH IN TURN INCREASED THE FLOW OF VOLUNTEERS ACROSS THE WORLD.

THE IMPACT OF THIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS SOON BECAME EVIDENT.

IN MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, RURAL AREAS LAG SUBSTANTIALLY BEHIND URBAN AREAS IN THE LEVEL AND RATE OF DEVELOPMENT. THE RURAL SECTOR, ALREADY LACKING IN THE CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY CONCENTRATED IN THE URBAN SECTOR, FACE A CONTINUOUS STREAM OF RURAL SKILLS MIGRATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES.

WITHOUT SKILL, NEITHER CAPITAL NOR TECHNOLOGY CAN BE PRODUCTIVELY USED. THE RESULT IS FURTHER RETROGRESSION IN THE LOW GROWTH SECTOR, SPURRING MORE SKILLS TO MIGRATE.

UNLESS THIS CYCLE IS BROKEN, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY BECOMES IN THE MAIN, AN URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. YET FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE A DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT THRUST IN THEIR RURAL SECTORS, AND THE REASON IN GOOD PART HAS BEEN LACK OF SKILLS.

THE PEACE CORPS IT MAY BE SAID, WAS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT TO PENETRATE THIS BARRIER. THE VOLUNTEERS REVERSED THE FLOW OF MIGRATING SKILLS, ADDING A DYNAMIC DIMENSION OF HUMAN RESOURCE TO THE IMPOVERISHED RURAL SECTORS OF MANY MANY COUNTRIES.

MORE THAN THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED. THE INVESTMENT OF PEOPLE IN PEOPLE, IN THE CASE OF THE PEACE CORPS, BROKE THROUGH THE TOUGH SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS OF RACE, COLOUR, CLASS AND CREED.

CHRISTIANS SERVED WITH PAGANS, BLACKS WITH WHITES, ANGLOS WITH INDIANS, MANAGEMENT WITH WORKERS, DEMONSTRATING THAT THE IMPROBABLE WAS POSSIBLE, AND ALONG THE WAY RELEASING FROM THE BONDAGE OF PREJUDICE A NEW PEOPLE FORCE.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STRATEGY WAS NOT MERELY A SYMBOLIC BREAKTHROUGH OF SOCIAL BARRIERS. IT GAVE REINFORCEMENT TO THE NEGLECTED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF BUILDING FROM THE BOTTOM UP RATHER THAN FROM THE TOP DOWN.

YET THIS IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE. CONSIDER THE PROTOTYPE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - HIGH CAPITAL COST, RELIANCE ON TECHNOLOGY, AVAILABLE SKILL, - A RELATIVELY EASY MARRIAGE OF RESOURCES.

AS THE DEVELOPMENT COMES ON STREAM FROM THIS TOP LEVEL MIX IT INVOLVES AT THE BOTTOM THE SKILLED WORKER WHO IS TRAINED TO WATCH A MACHINE AND PULL A LEVER WHEN A PIECE OF METAL IS IN PLACE, OR TO SEW TWO SECTIONS OF CLOTH TOGETHER AND PASS THEM ON IN A PROCESS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME A SHIRT: OR TO ASSEMBLE COMPONENTS FABRICATED ELSEWHERE TO PRODUCE A RADIO.

AND ALL THIS ON REGULAR HOURS IN A BUILDING SHELTERED FROM SUN AND RAIN.

CONSIDER NOW THE REVERSE PROCESS, THE AGRICULTURAL PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL LAND UNITS WHICH IS THE OCCUPATION OF 40% TO 80% OF THE POPULATION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

HERE THE TASK BEGINS, NOT ENDS, WITH THE WORKER - THE FARMER IN THE BUILDING PROCESS THAT MOVES FROM BOTTOM TO TOP.

GENERALLY, HE IS ON THE AVERAGE, MIDDLE OR PAST MIDDLE AGE. HE LEFT SCHOOL OVER THREE DECADES AGO WITH LOW LEVEL LITERATE AND NUMERATE SKILLS. HIS EXISTENCE DEPENDS ON A RELATIVELY LOW YIELD PRODUCTION SCRATCHED OUT WITH HAND LABOUR AND PRIMITIVE TOOLS EXPOSED TO THE BLAZING SUN AND DRIVING RAIN.

PRIMITIVE AS THIS MAY BE, HE IS EXPECTED TO MASTER A WIDE RANGE OF SKILLED KNOWLEDGE. HE MUST BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY SOIL TYPES, APPLY TECHNIQUES OF PLANTING OR HUSBANDRY, PROTECT WHAT HE GROWS OR REARS FROM INSECTS, PESTS AND FUNGUS, CONSERVE AND PROTECT HIS LAND, AND REAP AT THE RIGHT TIME WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS, LESS WHATEVER PERISHES FROM DROUGHT, DISEASE AND RAIN. HOPEFULLY AT THE END, HE WILL FIND A MARKET PLACE ABLE TO OFFER HIM A CASH RETURN, SUBJECT TO MARKET GLUTS WHICH HE CANNOT FORECAST.

I SUBMIT THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS REQUIRES FAR GREATER SKILLS THAN THE MATCHING OF SECTIONS OF CLOTHING FOR A STRAIGHT STITCH OPERATION, OR THE FABRICATION OF WOODEN OR METAL COMPONENTS, OR THE FILLING OF CANS OR BOTTLES ON THE ASSEMBLY LINE.

YET THE SKILLED HAVE MIGRATED TO THE UNSKILLED JOBS, LEAVING THE UNSKILLED TO MASTER THE SKILLED JOBS.

ANY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY BUILDING FROM THE TOP DOWN IS THE EASIER OPTION, BUT IN THE TERMS OF POPULATION REACH IT HAS DIRECT IMPACT ON THE LESSER NOT THE GREATER PART OF THE COUNTRY.

IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT MY GOVERNMENT PROPOSES AN AMBITIOUS AND FAR-REACHING ATTEMPT TO ASSAULT THIS PROBLEM. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PROGRAMME A COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF WHICH ARE BEING PUT TOGETHER AT THIS STAGE. IT WILL BE A MAJOR STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMME SPREAD OVER SOME FIFTEEN YEARS.

BUT WE ARE NOT IN ANY DOUBT THAT THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THIS AMBITIOUS PROJECT WILL ULTIMATELY TURN ON THE EXTENT OF SKILLS AVAILABLE TO MOBILISE AND TRAIN THE RURAL PEOPLE.

THE TERM "TRAINING" OF COURSE SOUNDS VERY ACADEMIC AND HAS A BUILT IN OBSTACLE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PRACTICAL RATHER THAN ACADEMIC BACKGROUND.

BUT IN THE RURAL SECTOR, DEPLETED OF SKILLS, THE MASTERY OF ANY VOCATION IS A TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY.

IF YOU WILL PARDON ME FOR MAKING ONE MORE REFERENCE TO MY COUNTRY AND TO OUR PLAN FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LET ME TELL YOU HOW WE PLAN TO MOBILISE AND TRAIN MIDDLE LEVEL AND LOWER LEVEL SKILLS.

RECOGNISING THAT IN MANY CASES MOST EXPENDITURE IS INVESTED IN HARD STRUCTURES, WE DECIDED TO SET UP DAY TRAINING CAMPS IN TENTS TO INSTRUCT IN A VARIETY OF LOWER-LEVEL AND MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS.

FOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS WE WILL TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUD, GRAFT, CIRCUMPOSE, SPRAY, PRUNE, HARVEST, DETECT DISEASE AND CONTOUR LAND.

DIFFERENT PEOPLE WILL LEARN DIFFERENT SKILLS FROM THIS LIST AND BECOME SPECIALLY TRAINED IN THEIR FIELDS. THIS TRAINING WILL BE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL.

HENCE A SECOND REASON FOR TENTS, TO ALLOW THE MOBILITY TO FOLD THE TENTS AND SHIFT CAMP TO A CITRUS FIELD OR COFFEE FARM, OR BANANA PLANTATION.

ANOTHER SET OF TRAINING CENTERS WILL CONCENTRATE ON VOCATIONAL SKILLS IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, CRAFTS, THE HOTEL INDUSTRY MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE AS THE TRAINING NEED ARISES.

WE CALL THESE "TALENT CENTRES" BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT EVEN THE NON-LITERATE DROPOUT HAS A HIDDEN TALENT TO USE HIS HANDS. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO REVERSE THE PROCESS OF HUMAN DECAY BY CONVERTING THE UNDER-UTILISED RESOURCE OF THE UNSKILLED TO A PRACTICAL AND PRODUCTIVE APPLICATION LEADING TO A BETTER LIFE.

TWENTY-FIVE OF THESE "TALENT CENTRES" WILL BE SET UP IN JAMAICA THIS YEAR, ALL UNDER TENTS, TRAINING NEARLY 2,500 TRAINEES.

ALL THIS IS RELEVANT TO THE PEACE CORPS IN THE SENSE THAT IS DEFINES A PRACTICAL SCHEME FOR PEACE CORPS INVOLVEMENT WHICH COULD OCCUR IN ANY OF MANY COUNTRIES AND WHICH SERVES TO ILLUSTRATE THE LEVELS AT WHICH VOLUNTEERS CAN SERVE.

IF I MAY TRESPASS INTO THE REALM OF POLICY, THE QUESTION MAY BE ASKED-- DOES THE VOLUNTEER : SERVE AS

- 1) A FRONT-LINE WORKER WHO BUDS, CIRCUMPOSES, SPRAYS, DETECTS DISEASE, PRACTICES CARPENTRY OR CEREMICS, ETC;
- 2) AS A TRAINER OF 50 TRAINEES IN ANY OF THESE SKILLS;
- 3) AS AN INSTRUCTOR OF 20 TRAINERS WHO EACH TEACH 50 TRAINEES IN THESE FIELDS.

THE FRONT-LINE WORKER IS ESSENTIAL IN THE ENTIRE SCHEME AS A DEMONSTRATION THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS CAN HAVE A COMMON CAUSE, AN INVALUABLE ASSET IN COUNTRIES WHERE SOCIAL PROBLEMS ARE AS GREAT AS ECONOMIC OBSTACLES.

BUT IN COST-BENEFIT TERMS, THE VOLUNTEER TRAINER WHO TRAINS TRAINEES AND INSTRUCTORS WHO TRAIN TRAINERS, CAN MULTIPLY THEIR EFFECTIVENESS BY 50 TO 1,000 FOLD, INCREASING FACTORALLY THE EFFECT OF THE 5,400 VOLUNTEERS NOW IN THE FIELD BY DRAMATIC MULTIPLES.

I SUBMIT THIS PROPOSAL NOT AS A COST-SAVING MECHANISM TO EXPAND THE IMPACT OF THE 5 LOAVES AND 2 FISHES TO FEED 5,000, NOR IS IT DESIGNED TO HELP MR. DAVID STOCKMAN IN HIS UNENVIABLE TASK OF BUDGET PRUNING; IT IS PRIMARILY OUT OF A DESIRE TO SEE AN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE PLAYED IN THE INVESTMENT OF PEOPLE-IN-PEOPLE WHICH, TO MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE STRATEGY TO A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

THE PEACE CORPS PIONEERED THE FIELD PROGRAMME OF PEOPLE-INVESTING-IN-PEOPLE AS A PRIME MECHANISM IN THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF BUILDING FROM THE BOTTOM UP.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE THIRD DECADE OF THE OPERATION OF THE PEACE CORPS, I TRUST THAT CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO AN EXPANSION OF ITS SEARCH, IN PART BY INCREASED NUMBERS, AND IN OTHER PART BY A NEW DIRECTION WITH A NEW THRUST TO MULTIPLY ITS IMPACT BY TRAINING FROM THE TOP OF THE STREAM.

I TRUST, TOO, THAT THE PEACE CORPS WILL EXTEND ITS PROCESS OF RECRUITMENT NOT ONLY TO THE YOUNG AND IDEALISTIC BOUNDING WITH ENERGY AND IDEAS, BUT EQUALLY SO THE RETIRED PENSIONER WITH DECADES OF EXPERIENCE WHICH NO SCHOOL CAN IMPART, WHO LONG TO CONTINUE A USEFUL LIFE, AND WHOSE ACQUIRED SKILL ON THE JOB, RANK THEM AS INVALUABLE EXPERTS IN SKILL STARVED COMMUNITIES.

BY WAY OF THIS LONG INTRODUCTION, I CAN NOW CONCLUDE BY ADDRESSING THE THEME ON WHICH I WAS INVITED TO SPEAK-A LATIN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES'ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT:

SIX MONTHS AGO IN AN ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS IN NEW YORK, I FIRST OUTLINED THE JAMAICAN PROPOSAL FOR A MARSHALL PLAN TYPE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE PROPOSAL ENVISAGED A DOUBLING OF OFFICIAL AID FLOWS FROM DONOR SOURCES WITHIN AND EXTERNAL TO THE REGION. THESE FLOWS ARE VITAL TO LAY THE INFRA-STRUCTURE BASE NECESSARY TO ENABLE HOST COUNTRIES TO ATTRACT EVEN GREATER FLOWS OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN PROMOTING A CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY ON A MULTI-LATERAL BASIS CONVERGING THE INTERESTS OF EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL DONOR COUNTRIES ON THE NEEDS OF THE AREA.

THIS IS THE FIRST SERIOUS INITIATIVE OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS TO HIGHLIGHT THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA WHICH HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY BY-PASSED AS SETTLED RESORT AREAS TOO PLEASANT TO HARBOUR PROBLEMS.

RECENT EVENTS HAVE PROVEN OTHERWISE AND POLICY INITIATIVES BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT REAGAN HAVE NOT LAPSED IN RECOGNISING THE NEED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY AT THIS STAGE WITH DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS RATHER THAN AWAIT THE DETERIORATION WHICH EVENTUALLY PRECIPITATES CONTROVERSIAL MILITARY SOLUTIONS.

VENEZUELA, MEXICO AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO OF THEIR OWN ACCORD HAVE ALREADY ADVANCED AN ADDITIONAL \$800 MILLION PER ANNUM IN OIL-CREDIT FACILITIES.

THE NEW DIMENSION WHICH I WISH TO INTRODUCE AT THIS TIME FOR ALL THE FOREGOING REASONS SET OUT IN THE ADDRESS, IS THE VALUE OF SKILL INVESTMENT IN THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT THRUST.

TWENTY YEARS OF PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESS, BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST DIRECTOR, THE INDEFATIGABLE SARGENT SHRIVER WHOM I HAD THE PLEASURE TO MEET IN JAMAICA, HAS CREATED ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST UNHERALDED AND UNDER-UTILISED ASSETS.

IF THIS ASSET IS TO BE FULLY APPRECIATED BY GREATER UTILISATION, THEN I PROPOSE THAT THE FIRST STEP IN THIS DIRECTION SHOULD BE TAKEN BY LINKING ITS EXPANSION TO THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN THRUST WHERE ITS ENLARGED ROLE AND NEW DIRECTION CAN BE PLAYED OUT NEAR ENOUGH TO HOME BASE TO PERMIT EASY ASSESSMENT.

THE NEEDS OF THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN AREA ARE CRITICAL ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH A PRIORITY.

THE REGION HAS 6 1/2% OF THE POPULATION BUT ONLY 1.2% OF THE GNP.

THE CHIEF PROBLEM, UNEMPLOYMENT, IS 15% OF THE LABOUR FORCE. TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT TO 5%, THE LEVEL ENJOYED BY INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, WOULD REQUIRE \$6 BILLION OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

INDEED, ONLY TO MAINTAIN UNEMPLOYMENT AT 15% REQUIRES \$1.8 BILLION PER ANNUM -- A STAGGERING 25% OF GNP!!

YET WE ARE SMALL ENOUGH TO MERIT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AS AN AREA OF PRIME NEED WHICH BY SIZE OF POPULATION IS NOT TOO LARGE TO PRESENT INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS.

EXCLUDING MEXICO AND VENEZUELA, THE 38 COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ARE LARGELY COMPRISED OF MINI-STATES OF WHICH NEARLY 20 ARE LESS THAN 200,000 PEOPLE, SEVERAL LESS THAN 50,000 POPULATION AND SOME AS SMALL AS 6,000 TO 15,000.

IN LAND MASS, NEARLY 20 STATES IN THE CARIBBEAN CAN BE COMFORTABLY ACCOMMODATED IN THE EVERGLADES IN FLORIDA. WITH THESE MAGNITUDES THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA ARE NEITHER TOO SMALL TO NEGLECT NOR TOO LARGE TO IGNORE.

THE PROVEN STABILITY OF 33 OF THE 38 COUNTRIES IS AN INVITATION TO DEVELOPMENT. THE ESTABLISHED DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS OF 30 OF THE 38 COUNTRIES MAKE THIS AREA THE MOST DEMOCRATIC REGION IN THE WORLD.

ALMOST ALL THE COUNTRIES ARE AT A MIDDLE LEVEL STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND TOGETHER CONSTITUTE THE GROUP FROM WHICH THE NEXT COUNTRIES WILL REACH SELF-SUSTAINING RATES OF GROWTH IN THE WORLD ECONOMY, IF GIVEN THE RIGHT INPUTS.

ALL THE FACTORS ARE RIGHT FOR A DRAMATIC MULTI-LATERAL POLICY THRUST TO MOBILISE RESOURCES FOR THE REGION.

THE LATIN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES IS COGNISANT OF THIS. WHAT MUST BE HOPED IS THAT THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THIS THRUST WILL RECOGNISE THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE INVESTMENT CAPABILITIES OF THE PEACE CORPS AND PROMOTE ITS ROLE TO THE FORE FRONT.

THE 80,000 VOLUNTEERS CAN BE PROUD OF THEIR RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES; THE FOUNDATION THEY HAVE CREATED OF RESPECT AND INTEGRITY ON WHICH THE NEXT DECADE CAN BUILD, AND THE PENETRATING ASSAULT THEY HAVE MADE ON SOCIAL BARRIERS AND SKILL SHORTAGES ACROSS THE WORLD.

MAY THE NEXT DECADE OF THE PEACE CORPS SEE THE EMERGENCE OF A YET MORE VITAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT FORGOTTEN AND DISTRESSED PERSONS, LOW GROWTH AND NO GROWTH AREAS, IN THE TRUE TRADITION OF PEOPLE WHO INVEST IN PEOPLE.

I HOPE THAT I SPEAK FOR THEM WHEN I WISH THE VOLUNTEERS, COUNTRY DIRECTORS, AND THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC AND CHARMING NEW DIRECTOR LORET RUPPE, MANY MORE YEARS OF SERVICE TO MANKIND, AND MANY MORE YEARS OF BEING WANTED, NEEDED AND LOVED BY SO MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

**1961
1981**

**PEACE
CORPS**

806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525

*File
Peace Corps*

June 24, 1981

Honorable Francis S. M. Hodsoll
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Frank:

I have recently returned from my first overseas trip as Peace Corps Director. I visited with Peace Corps Volunteers in Guatemala, Honduras, and Ecuador. I am now more than ever firmly convinced of the value of the Peace Corps' presence in the Third World developing nations.

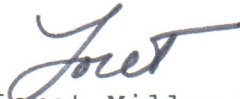
In Guatemala I met with President Lucas Garcia and other officials who are genuinely appreciative of our work in their country. Our volunteers and staff feel secure and I am satisfied with the size and content of our program there.

In Honduras I met with President General Paz Garcia and his wife as well as a number of his Ministers. They were all very knowledgeable and supportive of the large program we have there. I visited a number of the rural sites where our work is very much in evidence. Basic human needs are still our major effort. I saw simple things such as latrines and small wood-burning stoves. Also, limited health clinics and inoculation programs, and nutrition programs. Infant mortality is over 50% with most deaths caused by amoebic dysentery from contaminated water. There is so much work to be done.

The program in Ecuador had some new emphases--special education in the cities and reforestation in the country. Small model farms are being developed by Peace Corps Volunteers also. As in the other countries, the officials were very appreciative of the Peace Corps. Perhaps the high point of my trip was sitting in a dirt-floor school room high in the mountains and having the President of the Village Council, a pistol in his belt, tell me with tears in his eyes: "We are poor people, but your American volunteers (a couple) have given us hope. Please tell your President Reagan how much we appreciate his sending this couple to us."

As we approach the FY 1983 budget, I want to reiterate how important the Peace Corps is to the countries in which we serve. It has been said that the Peace Corps is one of two programs that has done more for America's image overseas than anything else. My trip confirms that. I look forward to meeting with you to give you a first-hand report.

Sincerely,



Loret Miller Ruppe
Director

I already briefed you on this — just a follow-up!
My Regional Director just returned from
West Africa — he found the same support &
appreciation to America for the work of the Volunteers!
The Conference went well — thanks for your
help!