

Peace Corps Training

Saying 'Hello' in 150 Languages

WASHINGTON, D.C.—When the Peace Corps' Deputy Director recently visited a training group headed for East Africa, he had to eat in a room separated from the trainees because he couldn't speak their language.

In fact, they were learning two languages: Swahili and Luganda, and the rules forbid English in class, in the dining hall, and on the playing field.

This is the agency's vaunted high-intensity method (or Language Saturation Technique, sometimes known as LST), in which trainees actually spend a full month in class on nothing but language—six days a week, eight hours a day—before they even begin their regular training. They are urged, and sometimes required, to speak only the new language the rest of the time, too.

THE RESULTS

In developing an extensive and professional language program, the Peace Corps has become the largest language training institution in the country, and the biggest producer of language training materials. In the agency's first year, 1961, it taught 15 languages; since then it has taught more than 150. In the last three years it spent more than \$1 million for language material development. Many languages spoken by Volunteers never were taught before in this country; some never were taught beyond the tribe itself.

The Peace Corps' success in teaching languages developed

from the premise that basic communication is essential to an effective overseas experience. A Volunteer can't help someone if he can't talk to him.

Sufficient documentation is available to indicate that the effort has not been in vain. Mainly, there are the many success stories of the Volunteers themselves.

Recently, the level reached by Peace Corps trainees in several high-intensity programs was compared with the oral ability of selected college language majors.

Dr. John B. Carroll of the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J., made the study for Harvard University. He tested 2,784 seniors, 2,604 of whom had an average listening and speaking proficiency in French and Spanish after four years that was comparable to the level attained by Peace Corps trainees who had spent only four weeks in learning these languages.

Dr. Carroll also concluded that the intensity of the Peace Corps LST program, plus its emphasis on use of the language by trainees, builds a solid foundation for sure growth in the language.

THE METHOD

A major difference between the Peace Corps method and that used in colleges and universities is the agency's emphasis on verbal proficiency. Rather than learn to read as such, trainees are taught to speak the language and understand what is spoken to them. This is called the "audio-lingual" method.

With this approach, the trainees are urged to speak the language as much as possible. Instructors encourage them to learn the language's basic structural forms that correlate closely with the spoken, instead of the literary form of language. Thus, when they practice, trainees use actual dialogues rather than memorize vocabulary lists.

The intensity with which the language is taught, however, remains the most crucial difference. In addition to the new saturation approach, the time spent on language during the regular training period has increased. In the early years, instruction was limited to about 100 hours in the standard 12-week training program. Now, Volunteers receive a minimum of 300 hours, and as much as 550 in some instances.

THE BENEFITS

Many educators are adapting the agency's approach to the standard college curricula.

Dartmouth, which has trained Volunteers since the agency began, is introducing French and Spanish courses that require 14 hours of class work a week. This enables students to complete their language requirements in two trimesters. The school also plans to offer freshmen a one-month high-intensity course in French.

"Imagine the boon to language instruction," says a Peace Corps official, "if college students could learn to speak a language in four to six weeks well enough to begin literature courses."

Many schools benefit, too, by having linguists on their faculties work with the Peace Corps' language programs. More than 50 universities have helped develop many new language texts, providing many scholars with invaluable field work. Now, many universities, as well as other Government agencies, are using the texts in their regular courses.

THE PAYOFF

An unanticipated boon has been the experience gained by Volunteers in using the languages abroad for two years. Many Volunteers are returning to do graduate work in linguistics; 20 enrolled at the University of Indiana alone last year. A few already teach at the college level, and some have written new language text materials.

The goal of such intensive preparation remains effective performance overseas. "One basic characteristic of the 'ugly American' is being erased by the Volunteer: He is no longer tongue-tied," says an agency official. "Peace Corps Volunteers are trained to speak as equals with people throughout the world who remember too well the disdain and deprecation expressed in the linguistic ethno-centrism of the old colonial powers."

Almost half of the overseas and Washington staff of the Peace Corps now consists of former Volunteers.

Peace Corps Volunteers serve in 22 African nations.

One-third of all Peace Corps Volunteers are women.

Washington provides more Peace Corps Volunteers per capita than any other state, followed by Vermont, Colorado and Oregon.

The Potato Crusaders Of Susandi

NEW DELHI, India—Meat and potatoes are taken for granted by most American families. But in India, where the fight against hunger faces a most grueling test, meat is taboo because of religious values and potatoes are far from plentiful.

Little wonder, then, that two Peace Corps Volunteers take great pride from the seemingly insignificant achievement of helping an obscure village in northern India double its potato production.

David A. Copus, 26, of Dallas, Texas, and Gene Tackett, 24, of McFarland, Calif., are food production Volunteers in the village of Susandi, Ghazipur District, in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

VEGETARIANS

The two Volunteers have been living among the Koeri people, a vegetable growing caste, for 18 months now. Their village is one of 112,315 villages in Uttar Pradesh, a state about the size of Arizona, but with a population of 80 million—more than twice the population of California and New York combined.

The village of Susandi, with less than 1,500 inhabitants, is located in a traditional potato-growing region of India. But there has been a high incidence of disease in locally grown potatoes, according to the Volunteers.

Neither Volunteer had worked on a farm before joining the Peace Corps, so they were put through an intensive eight-week training course at the State University of New York in Albany before leaving for India.

EXPERIMENT

Apparently, they learned their lessons well.

Copus and Tackett read about a new variety of red potato and urged the villagers to try it.

Through the efforts of the Indian government's regional biologist, L. C. Sikka, the Volunteers obtained enough seed for demonstrations. Other officials helped provide fertilizer.

"The results are impossible to believe," says Copus. "The new potatoes have broader leaves and are growing more rapidly. They are 100 per cent disease free. The yield should be double, if not triple, the normal harvest."

Even more significant, Copus is that "from a meager beginning of two acres of demonstration plots in 1967, we will leap to perhaps 100 acres this year."

But the Volunteers feel their job is only beginning. "Farmers are coming from miles around asking us for seed for next year. Therefore, we are planning to form a village committee which will elect a representative to make the necessary arrangements for purchasing new seed," Copus says.

But the most important factors, according to the Volunteers, is that the farmers are convinced they need to be receptive to new varieties of seed and new cultivation practices.

THE FUTURE

"We hope that in two years Ghazipur District will be saturated with the new potato," says Copus, "and we also hope that the farmers will continue to ask the all important question: How can we improve what we are presently doing?"

Copus, a native of Porterville, Calif., has a bachelors degree from Northwestern University and a law degree from Harvard. Tackett, a native of Santa Paula, Calif., attended the University of California at Santa Barbara.

As part of the India contingent, the two Volunteers serve in the Peace Corps' largest program abroad. About 700 Volunteers are spending two years of their lives in India, most of them in agriculture and agriculture-related capacities.

California contributes the largest number of Volunteers to the Peace Corps, followed by New York and Illinois. Volunteers come from all 50 states, the Canal Zone, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Richard Flores has been knifed and shot. He's delivered four babies. Bandits murdered his partner. Not too unusual perhaps, except that Flores is a member of the Peace Corps. He was a Volunteer in Colombia for 50 months—two years longer than usual, but the farmers he was helping didn't want him to leave.

Flores, 30, is from Del Rio, Texas, near the Rio Grande. He's a chunky 5'10", and mild looking. He's also a tough, self-sufficient young man who comes from a tough, self-sufficient line. His father is a Mexican-American rancher, his mother a Chiricahua Apache, a descendant of the Indian Scouts who rode with the U.S. Cavalry.

Cayo—his Indian name ("It means 'scavenger'; my grand-

The Teacher Who Played Fat Bull

CASABLANCA, Morocco—Peace Corps Volunteers here who teach English as a foreign language (TEFL) publish a small newsletter called the TEFL GRAM.

A recent issue was devoted to Moroccan students' descriptions of their teachers in test papers:

He is a yellow beard and the face is a little red.
He has a red free fix.
His bird is gold.
The English teacher is a long man.
He goes to the her house.
He studies the students english and everyday is glad.
His nose is as long as short.
He is bigger than the classroom.
He plays fat bull.
The teacher is a strange man in Morocco.

Two New Attacks On an Old Disease

WASHINGTON, D.C.—For most Americans, tuberculosis is something that periodic chest X-rays tell them they don't have. Like smallpox and yellow fever, it appears to be a disease of the past, conquered by modern medicine.

But modern medicine requires wealth and technology that few developing nations have. Tuberculosis, far from being a conquered disease, is probably the world's leading infectious cause of death.

Two teams of Peace Corps Volunteers working at opposite corners of the globe are finding out first-hand about tuberculosis in the developing world—and doing something about it. In Malaysia and Bolivia, Volunteers are taking part in tuberculosis control projects sponsored by those governments. In both countries TB remains the No. 1 communicable disease, killing thousands each year.

Volunteer teams in each country consist of about two dozen liberal arts graduates. For most of them this is the first public health work they have ever done.

The Bolivian Volunteers work in the Yungas, a region of steep,

heavily forested river valleys clinging to the eastern slope of the Andes at elevations ranging from 1,800 to 6,000 feet. Many settlements are accessible only by mule train.

In late 1966 Peace Corps Volunteers, with the support of two U.S. Public Health Service physicians and the cooperation of the Bolivian Ministry of Health, came to the Yungas. The Volunteers had a demanding assignment: they were to find out who was infected with tuberculosis and who was not; they were to vaccinate those who were free of infection and help treat those who were not.

Nine months after the Volunteers arrived, Dr. Thomas M. Daniel, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, evaluated the program. He found the Volunteers enthusiastic—and medically effective. The Volunteers, he said, were helping change the attitude of the people from passive acceptance of tuberculosis as an accepted condition of life to desire to fight and control a killing disease.

The Malaysian program is similar, but it covers a larger area—all of West Malaysia, the part of the Federation that used to be called Malaya. Volunteers there joined a government-run program in 1967, being assigned singly to TB centers and district clinics.

These centers are staffed by a physician, one or more nurses and several attendants. The Volunteer acts as a kind of team captain, coordinating activities inside the clinic and TB-detection drives outside.

When the Volunteers arrived, they found records systems incomplete. No one knew for sure which schools had been visited for vaccinations, which X-rays had been covered by chest X-ray teams, which active cases were undergoing treatment and which had defaulted.

Within one year, the Malaysia Volunteers helped tighten up the program's administration and systematically began to survey areas which have populations of from 70,000 to 150,000 citizens. They have begun working on the second phase of the program—public TB education in communities and schools. One Volunteer created a Malaysian National Tuberculosis Month, a country-wide anti-TB promotional campaign.

Malaysian officials say the program, which had been in existence since 1961, needed Peace Corps Volunteers to really get it going. "Seven years ago we thought if we had enough money, clinics and technical tools it would be a simple matter to wipe tuberculosis off the face of Malaysia," says Dr. Jaswant Singh Sodhy, head of the program. "But we found that these things weren't enough. What was missing was the human factor, because after all we're dealing with people. . . people who must be educated about TB. . . and of course people in our own department who have had no experience in this kind of effort."

"The Peace Corps Volunteers have provided the element that had been missing in our program—the human link that makes all the technical things work," the Malaysian doctor said.

Of the approximately 10,000 Peace Corps Volunteers now serving, more than 150 of them are over the age of 50, and 14 are over the age of 70, according to agency director Jack Vaughn.

At least nine former Volunteers as country directors; six of them were named while still in their twenties, Director Jack Vaughn said.

Ethiopian 'Streetboys' Get a Break

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—One of Ethiopia's most visible problems is the number of unemployed youngsters who wander through the streets of the capital, Addis Ababa, scratching for their living by selling magazines and shining shoes.

Many of the streetboys, as they are called, have completed nine years of school but are unable to find work because they have no marketable skills. Last year, Sandra Jaffe, 24, of Cambridge, Mass., decided to do something about the problem.

THE IDEA

Sandra, a Peace Corps Volunteer teaching at a local high school, started with the idea that if the streetboys were trained for specific jobs they could find employment. For two months she looked into the job situation in Addis Ababa and discovered that the city's hotels and restaurants needed many more trained waiters.

With approval from the Peace Corps staff, Sandra and another Volunteer devoted their summer vacation to a pilot program to train streetboys as waiters. Setting up shop in a vacant home, they recruited nine trainees and began teaching them how to set tables, take orders and serve meals.

All nine youths completed the course and all were hired as waiters in the city's better hotels and restaurants.

A TITLE

This success convinced the Peace Corps to make Sandra's project a full-time program, named the "Addis Ababa Job Training Center." Sandra became the director, with two other Volunteers as full-time teachers.

The center was set up in a rented six-room house and Sandra, who is a graduate of Tufts University's Jackson College, got the American Embassy and the Agency for International Development to contribute furniture and cooking utensils. The Ethiopian Child and Family Welfare Association, which also deals with displaced youngsters, joined in sponsoring the center.

Sandra has completed her Peace Corps service, but the center continues with a staff of six Volunteers. In addition to the increased number of students this expansion will accommodate, the program is being broadened to include other hotel work and such jobs as sales clerks and office workers.

Wedding Gown Sewn By Six Angels

SOUTH DARTMOUTH, Mass.—Betsy Powell has a wedding dress she'll treasure more than most brides do.

Betsy and her new husband, John, met in Ecuador where both were Peace Corps Volunteers in a program helping local crafts men find markets for their work. As she tells it:

"I worked in the town of Esperanza with an embroidery group, a jolly, industrious sixsome who became very good friends of mine. When John and I decided to get married, I wrote to them bemoaning the fact that we hadn't thought of it in time to have them make my dress."

"They got the letter on a Saturday, bought the material, made a dress and the six of them employed the rest of the day, all Sunday, and on Monday they mailed it off 'Urgente.' It arrived in time for the wedding, elaborately embroidered, unwashed, unhemmed and magnificent—a real gift of love."

The Powells were married in Maine and are now living in South Dartmouth, where John has his sculpting studio.

More than 150 registered nurses are serving as Volunteers in the Peace Corps.

Returned Volunteers

And Then There Were 25,000

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Peace Corps reached a milestone in its short seven-year history late in 1968 when the 25,000th Volunteer completed service and returned to the United States.

There are now twice as many former Volunteers as Volunteers currently overseas, reports Peace Corps Director Jack Vaughn.

What happens when they come home?

Statistics compiled by the Peace Corps indicate that about half of the former Volunteers change career plans after two years overseas, a partial explanation for the large percentage (about 38%) who currently are continuing their education, Vaughn says.

Not counting those in school, more than one in every three returned Volunteers immediately become teachers—double the number who had intended to teach prior to joining the Peace Corps.

GHETTO SCHOOLS

Vaughn says one obvious reason for the increased demand by U.S. school systems for former Peace Corps Volunteers is the shortage of qualified teachers, particularly of those willing to teach in ghetto schools.

"But another reason is the recognition by school officials that the Peace Corps experience provides Volunteer teachers with an approach, a way of going about things, that is a vital, first step to teaching."

The Philadelphia school system, for instance, offered contracts to 175 Volunteers sight unseen to teach in inner-city schools there. At the end of the last school year, Robert W. Blackburn, architect of the unprecedented recruitment effort, testified before a House of Representatives committee that "we regard the Volunteers as the single best source of top-flight educators available to us anywhere."

New York State has established an Office of Peace Corps Affairs designed specifically to attract former Volunteers into its school system.

PUBLIC SERVICE

The District of Columbia school district was interested enough in Volunteers that it sent two officials around the world with contracts in hand for Peace Corps teachers who were completing service. They received applications from 116 Volunteers and signed up 30 on the spot.

Another third of returned Volunteers currently employed are working for federal, state and local governments—heavily concentrated in community action projects, Headstart, VISTA and other anti-poverty programs.

John Arango, 30, former Volunteer in Colombia, is special assistant to the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity's regional office in San Francisco. "Many Volunteers seek out administrative positions," Arango says, "because they feel they have valid, relevant ideas about the world today and they want the power to implement them."

Others are working on the grass roots level, similar to the type of work they did overseas as Volunteers. Dave Dawley, 26, a former Volunteer in Honduras, helped one of Chicago's toughest street gangs, the Conservative Vice Lords, incorporate itself as a non-profit organization working "to build, not destroy" Chicago's West Side.

The former Volunteer serves as liaison between the Vice Lords and foundations which provide "seed grants" for economic development projects initiated by the 8,000-member organization.

THE PROFESSIONS

For the large number of returned Volunteers intent upon basing careers around international concerns, the State Department and the government agencies associated with it have special appeal.

Eighteen former Volunteers were appointed Foreign Service Officers in 1968, bringing to 100 the number working directly for

the State Department and with the United States Information Agency. About 200 returned Volunteers currently work with the Agency for International Development.

The Peace Corps, which grants employment priority to returned Volunteers, has hired about 400 former Volunteers and they comprise about 40 per cent of the agency's total administrative personnel. Nine are country directors.

Most of the remaining third of Volunteers currently employed enter business or the professions. A large number, more than 12 per cent, work for international or non-profit organizations such as CARE and the United Nations.

The financial world, particularly those firms with international ties, has attracted a substantial number of returned Volunteers. The First National City Bank of New York has hired 15 former Volunteers and 10 others currently work for Bankers' Trust Company.

"While their formal ties with the Peace Corps end with their return home, former Volunteers are demonstrating that commitment to service—so intrinsically a part of the Peace Corps—doesn't begin and end at the water's edge," says Vaughn.

QUALITIES

The Peace Corps Director sees Volunteers as "matured beyond their years, independent-minded and capable of leadership." He says these qualities are being recognized by employers both in the public and private sector as evidenced by the more than 200 requests about returned Volunteers (representing a significantly higher number of actual jobs) received monthly by the Peace Corps' Career Information Service.

"We are seeing a domestic return on the investment we made in overseas work," Vaughn says, "and Peace Corps work can no longer be placed in a separate category labeled for export only."

Peace Corps Facts, Figures

The University of Hawaii has trained more Peace Corps Volunteers than any other American institution, according to agency director Jack Vaughn.

The average Peace Corps Volunteer is 24 years old and a college graduate in the liberal arts.

Peace Corps Volunteers sometimes have very special jobs. One is a museum curator in Nairobi, Kenya; another is director of Bolivia's National Symphony; still others are beekeepers, meteorologists and radio broadcasters. In all, Volunteers now serve in 95 skill specialties in 59 nations, according to Peace Corps Director Jack Vaughn.

More than 48 percent of all Peace Corps Volunteers are serving as educators in programs that range from pre-kindergarten to university levels.

Almost 50 percent of all Peace Corps Volunteers in 1968 received all or part of their training in the countries to which they were assigned, says agency director Jack Vaughn.

More than 1500 Peace Corps Volunteers are serving in programs to increase food production, according to Director Jack Vaughn.

Nearly one-third of all secondary school teachers in Ethiopia are Peace Corps Volunteers.

A total of 24 nations, following the lead of the United States Peace Corps, now send Volunteers abroad.

Peace Corps Volunteers are now serving in 59 nations.

Nearly 40 per cent of all Peace Corps Volunteers return to college after their overseas tours.

One-third of all Peace Corps Volunteers serve in Latin America.

From Twi To Bobo

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Twi, Bobo, Kru and Kru may sound like exotic tongues, but not to the people who speak them as native languages. Twi (spoken in Ghana), Bobo (Upper Volta), Kru and Kru (Liberia) are among the lesser-known languages now being taught by the Peace Corps to its Volunteers.

These minor languages range from Aklanon (Philippines) to Zomboangueno (another Philippines tongue) and include four Arabic dialects, Ghanese, Ga, Cameroonian Pidgin and Caribbean Creole.

Volunteers for the Micronesian islands alone might learn any of the following: Kusaie, Marshallese, Ponapean, Trukese (including the lagoon dialect), Ulithi, Woleaian or Yapese.

How to Build A School With Eggs

WASHINGTON—Going from house to house, junior high students in Clovis, New Mexico, asked for eggs. These they sold for a nickel apiece next door, and so on. Egg by egg they were helping build a school for the Pulpas Islanders of Micronesia.

Since the Peace Corps School Partnership Program was started in 1964, students at over 1,000 schools across the nation have done a lot of things—some pretty unusual—to help the children of developing countries. They've washed cars, collected soft drink bottles, staged faculty "slave auctions."

And it's worked: more than 700 Partnership schools have been built in 41 countries.

NO CHARITY

Definitely not a charity program, School Partnership helps those people who want a school for their children so badly they'll build it themselves—but who can't pay for the bricks or cement. When villagers join together to do the work and raise at least a fourth of the construction costs, usually about \$1,000 of outside aid is all that's needed for a one-to-four-room schoolhouse.

The people of San Francisco de la Cruz in Peru, had bigger plans, though. They wanted to build a ten-room schoolhouse for their "barriada" near the capital of Lima, to replace the existing hodge-podge of bamboo and straw matting used by split sessions of 415 boys and 300 girls.

FINES FOR SHORTS

By holding dances and showing movies, the people of San Francisco de la Cruz raised about \$500. They also secured title to a government-owned lot. Then, with the help of Peace Corps Volunteer Richard Bloom, 24, and the School Partnership Program, they received \$850 from high school students in Plymouth, Michigan—enough for the bricks.

Some of the money was raised by fining Plymouth girls 25 cents for wearing Bermuda shorts to class. Sound silly? Not to the people of San Francisco de la Cruz with their new schoolhouse.

Washington provides more Peace Corps Volunteers per capita than any other state, followed by Vermont, Colorado and Oregon.

Bandits, Bullets and Four Babies for Cayo

Richard Flores has been knifed and shot. He's delivered four babies. Bandits murdered his partner. Not too unusual perhaps, except that Flores is a member of the Peace Corps. He was a Volunteer in Colombia for 50 months—two years longer than usual, but the farmers he was helping didn't want him to leave.

Flores, 30, is from Del Rio, Texas, near the Rio Grande. He's a chunky 5'10", and mild looking. He's also a tough, self-sufficient young man who comes from a tough, self-sufficient line. His father is a Mexican-American rancher, his mother a Chiricahua Apache, a descendant of the Indian Scouts who rode with the U.S. Cavalry.

Cayo—his Indian name ("It means 'scavenger'; my grand-

father gave it to me but I don't know why")—volunteered for the Peace Corps in 1964. Before that he had helped on his father's sheep ranch, worked his way through high school and college.

He spoke Spanish fluently, so he was sent to the coffee-growing hill country of western Colombia. The area was in decline, the farmers were poor because their coffee trees were "worn out" and the market was down. They didn't know how to farm any other way, but they weren't about to listen to Cayo, who was just another "gringo" (Yankee) to them.

Flores sought out a relatively wealthy farmer as a "partner" who let him use part of his land to demonstrate better methods. Flores chopped down the old trees and replanted with pine-

apple and avocados, vegetables and tomatoes. They flourished, and the "campesinos" (peasants) began listening to the Spanish voice with the Texas accent, and calling on him night and day for advice. A sick goat? A baby on the way? A crop disease? A loan problem? They sent for Cayo.

Bandit gangs still raid the area where Flores worked, and one gang shot and killed his Colombian partner. Another time a villager who didn't like Americans picked a fight with Flores, then pulled a knife. Flores grabbed the knife by its blade, then clobbered his attacker to the cheers of the crowd.

Then there was the time Flores was waiting in a village street for a bus when a voice said, "Yanqui, turn around." He did, to find a stranger poking a .38 caliber re-

volver into his stomach. He twisted as the gun fired, putting a bullet through the flesh of his right side. Highly indignant, Cayo took the gun away, laid the man out, then handed campesinos until police arrived.

Flores' Peace Corps superiors decided to transfer him to a more peaceful post, but that move really put the campesinos up in arms. More than 500 petitioned the U.S. Ambassador to send their man back. He returned.

His remaining months were much more peaceful, and under his guidance farmers converted substantial acreage from coffee to apples, mangoes and figs. They learned to shear their sheep more profitably, and how to raise goats for milk and meat.

PEACE CORPS
Washington, D. C. 20525
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE &
FEES PAID
PEACE CORPS

NEWS EDITOR
HERALD-REPUBLIC
114 N 4TH ST
YAKIMA WA

98901