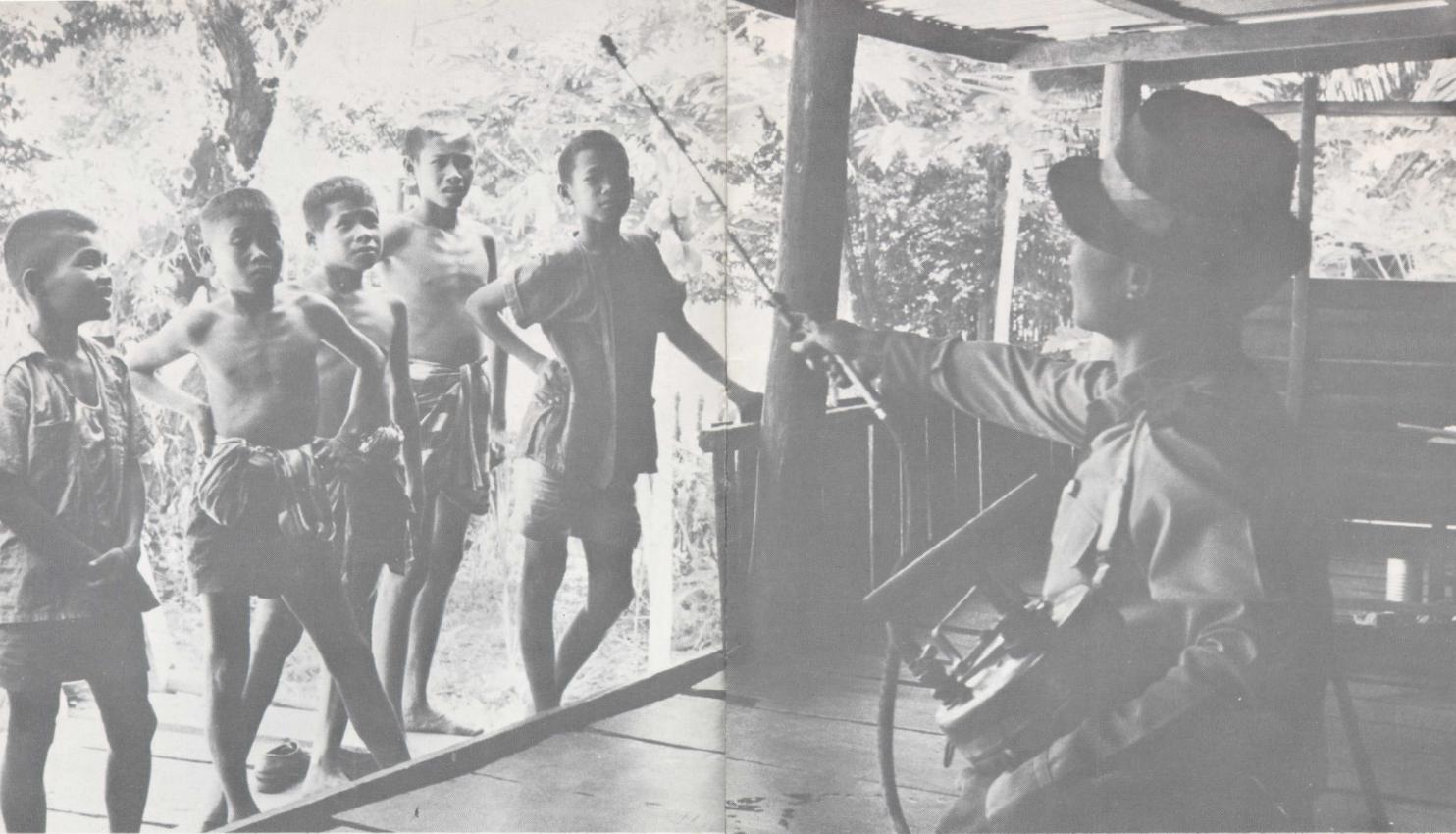


health professions

in the
Peace Corps





HEALTH PROFESSIONS IN THE PEACE CORPS

It started as an ordinary morning at the health clinic in Sokode, Togo. Women in brightly colored dresses crowded each other to be first in line. Dusty children gathered in bunches and noisily announced their aches. Fat happy babies set up their familiar cry.

It was only at noon that the Peace Corps Volunteer doctor and nurse exchanged worried glances. Two feverish children with large erupting sores stood before them. And they had noticed a third in the waiting room. It seemed to be the beginning of a smallpox epidemic.

Quickly the doctor and nurse organized inoculating teams to canvass the town. By the end of the week, the total count was five cases of smallpox and an innumerable number of injections.

In Latin America, Asia and Africa, life is a

continual struggle against debilitating disease. It's often a losing battle in areas where there is little medical information and few facilities and trained personnel. Smallpox, leprosy, tuberculosis, dysentery, polio and nutritional deficiency still plague entire populations. And nations trying to progress cannot afford this deadly drain.

To help, the Peace Corps is sending health teams to the developing nations. Doctors, nurses, medical technologists, dentists, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, health educators, sanitarians, social workers and many others are fanning across three continents, treating everything from leprosy to the common cold.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY

Peace Corps Volunteers may be assigned to staff an entire hospital. In Sokode, Togo, there are Volunteers of all ages and degrees of experi-

ence: doctors, public health nurses, clinical nurses, a sanitation engineer, pharmacists, laboratory technicians and public health educators.

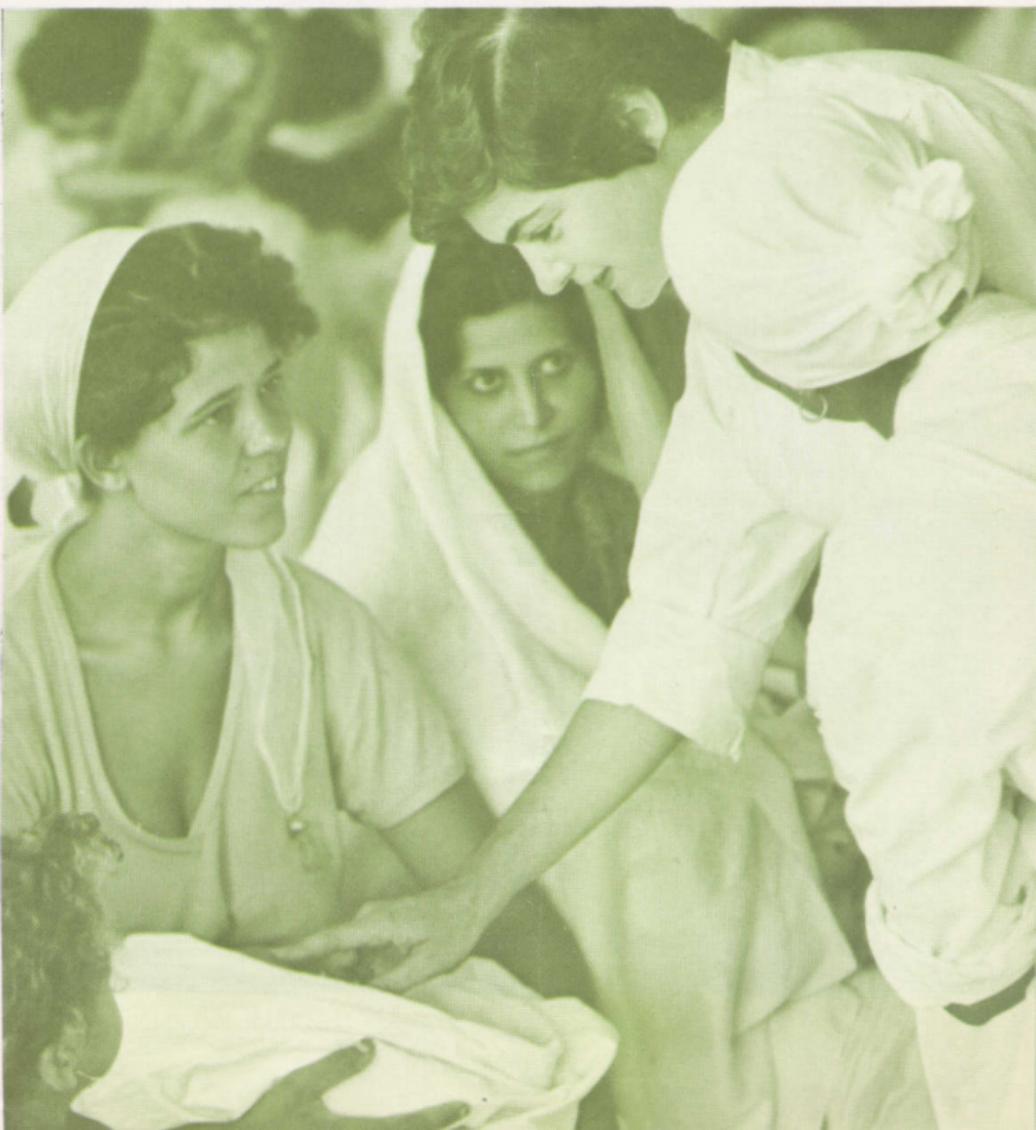
In Ankara, Turkey, the Peace Corps is participating in a pioneering public health project. Working from the Hacettepe Medical Center, Peace Corps Volunteer doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, medical record librarians, dieticians, and community development workers, along with their Turkish counterparts, are attacking the health problems of the urban slums in a concerted and coordinated effort. Volunteers are concerned not only with curative medicine but also with preventive public health, providing desperately needed instruction in sanitation, child care and disease control.

In different areas, Volunteer physicians and nurses are often assigned alone or as part of a smaller team to supplement the staff of a clinic, hospital, tuberculosis sanitarium, leprosarium, mental, maternity or infectious disease center.

These Volunteers may also teach students and auxiliary personnel, and work in public health projects providing additional training and supervision for host country co-workers. Pharmacists and medical record librarians provide back-up support for these projects.

Dentists and dental hygienists are teaching in dental schools and establishing proper care programs for students and pregnant women in rural hospitals and satellite clinics. Medical technologists, laboratory and X-ray technicians are serving in malaria eradication projects and on the staffs of hospitals and clinics. Physical and occupational therapists are working in Bolivia, Malaysia and Venezuela, helping children and adults overcome crippled minds and limbs. Sanitarians, nutritionists, social workers and public health educators are bringing new concepts of cleanliness, diet and healthful development to a wide variety of communities.

But to improve health in the developing nations, Peace Corps medical programs are not limited only to the trained professional. There is also room for Volunteers whose only public







health experience comes during Peace Corps training. These Volunteers are now serving in community health education and disease detection projects. In Malawi, they are involved in a tuberculosis control program. Their function is to travel to districts throughout the country to locate cases of the infectious disease, bring them to district clinics for treatment and conduct classes in disease prevention and health care. Peace Corps Volunteers with professional training—a physician, X-ray technician, medical technologist and registered nurse—assist the non-professional Volunteers.

Whatever the Volunteer's particular skill, the Peace Corps health projects offer a stimulating assignment. You will deal first hand with health conditions and clinical situations infrequently encountered in North America. Your skills will be tested and sharpened, and the experience



will increase your knowledge of other peoples' problems. Part of your Peace Corps responsibility will be to surmount the frustration of a constant shortage of supplies and equipment, to cope with the fatalistic attitudes toward death and disease and to replace ignorance of the most fundamental principles of health care with understanding.

"Working in the Peace Corps," said Volunteer nurse Margaret McEvoy, *"is not easy. But where else would you have the chance to help establish a school system's first health program, organize a bilharzie clinic and run laboratory tests on 250 children a week—most of whom have never seen a nurse before!"*

"But I'll tell you what's even more significant. Last spring we were given permission to vaccinate and immunize pre-school children against prevalent diseases. The chief of each section





was visited and on the appointed day his drummer was sent out to spread the news. Mothers from other sections heard and came too. We had stationed ourselves at a school and the response was so wild we had to call in the police to keep order. They came, took one look, and fled. Then we tried closing the doors, but the babies were dropped in through the open windows. That's how much a chance at better health means to these people—and these people are all over the developing nations.”

“I joined the Peace Corps,” said Dr. David Griffith who served in Sierra Leone, “because I wanted to be where medicine is vital, where crises are being faced, where strides are being made. In the Peace Corps, my skill as a doctor stands between the patient and death and suffering in a more fundamental way than any of my previous experiences.”

There is more to serving in the Peace Corps, however. There is the opportunity to improve understanding among peoples of different cultures. As Dr. Nicholas Cunningham said: “You teach modern medical methods, sanitation, preventive medicine. And as you learn about age-old cultures, and as you are accepted, something is being taught about American virtues, too: the value of hard work, the pragmatic approach of ‘let’s try,’ the acceptance and easy formality, the concept of professional pride and responsibility, and the absence of prejudice.

“In the Peace Corps, you learn things that are difficult to learn in any other way. You get a sort of inside-out view of the world not available to tourists, diplomats or experts.”

AFTER THE PEACE CORPS

Peace Corps service can provide a valuable background for future work in medical education, public health, clinical medicine, research and medical administration.

And the Peace Corps guarantees two years of new challenges and horizons; two years that can make a profound impression on your life.

TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER

- You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old. There is no upper age limit. Good health is a necessary prerequisite but Peace Corps physical standards are flexible.
- Married couples with no dependents under 18 are encouraged to apply. Both must, however, qualify as Volunteers. They will be assigned to the same project.
- You do not have to know a foreign language.
- Don't be deterred because you think you lack necessary skills. Many people tend to underestimate their capabilities.
- Submit a Peace Corps Volunteer application. Submission of an application in no way obligates you. Your final decision will come at the time you are invited to train.
- Take the Peace Corps Placement Test. There is no passing or failing grade. It is a tool to aid the Peace Corps in evaluating your capabilities.

YOU WILL TRAIN . . . At an American college or university. Perhaps half of your normal 10 to 12-week training period will be concentrated on the language of the country in which you will serve. Modern laboratory techniques will give you a working fluency in one of 42 different languages, from Amharic to Swahili.

A NORMAL TOUR . . . Including training, will last from 24 to 27 months. If you choose, you may extend your service up to one year, or re-enroll for another two years in the same, or a different country.

YOU WILL BE PAID . . . An allowance to cover food, clothing, housing and incidentals. Medical care and transportation are provided by Peace Corps. For the duration of your service, you accumulate a readjustment allowance of \$75 monthly. You may allot from this allowance in some instances. The allowance is subject to U.S. taxes only.

MILITARY OBLIGATION . . . Is not satisfied by Peace Corps service. However, Volunteers are deferred for the duration of their assignments.

TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION . . . Request one from Peace Corps, Washington, D. C. 20525; from the Peace Corps Liaison Officer on your college or university campus; from your Civil Service Commission Office; or from your local post office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE:

Peace Corps
Washington, D.C. 20525

ATTN: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS