



FRIENDS' CENTER

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Newsletter

January-February 1953

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION, 1830 SUTTER STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

"AFTER SEVEN
YEARS" - THE
GERMAN REFUGEE

"I bit into the sour apple and took the only alternative - to go to the Uranium mines." So writes to the AFSC a young girl, a neo-refugee from the East to the Western sector of Germany. In her plea for aid she

describes how she volunteered for work in the Uranium mines because the salary was good and "the ration cards were also good so that you did not have to starve, (even though) it was difficult because human beings are considered only machines there - and one does not have an 'I'." Eventually she was forced out of the Uranium mines and escaped to West Germany where she hoped to enjoy the fruits of freedom. Instead, disillusioned, she writes, "Why aren't opportunities offered to young people in West Germany? Formerly we always envied those who were able to be over here . . . but can one call such a freedom democracy . . . where the have-nots are allowed to remain forgotten in the dust by the wayside?"

This girl is one of the young East Germans between the ages of 14 and 22 who have been crossing into West Germany at the rate of approximately 2500 a month. She is one of 6,500,000 post-war and neo-German and Austrian refugees for whom no permanent solution has yet been found. Living in a near-job, near-housing and near-spiritual vacuum, she and millions of her fellow refugees understandably find it difficult to appreciate the tremendous strides which the West German government, the United States and private organizations have already made in integrating 3,500,000 refugees into present truncated Germany. The sober fact is, however, according to a pamphlet just published by the AFSC (After Seven Years - World War II Refugees) that "the efforts of the German or Austrian people alone can never be great enough to solve this problem. The rest of the world (must) come forward with that added assistance which will provide the difference between continued disintegration or a peaceful and hopeful outlook."

As it has in the past seven years, the AFSC hopes in the years to come to maintain its direct personal services to refugees in the form of clothing, small agricultural loans, and neighborhood and student centers scattered over Germany. To supplement these services the

Committee seeks to encourage an informed public opinion which will support generous action both by government and private agencies. The pamphlet, "After Seven Years" and a new film strip, "Left Over Children," are steps in this direction. Another is the forthcoming visit to the Bay Area of Clifford Maser, Dean of Business Administration at Oregon State College, co-director of the AFSC Refugee Services in Germany and Austria, 1951-52, and author of "After Seven Years." On Saturday, February 7th, at 7:30 p.m. he will speak on "Germany - An Ideological Vacuum" at the Berkeley Friends Meeting, Vine and Walnut, Berkeley. The public is invited.

PRISON RIOTS

Early last month at the second annual AFSC Prison Institute, Austin MacCormick, Professor of Criminology at the University of California, predicted that more prison riots were in store for the U.S. "During the past 16 months," he said, "there have been more prison riots in the U. S. than there were in the preceding 16 years." "There is little likelihood," he continued, "that outbreaks of this sort will decrease in frequency or intensity for some time to come."

Principal causes for the riots, he stated, were brutality, overcrowding, idleness, dangerously low budgets, poor pay for personnel, and abuse of the prison system for political patronage and profit. "California's prison system is the best in the country because the prison system is out of politics."

Representing an institution which has done away with the cause for riots was Kenyon J. Scudder, Superintendent of the California Institution for Men at Chino. Chino, a penitentiary for 1780 men without stone walls, guns or iron bars, relies on a minimum of coercion, four hours daily training in a choice of 34 trades, week-end family visiting privileges, and special pre-parole classes. "This type of prison," declared Scudder, "is based on the concept there cannot be regeneration without freedom." When Chino was first opened in 1941, it was hoped that 6% of all California convicts could be trusted sufficiently to be sent there; today 37% of all State prisoners are eligible. "Some of these days that figure is going to be 50%," Scudder concluded. Today 82% of the men who graduate from Chino have been successfully rehabilitated, 10% are returned on technical violations of parole, and 8% commit new felonies. When public opinion and legislators throughout the nation are prepared to duplicate the Chino example in their states, most of America's 165,000 convicts will have a much better chance for rehabilitation and a constructive return to society.

NEW AFSC PROJECT IN KOREA

The AFSC plans to undertake shortly a medical relief project in the Kunsan area of South Korea. Initially the new project will consist of an intensive training program for Korean medical technicians and other hos-

pital workers, based in a hospital already in operation. To date as its principal war relief service in Korea, the Committee has contributed 965,000 articles of good, used clothing.

The Kunsan area was selected on the recommendation of Dr. Jonathan Rhoads of Philadelphia and Lewis Waddilove, a British Friend, who recently returned from an exploratory mission to Korea. They found medical needs among civilians to be acute. In Kunsan, for example, 48% of the primary school children and 55% of the refugees in an adjacent camp have incipient cases of tuberculosis. A hospital visited in Kunsan was indescribably dirty, no nurse was on duty and the condition of some of the tiny or more helpless patients was deplorable. Tuberculosis cases were in the same rooms with everything else. In South Korea there is one physician for every 7,800 civilians; in the United States one for every 780. Other areas of current need are: housing - 600,000 houses have been destroyed and only 15,000 rebuilt; refugees - 2,746,000, of whom 250,000 segregated in camps are in dire circumstances. The camps are concentration areas in which large numbers, sometimes as many as 25,000, have settled and have built crude shelter from whatever materials were available.

On the positive side the Quaker Mission found the emergency measures taken by the Eighth Army and developed by UNCACK (United Nations Civil Assistance Command for Korea) had successfully prevented mass starvation, mass outbreak of disease, and permitted an equitable distribution of relief clothing. Recent drives in the U.S. have been highly effective. According to Dr. Rhoads, "From three-fourths to four-fifths of the people in the streets are wearing clothes obviously made over from American clothing."

ALTERNATIVES IN KOREA

Tragic suffering like that in Korea reminds us that relief for the victims of war, compelling as their needs are upon us, is a service less fundamental than preventing the wars which victimize people. Two recent events sponsored by the regional office sought to play a small part in reducing the accelerating tempo of war psychology. One was the visit of Gerald Bailey, English member of the Quaker team at the United Nations, who spoke before the Commonwealth Club on January 9 and at the Annual Regional Meeting; the other was a conference on "The Alternatives in Korea" early in December.

In his address at the Commonwealth Club, Gerald Bailey considered the theme of East-West tensions at two levels -- the immediate problem of reaching a settlement to lessen the risk of general war, and second, the deeper and longer term problem of the basic ideological conflict between the free world and the Communist world. Acknowledging that the USSR was the chief offender in initiating and prolonging the cold war, Gerald Bailey, nevertheless, declared, "Our contemporary world solves this

problem (of the cold war) by peaceful means or perishes at its own hand." "No one, not even a beneficent creator, is going to save us if we are not willing to save ourselves." He suggested the West accept responsibility for probing out possible bases of settlement. "The historic moment for a top-level coming together of heads of countries may be in hand." Specifically, he said, such a settlement in Asia would require a broader base for negotiation than so far conducted in Korea. To provide sufficient inducement for the cessation of hostilities on the part of Peking China in Korea and Indo-China, he suggested her admission into the United Nations and the neutralizing of Formosa with political asylum provided dissenting Chinese. "Admission to the U.N. (of Peking China) is not the same thing as diplomatic recognition by the U.S.A. - that is entirely your affair," he declared.

He concluded, however, "Even if we achieve the political objectives necessary to preserve our civilization from the disaster of total war, that achievement will not put an end to the deeper struggle which has to be waged in the hearts and minds of men." "In that struggle," he said, "the only effective answer is in constant striving to make a reality of our own christian and democratic professions." "Responsible freedom is still the really radical and revolutionary way of life." Let us make that our standard of life, and our societies will be immune "to the penetrative power of Communism," and "we shall serve to liberalize, or to liberate . . . Communist societies . . . by the force and infection of our example."

INFORMATION
FROM THE AFSC

Current reading materials now available from the Regional Office:

- (21) AFTER SEVEN YEARS - WORLD WAR II REFUGEES -- a 40-page publication concerning one of Western Europe's great human problems and major factor in the resurgence of neo-Nazism. (25¢)
- (22) HOW TO PREVENT PRISON RIOTS -- Life Magazine (11/24/52) tells a careful story of the people behind prison riots and why they riot. (5¢)
- (23) THE EAST-WEST PROBLEM -- The Commonwealth Club address by Gerald Bailey in which he explores short-term and long-range solutions for the over-riding problems of our time. (15¢)
- (24) 1952 ANNUAL AFSC REPORT -- An encouraging description by word and photograph of what those who share in the work of the AFSC achieved together in 1952. (Free)

Circle on the coupon below the item numbers you want, enclose necessary fees, and mail to AFSC, San Francisco. (21) (22) (23) (24)

Name _____

Address _____ City & Zone _____

American Friends Service Committee

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Stephen Thiermann, *Executive Secretary*

February 3, 1953

Dear Friend:

We have good news to share with you: the restrictions preventing private relief agencies from working in Korea have been lifted.

I am writing this special letter to ask your help in reaching out to new persons for the extra funds the Committee will need. On the reverse side of this letter are blank spaces to fill in the names of acquaintances you think would be interested in this emergency appeal for South Korean civilians.

Our new work will be two-fold: medical aid to the sick and injured; emergency relief for refugees.

The work will be focused in the port city of Kunsan on the west coast of Korea. The need in Kunsan is as great as anywhere in South Korea; it has a large concentration of unintegrated refugees. In Kunsan 48% of the primary school children and 55% of the refugees located there have incipient cases of tuberculosis. The only hospital is indescribably dirty and the condition of some of the tiny or helpless children is deplorable. The first medical team will be sent in a few weeks. It is hoped that with more workers a community services program will shortly expand from the initial medical service. The larger program will include child day care, supplementary feeding of children, self-help facilities such as sewing machines and cobbling tools.

Team members do not receive a salary -- only maintenance. Our immediate budget is modest -- \$75,000, of which we here in this region have said we could raise \$10,000 of new additional money. This budget is on top of our regular general foreign service budget for this regional office.

Since hostilities began, we have been permitted to send only relief clothing (thru the Army and a U.N. agency). Now we can expand our relief work and begin the sustained job of reconstruction. We are confident that this long-awaited opportunity will be met with immediate and generous response; so many of our friends have expressed concern about needs in Korea.

Will you let us write to some of your acquaintances telling them about this new work and seeking their support? Please list the names on the other side of this letter and return it to us as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Thiermann

Stephen Thiermann
Executive Secretary

American Friends Service Committee

Person supplying the names below: _____

Name Address City

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Other suggestions:

The appeal will be sent to the persons you suggest in your name very soon after they are received. The solicitation will be in keeping with our policy of reporting needs and not pressuring. A brief reminder letter will be sent to those not replying about three weeks after the first letter is sent.

Stephen H. ...
Executive Secretary