



**Overseas Education Fund
of the League of Women Voters**

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NEWS

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RUSSIAN EXCHANGE CONCLUDED

Though its field activities are concentrated in Latin America, OEF maintains contact with many other countries through its headquarters briefing programs and an occasional exchange program. One of the most unusual exchanges in recent memory was completed this Fall between OEF and the Soviet Women's Committee. It was made possible by a grant from the Institute for International Order.

In negotiation since 1963, the U.S. tour of four prominent Russian women leaders finally occurred in June of this year. Their visit to New York, Indianapolis, Denver, and Washington, where their activities were programmed and hosted by Leagues of Women Voters, was vividly reported by Mrs. George Little, OEF's First Vice President and their official escort. A copy of Mrs. Little's account of their travels is available to anyone who wishes to request it.

In September, four U.S. women, members of the League of Women Voters chosen for their records of leadership and service, paid a return visit as guests of the Soviet Women's Committee. They were Miss Barbara Stuhler, St. Paul, Minnesota, Associate Director of the World Affairs Center of the University of Minnesota and former Foreign Policy Chairman on the national Board of Directors of the League; Mrs. John Campbell, Indianapolis, Indiana, Chairman of the League's Education Fund; Dr. Doris Curtis, New Orleans, La., a geologist with Shell Oil Co. and former president of the Norman, Okla. League; and Mrs. Eugene Smith, Idaho Falls, Idaho, past president of the Idaho State League.

Miss Stuhler, Chairman of the Delegation, reported that the most vigorous debate between themselves and their hosts occurred not about Vietnam (where they simply regard our position as indefensible) but about the U.S. economic system. "We heard cliches from people who should have known better," she said.

But for the most part, their visit was marked by overwhelming hospitality. Miss Stuhler described the Russians as a loving people with a marvelous sense of humor. The U.S. delegation came away with a profound respect for their desire for a peace and for their concern with making their cities beautiful. While the country's intellectual progress has been uneven, its economic progress is real and considerable.

Miss Stuhler enjoyed one brief exchange with her interpreter. "I don't know whether you are workers or capitalists," said the puzzled young lady. To which Miss Stuhler replied, "We're both."

IN BOLIVIA, A CIVIC ORGANIZATION WINS PRAISE

Last June, OEF assisted the National Confederation of Women's Institutions (known as CONIF) in giving its second national development conference. Of major significance was the breadth of representation among the participants and observers. Women from the mines and urban workers' areas for the first time joined together to learn how citizens can work together on issues such as basic education, nutrition, health, and child welfare.

At the conclusion of the Workshop, the women of the mining district (where life is very hard and the average miner earns only the equivalent of forty American dollars a month) desired that a branch of CONIF be established in their area. As a result of this initial contact, CONIF sponsored a Civic Education Course for women from the mines during "Women's Week" in July. The course was given by the Alliance for Citizens Orientation under the auspices of CONIF.

An extensive editorial appearing in Ultima Hora, a La Paz newspaper, praised the work being carried on by CONIF. The editorial concluded that "women sooner than men" have discovered "with astonishing clarity" that the salvation of Bolivia depends on the Bolivians themselves.

INSTITUTE V NEARS CONCLUSION

The largest (25 participants), shortest (four months) and most intensive Leadership Institute will complete its academic program in its new setting at Boston University this month and travel to Washington for a final week of field visits and graduation ceremonies.

The new Institute format - developed by OEF's Institute Committee together with Boston University personnel from Metrocenter, the Adult Education Department, and the Human Relations Center - has proved to be extremely effective. And the shorter length together with the eased requirements for facility in English (helpful but not necessary) has broadened the range of eligible candidates and brought increased representation from rural areas and a broader range of economic groups.

Conducting the Institute in Spanish has posed challenges but no insurmountable obstacles. Simultaneous translation equipment facilitated the visits of English speaking guests and lecturers. And Spanish speaking supervisors were located in all of the field work placements.

Field work has provided many rewarding experiences. Two participants, for example, are working with the 40 Spanish speaking families at the Columbia Point Housing Project. The Latin women in the project are now enrolling in English classes in the Boston School Department's adult education programs and in homemaking courses to learn child care, budgeting, and shopping techniques. With the encouragement of OEF's field workers, the Latin residents have also nominated, campaigned for and elected a bilingual candidate to the Community Development Council.

Also included in the busy Institute schedule are weekly lectures, discussions and analysis of "back home" problems, workshops on organization techniques, and observation visits to many community organizations and government agencies, plus a trip to New York for a briefing and tour of the United Nations. Leagues of Women Voters in the Boston area have provided not only home hospitality but the opportunity to see the League in action.

When the 25 young women return to their home communities at the end of December - in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile - they will almost immediately join with local leaders on teams to undertake national civic education projects as a fulfillment of their "intern year" for OEF.

DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR HELD IN WASHINGTON

In October, OEF conducted its seventh multinational seminar on civic development for women leaders from Latin American countries. Fourteen distinguished citizens from ten Latin American countries arrived for a two week seminar in Washington on "The Role of the Citizen in the Process of Development." The seminar was followed by a month's tour of U.S. cities to observe community programs in action.

The participants - with backgrounds in social welfare, education, community development, and law - were chosen by U.S. embassies in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama to receive Leader Grants from the U.S. Department of State to attend the seminar.

Guest speakers presented techniques which can make organizations more effective and able to mobilize positive forces in a changing society. Among the featured speakers were Dr. Morales Carrion, Special Adviser to the Secretary General of the

Organization of the American States; Dr. Jose Epstein of the Inter-American Development Bank; Sterling Tucker, Executive Director of the Washington Urban League; Mrs. William H. Wood, member of the National Board of the League of Women Voters; and Mrs. Merwin Phelps, President of the Prince George's County League. Dr. Caroline Ware, OEF Consultant, was program moderator; Mrs. Melvin Bergheim was the seminar director.

A GRACIOUS NEW CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

At 680 Park Avenue in New York City, there now exists a handsome new center, lauded by Vice President Humphrey at its Fall opening as "a showcase for the cultural achievements of Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada - a forum for the interchange of ideas and information."

The six-story mansion is the home of the Center for Inter-American Relations. In addition to its reception areas and meeting rooms, it serves as headquarters for the Council for Latin America, an organization composed of more than 200 business firms with interests in Latin America. David Rockefeller serves as Chairman of the Board for both the Council and the Center.

The purpose of the Center is to aid in bringing about more effective communication among those concerned with political, economic, and social development in this hemisphere. Its program will feature art and music, as well as seminars and lectures by world figures.

OEF has already enjoyed the Center's hospitality. It provided a gracious setting for the luncheon-evaluation session for the participants at our multinational seminar on civic development at the conclusion of their nationwide tour. And it was the scene of a small reception on November 27, which was to be hosted by Miss Anna Lord Strauss. (Mrs. Little, our First Vice President was an able substitute when Miss Strauss made a sudden departure for a Vietnam tour at President Johnson's request.)

Honored guests at the reception were the 25 participants from the Leadership Institute at Boston University, who were in the city visiting the United Nations. The Center is itself indeed "a showcase," but it is its spirit of hospitality and cultural reciprocity which is its greatest contribution.

OEF'S ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY

Each Fall, OEF starts anew in building the financial resources for its plans and programs for the coming year. Approximately \$100,000 in unrestricted support must be raised to make the work of the organization possible.

This support - which comes from our many friends, interested foundations, and enlightened business corporations - underwrites our basic planning and operating costs as well as many of our field activities. And it enables us to unify the projects which are supported by specific foundation grants and government contracts into programs with sequence and cumulative impact.

In the last five years, more than \$1,000,000 has been channeled through the Overseas Education Fund into programs of information and assistance for citizens in other countries who are seeking to strengthen their democratic processes and institutions.

As a cumulative sum, this is impressive - just as the cumulative results grow increasingly impressive. But the underlying core of private support which has made it all possible has been the sum of many contributing individuals and organizations who have given us their consistent help and encouragement. We welcome - and need - all who share our goals as partners in the task.

PERSPECTIVES WORTH NOTING

From "The Peace Corps: A Revolutionary Force" by Frank Mankiewicz, Regional Director of Latin American Programs for the Peace Corps

"This is the mission of community development - a mission which consists of nothing more than a political turnabout in the country to which we are assigned. We are talking about situations in which 3 per cent of the people function effectively in a country and 97% do not. If that situation is to change to one in which the great bulk of outsiders become insiders, the non-participants become participants, and the oppressed and forgotten become a functioning part of the country, then that is nothing less than a revolution; and it is one that will be accomplished by political means."

"We talk about development - but the pure economic and physical development of the countries will be conducted eventually by the countries themselves, with United States assistance or without it. But the political and social development of the country can only come through the infusion of a kind of revolutionary spirit such as the Peace Corps represents and which more and more Latin American governments now welcome."

"If the aims of community development, as the Peace Corps sees it in Latin America, can be summed up in one sentence, it is that success is in sight, not when the economic statistics have reached a certain level, not when a certain number of miles of roads or cinderblock houses have been built, but when the forgotten and ignored have been invited to 'join the parade'."

From "A Perspective on International Development" by John F. Hilliard, A Ford Foundation Reprint

"One of the many extraordinary things about development is the difficulty of understanding what causes it; how it can be accelerated; what is an acceptable or desirable rate of change; what is the relationship between physical and social technology; and, in a larger sense, how political and economic systems of different sizes, shapes, and speeds can be geared to each other so that the machinery of world development can turn."

"Equally mysterious is why so far such little effort has been devoted to finding answers to these obviously crucial questions."

"For the first thirteen years of U. S. aid to underdeveloped countries, the aid agency had no organized program of research in the phenomena of development. In 1963 it established such a program, with 6 million dollars in funds, or about .003 per cent of the AID annual expenditure. Although this original amount has risen it still bears no adequate relationship to the size of the expenditures for development. The international agencies and the private foundations have also given a low priority to research in the process of dynamics of development."

"It is an encouraging fact that the neglect of the past is gradually being relieved by a larger, broader, and more imaginative research program, both public and private; competence in this field is growing, in the underdeveloped as well as in the developed countries."
