

# **AMERICAN LABOR IN THE PEACE CORPS**





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Until a few months ago James Patrick McKay was a bricklayer in Hornell, New York. Only recently he had obtained his AFL-CIO union card in masonry and embarked on his new career.

But Jim McKay wanted to do something more. He wanted to share his knowledge with others. He wanted, in a personal and direct way, to serve his country. He wanted the kind of meaningful experience that would contribute to his responsibilities as a private citizen and to his career as a skilled craftsman.

So Jim McKay volunteered to serve in the Peace Corps.

Today he is working in Lahore, Pakistan, helping to build a hospital. The average bricklayer there lays 225 bricks per day. Jim's average is 750. His energy and skill are being used to help his Pakistani co-workers improve their own production. When the hospital is completed, they will move on to new buildings. Those buildings will demonstrate what Americans and Pakistanis can do working together in a common effort.

Jim McKay's story is being repeated by union men in the Peace Corps all over the world. A carpenter in Brazil, an electrician in Colombia, a construction worker in Malaya, a mechanic in Tunisia—these and other craft and industrial workers are serving their country and the cause of international understanding.

Newly developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are looking to the United States to help them achieve their full strength as independent nations. These countries are asking the Peace Corps for skilled manpower to serve until local people can be trained to take over the work.

Many of these skills are found in the ranks of American labor.

### WHY VOLUNTEER?

Why would a member of organized labor want to volunteer for the Peace Corps?

**First**, because he sees the world around him changing daily. He sees great problems facing his generation, his country, and his way of life. He wants to do something significant. In the words of one Volunteer, "I wanted to

break those big problems up in fragments and try to solve the parts of them I could handle."

**Second**, because he is wanted—and needed. Men and women with skills that are common in the American labor movement are urgently needed abroad.

**Third**, because he knows that service in the Peace Corps can mean something to his career when he has completed his two-year assignment overseas. He will know his skill even better; he will know a foreign language; he will know the people of a foreign country; and he will know the world. Those factors will be in his favor when he returns to his work at home.

### WHAT ARE OTHERS SAYING?

**"No other single proposal of the Kennedy Administration has created so much admiration and excitement at home and abroad as the concept of a Peace Corps. It is a magnificent idea . . ."**—Joseph A. Beirne, President, Communications Workers of America, Vice President, AFL-CIO, member of the Peace Corps National Advisory Council.





**"The Peace Corps offers a great potential for good in international affairs. It can provide an opportunity to utilize the keen abilities and skills of our people in the task of assisting in the solution of world problems." — C. J. Haggerty, President, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, and member of the Peace Corps National Advisory Council.**

**"The AFL-CIO Executive Council urges all AFL-CIO affiliates to assist in making the Peace Corps a successful and enduring program by encouraging the enlistment of Volunteers from labor's ranks and by supporting the programs of the Peace Corps whenever and wherever appropriate." — Resolution adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council at Unity House, Pa., June 29, 1961.**

## QUALIFICATIONS

**WHO MAY APPLY:** Any American citizen over 18 may apply for service with the Peace Corps. There is no upper age limit. Married persons with no dependent children will be accepted if both can do needed jobs as Volunteers. In some cases, married persons with dependents will be chosen as Volunteer Leaders. Volunteers must be in excellent physical and mental health, emotionally mature, and upright in their personal conduct.

**IS A COLLEGE EDUCATION NECESSARY?** No. Many crafts of the kind learned on the job or in apprenticeship courses are needed.

**HOW DO I APPLY?** By filling out a Peace Corps Volunteer Questionnaire. Write to the Peace Corps, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for the Questionnaire, the Peace Corps booklet and the Peace Corps folder entitled "You and the Peace Corps." The Questionnaire merely tells the Peace Corps what your experience is and that you would like to be considered for service.

Peace Corps Questionnaires are also available at Post Offices, through the offices of your Senators and Congressmen, at your International Union headquarters and the International staff representatives, and from any local Bureau of Employment Security Office.

**LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS:** Volunteers will not have to have a knowledge of a foreign language in order to apply for service. They will receive instruction in the language and culture of the country to which they are assigned in the Peace Corps training program.

**PAY AND ALLOWANCES:** During training and overseas service, all expenses — including travel, food, clothing, housing, medical care, and incidentals — will be paid by the Peace Corps. Upon completion of Peace Corps service, Volunteers will receive a termination payment equal to \$75 for each month of service. Volunteer Leaders will receive slightly higher living allowances and a larger termination allowance.

**TRAVEL AND LEAVE:** Volunteers and Volunteer Leaders will receive 30 days leave with allowances each year and will get a small additional allowance for travel from their duty stations.

**DISABILITY BENEFITS:** Disability benefits, including medical care, will be provided for Volunteers and Volunteer Leaders and any illness or injury incurred in the line of duty will be covered.

**MILITARY OBLIGATIONS:** Military obligations are not met through Peace Corps service, but Volunteers can be deferred from the Selective Service and Reserve obligations for the period of their Peace Corps service, at the discretion of local Selective Service boards.

**WHEN TO APPLY?** Now. The opportunities are limitless — the needs both long range and immediate.

#### **WHERE NEEDED?**

##### **SOMALIA**

Construction, all crafts

##### **TUNISIA**

Building construction specialists and road building equipment mechanics

##### **BOLIVIA**

Housing construction supervisors, plumbers, and well diggers

##### **VENEZUELA**

Fishing specialists and technicians

##### **PERU**

Auto mechanics, carpenters, tailors, plumbers, electricians, metal workers, radio specialists and construction foremen

##### **MALAYA**

Heavy equipment supervisors

##### **LIBERIA**

Construction workers, all crafts

Skilled craftsmen will also be needed for many other projects.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, WRITE:**

# **PEACE CORPS**

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**