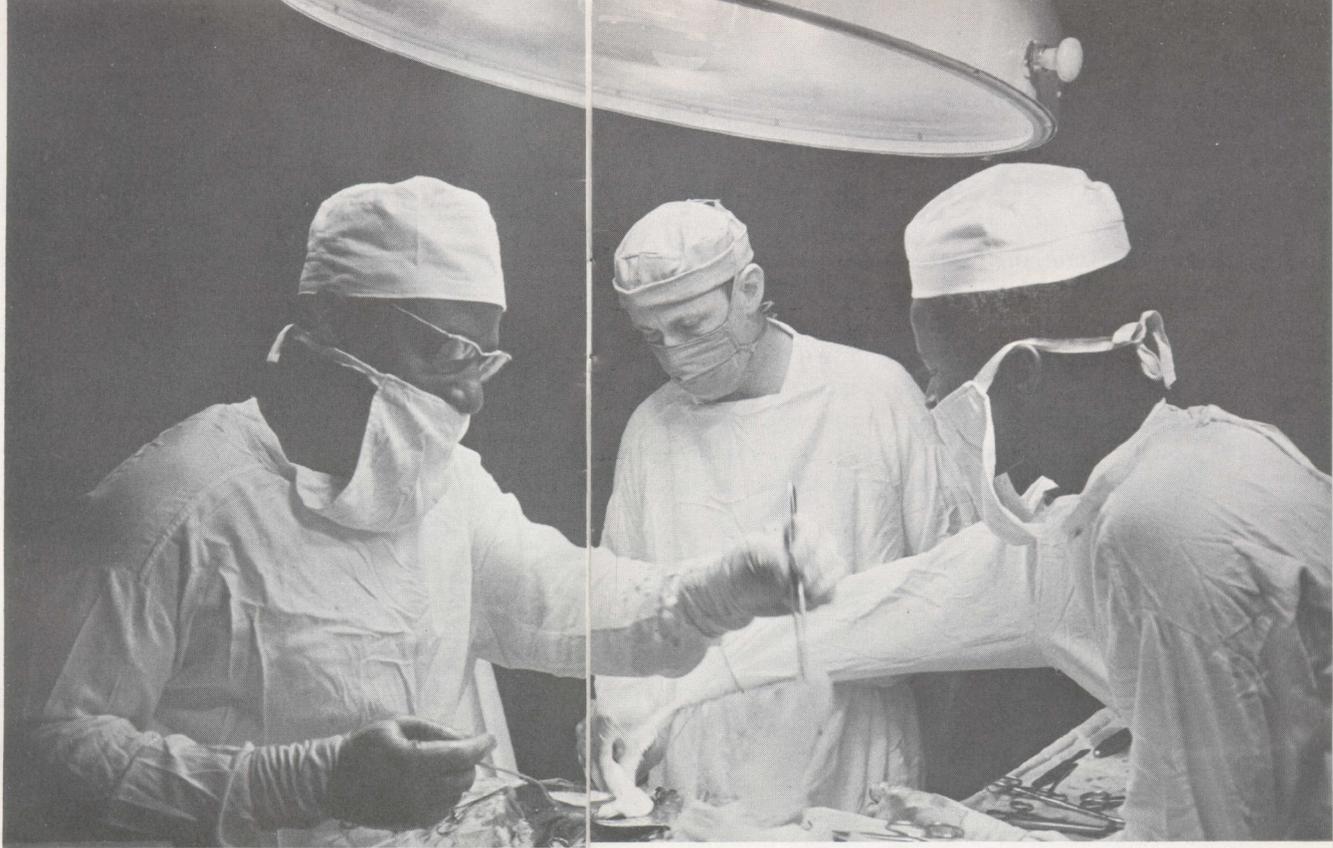


doctors

*in the
Peace Corps*





DOCTORS IN THE PEACE CORPS

Living is hard and dying easy in most parts of this world today, despite the tremendous progress in medicine and public health. In our anti-septic and protected country it is difficult to realize how great are the needs and how appalling the deficiencies in four-fifths of the nations of the world.

When people are chronically ill and men die before their most productive years, countries cannot advance.

To help people have a chance at better health and nations to flourish, the Peace Corps has established a medical program for Volunteer physicians. Since the work of those doctors will be a demonstration and an affirmation of America's concern for individuals of other countries, the doctors will be helping also to establish understanding between peoples of different cultures.

The idea for this medical program goes back to the beginnings of the Peace Corps. In 1961, Director Sargent Shriver on a tour of developing nations found that their first requests were for doctors and teachers. Teachers have become the largest single Volunteer group—but only a handful of doctors have participated. Yet the needs are staggering.

In parts of Latin America, a third of all newborn children die before their first birthday; in areas of Asia, the figure is even higher. In Togo, West Africa, there are 20 doctors to serve 1,500,000 people. In some Asian countries one doctor cares for 50,000 patients. And in most cases, these few doctors congregate in urban areas where living conditions and medical facilities are better. In rural areas in the developing nations, there is often only one doctor for 1,000,000 people.

In a speech to the Albert Einstein School of

Medicine, Shriver called for hundreds of doctors to volunteer for the Peace Corps to establish in the developing nations programs of universal medical education. To reach large numbers of host country citizens, Volunteer doctors will divide their time among three tasks. They will work in medical schools and village clinics. They will also teach para-medical personnel. A third of their time will be spent in curative medicine. And another third will be devoted to work in community health—sanitation, nutrition, personal hygiene. A three month Peace Corps training program will prepare the doctors for these areas of responsibility.

The Peace Corps has also recognized the particular problems of physicians. Generally, they are older than other professional persons when they complete their training. Often they have dependents and a financial burden. For these reasons, Volunteer doctors may be accompanied overseas by their wives and children, who will also receive appropriate training. If the doctor's wife wishes to volunteer, and if she has children, a local nursemaid can be responsible for their day care. If the wife wishes to devote all her time to her children, she need not be enrolled, but may accompany her husband.

Peace Corps service is for two years, including the training period. The Peace Corps provides all transportation and living expenses for the doctor and his family. Volunteers with overseas experience advocate the simple life so that special privileges will not set them apart from their local communities.

In the host country, each doctor will be assigned to a position where his own special talents, training and experience can best be utilized. However, in the developing nations, needs are often primitive and urgent, and the dedicated Volunteer will serve in many areas of medicine, regardless of his specialty.

The first doctors enrolled as a group entered training in the summer of 1965 for the new program. The doctors, accompanied by wives and 22 children, are working in the five countries which have requested their help. In Afghanistan,



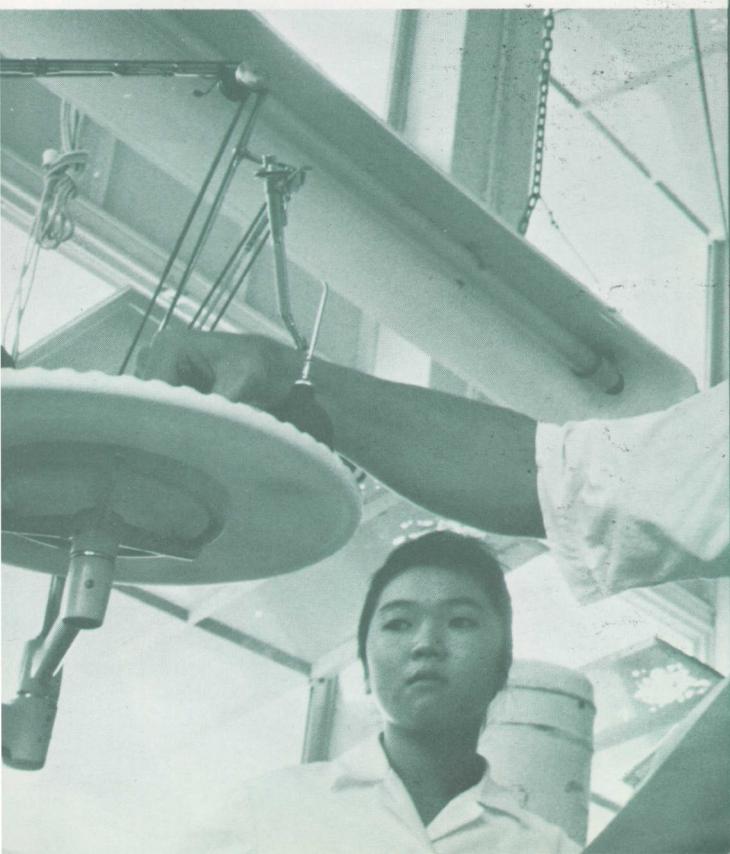


Peace Corps doctors are assigned to the faculty of a new medical school, the second one in this country of 13,000,000. They are scheduled to teach a variety of subjects, but regardless of their particular course, their experience in the American educational system will serve as an inspiration to the budding school. In India, doctors are to work in rural health centers, sharing their training in family planning, nutrition and child care with medical auxiliary personnel and young Indian doctors. In Turkey, the Volunteers are to be part of an energetic new medical center and work in urban renewal projects started by a dynamic Turkish doctor. There are hundreds of other challenging assignments waiting for physicians. The Peace Corps intends this merely to be the first of many such groups of doctors who will serve on a growing scale in the developing nations.

Dr. Digby Gallas is one of the doctors in this

first group. He received his Peace Corps invitational telegram shortly before dawn as he was entering the labor room to deliver a baby. Excited by the professional challenge for him as a doctor and the personal challenge for his wife and five children, he chatted about the Peace Corps during delivery. His scrub nurse, who had been a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Far East, said: *"It's a good thing the Peace Corps is only for two years. If it had been a month longer I never would have come home!"* Dr. Gallas said: *"I was going to accept anyway, but her enthusiasm got us all the more excited."*

Through their work overseas, Volunteer doctors are making many vital contributions to the developing nations. But they are also accruing personal and professional benefits. As Dr. Ralph Morris said, after his Peace Corps experience in Tunisia, *"The Peace Corps offers a special opportunity to deal as a doctor with the people*





and problems of an entirely different culture. The Peace Corps also lets you be part of an inspiring venture in international understanding."

In the field of curative medicine, Peace Corps service is an unusual post-graduate course. "Malaria, bilharzia, hookworm, leprosy and other diseases vaguely heard of at home are the things I dealt with every day," wrote Dr. Nick Cunningham from Togo. "The Peace Corps gave me the opportunity not only to work in my field of internal medicine but also to get to the roots of my profession by grappling with the very essence of life and death."

For Dr. Donald Goldstone who served in West Pakistan, "the Peace Corps changed my medical orientation entirely. Curative medicine is an ineffective instrument when applied on a worldwide basis. Few countries have adequate manpower or money to treat their masses. We must introduce preventive medicine and we must teach host country doctors and citizens what it means. Then we might begin to see a healthier and more productive world."

And as Dr. Cunningham said: "Two years in the Peace Corps is an experience in knowledge. 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. As a doctor, you get a close-up view of what really ails mankind."

Finally, in the words of one non-medical Volunteer who served in Africa: "I don't know how friendship fits into all of this but it does somehow. My instincts revolt against the whole idea of having to prove in some mechanistic or quantitative way the value of the Peace Corps. If the aim is to help people, I recall the fine Ibo proverb which says, 'When the right hand washes the left, the right hand also becomes clean.' That my Nigerian friends love and trust me is no reason for them to trust Washington or forgive Birmingham. But something is there which was not there before, and which the world is better for having."

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