

DRAFT

THE HISTORY
OF
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES

1953-1988

November 1988

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

J.S. Noffsinger	1954-60
Russell Stevenson	1960-64
Gordon Brockmueller	1964-65
Arthur Gardner	1965-70
Dick Peters	1970-73
Tony Lake	1974-76
John Rigby	1977-81
Nan Borton	1982-89

International Voluntary Services (IVS) was created at a unique turning point in the history of the United States. In the post-World War II era, the United States emerged from its isolationism, and embarked upon efforts to enhance its international posture. IVS was established as a cooperative effort between government officials interested in embarking upon service projects in the developing world, and leaders of religious organizations desiring to receive support for their service projects abroad.

The goals of the "Point IV Program", as outlined in U.S. President Harry Truman's 1949 inaugural address, included the provision of making our "scientific advances and our industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of underdeveloped areas...". And, more specifically, the United States government should help the people of the developing world, "through their own efforts", to become more self-sufficient.

These goals were embodied in the Act for International Development which was approved by the 81st Congress. The act stated, "the participation of private agencies and persons shall be sought to the greatest extent practicable" in carrying out the Point IV Program. The emphasis on a grassroots approach and "people-to-people" cooperation thus set the stage for the enhanced role of private voluntary organizations -- working in cooperation with the Technical Cooperation Administration (TCA), the government overseer of the Point IV Program.

In 1951 negotiations were initiated between William T. Snyder (Mennonite Central Committee), Ora Huston (Brethren Service Commission), Hugh Jenkins (American Friends Service Committee), A. Stauffer Curry (National Service Board for Religious Objectors and Church of the Brethren) and Mr. Arthur C. Ringland (Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, State Department) to discuss the possibilities of cooperation in what would lead to the establishment of IVS. Also, at this time, an agreement was reached with the Selective Service System which stipulated that work with "voluntary non-profit relief agency(s) which serve the national interest through approved overseas operations" would be recognized as one of the accepted alternatives for conscientious objectors.

In 1952 John Foster Dulles issued a plea before the National Council of Churches for religious and non-governmental agencies to work with the Point IV Program. The TCA representative, Stanley Andrews, and the representatives of the International Development Advisory Board (IDAB), Chairman Eric Johnston and Deputy Executive Assistant Dale Clark, agreed to work together to organize private endeavors to implement the Point IV Program. A letter was sent to Johnston on behalf of the leaders of voluntary groups already involved in welfare and relief projects during and after WWII - including the Peace Churches, Rotary International, World Neighbors and the Heifer Project. The letter proposed that

IDAB take advantage of the existing private voluntary activities working at the grassroots level.

It was felt that if the government worked in cooperation with the private agencies, it could be more effective and benefit from already established expertise and contacts. Government experts would be complemented by teams of experienced workers, at the village level, who would demonstrate the value of improved production, conservation and health practices. Also, U.S.-trained indigenous peoples would be strengthened in their efforts to develop their own countries.

The key element in the development of IVS, earlier referred to as the International Voluntary Foundation, was the realization of the need for a mechanism which would link the efforts of the government and private agencies. Therefore, IVS was developed to assist TCA by carrying out the development plans laid out by the Point IV Program. Such responsibilities included: recruiting and training personnel; establishing, directing and maintaining the facilities, activities and institutions necessary to the fulfillment of the plans.

IVS was incorporated in 1953 as a private non-profit agency under the laws of the District of Columbia, and its office opened in August. Ruth Early, director of the Brethren Refugee Resettlement Program, in New Windsor, Maryland, temporarily set

aside her other duties to set up the office at 1015 Connecticut Avenue. W. Harold Row of the Brethren Service Commission served as temporary chairperson. Early stayed until Dr. John S. Noffsinger, retired educator from the Carnegie Foundation for Education and member of the Church of the Brethren, became the first IVS executive director in the spring of 1954. Guidance from established foundations was sought to convene the board and to get operations into motion.

IVS' first board of directors included John H. Reisner, Carl C. Taylor, William H. Tuck, W. Harold Row, Benjamin G. Bushong, Dale D. Clark and William T. Snyder. Their combined overseas experience exceeded one hundred and fifty years. An advisory committee, established in 1953, consisted of W. Harold Row (Brethren Service), John L. Peters (World Neighbors), William T. Snyder (Mennonite Central Committee), Lewis Hoskins (American Friends Service Committee), and Stanley Andrews (Director of the Point IV Program).

These leaders were committed to the idea that American youth could make an important contribution to U.S. foreign policy by establishing a service program in which there would be person-to-person contact between Americans and people of the host countries. In addition, the program would involve the cooperation and participation of the local citizens. Dr. John S. Noffsinger himself once wrote, "governments should deal with other

governments. Upon proposed relations, people of one country should be encouraged to work or cooperate with people of the other". Such a program, it was also hoped, would produce an "internationalistic" group of American citizens suited for foreign service.

IVS' founding document states the organization's intention to "utilize the services of volunteers on an organized basis to combat hunger, poverty, disease, and illiteracy in the underdeveloped areas of the world and thereby further the peace, happiness and prosperity of the people thereof".

The first IVS program was a livestock and poultry improvement project in Assiut, Egypt. The joint contract between IVS and TCA extended from March 24, 1953 to April 1, 1954, with World Neighbor volunteers Kenneth Imhoff (Mennonite) and Otis Rowe (Brethren) assigned to Assiut College; they received \$60 per month. The project was supported by the Assiut Department of Agriculture and the Ford Foundation.

The second IVS project, the Musa Bey Alami Project (named after its founder), or otherwise known as the Jericho Project, was a poultry and dairy project in cooperation with the Arab Development Society. The project established a commercial poultry industry that helped support an orphanage. One IVS volunteer was James G. Hostetter. The American-based Heifer Project, directed

by Thurl Metzger, provided several thousand chicks, and IVS/TCA provided the volunteers.

The third IVS contract was a village life improvement project, established in Iraq, with project headquarters in Shaqlawa (Erbil). The first team members arrived in November 1953. The contract was between Stanley Andrews (of what was then called the Foreign Operations Administration (FOA) -- formerly the TCA) and Benjamin G. Bushong (IVS' acting director). Dr. Eldon Burke, the IVS team supervisor, had a staff of six, including Joan and Ted Kimmel, Alice and Howard Mills, Martha Rupel and Everett Jenne. The project was funded by TCA and received material support (jeeps) from the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Government of Iraq. On July 1, 1956 the project was incorporated into the Iraq Community Development Program, and IVS remained in an advisory role.

By 1957, volunteers were working in both Laos and Vietnam. In 1959, IVS began working in Cambodia. IVS remained in Southeast Asia for the next 15 years. Overall, programs were productive and well respected.

The first contract in Laos began in 1957 for a project in the Xieng Khouang Province, on the "Plain of Jars" (Tong Hai Hin), an area exposed to heavy fighting between 1952 and 1954. The project was supported by the provincial governor, the Laotian Ministries

of Agriculture, Health and Education, and Community Development. There were seven American volunteers financed by IVS, the International Cooperation Administration (ICA -- formerly the TCA and FOA), and the Laotian Government. Primarily, the first group of volunteers worked to improve agriculture, livestock, and other aspects of village economy.

A complimentary report of IVS work appeared as controversy over the U.S. foreign aid program was heightened by the publication in 1959 of the novel The Ugly American, describing American behavior in Southeast Asia. Senator Hubert Humphrey and Representatives Reuss and Neuberger visited Vietnam and Laos to investigate. While there they met IVS volunteers and were very impressed and enthusiastic about what they saw. This was reflected in their report to Congress (paraphrased by Galen Beery, who served in IVS/DC as recruitment secretary in 1959-62),

"The committee is pleased to report the discovery of a group of young American agriculture college graduates, living alongside the Vietnamese and Laotians and teaching basic agriculture . . . The cost of this entire program has not been as much as a single mile of a recently completed highway . . . It is to such projects as this that the study committee gives its heartiest approval."

IVSers were considered among the "unugly" Americans.

Interest in the IVS concept increased, and as the 1960 presidential election approached an assistant to presidential candidate Hubert Humphrey visited Dr. Noffsinger regularly. At the same time, newspaper accounts of Sen. Humphrey's thoughts on a national "Point IV Youth Corps" to work in rural development projects abroad were being published.

As John F. Kennedy's popularity grew, Humphrey abandoned the presidential race and threw his support behind Kennedy, whom he encouraged to pursue the Youth Corps proposal. Kennedy and Humphrey believed the timing would be perfect to involve the younger generation in work abroad. Kennedy introduced the idea at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Peace Corps was established in 1961 and IVS served as the prototype (cited in the Congressional Record, 86th Congress, June 15, 1960).

Possibilities of IVS/Peace Corps collaboration were explored for a program in Liberia. IVS had a problem staffing an education team and turned to the Peace Corps for recruitment and training. When the first contingent of new teachers arrived in Monrovia, they had never heard of IVS. Further attempts at collaboration were abandoned.

Peace Corps expanded quickly with congressional funding, while

IVS operated through AID contracts that were increasingly concentrated in the volatile atmosphere of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

With over 150 volunteers, IVS had a very large American presence in Southeast Asia. Unfortunately, IVS' solid development work was paralleled by the escalation, controversy and tragedy of the Vietnam War. A few volunteers in Vietnam, including Marc Cayer, Gary Daves and Sandra Johnson, were captured and spent time in Viet Minh and Vietcong prisons. The volunteers who died under various circumstances include:

Frederic Cheydleur - Laos, ambush

Martin Clish - Laos, plane crash

Chandler Edwards - ambush

David Gitelson - in prison

Peter Hunting

Dennis Mummert - Laos, ambush

Michael Murphy - Laos, drowned

Max Sinkler - in prison

Arthur Stillman - Laos, ambush

Ron Studebaker

Controversy ensued within the ranks of IVS volunteers and staff regarding their mission, their position relative to the US government and their acceptance of AID funding. Some members of

IVS were disturbed by the fact that the variety of factors, including the acceptance of AID funding, made it increasingly difficult for them to maintain a non-partisan role in their development work, particularly in the eyes of the indigenous peoples with whom they were working.

To address this situation, a meeting was convened in Vol Villa, Saigon, in August 1967. Eleven people attended, representing six nations, including Don Luce, John Sommer, Dwight Clark, Willie Meyers, Dick Peters, and Gene Stoltzfus from IVS. These people believed that the establishment of a truly private, international service organization would enable them to re-establish their non-partisan affiliation, and allow them to perform services that catered to the needs of the indigenous peoples rather than to the political interests of a government. They identified three main advantages: a) the fostering of international camaraderie which would unite the "developed" and "developing" worlds; b) the cross-fertilization of technical knowledge which would integrate the best of "Western" and "Eastern" methods; c) the flexibility of movement across international and political frontiers. Many concerns were articulated in this meeting which would later prompt the internationalization of IVS.

In 1970, Vietnam president Nguyen Van Thieu told US Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker to close IVS operations in Vietnam, and the AID grant was terminated. The decision was believed to be based, in

part, upon political expediency. Hugh Manke, Director of IVS/Vietnam, contended in a press release dated August 5, 1971;

"The government of Vietnam wants IVS out before October presidential elections because of their [the volunteers] understanding of the situation in Vietnam and their placement throughout the country, the volunteers are in a good position to spot irregularities in the elections, this probably makes the Government very uneasy."

Pressures from IVS volunteers for independence from USAID culminated in 1971. At a conference in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, IVS drew up a charter reflecting its plans for the coming decade, which was submitted shortly thereafter by Congressperson Reuss to the Congressional Record. The success of IVS, according to the charter, was attested to by the establishment of the Peace Corps. However, in the future, "the organization must constantly strive to be independent of outside pressures which would compromise its fundamental posture of sensitivity to and guidance by goals of the people hosting its programs".

Specifically, IVS set a goal of raising 51% of its total funding from sources other than the U.S. government. And, indeed, IVS' current policy is to raise the majority of its funding from

private sources.

In addition to establishing funding goals, IVS further defined its statement of purpose:

"IVS is committed to helping the process of change and development by making available human resources-- skills, knowledge, and perspectives -- in support of and guided by local development institutions. Our contribution is the provision of a channel-- independent of national self-interest and religious sects -- through which skilled and motivated volunteers from many countries can serve as a development resource."

In a 1979 evaluation of IVS, Cleo Shook, an AID consultant, defined IVS' evolution as follows:

"In the beginning, AID's interest in IVS was tied to the unique capability of IVS to recruit and field, quickly, highly desirable personnel from the private sector to augment AID's own operation in Southeast Asia during the 50's and the 60's. IVS did this by recruiting and supporting very attractive volunteers for a sustained period of two or more years each. This not only provided AID with a source of manpower, but it

did so with a minimum of cost to the U.S. Government. During those early years of IVS, AID was its primary, if not sole, funding source. Also, IVS served only AID in carrying out its program in the field. It was early in the 70's that IVS took the major step of increasing its range of both donors and agencies they assisted in the field and to reinforce their very basic and desirable position of independence and status as a private organization. However, one unique and important part of their operational style remains-- the volunteer, who was from the beginning and still is, the primary implementing instrument IVS uses to carry out its goals and purposes."

Over the decades, IVS has traditionally had a very dedicated and talented number of volunteers. And, over time, the volunteer pool has become increasingly heterogeneous. The first volunteers were predominantly males, attracted primarily from the peace churches. They had all come to IVS with extensive experience in farming technology. The first women IVS volunteers were Martha Rupel, Joan Kimmel and Alice Mills, all in the 1953 Iraq project. By the early 1960s, the skills of IVS broadened even more as increasing numbers of people with liberal arts degrees and people from the international arena applied to serve. International recruitment continued in full force through the 1970s.

Today, 66% of all IVS field staff and volunteers are from the developing world, and 17% of the field staff and volunteers are women.

As one of the oldest American private voluntary organizations, IVS has consistently strived to perform its work in a highly professional manner. In keeping with the spirit of the changing times, IVS has shown flexibility and strength of character in maintaining its visions and goals, while responding to the changing political and economic realities of the times. And, for these reasons, IVS is regarded as unique in its unceasing devotion to recognizing and enhancing the role of local indigenous organizations as development decision-makers.

IVS COUNTRY HISTORY

ALGERIA	1963-77
BANGLADESH	1972-
BOLIVIA	1978-
BOTSWANA	1975-
CAMBODIA	1959-63
CAPE VERDE	1987-
CARIBBEAN	1984-88
COLOMBIA	1975-76
CONGO	1970
ECUADOR	1977-
EGYPT/UAR	1953-56
ETHIOPIA	1985-86
GAZA STRIP	1962-63
GHANA	1960-61
HONDURAS	1975-87
INDONESIA	1974-77
IRAQ	1953-56
JORDAN	1955-62
LAOS	1957-73
LIBERIA	1960-63
LIBYA	1974
MADAGASCAR	1974-?
MALAYSIA	1965-67
MALI	1988
MAURITANIA	1962?-69
MOROCCO	1968-72
NEPAL	1956-57
PAPUA N.G.	1975-84
SUDAN	1974-83
SYRIA	1962-63
VIETNAM	1957-71
YEMEN	1974-79
ZAIRE	1973, 1986-
ZIMBABWE	1983-

November 14, 1988

Dear IVSers and Friends,

The IVS history paper which you'll find attached is an important element in our efforts to keep the story of IVS alive.

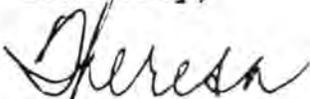
This is a revised edition of an earlier draft that a number of you have already seen. Your responses have helped us immensely in putting this document together.

With your help, we would like to expand upon this version. Some of the areas we'd like to delve into include: a more detailed account of the political and social history surrounding IVS' formation and development and the personalities involved; summaries of IVS projects throughout the years, including names of the IVS participants and descriptions of the specific projects which were undertaken; updates on the current status and/or impact of these projects, as gleaned from follow-up trips or articles. Any anecdotes and stories you would like to share would add an extra personal touch, and would be welcome as well.

So, we invite you to join us in filling in the gaps. After all, you are the history of IVS!

You may write directly on this copy or on another page and return it to me at the reunion with your name attached, or you can drop it in the mail to me. In either case, we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Theresa Trainor, Associate
Communications and Development