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EL SALVADOR GETS OWN PEACE CORPS

Volunteers to Join With U.S. In Project to Aid Villages

By HEDRICK SMITH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—In two weeks, the United States and El Salvador will start the first joint Peace Corps projects in the underdeveloped world. This will mark the beginning of a new and growing offshoot of the United States Peace Corps.

Fifteen five-man teams of United States Peace Corps volunteers and members of El Salvador's new Social Progress Corps will be sent to small towns and villages throughout the Central American country on Sept. 15.

Their task will be to promote community development. Each team will be headed by a Salvadoran volunteer and will have specialists in health, education, agriculture, sanitation and community organization.

In all, 27 Americans and 48 Salvadorans will be working together. Some Salvadoran team leaders have already been to the United States for training and to meet with their American counterparts. All 75 workers will have joint training sessions during the next two weeks.

El Salvador is the first underdeveloped nation to set up its own domestic version of the Peace Corps and prepare volunteers for cooperative ventures with the United States.

Until this program began, Peace Corps teams had been made up only of volunteers from the United States.

Others Plan Programs

Four others, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Northern Rhodesia, and Tanganyika, have indicated that they will follow suit. Others, such as Kenya, Nyasaland, and Pakistan are moving in the same direction.

Already, 10 industrially advanced nations, mostly in Europe, have set up organizations patterned after the Peace Corps. This entire effort is being promoted by the International Peace Corps Secretariat, established last fall by a 43-nation manpower conference in Puerto Rico.

Richard N. Goodwin, a former White House and State Department official who heads the secretariat, is enthusiastic about the way the Peace Corps idea is being received in the underdeveloped world.

"This is the first time since the war there has been an institutional way of reaching to youth in underdeveloped countries and involving them in the problems and progress of their own country," he said.

A Concept Is Tested

"What we're doing now is testing whether the concept of a domestic Peace Corps can work in the underdeveloped world," he went on. "We want to see whether we can give them adequate training, whether you can get the right kind of motivation among the young people, and whether you can set up adequate programs."

Mr. Goodwin's staff recently sent a team of three Africans, a West German and an Israeli to investigate the prospects for setting up domestic Peace Corps organizations in Kenya, Northern Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Uganda and Nyasaland. The staff also has Dutch and Filipino members.

The survey team found an enthusiastic response to the Peace Corps idea. Kenya and Nyasaland have asked for help in planning Peace Corps programs.

In Tanganyika, where the idea has the strong support of President Julius K. Nyerere, the Government has appropriated about \$600,000 for the program.

Already 20 volunteer leaders are in training there and the first group of full-time volunteers will be selected during the next two months.

Tanganyika's plans call for a program that will eventually use 250 full-time and 500 part-time volunteers in rural development and clinics, building farm-to-market roads, land reclamation and settlement, well drilling, shops, irrigation facilities.

Northern Rhodesia Interested

Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, Minister of Local Government in Northern Rhodesia, who is expected to become that country's Premier after independence, is reported to be ready to commit his Government to a similar program.

Two representatives of the International Peace Corps Secretariat are expected to be sent to Northern Rhodesia soon to help set up a program for 800 volunteers, designed in large part not only to promote rural development but to prevent rural youth from drifting into the copper belt, where pay is high but jobs are hard to find.

In Latin America, Mr. Goodwin has received personal commitments on domestic Peace Corps programs from President Juan Bosch of the Dominican Republic and President Victor Paz Estenssoro of Bolivia.

In Bolivia, joint American-Bolivian teams would be used to help Indian families resettle from the sparse, barren Alti Plano into the lush tropical lowlands.

In the Dominican Republic, President Bosch wants to use the program to help combat his nation's critical water shortage, particularly in the southwest near Baní and Barahona. The Government hopes to be able to recruit the first few volunteers with the help of work drilling wells.

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