

Peace Corps Helps Mold Young Minds

Given time, the Peace Corps may have a more profound effect on the United States than the world, according to a Texas A&M University professor who helped found the organization.

Dr. Manuel M. Davenport, head of the Philosophy and Humanities Department, said measurable results are already discernable in America and will become more pronounced, perhaps within four years.

THE PEACE CORPS has more than 14,000 volunteers in 52 countries. They are building schools, roads and hospitals, teaching and showing people of underdeveloped countries that Americans with college degrees don't mind working and getting their hands dirty.

The interesting aspect is the corpsman who completes his two-year tour and returns to the U. S. About half the Peace Corps force cycles annually. Volunteers return at the rate of over 5,000 a year.

"I estimate there should be enough back to sway national policy by 1972," Davenport stated. "They now number in the tens of thousands." He said interviews with his former students reveal a different attitude.

"These are idealistic young people to begin with," he described. "They took on Corps assignments knowing the U.S.'s sole purpose, while altruistic, is also selfish. Corps work is designed to make friends and give our young people knowledge of the world."

CORPSMEN ARE hand-picked and enter Peace Corps training immediately after college. They work for \$75 a month to be paid at the end of two years and live at only slightly higher standards than natives of the country with which they work.

Davenport said most volunteers return to college for graduate degree study.

He said interviews reveal Corps programs have been "very successful" but that there are problems.

"People coming back tell me there's more red tape, more paper work and more 'snafus,'" Davenport said. "It indicates a danger of the Corps becoming too much a bureaucratic enterprise. They

also feel the American people may get impatient and turn to military solutions. It takes time to establish relationships with people."

"THEY ALSO believe our democracy may not be the best government for everyone and don't have much zeal for spreading our institutions. And they believe that what happens to the rest of the world is important to us," he added.

The former Colorado State University professor who made a Point Four Youth Corps feasibility study under State Department Contract said the returning corpsmen also have trouble readjusting to United States culture.

"They find their work is not appreciated by American people. Having worked for the Peace Corps means nothing. Nobody will listen to them and we're not learning from them," Davenport explained.

The U.S.'s future may hinge on them though. The first returning cycle is now completing advanced studies and entering U.S. business, economic and social strata.

"THEY'LL HAVE a leveling effect—a tendency toward a world culture—in which the best aspects of different cultures will be adopted. America may come to more resemble other cultures, rather than the world adopting ours," Davenport evaluated.

*** A Peace Corps recruiting team will visit Texas A&M Feb. 5-9, announced Dr. Curtis L. Godfrey, soil and crop sciences professor who serves as the organization's campus coordinator.

Dr. Godfrey said Barbara Hunter and Joanne Phillips, both just back from two-year Peace Corps assignments overseas, will establish a booth in the Memorial Student Center Feb. 7-9 to interview prospective volunteers. They will be visiting professors and possibly talking to classes the first part of the week.

Miss Hunter, a 1965 graduate of the University of Arkansas, served in Ecuador. Miss Phillips, who graduated a year earlier from Bennett College in North Carolina, was stationed in Morocco.

Visiting Professor To Hold Engineering, Math Seminars

Dr. Richard J. Duffin, formerly distinguished visiting professor of engineering at Stony Brook University, will join the Texas A&M University faculty for the spring semester as visiting distinguished professor of mathematics.

Dr. Clarence Zener, dean of the A&M College of Science, said Dr. Duffin will conduct a joint seminar for the Mathematics Department and the College of Engineering.

Duffin is the senior author of a book, "Geometric Programming," of which Dean Zener is a co-author. He is the author of more than 100 research publications.

The professor earned the Ph.D. at the University of Illinois with a major in physics and a minor

in mathematics. He earlier received the Bachelor of Arts Degree in engineering at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Duffin has served two terms as a national lecturer for the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, giving talks at universities and industrial laboratories from Florida to California.

The speaker is a member of the American Mathematical Society, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and Society for Natural Philosophy.

Duffin also has served as referee for numerous mathematical reviews. Currently, he is an associate editor for the Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications, the Journal of Combinatorial Theory, and the SIAM Journal of Applied Mathematics.

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