

ACTION UPDATE

September 12, 1979

**World
Conferences
Explore
Volunteer
Roles**

Refugee
Assistance,
Rural
Development



Entering headquarters of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development are (l. to r.) Ambassadors Gardner and Young; U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, John Baker; and King.

(See story on page 3)

Deaf PCV Teacher and Students Benefit From Jamaica Program

While still a teenager in Alhambra, California, Don Breidenthal made a list of things he wanted to do, such as play country music on a guitar, not a particularly unusual feat for a 14 year old boy. But Don Breidenthal was not a typical teenager. Stricken with meningitis at age five, he was deafened by the disease.

Breidenthal, now 26, has narrowed his list of goals to working with deaf people. He already realized part of that dream by tutoring deaf pupils as a psychology major in college.

On August 8, 1979, another part of Breidenthal's ambition to teach deaf people to cope with the hearing world became reality when he embarked on a two-year Peace Corps special education assignment in Jamaica. He is teaching math, English and other elementary school subjects to deaf children in a special school near Kingston.

Of the 140 Peace Corps volunteers in Jamaica, only Breidenthal is handicapped. But his efforts to work with handicapped students is of special interest to Peace Corps Country Director Don Galloway, who is blind.

"I go overseas, not only to learn about another culture, but also about the deaf in another culture," said Breidenthal who hopes to establish a deaf teaching program which can continue and even expand into other countries after he leaves Jamaica.

Breidenthal believes that deaf people must learn lessons that reach beyond any classroom. "You need to know how to deal with a hearing world out there, as well as a deaf world," explained Breidenthal who well understands the frustrations facing a deaf person who attempts to use a phone.

Teaching deaf students to communicate among themselves and with others is nothing new for Breidenthal. While in college, he helped rehabilitate a deaf epileptic and a deaf man who had cerebral palsy. He also taught sign language and communication skills to mentally retarded patients at a hospital.

His teaching techniques are simple: "I encourage deaf people to talk more - not to be afraid to go into a hamburger place and say 'hamburger' rather than to write it down." Breidenthal hopes to adopt much of that

same teaching style in Jamaica. "I will encourage the children to develop their speech as well as sign language," he said.

An accomplished lip reader and an articulate and understandable conversationist, Breidenthal



PCV Don Breidenthal chats with Bea Alford who recruited him for the Jamaica project.

says, "I can lip read about 90 percent of the time, depending on the person. If I couldn't lip read, I think I would have many problems."

Breidenthal acquired his lip reading skills without special schooling. "There were too many big talkers in my family," grinned Breidenthal, who has three brothers and two sisters. "I just watched my sister talking on the phone all the time for hours."

Breidenthal has acquired a penchant for travel, twice interrupting college studies to visit the eastern U.S. and Hawaii. Each trip brought him in contact with other deaf people.

In 1975, Breidenthal transferred to Pasadena City College where there was a new learning program for deaf students. He not only began to meet deaf people, but also become active on campus and founded a club for the deaf. "We got a lot of activities going," he says. "I tried to establish some special classes for the deaf."

Breidenthal credits his two years at Pasadena City College with getting him started in teaching the deaf, an interest which eventually led to his Peace Corps assignment.

World Conferences

(from front cover)

Volunteer roles in worldwide agrarian development and refugee assistance were included in discussions at two recent international conferences.

ACTION Deputy Director Mary E. King attended both conferences, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in Rome, and the U.N. Conference on Refugees in Geneva.

The Rome conference was held to develop strategies and policies for economic and social development of Third World rural areas. Participants focused attention on problems of the rural poor and tried to strengthen commitments to rural development programs.

Representatives from approximately 70 developed and 70 underdeveloped countries attended the conference, as well as representatives from the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the European Economic Community and a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young led the U.S. delegation which also included U.S. Ambassador to Italy Richard Gardner, King, and representatives from the State Department, the Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and various U.S. non-governmental organizations.

The conference stressed the need for popular participation for successful rural development. Participants agreed that the poor must share in economic and political decisions, that there must be more equitable access to land, water and natural resources and to the benefits of economic growth. In addition, conferees agreed that foreign investments for agricultural development of Third World countries must be more in accordance with national needs and priorities.

While speaking of the need for popular participation in rural development, Young said, "Development approaches which emphasize people-to-people contact, village participation, voluntary people's organizations with strong local leadership, and the involvement of young men and women deserve higher priority. Volunteer

service programs like our country's Peace Corps and the development service corps programs on food and rural development throughout the developing world, should increase in international importance."

Throughout the week-long conference, King worked closely with Ambassador Young and other U.S. delegates to recognize women's needs and their contributions to rural development.

Ambassador Young told the conference, "We cannot solve the problems we have been addressing if women are not included as vital and critical, indeed central motivators of rural development." He said that without recognition of the development needs of women, they "will be insecure tenants on the land they serve, left out and left behind as rural transformation moves ahead."

Rural development was viewed as part of an overall national development process. Participants felt that any future national strategy must recognize the interdependence of agriculture and industry.

King said that two major areas of agreement evolving from the conference - the consensus that food production problems don't cause as much hunger as poverty does, and the widespread conviction that rural development can't succeed without popular participation-had always been obvious to VISTA and Peace Corps volunteers, but hadn't been recognized by the world's governments until the conference.

The third area of progress, according to King, was the recognition of the importance of women in development. Citing the strong language of ownership rights for women, which is now included in the WCARRD Programme of ACTION, King said that the major significance of that language is its "forceful inclusion in the national strategies developed at the conference."

Some 50 developed and Third World countries and nine international organizations were represented at the U.N. Conference on Refugees in Geneva which was held to focus attention on the growing problems of the refugees in South-east Asia and to encourage more nations to

*"The growing exodus of refugees from Indo-China still
outstrips international assistance efforts..."*

Vice President Walter Mondale

provide relief.

Vice President Walter Mondale, who led the U.S. delegation to Geneva, addressed the forum, calling for greatly accelerated refugee assistance efforts.

"The growing exodus from Indo-China still outstrips international efforts," Mondale said... "Unless we all do more, the risk of fresh conflict will arise and the stability in Southeast Asia will erode."

"We are...ready to assign highly qualified Peace Corps volunteers to work in the camps in Southeast Asia," he continued, "not only with the individual countries, but also in the programs of the U.N. High Commissioner. We urge other nations to undertake similar programs of support."

King explored the possibility of a refugee relief role for volunteers from many national organizations and stressed the importance of volunteer participation in the refugee relief effort under the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees.

"A truly international response with human

dimensions is required," King said. "Volunteers uniquely have the motivation and skills to meet this urgent humanitarian need."

According to King, former PCVs make up a large number of the workers in Southeast Asia's refugee camps "They are acknowledged by the private voluntary agencies working there to be the most valued source of personnel," she said.

Plans for both DO and Peace Corps involvement in the refugee effort are still being developed. These plans, when completed, will be featured in ACTION Update.

In addition to exploring new volunteer roles in refugee assistance, participating countries agreed to take in larger numbers of refugees and to contribute more money toward refugee resettlement and development efforts. The United States agreed to provide funds to less developed countries to help them better participate in refugee relief.

The former volunteer project is providing a listing of refugee agencies across the country. Contact Lynn Miller in M-903 or at FTS 254-8406.

YCS MEETING NEEDS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

"It's like an apprenticeship program in a non-commercial area," says Ted Andolina, a field specialist for the three-month old Oswego County, N. Y., Youth Community Services project (YCS/Oswego). "I wish YCS had been available to me when I was 18."

YCS/Oswego is an expansion of the original YCS program which was begun in March, 1978 in Syracuse, N.Y., to test the concept of a voluntary, community-based youth service program. Volunteers between the ages of 16 and 21 obtain a work-world experience while providing needed services to the community. YCS is administered by ACTION with a Department of Labor (DOL) grant.

"In Oswego County, where 60 percent of the population lives in rural areas, we're testing the YCS concept in a rural setting," says Joe Bass, YCS project manager at ACTION. "We're involving more people and with a greater variety of backgrounds than before."

Approximately 250 volunteers serving on 82

projects in Oswego County are joining the more than 1,000 Syracuse volunteers serving on nearly 500 projects. DOL will add some \$500,000 to its original \$8 million YCS grant which has been extended from December, 1979 to August, 1980.

According to Amelia Greiner, Syracuse YCS director, Oswego County was selected as the new YCS site, not only because of its high rural population, but also its relatively high unemployment rate, low median income and its closeness to Syracuse which makes it easy to receive administrative and support service. The Syracuse staff helped develop rural projects and also to recruit volunteers in Oswego County.

Because of Oswego County's widely dispersed and often non-mobile population, YCS/Oswego is administered on a decentralized basis, unlike YCS/Syracuse. The county is divided into five geographical areas, each with a field specialist responsible for projects in his or her area. The entire project, however, is centrally coordinated.

The volunteers are serving in such areas as housing, recreation, family crisis intervention, recreation, and environmental restoration and beautification. "The project is already benefiting the community," says Kathy Fenlon, project manager for Oswego County.

"Many of the projects are unique to rural areas," she continued. "For example, volunteers on one project are researching gardening techniques and later teaching them to community residents, thus making the community more self-sufficient."

Other sponsors include housing co-operatives, granges, schools, libraries, fire departments, public and private non-profit agencies, community-based organizations and youth groups.

Gail Sheldon is putting her interest in music and drama to use by developing and producing plays on behalf of the Oswego County City Youth Bureau to educate youth about the dangers of drug abuse.

"The project is giving me invaluable experience in later pursuit of a theatrical career," Sheldon says. "It's something I've always wanted to do. And it's such a badly needed project. So many young people here aren't aware of the dangers and legal ramifications of drug abuse. We're helping them become aware."

Robin Farewell graduated from college in

May with a music degree and no job prospects other than waitressing. "Then I heard about YCS," she says. Farewell is now writing and producing programs for a college radio station at the State University of New York at Oswego. Her current project is an anthology of American music.

"What an experience!," she says, "a real chance to use my background. I've gotten some good feedback from people in the community. And my shows have gotten good ratings, so far."

"YCS helped me get started in my field of interest," says Tim Stoddard. After two years of studying ceramic arts, he, too, was unable to find a job in his field - until YCS. "Now I am maintaining a gallery and pottery area in the Oswego Art Guild Building and helping the community to develop an appreciation of the Guild's work and to participate in its activities. And I have use of the studio."

In addition to obtaining a meaningful work experience which may later help provide access to other jobs, Farewell, Stoddard and Sheldon, like all YCS volunteers, each receive a weekly stipend of \$79 plus a \$400 educational voucher to be paid to any acceptable educational or trade institution.

YCS volunteers in Fulton, N.Y. refurbish a barn to be used as headquarters for their conservation project.



TENANTS SAVE HOMES WITH HELP FROM VISTA

*VISTA Attorney,
Jerry Dobson*



As an advocate for low-income people in landlord-tenant cases, the young attorney expected to be at the forefront of legal battles.

It was inconceivable, however, to Jerry Dobson that only 18 months after becoming a VISTA, he and a tenant group would have organized to win a series of victories, some precedent shattering.

While most of his fellow law graduates were researching law books for senior lawyers, Dobson and the tenants, in battling landlords, were accomplishing the following:

- Prevention of a landlord sale, through application of a Washington, D.C. rental law, in a District of Columbia housing complex, thus saving the homes of 58 low income families.
- Tenant purchase of the complex and its subsequent conversion into a tenant cooperative to insure future housing rights.
- Incorporation of a tenant association.
- Drafting of tenant cooperative by-laws.
- Negotiation of the landlord-tenant sales contracts.
- Determination of the cooperative sales price that resulted in a subsequent \$200,000 increase in market value.
- Obtaining the first advisory opinion for a tenants association by the District of Columbia Rental Accomodations Office.
- Making landlords give tenant buyers more time to meet settlement costs...through a Rental Accomodations Office Ruling.

"It was a fortuitous set of circumstances," reflected Dobson, 26, who volunteered, in 1978, as a VISTA lawyer with University Legal Service (ULS), a District of Columbia

self-help housing advocacy center. He noted that one goal was to initiate tenant cooperatives.

Tenants at Tel-Court, a 58 unit apartment complex, primarily of elderly low income residents, were being threatened with displacement by a landlord planning to sell the complex. A community church group asked ULS to work with the tenants to help them alleviate their situation. ULS, along with Dobson, agreed to do so.

The group quickly learned that the landlord had failed, contrary to existing tenant law, to offer building residents a first opportunity to buy.

In addition, the group discovered that Tel-Court management had sold shares to original tenants, most of whom defaulted and were foreclosed, or sold their interest to the landlord.

But 15 tenants, called deed holders, still held shares which they thought increased in equity over the years. The sad truth was that the landlord had used tenant payments for operating expenses. Consequently, tenant equity was not increased.

Dobson and the church group met frequently to sort out options—holding seven meetings with deed holders, 20 with other tenants, and six with the by-laws committee. The landlord, as a result, capitulated, and offered the 58 units to current tenants for about \$400,000.

The group first developed a solution that bought out the 15 deed holders, most of whom made a profit and stayed. Next, they structured Tel-Court as a "low yield cooperative" to maintain the complex for low-income people.

Dobson incorporated the tenant association agreements and performed necessary legal actions.

(cont. page 11)

DO Staff Shares Ideas, Concerns at Conference

The first of four inter-regional Domestic Operations training conferences was described by DO Director John Lewis as "one of the most important gatherings that I have attended since coming to ACTION two years ago."

Headquarters and field staff from Regions I, II and III attended the Aug. 20-24 conference at Cherry Hill, N.J. to discuss DO issues and share job related concerns, information and ideas.

"This conference brings us together physically, but it is my hope that we will be drawn together in a larger sense with the realization that we are a family," Lewis said. "In the days ahead, we will be confronting problems of structure, delegations, defining roles, meeting budgets and complying with procedures."

ing the way it should - that you're clear who has what authority and who has the power to make what decisions. It doesn't help you, me, or the people we are serving if all of us get tied up in administrative knots," Brown said.

Lewis said, "We must struggle to overcome any barrier which would tend to divide us. There must be no division of geography; no division between offices - state, regional, or headquarters; no division of either mind or spirit. Whatever have been the problems of the past, this conference provides a time for all of us to learn and grow together."

"Obviously one of the most significant and most noted changes has been to give the Peace Corps greater autonomy," said Brown. "But equally significant, yet less noticed, has been the decision to also give Domestic Operations

"We have a commitment to a better society."

Sam Brown

By early December, all of the regions, along with DO Headquarters staff, will have completed similar training conferences. Regions IV and VI were scheduled to meet Sept. 4-10 in Atlanta. Regions V, VII and VIII will meet Nov. 26-30 and Regions IX and X will meet Dec. 3-7. The sites of the last two conferences haven't yet been determined.

ACTION Director Sam Brown told the conference that "in the past two years we've obviously tried to do a lot. We all seem to have agreed on the substance of what we were trying to do, such as decentralizing the decision-making process. But giving form to that substance has been a little harder than all of us expected."

Brown and Lewis expressed what they felt the four conferences would accomplish.

Brown said the conferences would provide the opportunity "to clean up some administrative loose ends" that have accumulated in the past two years. "It seems to me that one of our primary objectives is to make sure that the administrative structure that we now have is work-

greater autonomy and responsibility. The essence of this is that Domestic Operations manages the domestic operations. This means that all decisions about how to run this agency do not have to be made on the fifth floor (director's office) in Washington."

Brown said the goal of the conferences should be "to see where we have made mistakes and to set about rectifying them, and to think about the good things we have done and share that knowledge with each other."

He told the conference to remember the example of volunteers in ACTION. "We aren't here just to straighten administrative lines. We are here because all of us have a commitment to a better society, one that is more human, more loving - one that gives every American an opportunity to be self-reliant."

Other conference goals are to:

- build a relationship of mutual trust and confidence between DO and field staff;
- discuss current perception of agency mission

(cont. page 11)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

RITA WARPEHA

"It's amazing how people say ACTION has no memory," says Rita Warpeha, ACTION's head librarian. If people would only check the library, they would find over 12,000 easily accessible items waiting for their use."

The "items" she mentions include a variety of books, articles, reports and other documents on what has been done by, for or about ACTION. The library staff is responsible for collecting, organizing and making them available.

When Warpeha joined the Peace Corps library staff as a cataloger in 1970, she had completed three years of work at the Library of Congress, which she had joined as a management intern from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where she earned her master's degree in library science.

In 1973, two years after Peace Corps' incorporation into ACTION, she became head of the library, which was reduced to a one-person staff.

"Times were tough," she recalls, "but with steady support from management, the staff was increased so that the library could again try to function." Now there are four professional staffers and two student aides.

Moving the library from 1717 H Street to ACTION's main office building at 806 Connecticut Avenue in April, 1976, brought about a tremendous upsurge in usage. Approximately 880 volumes circulated from the library in March, 1976. That figure had grown to over 2,000 in March, 1979.

"There is more work than we can handle," Warpeha says, "since demands are continually increasing. With no staff increase, we've had to limit our hours of service in order to complete our backup work. I wish we were better able to serve the field staff. Although we respond to field requests for information, we cannot loan them library materials because of staff shortage and insufficient space for multiple copies."

"I hope the library will, in the near future, be



able to provide more in-depth services by acquiring both a computer terminal and a microform reader/printer," Warpeha says.

"A computer terminal would give us access to worldwide data-bases of information on many subjects. It would hook into an incredible number of outside sources for any one topic.

"Also, with a computer terminal, we wouldn't have to guess at our future purchases of books and other materials," she says, "as we could tap the data-base with a definite request, and only then, go after the material the user feels is most helpful.

"Without increasing space needs, and at an affordable price, we could, with the microform reader/printer, consider purchasing such items as full year runs of the New York Times, a complete set of Bureau of the Census statistical reports, and reports from the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service.

"In addition, not only is it cheaper to buy some materials in microform, but in some cases, this is the only form in which materials are available," she says.

A former Peace Corps volunteer, Warpeha has long been fascinated by Third World cultures. Her Peace Corps experience was the first of many travels in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Warpeha joined Peace Corps in 1963 after her graduation from college and a year of work at San Diego State College Library. "When President Kennedy announced formation of the Peace Corps, I knew that was the way I wanted to go abroad," she says.

As a volunteer, Warpeha served in Johore Bahru, Malaysia, where her major accomplishment was establishing the first public library from scratch for that town of 80,000 people. "Serving in the Peace Corps was really a period of growth and development for me," she says. "And viewing the U.S. from the outside, through the eyes of other people was a unique educational experience that money could not buy."

A brother and sister later served in Peace Corps as well.

Warpeha's interests and experiences abroad have carried into her life at home and at work. "I bring what I have learned abroad into my

job," she says. "I think that obtaining some understanding of other cultures has made me more responsive and effective in my job."

Warpeha takes advantage of the attractions of a city like Washington. She haunts the museums, galleries and theatres, and is active in the International Visitors Information Service through which she is a hostess to foreign visitors, offering them dinner in her home and taking them on tours of the area. An enthusiastic photographer, she maintains a large collection of photos she took of outdoor scenery and of her travels abroad.

Reflecting on the ACTION library, Warpeha concludes, "I wish we could do more, but I think we've made some real accomplishments. We have transformed a backlog of over 25,000 uncatalogued items into a collection that specifically supports both the domestic and international activities of ACTION. And in the process of identifying and obtaining 2,000 new materials each year, we've developed a network of contacts with other organizations having similar interests. Through this network we can direct people to other resources extending far beyond our four walls"

RAMOS NAMED DIRECTOR OF NEW MEXICO OFFICE ON AGING

Ernesto Ramos, ACTION's officer for volunteer programs in New Mexico since 1974, has been named director of the State Agency on Aging in Santa Fe.

As a result of a two-year intergovernmental detail, Ramos, 40, will administer all community services for elderly persons in New Mexico and will oversee a budget of \$5 million. He hopes particularly to expand the state's nutritional programs for the elderly.

New Mexico's office on aging has recently been upgraded to the state agency level and is administratively attached to the Human Services Department.

"The new State Agency on Aging," New Mexico Governor Bruce King recently wrote to Director Sam Brown, "needs a director capable of providing strong leadership. I believe Mr. Ramos to be such an administrator.

"He knows programs for senior citizens at the

local, state and federal levels, and he can build the team necessary to serve our senior citizens. He has the vision to see our senior citizens, not as society's problems, but as our most valuable resources."

A native of Fabens, Tex., where he graduated from high school, Ramos was ACTION's program officer in Dallas before coming to Santa Fe. He began his association with volunteer programs in 1967 as a VISTA supervisor in El Paso.

"I accepted the position because it's a great challenge," said Ramos. "It will provide an opportunity to strengthen ACTION's programs for older Americans in New Mexico. Together, ACTION and the State Agency on Aging can begin changing attitudes that people have about our senior citizens."

Ramos was one of the organizers of the first statewide Senior Citizens Olympics held last month in Albuquerque.

RSVP in Baltimore Eases Tensions In Court Waiting Rooms

RSVP of Baltimore has been selected as one of ten finalists in the 1979 Maryland Volunteer Activist Awards Program for "outstanding and innovative problem-solving efforts of citizen volunteers...in improving the quality of life in their community." RSVP was selected from a group of 150 nominees.

Cited for exemplary service was RSVP's waiting room volunteer program, a demonstration effort begun last summer, which places RSVP volunteers in the waiting room of the Baltimore City Juvenile Court. The volunteers explain court procedures to clients and witnesses entering the courtroom, answer questions about the court's agenda for the day, and provide some comfort and reassurance for those awaiting trial.

Each year, 10,000 to 15,000 cases involving children under the age of 18 are processed by the Baltimore City Juvenile Courts. Each day, some of the 60 to 75 clients, witnesses, social workers, attorneys and families may wait as long as six hours before their case is heard.

The need for court waiting room attendants was obvious to officials of the court system, explained RSVP Director Mirian Lennig. "The waiting room was more of a public area with people walking in and out and disrupting everything. There was no order. Many of the juveniles who were awaiting hearings were afraid and would leave the building before their case was called."

Now that's changed. Since the volunteers began working in the waiting room a year and a half ago, the atmosphere is more relaxed. When people enter, the volunteer takes their names, tells them where they will be going, and answers any questions. If the wait becomes too long, the volunteer finds out why there is a delay. If clients wish to leave the room for a short break for lunch, they won't be skipped if their names are called. If someone seems frightened, the volunteer can reassure and explain court procedures in greater detail.

Director Lennig found that the best training for the volunteers was on-the-job where they were introduced to key personnel in the courts and then spent some time with other volunteers

learning court terminology and procedures.

Each of the 15 volunteers in the waiting room program serves three hours a week on a revolving schedule. Volunteers are in the waiting room six hours a day, five days a week. Meetings are held each month in the court for all 15 volunteers to discuss and learn from the previous month's activities.

*Some may wait six hours
before their case is heard.*

In recruiting the volunteers, Lennig looked for those people who "would be strong and assertive but also compassionate, nonjudgmental, and not easily offended by what they saw or heard in the waiting room."

Still, she was somewhat apprehensive about how the elderly volunteers would fare in the courtroom situation. "We wondered how they would react to the fast pace and tense atmosphere," she said. "We have found that they take it right in stride, learning more each day and calmly reassuring those who are upset."

Juvenile Court Administrator James Benton supported the program from the start and is enthusiastic about what he has seen. "These people are doing a great job in a difficult situation," he explained. "They have brought a feeling of organization to the waiting room. Clients seem more comfortable and the number of procedural questions that used to flood the clerk's office has diminished greatly."

Now, court officials would like RSVP to work in the waiting room in the adult court serving persons over the age of 18.

At the awards ceremony on May 29, 1979 at the Governor's State House in Annapolis, Md., the RSVP volunteers were commended for their "warmth and reassuring friendliness each day. Motivated by a desire to improve life in Baltimore City, this group of active RSVP volunteers has made their own lives more meaningful and healthy."

Conference

(from page 7)

policies, procedures, and program direction, and to discuss differences of interpretation; -try to clarify outstanding issues such as reorganization, decentralization, delegation of authority, and Integrated Policy and Training System.

-reaffirm a sense of purpose as an organization of people who are committed to volunteers and to the people with whom they serve.

Participating staff felt the conference allowed them to share ideas and to clarify a number of issues. "The conference gave everyone a better sense of priorities and a better sense of what OAVP and DO want to accomplish administratively," said OAVP Deputy Director Bill Hoing.

Nestor Llamas, Region II Director, added, "Most of us in the field found the steady pre-

sence and accessibility of all top DO Headquarters staff very beneficial." Llamas said the conference not only enabled Headquarters and field to share information, but enabled field staff to share information among themselves as well.

"It was particularly good for an administrative or training officer from Region II, for example, to be able to talk with and share information with his counterparts from the other regions," Llamas said.

"These conferences are the highest priority in Domestic Operations for the next several months," said Lewis. "Together, we can resolve some issues, clarify others, and continue to work on those that are most ambiguous and difficult to resolve."



James M. Duke, executive officer of ACTION and chief management advisor to the director of the agency, has been named acting director of the Office of Recruitment and Communications (ORC) effective July 16. Among his priorities in this position are the development of closer relationships between Peace Corps and VISTA in order to meet recruitment goals and the establishment of communications techniques to support the agency's initiatives on energy.

Duke joined ACTION in March, 1977 and served as Acting ORC director for most of that year. He has been closely involved with plans to restructure the agency and managed the employee consultative process leading to

the establishment of Peace Corps autonomy plans.

Before joining ACTION, Duke was director of Operations at the Drug Abuse Council in Washington, D.C. Before that, he worked with the Office of Health Affairs, and then as director of the Addiction, Alcoholism and Mental Health Services Division.

Duke, who served as a captain in the U.S. Army at Fort Knox, Ky., from 1966 to 1968, has a law degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, N.Y. A member of the bar of the District of Columbia and Michigan, he is listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

Tenants

(from page 6)

"The Tel-Court case is one of the first times that a tenant group was able to successfully exercise its right to buy a building complex," he stated, "and one of the first times in this area that low-income tenants have bought their building."

"Tel-Court recently was appraised for more than \$600,000," Dobson reported. "And after rehabilitation improvements, it should be worth over \$1 million because of the complicated tenants situation."

Dobson is pleased with his VISTA service.

ACTION AND LEAA JOIN IN CRIME PREVENTION EFFORT

"A strong, cohesive neighborhood with significant citizen involvement is a deterrent to crime," says Phil McLaurin, recently appointed director for the Urban Crime Prevention Program (UCPP), which is jointly administered by ACTION and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA).

This new endeavor grew out of President Carter's urban policy message of March 1978, in which he urged new crime prevention initiatives which emphasized the stimulating of "greater involvement by neighborhood organizations and voluntary associations," and the

*"ACTION volunteers will be an
integral part of this program."*

forging of "working partnerships among community groups, criminal justice representatives and city officials in community crime prevention."

"Since the signing of a memorandum of agreement by ACTION Director Sam Brown, and Henry S. Gogin, Administrator of LEAA, in December 1978, a joint staff of both agencies has been developing a program which is responsive to the President's concerns," McLaurin says.

The proposed program will provide individual grants of up to \$500,000 for private not-for-profit agencies in cities of over 250,000 people. LEAA is furnishing \$5.5 million in initial funds to be used for projects in low and moderate income neighborhoods.

The majority of funds will be provided for projects drawn from four proposed models: community dispute settlement, reduction of the impact of property crime victimization, arson, and community victim and witness.

These models are characterized by their emphasis on the social and economic factors affecting crime, their lack of previous significant federal funding and their requirement for intensive community involvement in planning and execution

The remaining funds may be used for pro-

jects emphasizing other suggested crime prevention areas or for locally initiated projects.

Most projects will be designed and conducted by neighborhood organizations, although public agencies may conduct some neighborhood-based projects. All projects will involve extensive use of volunteers.

Although details of specific ACTION volunteer roles are still being developed, McLaurin stated: "ACTION's volunteer expertise is critical to the success of the UCPP. We want to make the most effective possible use of this expertise and of the ACTION volunteers who will be an integral part of this program. This agency's commitment to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations is at the heart of the UCPP."

McLaurin came to ACTION from Oregon, where he served most recently as state ombudsman and special assistant to the governor. Prior to that, he was executive assistant to then Mayor Neil Goldschmidt of Portland, now Secretary of Transportation.

Proposed regulations for the UCPP are to be published soon and grants probably will be made in early 1980.

A plan calls for technical assistance provided by professional contractors and the joint ACTION/LEAA staff. McLaurin envisions an important role for ACTION regional and state offices in areas where grants are made.

*Most projects will
be conducted by neighborhood
organizations.*

"We hope we'll be able to convey our sense of enthusiasm about the UCPP to all ACTION employees," McLaurin said. "We need and want their active support."

Those with questions should contact McLaurin in Room M-1003, or call him at FTS 254-3142.