

March 16, 1985

The total of \$54,000 which, in aggregate, this recommendation (International Quaker Aid) represents is not the total amount to be expended on these efforts, for all these projects receive support from other Friends sources as well. Yet even if all these other contributions are added to those on this list, it is obviously the case that as far as scale is concerned, this work is dwarfed by the special needs and massive problems of the particular time in which we live. But it is always a characteristic of the things of God that they begin on the scale of a mustard seed; they begin with something pursued by a very few in behalf of all, in behalf of the human race considered as one family.

The very special thing about these projects which commends itself to us as Friends is that they are rooted in the things of the Spirit. Attempting to serve without such rootedness, without such a vision, is mere meddlesomeness. These projects, without exception, draw their strength and their vision from various strands of the tapestry that makes up our Religious Society. Some grow out of the great love for the Word of God, and the deep spirit of prayer, of Friends who know that if we are to hear a summons we must speak the language of the One who calls. Others of them are born out of silence, out of that silent, listening awareness through which we hear the gentle breath of peace, through we sense the universal harmony to which we hope to dance.

But whether they are nourished by the Words of Life, or by the silence of wisdom of listening, or, as is most often the case, by both these avenues to Truth, the Friends in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Brussels, and all the places on this list, have attuned to their hearts to the simple call arising from the complexity of the situations in which they find themselves, and these projects which we commend to you are the result.

We bring them to you not only for your approval as an FWCC channel through which others might give, but also in the hope that you will keep these in view as you plan your own program of giving, and we hope, too, that you will help us bring them to the attention of all the Friends in your Yearly Meetings.

I have spoken of these projects in a collective, general sense, rather than describing each program, one by one. But I, or other members of the International Affairs Committee, will be glad to answer to the best of our ability any specific questions you may have about anyone of them before you act on this total recommendation.

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