

PEACE CORPS IS GOING TO POLYNESIA

Liberal Arts Graduates Will Be Nucleus of New Western Samoa Program

The Peace Corps has been invited to send Volunteers to Polynesia's first independent nation — Western Samoa.

Having demonstrated in Micronesia in the space of only a few months what Volunteer catalysts can do in a Pacific Island setting, the Peace Corps will place a new contingent in training for the Samoan assignment beginning this summer, with the likelihood that by that time Volunteers will also be requested for assignment in other new South Pacific island areas.

Peace Corps planners believe it is possible that these projected programs, coupled with the existing Micronesian efforts, could add as many as 1,000 new Volunteers in the Pacific.

For Western Samoa, and other projected South Seas assignments, the Peace Corps is seeking mainly liberal arts graduates for tasks in teaching, public health, agriculture and community development.

THE GOAL is to raise thousands of islanders from a life of ill health, poor diet and lack of education in an area of the world that historically has received more romantic than realistic attention.

Volunteers in Western Samoa — a nine-island complex supporting a rapidly-growing population of 134,000 — will form a striking force against an array of health problems and obstacles to educational and economic development in a country where:

- almost all Samoans suffer from intestinal parasites and many others are afflicted with tuberculosis, yaws, leprosy and other infectious diseases.

- adequate, safe village water supplies are a luxury.

- infant mortality is still more common than not and population growth is outstripping what few advances have been made in improving island life.

Against this dismal background are further hindrances to development: lack of educational facilities and a meager agricultural output.

THE FIRST VOLUNTEERS to reach Western Samoa this fall will set in motion a

government health program designed to survey the islands' health needs and the prevalence of diseases. Later, the Volunteers — mostly liberal arts graduates who will be supported by a team of Volunteer doctors, nurses, lab technicians, civil engineers and architects — will shift into disease control, environmental health and sanitation, maternal and child care projects and the building of village water supply systems.

Meanwhile, about 20 agricultural extension workers, including five Volunteers with business administration backgrounds to work with cooperatives, will aid farmers growing the major island crops of ba-

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Peace Corps SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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WASH DAY IN SAMOA near a seaside 'villa' on Upolu's north shore brings out most of the neighborhood. Thatched roof house lacks walls so occupants work and sleep in full view. Palm frond blinds are dropped only during foul weather.

— NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY PHOTO (C) 1962

Applications Are Due Now For Summer, Fall Training Programs

Despite the lure of top-paying jobs with private industry, the Peace Corps continues to be the country's number one employer of newly-minted college graduates.

As the Peace Corps loses its amateur standing and joins the big leagues in overseas development, the vast academic melting pot will again provide the bulk of the estimated 8,000 Volunteers required to fill the critical skill reservoirs in at least 56 countries this year.

ALREADY rapidly-approaching summer training programs are being developed for the new Peace Corps countries of Lesotho, The Gambia and Upper Volta in Africa (see page 4) and Western Samoa in the Pacific.

After a 2½-year absence, the Peace Corps is returning to Ceylon to assist in an over-all national effort to make the teardrop-sized nation self-sufficient in food production.

In the Trust Territory of the Pacific (Micronesia) and South Korea in East Asia and the Pacific; Chad, Libya, Botswana and Mauritania in Africa, and Paraguay and Guyana in Latin America—all countries which received their first Volunteers only last year — additional programs are also being mounted for summer training sessions.

Graduating seniors are being urged to apply now, as summer and fall training program quotas are rapidly beginning to fill.

ENTERING A NEW ERA of consolidated growth, Director Jack Vaughn, an ex-boxer, Marine combat officer and diplomat, has brought the agency through a vital stage of development in which the Peace Corps is being asked to measure its impact overseas and not simply rely on what one official calls "youthful goodwill ambassadoring."

Although there is little quarrel with basic goals — fostering ideas and techniques of self-help, cooperative work and community organization — new trends in training are beginning to take shape. They include lengthier preparation for most programs, more in-country as opposed to stateside training, and greater emphasis on technical and language skills.