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They Help the World Grow Smaller

While diplomats wrangle and scientists develop new and deadlier weapons, the Institute of International Education quietly but effectively promotes peace.

by Thomas Gorman

AS I APPROACHED the elevators in the building on Chicago's Michigan Avenue, a boyish, bright-eyed young man asked me if I knew where he could find the Institute of International Education. I told him I was going there myself, so we went up together. On the way, I idly tried to guess whether my companion was from the Philippines or Indonesia, but gave up when we arrived at our floor. I showed him into the office and left him with the receptionist.

The Midwest regional office of the IIE quietly bustled with people, many of them obviously from foreign countries. Now celebrating its 41st year, the Institute is the most active American agency arranging exchange scholarships with other countries. At present it helps more than 5,000 foreign and American students and specialists a year, and has assembled a roster of more than a quarter-million people with specialized training in almost every nation of the world.

While waiting for my appointment, a young woman brought me a cup of coffee and I studied a few Institute

Three postgraduate students from India are welcomed to the United States by Carolyn Graham, representative of the Institute of International Education.



booklets. As I thumbed through a bulletin I was surprised to find a picture of my friend in the elevator, and learned from the caption that he was U Min Swe, a Burmese public-health officer studying at Yale Medical School. But before I could read further I was being introduced to Dr. Renatus Weber of Hamburg, Germany, a smiling, husky, youngish man of about 50.

One of the earliest international exchange students, Dr. Weber likes to call himself a politician, and his warm, engaging manner leaves little doubt that he's a successful one. In addition to his law practice in Hamburg, he has served as state's attorney and deputy floor leader for the Christian Democratic Union party in the Buergerchaft or city council, and is now a senator and Hamburg's representative to the German federal government at Bonn. Last Spring he visited the United States under the Foreign Leader Exchange Program of the U. S. State Department.

Looking back over the 26 years since he studied at the University of

Denver, Dr. Weber firmly believes that "each exchange student like myself is a worker in his own country for peace and international understanding." He likes to recall the early role of the United States in international education, following the Boxer Rebellion in China. Though other countries demanded financial reparations from China, President Theodore Roosevelt arranged instead that Chinese students be admitted on scholarships to study in the United States.

"To me, this was a typical American gesture in international understanding," Dr. Weber says.

I also met and talked to other participants in the Institute's program. Iowa-born Melvin Brorby, a Chicago advertising executive, has known the IIE from its infancy. Following World War I he was awarded a scholarship in political science by the American Field Service, and the Institute arranged his study for three years at the University of Strasbourg, the Sorbonne, and l'Ecole Libre de Science Politique in Paris.

Brorby has maintained his lively interest in world affairs for more than three decades as a director of the Foreign Policy Association and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, as well as serving as a trustee of the IIE itself for many years.

Lithe, sprightly Kathryn M. Kula, general counsel of the Chicago Housing Authority, studied social legislation on a Fulbright scholarship at the University of Manchester, England, in 1956-57. A Chicagoan, Miss Kula had her law degree from De Paul University and was admitted to the Illinois bar when she came to the Housing Authority as assistant counsel 10 years ago.

"Though my year in England didn't