

From the Office of  
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FOR RELEASE

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America's "Point Four" program is being "slowly but surely undermined" through being "smothered" under the massive military-aid program with which the present Administration has merged it, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn.) declared today, (Monday, November 16) in an address before the St. Louis Park Rotary Club in St. Louis Park, Minn.

"'Point Four' is actually a bad word in the State Department today," Senator Humphrey charged. "It is seldom -- if ever -- referred to in public speeches by Administration spokesmen. The program has been thoroughly submerged in the over-all concept of military and economic aid. Its administration is no longer under a separate head with specific responsibilities for technical assistance only. Key executives who knew most about Point Four have been summarily dismissed from their jobs.

"It almost beyond belief that any American could seek to liquidate the tremendous amount of good will that has become associated with the name "Point Four". The entire world has been inspired by this long-range, low-cost effort to contribute to world peace by a daring translation of the Bible's injunction to 'love thy neighbor as thyself' into a practical program by our Government," Senator Humphrey said.

"Congress has made it clear, I feel, that the heavy expenditures of the big-money type of foreign aid should taper off, but that there is overwhelming sentiment for continuing the Point Four program as a long-term effort bringing good results with a minimum of cost. At the last session Congress set no terminal date on technical cooperation, because members regard it as a practical way of channeling the neighborly instincts of millions of Americans to their fellow men throughout the world in a mutual effort to wipe out disease and hunger."

"To my way of thinking, Point Four is one of the best weapons we have for combating communism. It is not only a humanitarian concept. It also operates to strengthen the economies of backward areas so that they can contribute more to a healthy world trade. And it helps the hungry, the sick and the illiterate to develop a reasonable standard of living -- the kind of standard which will make defense against Communist subversion possible.

"Under Point Four, three thousand technicians have visited 35 countries. They have helped make grass grow on former deserts. They have helped Asian farmers to produce five times as much grain on their fields as before. They have taught mothers how to save their newborn babies' eyesight, and they have helped nations save the mothers themselves at childbirth. They have blazed trails to new frontiers with human kindness. The results of their work have brought us good will and affection which we could not have bought with money or with blood.

"Such success has driven the Soviet Union to start imitative action of its own --without the religious or humanitarian motivation, of course. In the face of this, it is doubly shocking to hear that Point Four is being neglected by our own government, which originated it."





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