

Minnesota Radio Tape for Week Of July 29, 1964

For Broadcast Week of August 2, 1964

Ladies and gentlemen. . .

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, speaking to you from my office on Capitol Hill in Washington. . .

Today I would like to report on an inspiring project sponsored by the Evangelical Free Church of America. The headquarters of this organization are in Minnesota. The China Mission of this Church is building a fully equipped 45 bed hospital in Hong Kong.

The story goes back more than a year ago, in its beginning. Medical representatives originally thought to establish a clinic in Hong Kong. Study however, showed that the ^{actual} need was for hospital beds. So the Evangelical Free

Church developed a plan for a general hospital with out-patient facility, laboratory, x-ray, operating room, delivery room, and staff housing.

The Hong Kong government granted a site of land, worth \$300,000 in American money. The American State Department granted \$85,000 for the construction of the building. The Evangelical Free Church assumed the task of raising the remainder of the ^{cost of the} project which totalled more than a half million dollars. In addition it undertook to assume all costs of continued maintenance and operation.

As plans developed and prior to the signing of the construction contract, a series of strikes in Hong Kong increased the original estimates of cost of the building. The Church was faced with the possibility that its project might have to be abandoned. But they went to work raising additional funds on their own and I was glad to be of assistance in getting the Refugee and Migration Department of the Department of State to add a little more to its grant. Now the hospital is on the way to being a reality.

This hospital is not only a humane mission in the ordinary purposes of serving the health of people. Hundreds of thousands of people flee the Communist tyranny in China and flood into Hong Kong. They are aggressive, hard-working people who are haunted continually by the tragedy which loss of

health brings. No one will be turned away from the hospital because of lack of resources, but there are resources in Hong Kong which will help sustain the hospital in its continued operation.

Regardless of the name of the hospital, it will undoubtedly be known as the American hospital in Hong Kong. Our Consul General there and others have recommended this hospital as a refugee project worthy of the support of the U.S. government in enabling it to get started.

The history of America is really the history of service of this kind. Americans tend to think of people first and ^{the} human needs of those people. Then the helping hand goes out. It has always been so. All of our church groups, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish, and dozens of other voluntary agencies have bought Care packages, sent bundles, organized relief missions, and have founded hospitals or established schools where they have seen a need. ~~The~~ ^{Our} government has learned much from these operations and has come to appreciate them more and more. Through all of these activities the true image of America and Americans is projected. Americans have their own hearts and hands directly and tangibly connected with other ~~problems~~ peoples and understand better the fact that peace in the world grows and will grow only as a feeling of community

is built among the peoples of the world.

The Evangelical Free Church is to be richly commended for the enormous task ~~they have~~ ^{it has} undertaken to sustain with heavy initial investment and the continued support of ~~their~~ ^{its} people. It is this kind of work--the quiet work of mercy and humanity that speaks and will continue to speak more than volumes of words, or any sharpness of threats, about the real intentions of the people of America.

Thank you



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org