

REMARKS BY
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
TO THE PEACE CORPS ADVISORY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1966, 2 P.M.

First, it is a special pleasure for me as Chairman of the Peace Corps National Advisory Council, to convene this meeting of the Council--the first one since my good friend, Jack Vaughn assumed the post of Director of the Peace Corps.

Each of us is fully cognizant of the remarkable contribution Sargent Shriver made to the birth and the growth of the Peace Corps. As one of those who labored with President Kennedy to establish this program, I have seen Sarge Shriver transform our dreams into a reality which few of us believed possible.

But our President is a compassionate man and he finally decided that Sarge Shriver's talents were needed full time in the war on poverty. President Johnson called upon Peace Corps' own Jack Vaughn, then Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, to come back to one of his earlier loves and assume the tremendously important position of Director.

Jack's career, one which includes broad academic and practical experience in international development, made him a perfect selection for this position. His assignments in Mexico, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Mali, and Senegal have given him deep insight into the problems of emerging nations and the opportunities which exist for Peace Corps volunteers.

I read in the press releases that the number of volunteers in Latin America expanded from

123 to more than 3000 during the time Jack directed the Latin American program for the Peace Corps. That is the kind of recruiting we need today and that is the kind of progress we are going to see under Jack's leadership. I understand that this morning informal workshops of the Council examined several important questions, including research studies on the activities of the Peace Corps, the school-to-school exchange Peace Corps program, and the program of volunteer doctors. I hope you will be able to provide me with a brief summary of these workshop discussions.

I also understand that your agenda this afternoon calls for presentations by the four Regional Directors of the Peace Corps, a presentation on new programming and planning operations as envisioned by Saul Chafkin, the new head of planning and programming,

and a discussion on the perennial problem of recruiting.

Let me say that my recent assignment in the Far East has brought home to me with force and clarity, the vital importance of what our Peace Corps volunteers are doing throughout the world. The difficult and complex task of building stable economies and just societies takes all the ingenuity and courage a new nation can muster. The support, the leadership, the expertise, and the enthusiasm which our volunteers inject into these situations are of incomparable value.

I have returned from Vietnam and the Far East with a sense of restrained optimism. The people in these nations want peace and security and they are willing to risk their lives and their fortunes to secure it for their country. They know the task is difficult; that,

in many instances, it has never been possible to achieve in their nation, and that often the odds are not in their favor. But in every country I visited I found a group of truly dedicated persons in positions of leadership, persons worthy of our assistance and support, and persons devoted to building a more peaceful and just world. The Peace Corps has great opportunities to serve and to contribute in these troubled times and I know that, under Jack Vaughn's inspired leadership, the Peace Corps will take full advantage of these opportunities.



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