

The purpose of this year-end report of 1965 is to enable those persons interested in the work of The Pearl S. Buck Foundation to be aware of what has been accomplished in our first full calendar year of operation.

After gathering all available information concerning the Amerasian child in Korea, the Foundation began its work there by sending a search team from the home office for purposes of verification and new discovery. They took a fifteen hundred-mile trip throughout Korea, visiting places where the half-American child was most likely to be found. They spoke with countless officials, mayors, police chiefs, etc. in their efforts to discover the numbers, condition, location and status of these children. Their reports were evaluated, and the Foundation Executive Committee was then able to come to the following conclusions.

- a. It is difficult to determine the actual number of Amerasian children in Korea, for several reasons. For example, when search team members asked officials in the records bureau of a region how many registered Amerasian children there were on file, they would be given a figure. When they asked how many non-registered, the answer would always be, "Oh, two, three times that." It is also interesting to note that from these reports we discovered a greater number of registered children than previously reported by any of the other agencies.
- b. Though there are a number of fine agencies engaged in work in Korea, there is actually no other organization whose efforts are entirely devoted solely to the Amerasian child at the present time. At the same time, in order that we do not segregate the half-American child, which would indeed be contrary to our principles, it is our policy to include at least twenty-five per cent full Korean children in any institution supported by the Foundation.
- c. The great majority of these children is not to be found in institutions. They are found in villages and towns, living with their mothers, or frequently with friends or relatives of the mother.
- d. Most frequently the mothers of these children are not hard-core professional prostitutes. They are most often what would be known in the United States as common-law wives.
- e. Adoption is the best possible solution for any half-American child in a foreign country. With this in mind, we have done considerable research into the subject of adopting children into the United States, only to discover that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to place children in adoptive homes in this country. One reason for this is that young married couples are having more children of their own today than ever before in history, due to increased health, better medical care, proper nutrition and, in some cases, artificial insemination. In addition, there were approximately 250,000 children born out of wedlock in the United States last year and less than half of these have found their way to the protective circle of both mother and father. There do remain a large number of couples in the United States who are interested in adopting an Amerasian child. However, adoption procedures are so slow and tedious that placing all or even a high percentage of these children in good adoptive homes is an impossible task. The problems will never be solved by adoption alone.
- f. It is the consensus of Korean opinion, gathered from the many persons who have been asked, that a high standard of education is the most obvious answer to the problems of the half-American who must remain in the land of his birth.
- g. The standards of child care in the majority of institutions are shockingly below even Asian standards, and the conditions under which some of these children exist are unbelievable in our world today. Therefore, even if it were possible to institutionalize all of these children, which it is not, due to the fact that many mothers do not wish to have their children institutionalized, it would then become necessary, except in rare cases, for the Foundation to establish a large number of child care centers throughout Korea in order that our standards be kept high.
- h. The problems arising in connection with the Amerasian child are not a result of neglect or cruelty on the part of the Korean people. The majority of these problems arise from the fact that the Amerasian child has never before existed in Asia, and therefore no provisions have been made for his assimilation into everyday life. Educational procedures must be set up then, and when the time comes, jobs must be created for these new people.

i. A program, designed to educate and integrate the Amerasian child, in operation in Korea during our research, while exceptionally good in basic concept, was found to have many shortcomings. A relatively small percentage of these children were included in the program. The numbers of these children are not particularly important when one considers the fact that of the case studies taken for our pilot project, at least fifty per cent are of pre-school age children, and many are in desperate need of medical care and proper nutrition. As a matter of fact, one teacher, when questioned about the progress of an Amerasian being tutored, remarked, "A child cannot learn when he is hungry." Educational opportunity and integration are of secondary importance to health and a reasonable amount of security for a child from infancy to school age.

The Executive Committee of the Foundation then met with those staff members comprising the Korean Search Team and returned Mr. Frank Davis, Assistant to the President of the Foundation, to Seoul to set up actively our operations in Korea as follows:

- a. The decision was made to undertake a pilot project of five hundred Amerasian children living with their mothers, or relatives of their mothers, in order to discover exactly how the Foundation could best help these children. This, of course, presented many problems. We were aware of the fact that unless we maintained certain rigid requirements, it could easily become profitable to have Amerasian children, as in the case of illegitimate children in some of our own United States. It was concluded, therefore, that the Foundation would actually support only one Amerasian child in a family, although we have frequently found mothers who have several Amerasian children. We do, however, provide educational assistance to the additional children by paying expenses incurred in education directly to the school.
- b. This decision then made it necessary to employ a number of Korean counselors to obtain case study information, photograph the children and carry out our program. We decided against hiring experienced social workers because of the fact that ours is a job that has never before been done, so prior experience could be a detriment rather than an asset to creative thinking.
- c. Mr. Davis then arranged a number of interviews with prospective employees, and hired several to work for a period of time as trainees under Mr. Pill Jay Cho, our Korean Representative, and his wife, both experienced in social work. These energetic and enthusiastic young counselors then proceeded to take case histories for our SUPPORT Department with the following requirements in mind:
 1. The child must not be under the care of or have records in the files of any other existing agency in Korea.
 2. If the child is of school age, then he must be able to attend school and the mother must be willing to cooperate with the Foundation in whatever way necessary to make this possible.
 3. If the mother is willing to release the child for adoption or to a Foundation care center, then this information must be recorded and reported immediately to the proper persons to implement this relocation.
 4. No promises can be made to the mother or child by the counselor. Counselors simply gather information which is then forwarded to the home offices of the Foundation in Philadelphia where the final decision is made as to exactly what assistance the Foundation will offer in the case of each child.
 5. All financial transactions are to be handled by the resident American Representative, who is also not to discuss monetary matters until he has been notified by the home office as to what aid will be offered.

It was decided by Mr. Davis that our case study work would begin in a small area just north of Seoul and would then fan out in a circular fashion in order that transportation would not become a major problem. In approximately thirty days, five hundred detailed case histories were in the Philadelphia office. From these case histories, it was discovered that approximately fifty per cent of the children found were under five years of age and approximately ten per cent were one year old and under. It was also interesting to note that while many "authorities," both American and Korean, state that the problem of mixed-race children is a very small one, and the total number of Amerasians in Korea at the present time is quite low, that these five hundred children were located in an exceedingly limited area. As a matter of fact, they are practically all within walking distance of each other. It is also interesting to note that one case study frequently represents brothers and sisters who are also Amerasian, and that far less than fifty per cent of these histories are of children whose births are registered. In actuality, no more than one-third of them are registered.

It is impractical, because of transportation difficulties from our office to the pilot area, to require a counselor or a nurse to make more than five calls per day, although frequently more are relatively simple. However, we have no wish to have a counselor make five minute visits. We want instead for the counselor to attempt sincerely to discover ways in which the mother and child can best be aided by our program. It is hoped that our counselors can make noticeable strides toward rehabilitation for many of these unfortunate girls who have found that consorting with American servicemen is their only way of supporting themselves and their children. We therefore assigned a counselor to each fifty children and a professional nurse to each one hundred children. We require that a minimum of five children be visited daily. In this way, it is possible for each of these children to be visited at least three times a month by a counselor and twice a month by a qualified nurse. In the case of a child attending school, the counselor is also required to visit that school while the child is there and check progress, grades, etc. Where special help is needed to enable a child to go on with his education, tutoring has been arranged through our Special Educational Assistance Program.

In view of the economic depression in Korea, resulting from the geographical division, it is exceedingly difficult to implement any type of rehabilitation program for the mothers until some type of gainful employment can be made available. With this in mind, Pearl S. Buck and Theodore F. Harris, President and Executive Director of the Foundation, met with a related foundation in the United States and made plans to begin PROJECT INDUSTRY in Korea. Funds have been made available by The Pearl S. Buck Foundation for a research project to begin early in the spring of 1966. A group of astute persons will go into Korea and meet with a representative cross-section of Korean businessmen and conduct a survey to discover what type of industry could best be supported and in which regions. These astute persons will then contact Korean businessmen and endeavor to interest them in this undertaking, and will interview successful American businessmen with the same end in mind. It is anticipated that the first industrial project will consist of food processing plants, requiring 15,000 acres of soybeans per installation, thereby making available a relatively large amount of employment, agriculturally as well as in the plant itself. Foreign markets will also be investigated for the products manufactured. This has been accomplished in many under-privileged regions prior to this and it has been found that such a project can be amortized over a period of approximately five years average, at which time total management and ownership of the project can be turned over to the nationals in those countries. Groups comprised of full Koreans as well as Amerasians will be properly trained in the techniques of operating these businesses and in suitable agricultural methods for the development of the soybean variety to be used. Some of these students will be brought to the United States for training in business management as well. We hope that this project will enable us to take noticeable strides in reducing the necessity for girls to resort to prostitution, as well as make gainful employment available to many full Koreans and Amerasians.

It is hoped that a number of these installations can be completed within a relatively short time. Recently a group of prominent businessmen requested just such a long range project from the Foundation for them to support.

Miss Buck and Mr. Harris have had several discussions with Welcome House Inc., an adoption agency established by Miss Buck some eighteen years ago, which specializes in the placement of the mixed-race child in good adoptive homes in this country. These conferences were held in an effort to discover ways in which the Foundation could help Welcome House to expand. While visiting seventy-five major cities and towns over the past eighteen months, Miss Buck and Mr. Harris also met with representative groups from other adoption agencies. This was done to explore cooperation in the efforts of agencies throughout the United States in order to expedite inter-country adoption procedures.

The Pearl S. Buck Foundation Child Care Center, supported jointly by Company "A" Military Police Battalion and the Foundation, has been greatly expanded and improved in 1965. A number of children have been added to those already residing at the Care Center, and this necessitated, of course, an increase of the facilities. A dispensary has been established and a qualified nurse assigned to full-time duty in that Child Care Center. She tends to the everyday medical needs of these children and acts as a dietician in planning menus. She also makes arrangements for complete medical care when necessary. With the much appreciated cooperation of Sergeant Martin of Company "A", the bathhouse has now been completed, showers have been installed with hot and cold running water, and the dormitories are now heated. Dining facilities have been expanded and the kitchen has been greatly improved. A governing board was set up, consisting of several interested persons from the military unit, the owners of the property on which the Care Center is located, and Mr. Cho of the Foundation staff. Plans were discussed for expanding the Child Care Center and its related school even more in 1966. Recently, on a trip to the United States, Sergeant Martin, Treasurer of the Governing Board of the Child Care Center, had luncheon with Miss Buck, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Davis at Foundation headquarters, and plans for expansion and improvement were discussed at great length.

In conclusion, our operations in Korea in 1965 have been successful to the extent that we now feel it possible to increase the overall picture sufficiently to enable us to gather more statistics and implement other programs to be developed from our own experience there.

Miss Buck and Mr. Harris also met with Mrs. Miki Sawada from the Elizabeth Saunders Home in Oiso, Japan. Arrangements were made that in exchange for Foundation aid in her PROJECT BRAZIL, she would grant equal rights to Amerasian children from Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan and the Philippines as well as the Amerasian children of Japan, for whom her project was originally established. After eighteen years of work with the Amerasian child in Japan, Mrs. Sawada has come to the conclusion that the situation for the Negro Amerasian is utterly hopeless in an Asian country. While we have not totally accepted this reasoning, there does seem to be great difficulty in finding a place in those societies for the older Negro Amerasian who is uneducated. For these totally displaced individuals who have no family ties, we will be able to arrange for agricultural training for a period of one or two years, after which they will migrate to Brazil and will live and work on St. Stephen's Plantation, consisting of many acres of land that have already been cleared and planted with pimentos, as well as considerable other acreage remaining to be cultivated. It is hoped that PROJECT BRAZIL will be a long range answer to the problems of many young adults.

A Foundation representative began work in Japan on a fact-finding mission in August of 1965, and was very successful in learning the facts regarding the Amerasian situation there. We have our first one hundred case studies in our SUPPORT files and will begin expanding this program in the beginning of 1966. Our representative left Japan in December of 1965 to spend several weeks of research in Okinawa.

In the meantime, initial contacts have been made in Taiwan and a survey will be conducted there in February of 1966. The first of the children to be brought to the United States on our Brilliant Child Scholarship Fund is scheduled to arrive in the very near future, and others will follow in rapid order. This boy is Japanese-American, and at nineteen years of age is a brilliant composer and pianist. Because of the necessity of special education for the brilliant child, we endeavor to find him, wherever and whomever he may be. We have located three full Korean girls, two at age seven and one at age sixteen, in an orphanage in Korea, who are very talented musically, and although these girls are not Amerasian, negotiations are under way at the present time to provide full musical scholarships for them.

We look forward to 1966 with great expectations.