

Mr. GALLAGHER. Will the applicants be counseled that they are free to refuse their answers, or do you intend to write this into the preface?

Mr. BERLEW. This would be on the cover sheet of the test booklet. It is something that we could very easily call to the attention specifically on the persons taking the tests at the time they take it.

Mr. CORNISH. Does that relate to any and all questions?

Mr. BERLEW. That relates to any and all questions, Mr. Cornish. On June 11, 1965, the Peace Corps transmitted to all field assessment officers supplementary instructions to be read to all trainees taking the MMPI. A copy of these instructions is enclosed. We have since reviewed these instructions and made substantial revisions in them. We have asked the Psychological Corp. to print for the Peace Corps an MMPI booklet with 399 items and a special introduction and set of instructions on the cover page. A copy of our proposed introduction and instructions, which is being transmitted to the Psychological Corp., is enclosed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MMPI TRANSMITTED TO ALL FIELD
ASSESSMENT OFFICERS ON JUNE 11, 1965

SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MMPI

(Distribute booklets and answer sheets first and then read the following instructions to the trainees.)

The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, which you are to take now, is a widely used questionnaire which will help us understand the sort of person you are. It is a standard part of Peace Corps assessment procedures, and has been taken by thousands of trainees in previous programs. Since many of the items inquire about very personal matters, three points concerning the use of the inventory should be made clear before you take it.

1. The results will be held in strict confidence by the assessment and selection staff. The inventory will not become part of your permanent Peace Corps file and will be destroyed once selection is completed.
2. While we find the inventory useful, it is never by itself the basis for a selection decision or a placement recommendation.
3. We encourage you to take the inventory because it is in your interest as well as that of the Peace Corps that we understand you as thoroughly as we can, but taking it is voluntary. If you decline to take it, we would naturally like to know why, but a refusal will not in and of itself harm your chances for selection.

Some of the items may strike you as strange and many of them are quite personal. Since they ask you to report your feelings and experiences, it should be obvious that they cannot be scored as correct or incorrect. Indeed, we will not even look at your responses to any individual items.

In our use you are to answer only items 1 through 366 and items 374, 383, 397, 398, 406, 461 and 502. I have written the numbers of these items on the blackboard (if the items are marked in the booklet or identified in some other way, substitute an appropriate phrase here). Please be sure to answer these items in the appropriately numbered spaces on your answer sheet.

Now read the instructions on the front of the booklet to yourselves while I read them out loud. (Read the instructions.)