

manages to grow a little every year. It yearns to do more in the service of international understanding, yet chafes beneath a burden of perpetual financial need. The Federal Government, which could provide coordinative leadership or catalytic funds, provides neither in adequate amounts. Yet much is possible. Let me cite an example.

For a number of years, the State Department subsidized charter flights of The Experiment which carried about 160 outstanding young Americans every summer to Greece, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, and India; and which brought as many young nationals to the United States from the aforementioned countries, plus Thailand, Ceylon, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. The charters were paid in Indian rupees which had accrued to the United States Government account from the sale to India of surplus wheat and other grains. No American dollars were involved. The two-way exchange was enormously successful, between the United States and nations with which we sorely require bonds of mutual trust, respect, and understanding. The *per capita* cost of the exchange to the Federal Government was \$505. The Experimenter and The Experiment covered all remaining costs of the two-month programs. The Federal Government could scarcely hope to reap so much goodwill and educational advantage at so low a price; yet the charters were perforce discontinued when cuts were made two years ago in the program budget of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The need is to bolster the budget of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for the specific purpose of providing seed money for private, nonprofit organizations willing to raise the numbers of foreign visitors they bring to the United States on their educational-exchange programs. Such funds might take the form of foreign-currency subsidies to enable them to open and administer offices abroad to recruit, select, and orient participants for programs in the United States, or to pay part or all of the costs of international travel. They might also take the form of dollar subsidies to enable visitors on nonprofit educational programs to travel more extensively in the United States than their limited budgets would otherwise allow. Seed money of this kind would give our educational-exchange organizations the incentive and the means to innovate—to develop new, imaginative programs which would appeal to an ever-expanding number of potential foreign-student visitors.

Still another approach might be made through the ingenious coupon plan recently proposed by Representative Henry Reuss, who recommends a post-arrival gift of \$100 in coupons for every first-time foreign visitor, as a practical means of increasing the cost-competitiveness of the United States as a tourist attraction. The coupon book could come with instructions on how to make contact with community service agencies, and with a simple schedule of rates for basic services. Thus, a visitor might contact the COSERV office on his arrival in Cleveland; and for a nominal fee of \$5 or \$10, paid with a coupon, he could count on reliable advice and assistance in locating low-cost accommodations, moderately-priced restaurants, sightseeing attractions, local tours, and other amenities which would make his visit to Cleveland an enjoyable and memorable one. The voluntary agency would benefit as well—not immoderately, but perhaps enough to confer a deeper sense of security and a corresponding willingness to innovate and expand.

In conclusion, I would like to pledge the dedicated support of The Experiment in International Living in the national effort to reduce the balance-of-payments deficit, with the sole proviso that every step we take be in the direction of reduced dollar outflow without a diminution of the reciprocal educational-exchange activity which we deem so vital and abiding a contribution to the national interest.

SUMMARY

(The Experiment in International Living is an independent, nonprofit, non-sectarian, educational-exchange organization established in 1932 and presently incorporated in the State of Vermont, with headquarters in Putney. The Experiment's subsidiary School for International Training has been recognized and accredited as an institution of higher education by the State of Vermont.)

For 36 consecutive years The Experiment in International Living has offered programs of cross-cultural education for young people from many nations. The hallmark of its programs is the homestay—one month spent living as a member