

Board of Trustees, through its Executive Committee, directly sponsors a number of activities involving private citizens in international relations on a person-to-person basis at the community level. This program of personal diplomacy is administered through the National Headquarters in Kansas City.

The scope of People-to-People is very broad as evidenced by committees representing the following groups: Health (S.S. "Hope"), Handicapped, Engineers and Scientists, Sports, Hotels, Music and Sister City Affiliations. In addition, important activities are carried on under the Travel Program, Community Chapter programs, School and Classroom matching service, Letter Writing, etc.

Under the aegis of People-to-People, more than 300 American towns and cities have been linked in Sister City relationships with counter-part cities overseas. In addition, over 100 Community Chapters have been organized across the country to carry out programs involving international person-to-person contact with foreign nationals at the local level.

One of the most dynamic specialized Committees of the People-to-People movement is the People-to-People Sports Committee which has provided sports equipment for groups in developing countries and has arranged exchanges of sports groups between the U.S.A. and countries overseas.

It is clear that the implementation of the People-to-People concept is based on the assumption that citizens of different nations will be able to move freely across international boundaries. Current travel legislation under consideration threatens this free movement of persons and thus endangers the effectiveness of the People-to-People program which is essential to the development of international understanding. If we are to have an effective program we must be a two-way street, travel to and from the United States.

It is our view that efforts should be accelerated to increase personal contacts between U.S.A. citizens and overseas nationals. Current discussions regarding proposed legislation to restrict travel activities of people concerned with establishing effective inter-cultural personal relationships have already tended to discourage the continuation of such activity. This is the greatest handicap we have faced since the formation of People-to-People, Inc. in 1956.

It should be emphasized that People-to-People actively promotes visits of foreign nationals, individually and in groups, to U.S.A. communities. Through the years a growing number of persons have traveled from foreign cities to visit counter-part cities in the U.S.A. It is estimated that in 1967 the People-to-People Sister City Committee was responsible for approximately 13,000 visitations between 330 American cities with their counterparts abroad. Under this program, equal emphasis is placed on travel in each direction. Under the auspices of the People-to-People Sports Committee, foreign nationals in athletic groups, visited counterpart teams in the U.S.A. during 1967.

People-to-People Community Chapters in 52 cities were involved in providing over 2200 homestays for nearly 900 Europeans during 1967. In 1968 it is expected that the chapter groups will welcome over 2000 Europeans in their communities. Steps are now being taken to accelerate the influx of Latin American, African and Asiatic visitors to U.S.A. communities.

President Lyndon B. Johnson commenting on the Tenth Anniversary of People-to-People said:

"In only a decade of devoted efforts you have joined the hands and hearts of millions of Americans with their fellow men around the world, I share your faith that these abounding friendships will help in the coming decades, as in the past, to create the universal alliance for brotherhood which is the prayer of all free men."

The future of People-to-People, Inc. is in the hands of the U.S. Congress. We appeal to you and respectfully request that we not be penalized by this legislation but rather be encouraged to further our aims—international peace.

Sincerely,

MRS. C. E. SWANSON,
Chairman, Executive Committee Board of Trustees.

STATEMENT OF RUTH R. PURKAPLE, PROJECTS CONSULTANT, NATIONAL STUDENT YWCA

The National Student YWCA supports the proposal of the Council on International Educational Exchange, to which we belong and with which we have