then began corresponding with Dr. Odhiambo Olel in Kisumu and attending Sister City Committee meetings.

Taking a slitlamp microscope for eye screening, Dr. Stone spent a week in Kisumu early in 1980 after attending a medical conference in Nairobi. His tour of clinics convinced him of a need for training in mass eye screening and infection control. The second line of technical assistance opened. Roanoke received another SCI grant, and Kisumu designated Joseph Owaga-Otondi, senior clinical officer at Lumumba Health Centre in Kisumu.

Otondi also met delays when he missed his plane because of a bus breakdown in Nairobi. This triggered a frantic search from Nairobi to New York until he showed up two days later. It was the last time that he was tardy.

Stone had arranged Otondi's schedule; he was assigned to three hospitals and a dozen public and private health agencies that had agreed to help. More distant agencies donated rides. Otondi proved dedicated to his profession and to his assignment. He attended surgery, helped at clinics and worked with sight-related agencies. Otondi was especially impressed by the volunteerism displayed in Roanoke at the Free Clinic and Rescue Squad; the museums; the Roanoke Sister Cities Committee; and the Links, an organization of members of the Roanoke committee, who sponsored a reception for each of the Kisumu technicians.

The impact of the medical program in Kisumu reached beyond the Roanoke community. The International Nursing Services Association of Atlanta proposed, as a joining project, a workshop in community health nursing and infection control for 25 public health nurses in Kisumu. After a year of planning, the workshop was conducted June 29 to July 10, 1981, by Cathleen Smith and Nancy Clark of the Harding University School of Nursing in Searcy, Arkansas.

This village in Ecuador is putting in a new water system with skills developed through the technical assistance program.

Impressed by Roanoke's model sewage treatment plant, K'Ombudo first broached the most recent technical assistance project in water and sewage treatment in 1978. At that time, Roanoke City Manager Bern Ewert promised to release an engineer for consultation. When Ed Perez of SCI staff went to Kisumu early this year, he was told that a plan to protect Lake Victoria from industrial pollution had top priority. In view of this, both cities approved the project application in the spring of 1981, and Ewert designated Public Works Director Thomas F. Brady as project leader. Brady's enthusiasm for the project is infectious. He is studying Swahili and he is corresponding with Kisumu engineer, C. Otieno.

Each phase of the technical assistance project with Kisumu has proven that the Roanokers are very much involved with their sister city, as Ewert summed it up, "It's such a straightforward way to work with each other and help each other—like neighbors." National governments are tied in red tape, but cities act "in a neighborly way," freely sharing skills. "The greatest beauty of the whole thing is that it's so human in the way it is being handled . . . We are able to get to know each other."

"There is great value in knowing how others maintain their economy, the goods they produce and how they earn their livelihood. It makes us not only appreciate what we have, but also understand the lifestyles of those in our sister city community. I hope technical assistance is of value to them. They in like manner make a contribution to us. We are richer as a people for what they share with us. There is a deeper meaning and potential for good in both our cities.

—Roanoke Mayor Noel Taylor

The SCI/Technical Assistance Program

The Sister Cities International/ Technical Assistance Program (SCI/ TAP) was established in 1977 as a complementary element to the overall Sister City program. The basic assumption which underlies the SCI/TAP program is that an exchange of technical expertise between cities in the United States and affiliated cities in developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, if done wisely and with an appreciation of their inherent differences, can result in modest but significant improvements in the quality of life of disadvantaged people living in urban areas of those countries. Typically, sister cities establish a long-term technical assistance relationship with periodic short-term projects. SCI/ TAP staff work closely with sister city committees in the planning, implementation and evaluation of TAP projects. The SCI/TAP program receives grant assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

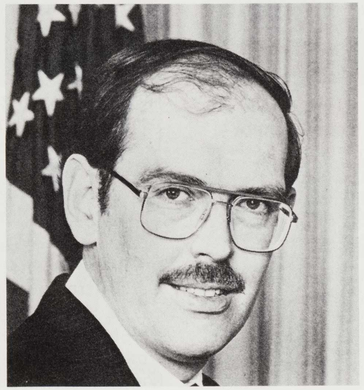
Through the program, small grants are made available to sister cities that are collaborating on a technical assistance project. The funds may go to pay for travel and living expenses of an individual from the U.S. city who has skills needed in its sister city. (SCI/TAP grants do not cover salaries or consultancy fees.) Alternatively, SCI/TAP grant monies may be used to pay travel and living expenses of an individual who travels from the overseas city to its sister city in the United States for a training activity related to the technical assistance project.

Sister Cities technical assistance projects carried out by participating cities have been in basic need areas such as: water and sanitation; public health; vocational training and employment creation; working with the disabled; small-scale energy and others.

"CONTINUED PROGRESS IN THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT IS OF GROWING IMPORTANCE TO OUR OWN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL WELL-BEING"

A message from

M. Peter McPherson
Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development



On behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development, I am pleased to congratulate Sister Cities International on 25 years of important service to the international community. In particular, the SCI Technical Assistance Program has proven to be a significant mechanism for collaboration between the public and private sectors in helping to improve the quality of life in cities throughout the Third World. Through your program, American cities have provided useful technical assistance to their sister cities in developing countries in dealing with their critical urban problems.

All of us at AID share with Sister Cities a deep concern about the extraordinary problems that have resulted from unprecedented urban growth throughout the world. Essential public services such as clean water, sewage, disposal, schools, clinics, public transportation, housing, energy and employment must be provided to ensure a decent life for urban inhabitants. Most U.S. cities have experienced or are experiencing similar problems to those found overseas and have built up a large amount of technical expertise and a great deal of practical experience in dealing with political, economic and social constraints. Through the unique mechanism of the Sister Cities Program, cities participating have shared technologies in a way which takes into account the need for careful adaptation to indigenous conditions.

Sister Cities International's work is also very important here at home. We have learned that continued progress in Third World development is of growing importance to our own domestic and international well-being. The United States has become increasingly dependent on developing countries for essential raw materials. Nearly half of U.S. private overseas investment is in developing nations, and some 12 million American jobs depend on exports to the Third World. In the past year public awareness of our interdependence has been highlighted by the Brandt Commission Report, and the Global 2000 study. The Global 2000 report in particular presents a sobering picture of large-scale interrelated problems caused by population growth, energy scarcity, forest destruction with attendant soil and atmospheric effects, and pressure on food production capacity. Future directions in all these areas, and in the progress generally of the developing countries, will have direct impact on the well-being of the United States.

During the past years, the SCI small-scale person-to-person technical assistance projects have contributed in a significant way to dealing with these challenges in a practical, yet human way. Not only has this proven to be an effective tool for development, but it has also been highly cost efficient. SCI should be proud of its accomplishments but must be ready to work even harder as problems associated with uncontrolled urban growth promise to be one of the continuing global challenges of the future.

During the years ahead USAID looks forward to continued cooperation with the Sister Cities Program as we work together on development assistance activities which will improve the economic and social well being of our neighbors in the Third World.