Person to Person

Continued from page 57

citizens of San Bernardino met with the mayor to suggest that a council be formed to encourage all residents to make the city a warm and friendly place for foreign and domestic visitors attending San Bernardino's bicentennial celebration. Such a council would also enable the townspeople to hold programs in honor of foreign dignitaries, to conduct fund-raising campaigns and to use the time and talents of the residents of the city in support of international and intercultural understanding.

The mayor and city council approved the idea and appropriated $600 to initiate the program, which was coordinated by the Bicentennial Commission. In December 1976 when the Bicentennial Commission closed its doors, its responsibilities were carried on by the International Council. To instill a commitment to long-term involvement, the council was made a permanent division of the mayor's office in 1979. At that time, Press explained that the council was reorganized to meet the needs of expanding international interaction and to stimulate the growth and coordination of internationally-oriented activities in ways which would focus interest on world affairs in the local community.

Working with over 40 other community organizations, the council strives to enhance understanding among people of many cultures, to insure a warm welcome and offer hospitality to visiting travelers, to aid professional business and civic contacts, and to encourage student exchange.

Insofar as it is possible to identify one paper which encompasses the many topics covered in the International Fellows Program, the talk by Stephen Rhinesmith, past president of American Field Service International, represents such a state-of-the-art presentation. This overview spanned the history and purposes of people-to-people exchange programs, reviewed cooperative efforts undertaken by various private organizations and government agencies, described events and trends which serve to support international exchange programs, and broadly outlined political, economic, and organizational issues which will challenge the continued growth of such organizations in the decade to come.

Rhinesmith relayed both "the good news" and "the bad news" in assessing the conflicting forces which affect international exchange organizations today. On the bright side of the picture, he described various ventures in cooperative endeavors, both among the organizations themselves and between governmental and private agencies. Most promising of the latter developments, he said, was the creation of the United States International Communication Agency (USICA) in 1978. The agency "aimed directly at the field of international exchange which for the first time, gives us a home base rather than a share of a bureau within the State Department."

Various federally-generated mandates in support of citizen education —"helping the American people understand an increasingly complex world in a way that will allow them to make intelligent decisions about what kind of U.S. foreign policy to support"—have given considerable momentum to the work of private agencies, he said, explaining that government support of volunteer agencies is justified in part by the perception that these organizations are involved in contributing to a more internationally knowledgeable U.S. citizenry.

On the dimmer side of the picture, Rhinesmith cited a number of uncontrollable forces working against the private agencies. Labor-intensive and heavily dependent on air travel, these organizations are hard-hit by inflation and peculiarly vulnerable to the fluctuations of the dollar in world markets. Recently, for example, AFS lost $115,000 overnight in a 35 percent devaluation of the *cruzeiro* in Brazil, Rhinesmith noted.

A number of international political events have also had an adverse effect on U.S. support for exchange organizations, which includes animus against Iranian students on the part of many Americans; reshuffling of government priorities in the face of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; and hesitance on the part of students and their parents about participating in a number of exchange programs centered in politically unstable parts of the world.

The outlook for substantial support from private philanthropic sources such as large corporations and major foundations is not an encouraging one either. "Since the private philanthropic sector is not going to help us much and the public sector is not going to bail us out, we are left with two ways to approach the 1980s—better management and better interorganizational cooperation," Rhinesmith stated.

Summing up the conference, Rhinesmith said, "If we can . . . help one another with our individual problems and find ways to work more cooperatively together toward common ends, then this will have not only been successful in itself, but may provide the basis for a long-lasting contribution to the field of international exchange in the 1980s."

The Consortium For International Citizen Exchange

The Consortium was founded in February 1980 by eight major community-based volunteer international exchange organizations to examine the prospects, problems and opportunities of the international citizen exchange movement in the 1980s. The Consortium is a cooperative effort among these major organizations to help strengthen the field nationwide. The founding organizations are: American Field Service International Intercultural Programs (AFS); The Experiment in International Living (EIL); Friendship Force; National Council for International Visitors (NCIV); Partners of the Americas; People-to-People International, Sister Cities International (SCI); and Youth for Understanding (YFU).

A SPECIAL THANKS TO SISTER CITIES CONTRIBUTORS

Sister Cities International is deeply grateful to those individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies who, over the years, have contributed to the growth and expansion of the program. Their support, at different times and in different ways, has provided the incentive and the resources so vital to the success of the national association and the U.S. Sister Cities effort.

Air New Zealand
American Express Foundation
American Revolution Bicentennial Administration
American Scandanavian Foundation
Ed Asner
Asahi Homecase Corporation
Atlantic Richfield Company
Bank America Foundation
Bechtel Power Corporation
John M. Belk Foundation
California First Bank
California Museum of Science and Industry
Clorox Company
Crocker National Bank Foundation
Florence and C. Dewey Crowder
Exxon Corporation
Farrell Lines, Inc.
First London Investments, Inc.
First Mississippi National Bank
Fluor Engineers & Constructors, Inc.
R.T. French Company
Greyhound Lines, Inc.
Gordons, Inc.
Mayran Hacinliyan Foundation
S. Ruth Y. Hashimoto
The Hillsdale Fund, Inc.
Institut Fur Auslandsbeziehungen
W.L. Jackson Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Japan Airlines
Japan/U.S. Friendship Commission
Johnson City Foundry & Machine Works, Inc.
Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Lewis L. Kelton
Charles F. Kettering Foundation
Lilly Endowment, Inc.
Lloyd's Bank
Longview Foundation
Mack Truck, Inc.
Paul W. McMullan
National League of Cities
NCR Corporation
Richard G. Neuheisel
Occidental Foundation
Philip Morris, Inc.
Jesse Philips Foundation
Phoenix Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
Ramada Inns, Inc.
Reader's Digest Foundation
Raymond R. Schultz
Security Pacific National Bank
Ethelda Singer
TAIT, Inc.
Tokai Bank of California
Tooley Company
Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.
Tri-State Container Corporation
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Conference of Mayors
U.S. Department of State
U.S. International Communication Agency
Louis Wozar

Congratulations to Sister Cities International

for 25 years of distinguished people to people service.

From
The Santa Fe Springs Sister City Committee

Santa Fe Springs celebrates it's 25th birthday on May 15, 1982 and the Sister City Committee also congratulates the City of Santa Fe Springs for 25 years of service to it's people.

Our Sister Cities:
Mersin, Turkey • Navajoa, Mexico • Santa Fe, Argentina