

In Your Own Back Yard

Chances are that an organized group of Americans with the ethnic background of your Sister City are active somewhere in the States on a local or national level. Get in touch with them; they may be of considerable help in furnishing advice, translation services and if necessary, other support for your program. Perhaps members of such an association even live in or near your community, unbeknownst to your committee. When you get in touch with an out-of-town association of this kind, pose the question as to whether they have local members, after you explain the background of your Sister City program. You might discover volunteers happy to cooperate.

Information Backup

When it comes to informing yourself about foreign countries with which you might want to consider an affiliation, reference materials are available from an impressive number of national associations, after you have exhausted your own local library resources. Among these are:

The National Education Association's publication entitled "Other Lands, Other Peoples," offers concise and up-to-date information on almost every country in the world. The Department of State has its own country monographs with information on the government, economy and recent history of every country, which the Bureau of Public Affairs makes available free of charge upon request. The United Nations Association in New York will make available publications pertaining to individual U.N. member countries, which now include practically every nation in the world. The Foreign Policy Association, also located in New York, operates a World Affairs Center that serves community organizations in their international contacts. Services offered by this group include information and reference folders, books and pamphlets, audio-visual materials and program advisory services.

You may also wish to write to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office in Washington, for the list of publications dealing with foreign countries. It will include the State Department pamphlets mentioned above and many more published by other executive and legislative offices of the U.S. Government, dealing with nations that have gained their independence in recent years. More detailed studies of a regional nature covering economic and political relations are also included.