

June 16, 1965

To: Board of Directors, ACCION International

From: Mr. Joseph H. Blatchford

Subject: Progress Report

The following is a brief rundown of activities of the ACCION movement in Venezuela, Argentina, the United States and Europe.

ARGENTINA

I have made a total of three trips to Argentina. An Argentina community action organization has been set up and is functioning.

Name: C.A.B.E. (Centro de Accion en Barrios de Emergencia)  
Center for Community Action in the Urban Slums.

Board of Directors: Eduardo Escasany President, Bank of Galicia and Buenos Aires  
Silvio Gagliardi President, Celolusa, S.A.  
Luis Lix-Klett President, Carrier Lix-Klett and other industries  
Meyer Pellegrini  
Jose Pereyra Iraola  
Alberto Padilla Lawyer, Banco de Boston

Staff:

Juan Pruden, 41 Former Jesuit priest, founder of largest secondary teachers' union and large youth movement. Well known and respected.  
Director of Recruitment and Training  
Ruben Ramos, 34 Graduate Engineer, University of Texas, founder of several associations in slum areas.

A document of purpose and principles has been adopted, office and administrative machinery has been set up, and recruitment has been under way for five weeks.

I will return next month to make final selection of the 12 Argentines to go to Venezuela for three months of training. They will return in October, accompanied by 7 of the non-Argentine field workers with experience. They will form the initial corps to start work this year.

The C.A.B.E. Board has committed itself to raise \$100,000 to sustain the pilot operation. One third is already raised. The Agency for International Development has authorized a grant of \$13,280 to pay for training of the Argentines in Venezuela.

I have recommended a policy of no publicity in Argentina until the projects and the communities speak for themselves.

The attached is a statement "What is C.A.B.E.?" and the translation of the plan submitted by me to a meeting of industrialists in Buenos Aires on April 28, 1965. I prepared the plan and represented ACCION International at the meeting. Dr. Alfred Anzola flew to Buenos Aires to attend the meeting and represent the Board of ACCION EN VENEZUELA. The plan was approved.

#### VENEZUELA

ACCION EN VENEZUELA is going along very well. New Board Members include Monsr. Henriquez, the Bishop of Caracas; Eugenio Mendoza; Walt Owen, representing Canada; and leading Venezuelans from Maracaibo, and Valencia.

The report of the movement since the beginning was published in English and is soon to be off the presses in Spanish.

The thirty minute color film is finished and about to be released in the Spanish version. It is excellent.

The "My Fair Lady" premiere was a smashing success and earned \$15,000 for ACCION EN VENEZUELA.

Special honors came to ACCION when Miss Winifred Marich was awarded "Amiga de Venezuela" award by Mrs. Leoni, the President's wife, in a special ceremony. She is the youngest woman to ever receive the award, which goes periodically to foreign women who have done outstanding service to Venezuela.

"Venezuelanization". Alvio Briceno, former director of supervisor training for the Venezuelan National Training Institute, has taken over as head of the ACCION Training Department, replacing Arthur Speigel, who will now be associated with ACCION International. Jose Antonio Lecuna, will be in Public Relations and Fund Raising and will take over the top role there from Winnie Marich. He is former Executive Director of IVAC.

Training and supervision are the two most important parts of the ACCION EN VENEZUELA movement now. This is in step with the need to fully institutionalize the movement. Excellent courses are given by the ACCION staff in "knowing and entering the barrio"; "initial projects"; "major projects"; "direction of meetings"; "propaganda"; "planning"; "human relations"; "developing groups"; and supervise training for the five existing supervisors and five potential ones.

The technical training center program is off the ground with completed study and a pilot project underway in a Caracas Barrio. It will be selected from the field teams and trained to duplicate this model throughout the country.

A grant to AEV was announced by the German Catholic Bishops Federation, MISEREOR, in Aachen. This will be used for expanding the technical training program.

President Leoni asked AEV to sit on a committee to study the juvenile delinquency problem. A study and proposal was made by the Special Projects Department of AEV and was well received at a national convention in Caracas.

### U.S. Recruiting

A 10 day orientation course is being held June 20-30 for 35 ACCION selectees at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Massachusetts. Between 25 and 30 of this group will then be selected to go to Venezuela.

The course includes talks on ACCION, ACCION EN VENEZUELA, Venezuelan culture and features the study and analysis of a New England Town. The Mayor and Town Meeting of Lexington, Mass. will host the group for two days, during which participant democracy, groups, leadership, etc., will be analyzed and discussed by the trainees in group sessions.

The group will leave for Caracas on June 30th for 18 months of service. Another group of 10 has been selected for orientation in September. Chicago and Cambridge are responsible for the best response and highest quality group to date. Because of increased competition it became obvious that the maintenance of these three offices was a minimum requirement for maintaining U.S. recruiting.

The following is the list of the group. Besides the U.S., Great Britain, New Zealand, Norway and Germany are represented.

### INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION

We have asked Delta and Pan Am to fly our people New York-Caracas and for the group of advisors to fly Caracas-Buenos Aires. The State Department has said that they will would not approve the flight Caracas-Buenos Aires and that they will, however, approve the flight this month to Caracas on the condition that VIASA, The Venezuelan Airlines, fly half the group. This is a reasonable request, but it is held up still in Caracas. If VIASA doesn't approve, we lose all; it is crucial.

### EUROPE

I attended a three day conference in Ditchley House, England. I also took advantage of the trip to interview candidates already pre-selected by the National Union of Students of Great Britain. I selected one man from Wales and most important, established ties and gave them criteria for the selection of community workers for future programs.

I saw George Thomson of Shell and requested a grant to help the International. I gave a talk at Canning House on the Venezuelan program.

I made initial steps toward getting representative in Great Britain, and named James Hunt, a young, competent anglo Argentine as unofficial representative of ACCION International in London. He will help George Thomson in fund raising in Great Britain and will help in interviewing and recruiting candidates there and on the Continent, if the present arrangement works out.

I was invited by the Dutch Volunteers Service to visit The Hague. I was well received and my proposal that the Dutch select and train 10 volunteers to serve in Venezuela for two years in helping with the small industry development program, was received enthusiastically. A Dutch representative will visit Venezuela soon, as the next step.

I met with the leader of the union of all European agencies who send volunteers overseas. The secretariat is in Brussels and comprises over 200 private voluntary agencies. The AEV Year End Report was given to the leaders of the agencies

and an article on ACCION will go into their newsletter. This article will pull out the call throughout the continent for volunteers and for leaders with experience to serve with the ACCION movement in Latin America.

Generally I found a waning concern over Africa and a new found interest in Latin America throughout Europe. ACCION International can capitalize on this in helping guide Europe as financial contributions and volunteers to Latin America to help share the North American concern for Latin American development.

ACCION INTERNATIONAL

Incorporation has been completed and we are in good standing with all New York agencies. Formalities, naming of Directors, election of Officers, etc. will be handled at the Board Meeting on June 22, 1965.

1965 Budget is \$124,000 and represents only 18% of all the cash being raised within Argentina or Venezuela this year. It is only 7.4% of the total investment of cash and materials and services going to the ACCION movement in Latin America.

The fund raising campaign is under way. Corporations are being contacted by William Crossley, recently up from Venezuela. Foundations are being contacted by Dan Norvell and myself. Over four-hundred Foundations have been written to. The attached report by Mr. Crossley, including lists of potential contributors, gives the fund raising picture in detail.

We are moving offices to 145 East 52nd Street, Suite 9D, around the first of July. Rent will be \$4800 a year for 1200 square feet. The lease will be for three years.

- a) To continue to support ACCION EN VENEZUELA by recruiting and selecting community workers from North America to serve for a minimum of 18 months in the barriours of Venezuela.
- b) To make contact with European groups that send people overseas and to select community workers from Great Britain to work in Venezuela.
- c) To give orientation courses to the ACCION participants before they leave the U.S.
- d) To provide the international transportation for all foreign staff and field workers.
- e) To assist local groups to develop similar community action programs in other Latin American nations, using the experience and seasoned personnel from Venezuela.
- f) To recruit and train a more permanent staff that can serve as advisors and seasoned workers in the host countries helping the local people to get their program organized and established.
- g) To publish information about the program and to keep all backers and interested parties informed in North America and Europe.
- h) To raise the funds necessary to sustain the international part of the program.

- i) To develop special projects such as technical training programs or small industry development and seek Government or private foundation backing for the program. Once these programs are launched and proved to be successful, funds would be furnished within the host country to continue the program.