

PROPOSAL: TO SUPPORT THE LAUNCHING OF ACCION  
INTERNATIONAL AS A NEW YORK BASED  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

SUBMITTED TO: THE NEW YORK FOUNDATION  
4 West 58 Street  
New York 19, New York

ACCION International  
145 East 52nd Street  
New York 22, New York  
4 October 1965

History of the ACCION idea

ACCION was founded in 1960 with the cooperation of the Institute of International Education, the U.S. business community, and university educators as an experiment in community action in the urban slum areas of Latin America. The experiment was begun in Venezuela and has led to the establishment of "ACCION en Venezuela," a Venezuelan development organization, which has succeeded in obtaining the whole-hearted support of Venezuelan business and government. With the success of this program in Venezuela, other countries have requested ACCION's assistance in developing community action programs in order to create democratic institutions capable of carrying out a whole range of self-help projects on the grass-roots level in the rapidly growing urban slums of Latin America.

Creation of ACCION International

With such requests for help, the Board of Directors of ACCION en Venezuela and the United States Committee for ACCION, whose members had helped to inaugurate this program, decided to create a New York-based international development agency in order to: 1) Lend ACCION's assistance to other countries in Latin America; 2) To create a Center for recruiting and orienting community action workers from North America, Canada, Europe; and, 3) To bring Latin American community workers to the United States where they will benefit from exposure to programs operating in New York and other cities, and where they will receive training in various phases of community work.

The selection of New York as headquarters for an international development agency focusing on problems of the Western Hemisphere was a logical one. In addition to being the transportation center of the Western Hemisphere, it is the center for many international programs and various international agencies with which ACCION cooperates. The Institute of International Education has been instrumental in the growth of the ACCION program, having at its inception given generous help with offices, administration, and promotion of the idea among the business leaders of New York. The support for ACCION continues to be largely centered in New York. New York as an internationally-minded city, rich in universities, will provide excellent resources for researching new programs and carrying out recruiting and training programs in connection with learned experts in the field of Latin American studies, international development, social psychology, youth work, health, and other aspects of a community action program.

Expansion of the program, achievements

Since the filing of the Certificate of Incorporation for "ACCION International" with the Secretary of State of New York on June 16, 1965, the program has moved ahead in the following ways:

- 1) The setting up of the organization in New York City. An eleven man Board of Directors was formed, and officers elected. A suite of offices was rented at 145 East 52nd Street. Legal requirements for incorporation, taxes, and other organizational matters were met.
- 2) Tax exempt status was granted to ACCION International as per their letter M-65-EO-425 of August 24, 1965 from the U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service.
- 3) Recruiting was carried out in the New York area. Two groups, totaling 38 persons, were selected for service in Venezuela.
- 4) To establish the Argentine development agency, "C.A.B.E.," the Executive Director made three trips to Argentina, and efforts were coordinated in New York to organize an Argentine Board of Directors. Argentine businessmen and civic leaders raised \$100,000 to begin the program, and the initial group of community action workers has been selected and has gone into training. Some of the leading community action workers from the Venezuelan program traveled to Buenos Aires to help organize the program.
- 5) The centralization of recruiting, training and development in one locale was essential to the launching of ACCION International in New York. During ACCION's development period as an experimental program in Venezuela, recruiting and orientation programs were decentralized and scattered over the country, moving from one university campus to another. In 1961, the first orientation was held at the Hispanic-American Institute of Stanford University. Subsequent orientations were held at the University of California, Harvard University, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. All orientation programs were conducted with the complete cooperation of Latin American experts, anthropologists, psychologists, and other learned academicians from these universities. Advisors from universities all over the United States participated in the selection of candidates for the program.

With the decision to centralize ACCION International as an international development agency based in New York, the first selection and orientation program in New York was planned with the cooperation of advisors from Columbia University and Fordham University. A rigorous orientation program, designed with special project assignments and visits to community programs in the urban slums of New York. Lectures and seminars were held by Dr. Glenrose Comitas, Department of Anthropology, Dr. Magnus Moe, Department of History, Dr. Ronald Schneider, Professor of Government, Arthur Heyman, Department of Geography, and Professor Frank Tannenbaum, all of Columbia University, and Father Edward J. Sweeney, S.J., Director of Latin American Studies, of Fordham University. Mr. Mitchell I. Ginsberg, Associate Dean of the Faculty of the Columbia School of Social Work, Dr. Louis Hay of the Board of Education of New York City, Dr. Kempton Webb, of the Columbia Institute of Latin American Studies, Dr. William Schutz, psychologist at Albert Einstein University, Mr. Frank Barry of the Community Development Foundation, and others, participated in the interviewing of candidates for selection for the orientation program. The majority of the participants in the orientation were from New York Schools, which shows the shift toward New York recruiting that has come about this year.

### Future Planning

With such a nucleus of expert advisors for the selection and training of the best possible community action workers, ACCION International plans to expand its advisory team for orientation, training and development to include experts from New York University, the City College, and other schools in the area. We hope to tap the best academic resources which the city has to offer, and to coordinate an orientation with other agencies, such as HARYOU, the National Federation of Settlements, U.N. Agencies, the Council for Latin America, and other organizations which have already helped the ACCION program on an informal basis. With the establishment of a formalized program in New York for the selection and orientation of community action workers, we plan to expand our recruiting program to bring more community development workers from Europe. ACCION workers have already come from Germany, Norway, England, France, Japan, and New Zealand, in addition to the United States and Canada. Also, Latin American community workers will be brought to the New York Center to visit slum projects of HARYOU, PAL, Boys Clubs, and other organizations operating in New York. They will participate in the special projects and discussions along with recruits from the United States and Europe, and each will benefit from this exchange of ideas.

### Support

To organize ACCION International as a New York-based international development agency and to carry out the plans for 1965, a Budget of \$124,000 was approved.\* To reach this goal, ACCION will have to raise more funds from corporations. Our goals are as follows:

Goal:	\$124,000
Corporations:	\$60,000
Airlines:	19,000
New sources:	45,000

Thus far, we have received \$52,000 in cash or promises from corporations, leaving \$8,000 to be raised from corporations. The airlines have contributed \$19,000 in air travel. Therefore new sources of support have to be found this year to help launch the new organization and to sustain a considerably high budget. Of the \$45,000 being sought from new sources, we have received \$5,000 from the Public Welfare Foundation, and have received favorable word

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\* This represents money expended by the New York office for the program of ACCION International. The total budget in cash, materials and supplies for the overseas operations is \$1,409,000. However, 92.6% is raised and spent overseas by ACCION en Venezuela and C.A.B.E. in Argentina. The ACCION International budget is for dollar expenditures made from the New York office, and represents 7.4% of the total investment in the ACCION movement.

from the Donner Foundation on a grant of \$28,000. Assuming that we will be able to raise another \$8,000 from private business, through our Board of Directors, ACCION will still be lacking \$12,000 to complete the 1965 calendar year, the first and most crucial year for the organization.

We, therefore, gratefully request that the New York Foundation grant twelve thousand dollars to ACCION International to complete the budgetary requirements for 1965 and to successfully launch ACCION International as an international development agency based in the City of New York.

The grant of the New York Foundation will be applied to the portion of our work being carried out in the United States; specifically: 1) Recruiting and orientation program carried out in New York for the remainder of the year; 2) The centralization of the recruiting program in New York; and, 3) The internal transportation costs of bringing recruits to the orientation center in New York and housing the trainees.

- Attachments:
1. I.R.S. Letter of Tax Exempt Status
  2. Biographies of 1965 ACCION International Participants
  3. List of the Board of Directors of ACCION International
  4. "What Is C.A.B.E.?"