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Folder Title:

Peace Corps/Americorps - Chile

Staff Office-Individual:

Special Envoy for the Americas-Lesmez, Daniel


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March 2, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR MACK MCLARTY

From: Dan Lesmez 

cc: Staff Office of the Special Envoy

Subject: Update on Chile State Visit Peace Corps Event Proposal

The Peace Corps event proposal for President Clinton's State visit to Chile appears to have been taken off the table by the NSC communications staff, given that the President already is scheduled to hold two Peace Corps events during his Africa trip. Therefore, they believe there would be little value to be derived from holding a Peace Corps event in Chile, albeit the dynamic would be different.

Nelson and I tried to make the case for holding such an event in Chile during the meeting that Jim Steinberg and John Podesta chaired last Wednesday, but the NSC appeared to be steadfastly resistant to the idea at the time.

The event in Chile would commemorate one of most successful programs that the Peace Corps has had anywhere in the world, although interrupted during the Pinochet era. The Peace Corps office is being closed in Chile, while the torch is passed on to a local entity much like Americorp called Servicio Pais. Servicio Pais has been around since 1995 and has trained several hundred volunteers.

The proposed event would provide the President a good opportunity to reaffirm his commitment to increase funding for the Peace Corps, by showing that the program is intended to be a temporary training and relief effort that will continue to train local volunteers to whom the torch will be passed. The event also would be a good setting for the President to renew his request for the reauthorization of Americorp through the year 2000, legislation that he will be transmitting to Congress sometime around the middle of March. Despite strong initial opposition in Congress to Americorp, after showing its value throughout the United States since 1993, Americorp has gained majority bipartisan support in both chambers (good visual for the CODEL that is expected to be there).

The Peace Corps event does not have to be the main event of the State visit, at least that is how the NSC is touting such an event. Instead, it could be set up as a scenesetting event that dovetails into the youth education event that currently is in the conceptual stages. We also are looking for funding for this education event, which would be structured like a mock SOA. The events would serve to showcase, during the State visit, the value of the Summit -- children at the core of the Summit's goals; and the maturing relationship in our bilateral relations with Chile -- Peace Corps office closing would signal the increasing ability of countries in the hemisphere to structure volunteer corps programs that put to use some of their brightest minds to address development and poverty alleviation challenges.

*faxed to
Arma*



PEACE CORPS FAX

The Office of Communications

TO: Mack McLarty III
FAX#: (202) 456-2464

FROM: **Arlison Osborne**
Deputy Press Director
TELEPHONE: (202) 606-3610
FAX#: (202) (606-3487) or
(202) 606-3110
E-MAIL: aosborne@peacecorps.gov

T. Tighe
① Eric
② Dan
③ Mack
④ Steve

3970

Comments: _____

Number of Pages (including cover sheet) _____

If there is any problem with this transmission, please call (202) 606-3610.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF MACK MCLARTY

Counselor to the President

Special Envoy for the Americas

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: MARK SCHWEIDER

FAX: 216-3012

PHONE:

FROM: Dan Lesmez
(202) 456-7580

FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-7586

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS EVENT PROPOSAL

DATE: 2/26/98

NUMBER OF PAGES (Including Cover): 3

MESSAGES: As per your request.

Dan.


If all pages are not received, please call 202/ 456-2000.

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THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas F. Mack McLarty III
Counselor to the President and Special Envoy to the
Americas

FROM: Mark Gearan 
Peace Corps Director

DATE: February 19, 1998

RE: President's Trip to Chile

When President Clinton travels to Chile in April for the Summit of the Americas, I would like to propose that he keynote Peace Corps' closing ceremony as part of his trip. The event could be held at the 150 year-old national monument, Municipal Theater, in Santiago, Chile as part of the Peace Corps' graduation from the country and allow the President to celebrate our partnership with Chile and commend their initiative for volunteerism.

The purpose of the event would be to highlight the themes of both domestic and international volunteerism and the important roles they play in strengthening the roots of democracy. Also, to thank Chile for hosting 2,500 Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961, and to congratulate President Frei and the Council to Overcome Poverty for creating Servicio Pais (Chile's AmeriCorps).

The ceremony would include President Clinton giving the keynote address and President Frei highlighting Peace Corps achievements over the years, including the time when his father was President (1964-70). At the end of the event, President Clinton and President Frei could greet Peace Corps Volunteers, returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have traveled back to Chile for the event, and Servicio Pais.

In September 1998, Peace Corps will close its program in Chile because of the record number of successes. These successes include the country's return to a vibrant democracy, the enormous economic progress, the reduction in the number of people living in poverty, and the establishment of a national volunteer service (Servicio Pais), many of whom have been working side-by-side with Peace Corps Volunteers in the poorest areas of the country. Peace Corps is proud of the tremendous contributions the Volunteers have made and the progression that has occurred during our time there. We also look forward to a continued

relationship with Servicio Pais, which is helping the country improve their ability to address their own basic needs.

PEACE CORPS BACKGROUND:

Years in Chile: 1961-82; 1991-98
Number of Volunteers: 2,434
Volunteers Currently Serving: 51

Examples of Peace Corps Work:

- A Peace Corps Volunteer initiated a project that resulted in the planting of more than 10,000,000 trees. Today, these Monterey pines, which grow twice as fast in Chile as in California, are the mainstay of the Chilean export industry. He will be at the closing ceremony.
- A Peace Corps Volunteer, who was a marine biologist, started fisheries farms and taught other Volunteers how to take the technology across the country. This revolutionized the fishing industry in Chile, including making salmon farming one of the countries major exports.
- Peace Corps Volunteers have helped create and design trail systems in national parks, including training park rangers.
- A Peace Corps Volunteer created and trained the first forest firefighters in Chile.
- Peace Corps Volunteer Dan Peterson is almost single-handedly responsible for bringing basketball to Chile. He has gone on to an extraordinary career as a coach all over the world, presently coaching a professional team in the Italian premier league.

I hope this event will be given full consideration in the planning of the President's trip. I look forward to discussing this with you. Best wishes.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF MACK MCLARTY
Counselor to the President
Special Envoy for the Americas

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: *ARLISON OSBORNE*

FAX: *606-34807*

PHONE:

FROM: Dan Lesmez
(202) 456-7580

FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-7586

SUBJECT: *Summit - Education & other initiatives..*

DATE: *2/26/98*

NUMBER OF PAGES (Including Cover): *4*

MESSAGES:

*Good to talk to you.
Stay in touch.
Dan.*

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To DL
 Date 2/17 Time 9:40

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Patrick F. PIERRE
 of Peace Corps
 Phone 606-3312

Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/> WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/> URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
RETURNED YOUR CALL <input type="checkbox"/>		

Message re. old colleagues
Chile

Operator _____

 **AMPAD**
EFFICIENCY

23-021 - 200 SETS
23-421 - 400 SETS

CARBONLESS

→ servicio pais
 - 4 months ago for a week
 looked at our budget
 - Nationalizing operation

Dept. of
1.17 million
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USA -
March 2001
Mexico
5/11/00

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TOTAL PAGES: 10

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
FROM: Sandy Scott
(voice) 202-606-5000 ext 255
(fax) 202-565-2794
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525

NOTE:
Dan - Here are several documents on Peace Corps/AmeriCorps
• Excerpt from 1998 state of the Union
• Clips, columns and editorial on Peace Corps expansion
• Wofford bio
• Wofford article on Peace Corps
• POTUS radio address + White House
1 pager on Corporation reauthorization.
All goes to show service, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps
are core themes of Clinton presidency.

G E T T I N G T H I N G S D O N E .



Let me know if you
need anything else — Sandy

"We must work together, learn together, live together, serve together. On the forge of common enterprise, Americans of all backgrounds can hammer out a common identity. We see it today in the United States Military, in the Peace Corps, in AmeriCorps. Wherever people of all races and backgrounds come together in a shared endeavor and get a fair chance, we do just fine. With shared values and meaningful opportunities and honest communications in citizen service, we can unite a diverse people in freedom and mutual respect."

President Clinton

State of the Union Address, January 27, 1998

Clinton Will Seek Peace Corps Expansion

Budget Plan Envisions Sending 10,000 Volunteers Overseas in Year 2000

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

ST. THOMAS, Virgin Islands, Jan. 3—President Clinton proposed today that the Peace Corps be restored to the size and stature of its glory days in the 1960s, reversing years of retrenchment that forced John F. Kennedy's volunteer agency to redefine its mission for the post-Cold War era.

In the budget going to Congress next month, Clinton said he will include plans to expand the corps by more than 50 percent by the year 2000, when 10,000 volunteers would be sent overseas, the largest number since 1969. Under his plan, the agency's budget would rise by \$48 million, or 22 percent, to \$270 million.

"In a world where we're more and more affected by what happens beyond our borders, we have to work harder to overcome the divisions that undermine the integrity and quality of life around the world, as well as here at home," Clinton said in his weekly radio address, taped here during his Caribbean vacation.

"Strengthening the Peace Corps, giving more Americans opportunities to serve in humanity's cause, is both an opportunity and an obliga-

tion we should seize in 1998," he said.

The Peace Corps expansion is the latest initiative announced or leaked by the White House in the weeks leading up to the formal release of Clinton's 1999 budget proposal. With spending still constrained by the agreement with Congress to balance the budget by 2002, the administration has been limited to touting mostly modest spending increases.

In recent days, the administration put out the word that it would earmark millions more dollars for AIDS treatment, food inspection and health care research.

Far more significant are a pair of other social program expansions envisioned by Clinton—one to restore food stamps for many legal immigrants cut off by the 1996 welfare overhaul law, the other to extend Medicare health benefits to retirees ages 62 to 64 who pay a monthly fee.

Like the food stamp, Medicare and other initiatives in the 1999 budget, the Peace Corps increase could appeal the most to liberal Democrats who have been disappointed that the program has not been a higher priority over the past three decades. The 6,500 volunteers working in 85 countries around the

world amount to barely half of the 12,000 who were serving in 1969 when Republican Richard M. Nixon took over the presidency from Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson, who nurtured the agency started by his predecessor in 1961.

In the last two years, Peace Corps Director Mark D. Gearan has restructured the agency for tight fiscal times and a world in which volunteers are being sent to once out-of-bounds regions after the collapse of communism.

In 1997 volunteers served for the first time in South Africa and Jordan, and this year they will be introduced to Bangladesh, Mozambique and Georgia. On the other hand, Gearan has ended operations in 12 other countries, such as Costa Rica and Fiji, that may no longer need as much help, even as he trimmed headquarters spending by 11 percent and reduced medical costs by 14 percent.

Gearan said in an interview that he hopes the changes will give him greater credibility to win bipartisan support in Congress for Clinton's proposal. "Now is the right time because the Peace Corps has its own house in order," Gearan said.

A spokeswoman for House Speak-



President Clinton leans on golfing partner Louis Bared while stretching a leg. Eric Peus, right, joined them at the Mahogany Run Golf Course on St. Thomas.

er Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) said she had not spoken to her boss about the plan and could not comment. Other key GOP legislators could not be reached, but Gearan solicited endorsements from Republicans who once served themselves—Reps. Christopher Shays of Connecticut and James T. Walsh of New York.

[Meanwhile, White House spokesman Michael McCurry said today on CNN's "Evans and Novak" that another congressional priority for the

president this year will be approval of the settlement worked out between the tobacco industry and states and others suing cigarette makers.]

Even as his radio address was broadcast, Clinton shied away from much further official business today, spending his day here on the golf course. Plans for a sailing outing appeared out because of strong winds and choppy waters. The first family planned to return to Washington on Sunday.

BY GREG GIBSON—ASSOCIATED PRESS

David S. Broder

The Peace Corps: Winner All Around

Credit President Clinton for at least one initiative that has received warm praise in both parties and reflects well on this nation around the world.

In his budget for next year, Clinton will ask for a substantial increase in funds for the Peace Corps, a legacy of the idealistic 1960s that has taken on fresh significance in this end-of-the-century environment.

The president has announced he will seek a 21 percent boost in Peace Corps funds—\$48 million—as the first stage in increasing the number of Americans in its overseas assignments to 10,000 by the end of the decade. Today there are roughly 6,600 volunteers working in schools, clinics, nascent businesses and helping on agricultural and environmental projects in 85 countries.

They may be the best ambassadors this country has ever had.

John Kennedy launched the Peace Corps in 1961, borrowing the idea from Hubert Humphrey, and in its first heady years it sent as many as 15,000 young Americans to remote villages in the Third World. But it languished in the go-go 1980s, when barely one-third that many volunteers were in the field at any time.

Today, happily, the supply of would-be Peace Corps workers is increasing at the same time that worldwide demand is on the rise. Last year, according to Director Mark Gearan, more than 150,000 people contacted Peace Corps offices inquiring about slots—up 40 percent from 1994.

The end of the Cold War and the spread of democracy in previously authoritarian countries have opened new opportunities and responsibilities for the Peace Corps. This year, it will start programs in the former

Soviet republic of Georgia, in Bangladesh and in Mozambique. Last year, at the request of President Nelson Mandela, it began working in South Africa.

Later this week, a new contingent of 41 volunteers will leave Atlanta for South Africa, after a sendoff from Gearan, Franklin Sonn, South Africa's ambassador to Washington, and Sargent Shriver, the first director of the Peace Corps.

One of those volunteers is Jason Carter, a recent graduate of Duke University and the grandson of former president Jimmy Carter. The Peace Corps is of course a Carter family tradition. Jason's great-grandmother, Miss Lillian, served as a volunteer nurse in India in the late 1960s, when she was well along in years.

Young Carter tells me he asked for an African assignment after seeing the devastation in Liberia on a visit with his grandfather and calculating that "I may never have another chance" to explore what can be done to help on that continent. But, at 22, he also sees the rewards for himself. "Even if you go to Duke," he said, "or maybe to make up for going to Duke, you want a new way of going out to look at the world. Our culture is stampeding, and this may be a way to see what parts you can take at face value and what parts you need to reject."

Gearan, an understated Boston Irishman, asked for the Peace Corps assignment after carrying lots of water for Clinton, first as director of the Democratic Governors' Association, then as a 1992 campaign press spokesman and finally as White House communications director during the toughest parts of the first term.

One of the least cynical politicians I have known, Gearan said the other day, "It was a great honor to work in the White House, but it is really inspiring to be in this job and see the very tangible differences our volunteers are making.

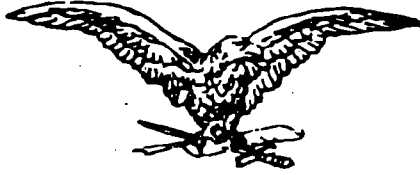
"In Botswana," he said, "I was with one of our volunteers, a 64-year-old grandmother who has helped a cooperative of women weavers triple their income in the past year. She's living in a thatched-roof hut filled with drawings by her nine grandchildren."

Gearan has used his influence with Clinton to set the Peace Corps on its upward trajectory, but he has had many allies. "When heads of state and foreign ministers come to Washington, many of them come by here to thank us," Gearan said. "Some of them, in their youth, were taught by Peace Corps volunteers."

The returned volunteers, now numbering 150,000, form a powerful grass-roots lobby. On Capitol Hill, the support is bipartisan. Georgia Republican Sen. Paul Coverdell, who ran the Peace Corps during much of the Bush administration, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution he is enthusiastic about Clinton's expansion plans. "I never met an ambassador . . . of another government that had been the beneficiary of this program who did not view it as the most successful of its kind." Similar support has come from six other legislators—three Democrats and three Republicans—who were Peace Corps volunteers.

This one is a winner all around.

 LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIALS



MARK H. WILLES, *Publisher*
 DONALD F. WRIGHT, *President and Chief Executive Officer*
 MICHAEL PARKS, *Editor and Senior Vice President*
 JANET CLAYTON, *Editor of the Editorial Pages and Vice President*

Expand the Peace Corps

When John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, it was embraced by Americans as a reflection of their national idealism. It took hold strongly and survived the end of the Cold War and federal budget-choppers, diminished but intact. Now President Clinton has proposed an expansion to 10,000 volunteers, well below its peak of 15,000 but a healthy increase from the current 6,600. It's an idea with high rewards for low cost.

Peace Corps volunteers nowadays travel to the former Soviet Union and other former Eastern Bloc nations as well as Africa, Asia and Latin America. They are about to enter South Africa, with a project to improve science and math teaching. They work on small business formation, nutrition, maternal health, schooling and more. Worthy projects, but the biggest dividend may be America's—citizens who return home with a sense of internationalism,

self-reliance and civic responsibility. Ex-volunteers enter public life and do domestic volunteer work at higher than average rates.

True, the Peace Corps can't solve the world's problems. But on a budget of just \$222 million, which Clinton would raise to \$270 million in fiscal 1999, it presents the best face of this nation to the rest of the world. Volunteers are still generally in their 20s (there is no upper age limit), though job skills requiring experience, such as nursing, are more valued than they were at the beginning.

Clinton's goal, 10,000 volunteers, is about right. In the early years, fast expansion left some volunteers without adequate jobs, and it was a scramble to find them all useful slots.

There's no better time to strengthen the Peace Corps than now, with the U.S. buoyed by optimism. Share that outlook with the world, at a bargain price.

HARRIS WOFFORD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

Head of the Corporation for National Service since the fall of 1995, Harris Wofford has dedicated much of his career to the goal of making citizen service a common expectation and experience for all Americans. As a U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania from 1991 to 1994, he played a key role in both crafting and working to pass the trailblazing legislation that created the Corporation with broad bi-partisan support.

Wofford's organizing role in The Presidents' Summit for America's Future was in keeping with that bi-partisan spirit. A national service summit was the brainchild of former Michigan Governor George Romney, who shared his vision with Wofford shortly after Wofford was named as the Corporation's CEO. Wofford and Points of Light Foundation President Bob Goodwin agreed to enlist their organizations in initiating the unprecedented meeting. What has become the Presidents' Summit was born. Romney did not live to see the realization of his dream, but he died knowing that the Summit would go forward.

Since helping to launch the Peace Corps in 1961 under the Kennedy Administration, Wofford has been in the forefront of the nation's service movement. In the 1970s, he formed and chaired a panel to study the idea of national service, which in 1979 produced the landmark report *Youth and the Needs of the Nation*. In 1987, as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Labor and Industry, he established and led Governor Robert Casey's Office of Citizen Service, which promoted school-based service-learning and youth corps, and managed the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps.

While in Governor Casey's cabinet, Wofford worked with then-Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and a bi-partisan working group of the National Governors Association, along with a group of Senators, to develop what would become the National and Community Service Act of 1990, signed into law by President Bush. In 1991, as a newly-elected Senator, Wofford worked with then-Minority Leader Bob Dole to secure passage of the National Civilian Community Corps, now an integral part of AmeriCorps. In 1993, then-Senator Wofford worked with President Clinton's task force, headed by Eli Segal, on both drafting and passing the National and Community Service Trust Act, which created AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service.

Wofford played a key role in the civil rights movement with Dr. Martin Luther King. Under President Eisenhower, he was counsel to the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh of Notre Dame on the first U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In the Kennedy years, he was a Special Assistant to the President and chaired the subcommittee group on civil rights.

While on the White House staff, Wofford helped Sargent Shriver plan and organize the Peace Corps; in 1962, he became the Peace Corps' Special Representative to Africa and director of its large Ethiopia program. In the Johnson Administration, he took on the post of Peace Corps Associate Director.

Wofford has been both a law professor and president of two colleges, the State University of New York at Old Westbury and of Bryn Mawr College. An alumnus of the University of Chicago, (B.A., 1948) and both Howard University and Yale Law Schools (J.D., 1954), he has also practiced law and authored several books, including *Of Kennedy and Kings*. He and his late wife Clare, with whom he co-wrote the book *India Afire*, have three children and four grandchildren.

SERVING HERE AT HOME

AS FEDERAL SERVICES SHRINK, ONE OF PEACE CORPS' CHIEF ARCHITECTS
ASKS YOUR SUPPORT FOR AMERICORPS AND OTHER DOMESTIC
PROJECTS "GETTING THINGS DONE."

by Harris Wolford

Back in the winter of 1961, when Sargent Shriver assembled his task force to help turn the idea of a Peace Corps into a reality, he knew it would only have one chance to work. We needed to create a program that was bold enough to capture the public's imagination and practical enough to have a real impact on the problems of the developing world.

The Peace Corps did capture the imagination of the American people—and people in many other countries. More than 140,000 volunteers have contributed to the education, health and environment of millions of people around the world. Beyond the concrete gains, the Peace Corps has fostered goodwill and increased the understanding of America. And Peace Corps volunteers continue to make a difference long after they return home, using the skills they learned abroad to solve problems at home.

The number of volunteers abroad at any one time has remained small—far smaller than what John Kennedy had hoped. But another high hope at the creation is at long last beginning to be realized. When Kennedy sent the first volunteers forth to Asia, Africa and Latin America, he said that someday the logic of the idea would bring it home to America.

In 1965, VISTA was the first step, also planned by Sargent Shriver. For over 30 years,



Volunteers in Service to America have served in struggling communities across the United States. While the growth of VISTA was blocked by the diversion of government resources to the Vietnam War and the abandonment of the War on Poverty, a diverse array of service programs began to grow up from the grassroots: conservation corps, urban youth corps, and service opportunities generated by high schools and colleges, businesses, churches and civic organizations.

The latest offspring of this movement is AmeriCorps, the quantum leap in national service created by Congress and President Clinton in 1993, which in turn was built on the first National Service Act, passed by President Bush in 1990. AmeriCorps combines VISTA with a larger decentralized system of grants to over 400 diverse local and national programs.

Now in its second year, some 25,000 AmeriCorps members are serving in over 1,200 communities across the United States. They tutor children, build homes, fight crime, clean streams and do hundreds of other things to improve education and make our communities stronger. In exchange for a year

of full-time service, members earn a modest living allowance and an education award of \$4,725 to help pay for college or pay back student loans. AmeriCorps is often called the "domestic Peace Corps". Indeed, in drafting the national service bill, we often turned to the experience of the Peace Corps for guidance. Above all, the Peace Corps showed how to combine the volunteer spirit with full-time stipended service, and it set the precedent for government playing a vital role in creating opportunities for citizens to serve.

AmeriCorps' motto is "Getting Things Done", and that focus on results has paid off in better schools, safer streets, healthier children and a cleaner environment:

➡ In Kansas City, Missouri, AmeriCorps members helped close 44 crack houses and push out drug dealers from a 173 block community—and brought in more than 3,000 community volunteers to keep the neighborhood clean and safe.

➡ Twenty AmeriCorps members serving in rural Simpson County, Kentucky, helped raise the reading levels of nearly half the

county's second graders.



From forest fires in Idaho and earthquakes in California, to the bombing in Oklahoma City and floods all over the United States, AmeriCorps members have helped thousands of people recover from disasters, and have helped organize and lead thousands of other volunteers offering to serve alongside.

"Getting things done" is even more important as government programs dealing with our most serious social problems are cut back. Those problems are not diminishing but continue to mount. So the country needs new solutions and ways to act. National service is a proven, strong response. It goes beyond government to release the power of the people. It breaks out of bureaucracy to work directly in the independent sector with volunteer groups. It shifts power to the local level where people best know the problems—and their solutions.

AmeriCorps is part of a larger family of programs overseen by the Corporation for National Service. That family includes students in elementary, secondary and high schools and colleges and universities who are applying their skills to help solve community problems and improve their learning through service. It includes a half million older Americans who put their talents and experience to work in the Senior Corps—Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and the Retired and Senior

**"TO BRING SERVICE HOME ON THE SCALE
OUR COUNTRY NEEDS WILL REQUIRE MUCH
MORE THAN PASSING A LAW OR BUILDING ANY
SINGLE PROGRAM. IT WILL TAKE A REBIRTH
OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION INVOLVING MILLIONS
OF AMERICANS. WHO BETTER TO LEAD
THE WAY THAN THE 140,000 VETERANS
OF THE PEACE CORPS?"**

Volunteer Program.

National service, in all its forms, can have a profound impact on every American community. Yet for all that is already getting done, national service remains a well-kept secret. Service is a story waiting to be told.

A key part of this story is how full-time national service expands traditional part-time volunteering. Because most AmeriCorps members serve full time, they help non-profit organizations enlist and use a larger number of occasional volunteers. A case in point: two dozen AmeriCorps members serving with Miami Habitat for Humanity recruited and worked alongside over 6,400 community volunteers to build 50 new homes for working families.

Another part of this story that needs telling is the impact that national service is having on our young—not just the young serving in our programs, but the young who are being served.

A majority of AmeriCorps assignments are aimed at helping young people. Thousands serve as mentors and tutors. AmeriCorps members organize after-school programs, teach violence- and drug-prevention classes, and help kids get to school safely. They are responsible role models for a generation that needs real heroes.

But probably the most important contribution of this movement is not how we serve youth, but how we challenge the young to serve. That is the real power of this idea. National service looks at young people as resources, not as problems; as opportunities, not dangers.

The case for this was put to me a few years ago by a young high school dropout in Philadelphia. He had left a street gang to join

the Philadelphia Youth Service Corps. When I asked him why he enlisted in the Corps, he said: "Look. All my life people had been coming to help me. I got tired of people doing good against me. For the first time, this Corps asked me to do some good."

It's the same point made by one of the first Peace Corps volunteers who was probed as to why he and his colleagues of the "silent generation" had responded so well to the Peace Corps. He said, "Nobody ever asked me to do anything unselfish, patriotic or for the common good before. Kennedy asked."

It's time for us to ask again, and find the ways and means to ask effectively in a new era, in a time of deep cynicism when no political leader's words can resonate with the power of persuasion Kennedy had.

To unleash the full power of



citizen service, one essential precondition is establishing national service as a non-partisan institution in which the American people can all take pride, as they came to do with the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Peace Corps.

It took a while for the Peace Corps to achieve this status. Initially it was ridiculed as the "kiddie corps" by both President Eisenhower and candidate Nixon. But by the time Nixon became President, the Peace Corps stood on solid ground. The Peace Corps' resilience over the years is due in good part to its bi-partisan support, which Loree Ruppe maintained so well under fire in the 1980s.

The essence of service is beyond politics. It's about helping others. Political advantage is the last thing on the mind of a Peace Corps volunteer in a school in Eritria. The next election isn't a

Harris Wofford is the chief executive officer of the Corporation for National Service. He was an early civil rights leader and advisor to John Kennedy's presidential campaign. He helped Sargent Shriver plan and organize the Peace Corps, and in 1962 he became the agency's special representative to Africa and director of the Ethiopia program. He returned to Washington in 1964 to become Shriver's associate director and remains one of America's most impassioned champions of community service. He served as president of Bryn Mawr and the College at Old Westbury at State University of New York, and was elected to the U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania in 1991.

priority of an AmeriCorps member bending over a torn book and a tired second grader.

To bring service home on the scale our country needs will require much more than passing a law or building any single program. It will take a rebirth of civic participation involving millions of Americans. Who better to lead the way than the 140,000 veterans of the Peace Corps?

Many of you are, of course, already involved in service at home. Right here at the Corporation for National Service, we have more than 40 Peace Corps alumni working in our headquarters, and dozens more serve in the field or as leaders of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA programs, and in service-learning throughout the country.

You have answered the call once before, and you understand as well as anyone the transforming power of service. So help us bring the Peace Corps idea home on a scale commensurate with the nation's problems. There are many ways to get involved. Serve with a local program. Lend your expertise to service projects in need. Be a mentor to a troubled teen. More than 10 million mentors are needed today in America. Work with the alumni of AmeriCorps to build a large network of action and support. Together the hundreds of thousands of veterans of the Peace Corps and of National Service could take the lead in finding and organizing those mentors.

Our aim must be to weave service into the fabric of everyday life, to make service the common expectation and experience of every American. We've come a long way in this direction but we have a much longer way to go.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Saturday, November 29, 1997

**RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION**

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week, millions of Americans have gathered with family and friends to share Thanksgiving. Much has changed for America since George Washington first proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for our new nation in 1789. But the Thanksgiving spirit -- sharing our good fortune with others, coming together to meet our common challenges -- that is as important as ever. That's why we must keep that spirit alive throughout the year through citizen service.

Citizen service must be at the heart of our efforts to prepare America for the 21st century, as we work to guarantee all Americans the opportunity and conditions to make the most of their own lives and to help those who need and deserve it with a hand up. My administration's most important contribution to citizen service is AmeriCorps, our national service program that already has given more than 100,000 young Americans the opportunity to serve our country and earn money for a college education. In community after community, AmeriCorps members have proved that service can help us meet our most pressing social needs.

For example, in Simpson County, Kentucky, AmeriCorps members helped 2nd graders jump three grade levels in reading. In boys and girls clubs all across the country, AmeriCorps members are mentors for at-risk young people. Habitat For Humanity relies upon AmeriCorps members to bring in more volunteers and build more houses. In communities beset by floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, AmeriCorps members have helped to rebuild homes and restore hope.

Now, AmeriCorps members are mobilizing thousands and thousands of college students from 800 campuses in our America Reads program, to make sure that all our young people can read independently by the 3rd grade. AmeriCorps brings people of every background together to work toward common goals. And after years of partisan fighting over it, I'm pleased that Congress now seems ready to come together to support AmeriCorps.

Today, I'm proposing legislation to give more Americans the chance to serve by strengthening AmeriCorps and our student and senior citizen service programs and extending them for five years. This legislation reflects the spirit of the President's Summit on Service, where last spring thousands of Americans pledged to give our children the support they need to make the most of their lives. As General Colin Powell reported this week, we've made a lot of progress since the Summit with more AmeriCorps members, more reading tutors for our children through America Reads, more mentoring programs for young people, more partnerships with private businesses and community groups. At Thanksgiving, I want to thank especially the

citizens and businesses who have worked with us to ensure that our nation's surplus food helps to feed the hungry, not fill up dumpsters.

Now we must create more opportunities for people to serve all year long and, through service, to reach out to one another across the lines that divide us. In honor of the spirit of citizen service embodied in the life of Martin Luther King Jr., the Congress has designated the Martin Luther King holiday as a day of national service. And I'm pleased to announce that our Corporation for National Service has awarded 73 grants to communities from Boston to Los Angeles, to help make this day of service a resounding success. Dr. King once said that, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve -- you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

As we look forward to a joyous holiday season, let us pledge to live up to those words by making citizen service a part of our lives every day.

Thanks for listening.

**President Proposes Plan to Reauthorize AmeriCorps and
Announces Grants for Service on Martin Luther King Day**
Saturday, November 29, 1997

President Releases Proposal to Reauthorize AmeriCorps

Today in his weekly radio address, President Clinton proposed legislation to improve and extend the AmeriCorps program into the next century. The legislation would also reauthorize the other national service programs run by the Corporation for National Service -- Learn and Serve America and the National Senior Service Corps.

The proposal announced by the President would extend all three programs for the next five years, building on national service's successful track record and allowing millions more Americans to serve. It will give states and community organizations more flexibility to administer service programs and strengthen partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations. The President urged Congress to make passage of this legislation a priority next year.

The President came into office with a vision of a national service program that would offer young people the chance to serve our nation in exchange for increased access to higher education. Today, that program -- AmeriCorps -- is a great success. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have enrolled in AmeriCorps. All who complete a term of full-time service are eligible for an education award of \$4,725. Thousands of communities across America have seen that national service helps them meet vital needs in education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs. AmeriCorps also increases the reach of volunteers because, on average, AmeriCorps members recruit and train at least 12 unpaid volunteers.

In addition to AmeriCorps, national service includes programs for students and seniors. Learn and Serve America supports service-learning programs involving more than a million students in K-12 schools and colleges and universities. Students perform service in their communities that is linked to what they are learning in school. The National Senior Service Corps taps the experience of more than half a million older Americans to help solve community problems through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Senior Companions Program, the Foster Grandparents Program, and the new Seniors for Schools initiative.

Grants to Communities for Day of Service on Martin Luther King Holiday

The President also announced that this week the Corporation for National Service awarded more than 70 grants to communities to organize service events on Martin Luther King Day. Our newest holiday has a growing tradition of service, springing from Dr. King's deep belief in service. In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Holiday as a day of service. Around the country, more and more communities are helping to make Martin Luther King Day into a day of service -- "a day on, not a day off" -- by organizing service activities for January 19. As Dr. King said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."

Update since Philadelphia Service Summit

The President also noted progress since the Presidents' service summit in April, when corporations, civic and educational organizations, and government entities committed to new action for children and youth. The Administration has followed up with more AmeriCorps scholarships, reading tutors for children through the America Reads initiative, mentoring efforts by federal agencies, new food recovery efforts, and the new \$24 billion Children's Health Insurance Program signed into law this summer, which will give up to five million children who are now without access to health insurance a healthy start.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF MACK MCLARTY
Counselor to the President
Special Envoy for the Americas

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: SANDY SCOTT

FAX: 565-2824

PHONE:

FROM: Dan Lesmez
(202) 456-7580

FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-7586

SUBJECT: Mark Gearan's memo

DATE: 2/19/98

NUMBER OF PAGES (Including Cover): 3

MESSAGES: Talk to you soon.

Dan.

If all pages are not received, please call 202/456-2000.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF MACK McLARTY
Counselor to the President
Special Envoy for the Americas

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: SANDY SCOTT

FAX: 565-2824

PHONE:

FROM: Dan Lesmez
(202) 456-7580

FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-7586

SUBJECT: CHILE NATIONAL SERVICES CORPS

DATE: 2/18/98

NUMBER OF PAGES (Including Cover): 5

MESSAGES: Good talking to you.
Let's roll...


Dan

If all pages are not received, please call 202/456-2000.

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February 18, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR MACK MCLARTY

From: Dan Lesmez 

cc: Staff Office of the Special Envoy

Subject: Chile State Visit Peace Corps Event Proposal

The Peace Corps is proposing an event during President Clinton's State visit to Chile to commemorate both the closing of the U.S. Peace Corps Office in Chile and the establishment of Chile's version of an AMERICORP (national volunteer corps) program. Servicio Pais and REDESOL are the names of the two Chilean institutions that are taking over the implementation of many of the Peace Corps development programs in some of Chile's poorer municipalities. Servicio Pais, initiated in 1995, provides volunteer opportunities for recent college graduates, while REDESOL, through a network of twelve non-governmental organizations, provides similar opportunities for graduate students to provide them with practical experience for completing their thesis.

This Peace Corps proposal for a commemoration event during the State visit has merit. While Chile's program is not a replica of our Peace Corps program, as it is currently implemented only nationally and not internationally, it does replicate one of President Clinton's highest policy initiatives in the U.S. -- AMERICORP and its volunteer corps. It could provide good visuals involving both Peace Corps and AMERICORP volunteers, as well as Chilean volunteers. The event would provide an opportunity for President Clinton and President Frei to highlight the importance of volunteerism to other hemispheric leaders not only as a development tool, but also as a way to better educate their college graduates about the needs of the poor and how to address those needs.

Attached is the proposal that the Peace Corps has drafted for this event opportunity. The second page of their proposal includes logistical information and a possible framework for holding such an event. Assuming that there is interest in further exploring this opportunity, I would suggest that you invite Mark Gearan to come to your office to elaborate on their proposal within the next two weeks. I have a good contact there, so I could help set up the meeting.

The Peace Corps sponsored a delegation of seven Chileans for a week long visit from September 29 to October 3, 1997 in Washington, DC. The visit provided an opportunity for representatives of Chile's national public service initiatives to learn about Peace Corps and Americorps and to meet with officials at multilateral banks and international development organizations regarding the development of national voluntary service. Three members of the delegation were executive managers of Servicio Pais, Chile's national volunteer corps; two were from REDESOL, an NGO-sponsored volunteer program that takes international volunteers to work locally in Chile; one represented the National Institute for Youth; and another was from Chile Barrio, an urban community development organization. The visit was part of Peace Corps' effort to foster the development of national voluntary organizations and to provide opportunities for training in this area.

Chile has two initiatives for national public service. Servicio Pais, initiated in 1995, is a government organization that provides opportunities for recent college graduates to serve for one year or more in the poorest municipalities of the country. In 1997, 141 young Chilean professionals were serving in 70 municipalities in Chile. REDESOL is an initiative led by a group of 12 non-governmental organizations to attract students who have not completed their university degrees, who must do a practicum and write a thesis in order to graduate. The project places students with other non-governmental organizations working directly with the poor for a period of one year.

The Peace Corps in Chile first began its association with Servicio Pais in 1995, the year of its inception. In 1996 and 1997, 12-15 Servicio Pais volunteers participated in a Peace Corps In-Service Training alongside Peace Corps Volunteers and their host country national supervisors from the poorest municipalities in all of Chile. Another conference will be held this year during which an equal number of Servicio Pais volunteers and Peace Corps Volunteers will participate in another In-Service training on municipal management, again with host country national supervisors as well as local Mayors. Concurrent with attending training sessions, several Servicio Pais volunteers have been working in direct conjunction with Peace Corps volunteers in municipalities in need.

The Peace Corps is now graduating from Chile. In preparation for the closing ceremony, Peace Corps would like to recognize the work of Servicio Pais and commend Chile on the creation of its national volunteer organization, at the same time acknowledging Peace Corps' assistance and support of such a creation. The following is the projected itinerary for the ceremony at which we are requesting President Clinton's attendance:

CEREMONY

Max one hour at the Municipal Theater, a beautiful 150 year-old national monument with a capacity of 1500.

[PC=Peace Corps, PCV= Peace Corps Volunteer, SP=Servicio Pais]

POTUS FOCUS

1. Thank Chile for hosting more than 2500 PCVs since 1961.
2. Congratulate Pres. Frei and the Council to Overcome Poverty for creating Servicio Pais (Chile's VISTA or AMERICORPS) while making reference to John Kennedy.
3. Town Forum on the themes of Volunteerism, non-governmental organizations and community associations, and the important roles they play in strengthening the roots of democracy.

AUDIENCE

PCVs, many RPCVs (Returned PCVs) who will return for the event, several hundred ex-Servicio Pais volunteers as well as the current class who will be in training, Chilean NGOs and local individuals who have had prior involvement with PCVs and GOC officials. (The Embassy believes it will be able to fill the hall without difficulty.)

DELIVERABLES

Continue a collaboration between PC and SP by:

1. Facilitating visits to Chile of delegations from other countries where PC is active in order to observe first hand the SP experience.
2. Facilitating visits by SP staff to other Latin American countries where PC is active in order to share the concept of national volunteer service for young professionals
3. Identifying skill needs and sites and offering temporary office space in PC countries for SP if and when they decide to expand outside of Chile.



PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON

SOUTH AMERICA DESK

DATE: February 17, 1998 PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 3

TO: Mr. Daniel Lesmez, Policy Advisor FAX: (202) 456-7586
to the Special Envoy for the Americas PHONE: (202) 456-7580

FROM Patrick Fn'Piere, Regional Director FAX: 202-606-3524
Inter-America & Pacific Region PHONE: 202-606-3198

Dear Mr. Lesmez:

Thank you for taking the time to read the following preliminary proposal for the Peace Corps/Chile's closing ceremony to be held in Santiago this April. I apologize for the delay in submission.

The following pages outline our preliminary proposal for a Peace Corps closing ceremony, especially as it pertains to the success of Chile's newly created national volunteer system, Servicio Pais.

Thank you for your attention. Best regards.

FFP/kc

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WASHINGTON****SOUTH AMERICA DESK**

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FROM:	Patrick Fn'Piere, Regional Director Inter-America & Pacific Region	FAX:	202-606-3524
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