

The Michigan Daily

Seventy-One Years of Editorial Freedom

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1962

SEVEN CENT



—Daily—Peter Gottschalk
FAREWELL BANQUET—R. Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps director, attended the "U" Corps-Thailand final dinner, and addressed the group.

Peace Corpsmen Embark

By BARBARA PASH

Forty-five Peace Corps volunteers left Ann Arbor at 8:15 a.m. today to begin their two-year service in Thailand.

The Corpsmen's main objective will be to work in cooperation with the Thai government to lower incidence of malaria, improve general health, teach English as a foreign language and better instructional methods in higher education.

After 13 weeks of training at the University, the group ended its stay with a banquet attended by guests R. Sargent Shriver, Peace

Corps director, His Excellency Visutr Arthayukti, the Thai ambassador to the United States, and Vichien Jatsuwan, the third secretary of the Thai Embassy.

"The University has had a long history of cultural ties with Thailand. We hope that when this group gets there, that government will ask for more volunteers and that the University may train more Peace Corpsmen for Thailand," Shriver said.

Explains Object

Shriver explained that the object of the Corps is to function in an effective, necessary way for the future of the foreign country to which the volunteers are sent. "We have no idea of superiority. You will achieve Thai solutions to Thai problems," he noted.

When Corpsmen are sent overseas they do not have the special privileges enjoyed by most American diplomats. They will receive no post exchange services, no diplomatic immunity, no passenger vehicles and no "fancy" houses, Shriver commented. "Eventually, however, we want the Peace Corps to have foreign service reserve officers status," he said.

Faces Problems

The Corps has not been entirely free of difficulties. Fifteen per cent of its members have failed the training program. But the incidents of disease contracted abroad have been much less than forecast and every one of the countries where the Peace Corps has gone have asked for more volunteers, Shriver added.

Since the Corps began, there have been five marriages between personnel. One of the marriages occurred in Ann Arbor between two Corps-Thailand volunteers training at the University. They are the first volunteers to marry during training at any of the nation's Corps centers.

Shriver commented on job possibilities when the volunteers' two-year service abroad is completed.

Friday, Jan. 19, 1962 DETROIT FREE PRESS

Peace Corps Unit Takes Off

Forty-five dedicated young Americans left Willow Run Airport Thursday to spend two years in Thailand as members of the Peace Corps.

The volunteers, first Peace Corps contingents trained at the University of Michigan, had spent an average of 60 hours a week in classrooms since Octo-

ber preparing for their mission.

IN THAILAND they will teach English, try to lower the malaria rate, improve teaching methods in higher education, and upgrade general health.

The corpsmen were honored Wednesday night at a farewell dinner attended by R. Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps director, and Visutr Arthayukti, Thailand ambassador.

Among the 31 men and 14 women in the group were John R. McLean, 27, of 16380 Snowden, Detroit, and Alan Guskin, 25, and his wife, Judith, 23, of Ann Arbor.

The group is scheduled to arrive in Bangkok, the Thai capital, on Sunday. They will undergo several weeks of orientation before being assigned to jobs.