Annual Report 1949

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Iron Curtain

## Programs and Principles

Among the radically changed conditions in the world today, there are two that have an es-

pecially direct bearing on the policies and activities of The Rockefeller Foundation. One of

these has to do with the Iron Curtain now dividing the world into two parts, and the other concerns the shift from a Western world which thought in terms of millions of dollars to one which thinks in terms of billions.

The deeply disturbed political situation now prevailing in a large part of the world has had the effect of considerably curtailing the world-wide and international scope of Foundation programs. Profound political changes have prevented the Foundation from operating in several countries in which it was formerly active. These countries include Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and China. During the past year the Far Eastern office of the International Health Division of The Rockefeller Foundation was moved from Shanghai to Macao and then to Bangalore, India.

Monetarily speaking, this is an age of huge financial operations. In the United States large funds, chiefly governmental, are available even in the relatively restricted field of research and fellowships. This has brought about a sharp awareness of the discrepancy between the resources of any privately endowed philanthropic organization, such as The Rockefeller Foundation, and the magnitude of funds needed today for large-scale research or educational enterprises. (…) In other words, these philanthropic resources were fairly large in relation to the activities with which they were concerned, and they were not unsubstantial even with reference to public primary and secondary education.

In the light of these changed conditions I propose to devote part of this Review to a brief Discussion of Rockefeller Foundation techniques in giving and in cooperating with other agencies and other countries.

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## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

During the many years that the various philanthropic agencies founded by Mr. John D. Rockefeller have been operative, educational and research activities have succeeded in attracting support in the form of both building and endowment funds from an increasing number of sources. Large-scale aid for advancing the quality and scope of education is currently excluded from the program of the Foundation, except insofar as the Foundation still makes annual payments to the General Education Board, (The Board's program, it may be noted, is now limited to its original interest — the advancement of education in the southern states.) This policy of the Foundation does not connote a disregard of the fundamental importance of education at all levels, from the earliest and perhaps the most critically Important years, through the elementary schools, the high schools and the undergraduate college years. Both in their own rights and as an essential preparation for the higher scientific research, scholarship and public health work which are now absorbing Foundation interest, all such educational activities are indispensable.

But the present needs for plant expansion, plant replacement and increased income in both public and private institutions of higher education are so great that the Foundation simply has not sufficient resources to ease effectively the financial necessities of these institutions. Mani-

festly, the main burden of education must be borne by the general public, either through voluntary contributions or through taxation.

In other parts of the world it is the state the one funding higher education, not in the USA.

The magnitude of the financial problem is such as to place it beyond Foundation reach. If the support were even

more selectively distributed, there would result too high a degree of discrimination in favor of a few of the i,800 institutions, or aid could relate only to some special type, such as the medical schools. Consequently, the Foundation has considered it wise to limit its aid in this field to certain projects rendering broad, general services to education, for example, the work of consultative and fact-finding organizations such as the Commission on Financing Higher Education of the Association of American Universities, the Conference Board of the Associated Research Councils and the American Council on Education.

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## SMALL VERSUS LARGE GRANTS

Ever since The Rockefeller Foundation was launched in 1913, with what were then considered

very substantial capital resources, there has been a tendency on the part of many to think that the Foundation concerns itself only with large grants. Also, it has sometimes been suggested that the Foundation should primarily concern itself with large-scale, spectacular undertakings. It is true that there have been a considerable number of substantial grants, especially for the development of medical schools, the construction of a large cyclotron, well before other agencies found cyclotrons of interest, and the promotion of extensive research programs, but in general the Foundation officers look for opportunities to make grants which will be strategic in terms of human welfare, rather than grants which would necessarily involve large sums of money.

Most projects involve the support of men. And although research workers sometimes join together in large groups, the really significant unit remains the individual. It is interesting, therefore, to note that the support of the research activities of a single individual is unlikely to require large sums. (…) Huge undertakings entailing large risks are often best and more safely evolved from a modest start. The chance of eventual success is increased if a limited initial input is followed by increasing support based on a record of accomplishment.

(…)

Such instances illustrate a repeating pattern of Foundation aid in developing scientific leadership: a fellowship, a modest one-year grant in aid, a second grant in aid for perhaps two years, a somewhat larger but still smallish appropriation for three years, and then one or more substantial grants in support of an established research project.

(…)

From this point of view, the question of small versus large appropriations is deceptive. Actually, the choice is between centralized and decentralized distribution, depending in the end on practical considerations. In the last analysis, most appropriations are best distributed to small projects, individuals and small groups.

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## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS IN AID

During the past 35 years, the Foundation has awarded some 10,000 fellowships, either directly or through intermediate research agencies. The aggregate cost of these thousands of small separate grants runs to 25 million dollars and represents a substantial portion of the total appropriations of the Foundation.

These fellowships represent investments in men and in the future. They are investments in intellectual capacity, imagination and character. A foundation can find no better use for its money.

The fact that the fellows before receiving a fellowship must be sponsored by a recognized institution such as a university or an official branch of a government offers strong probability of unusual individual capabilities. It further affords the expectation that the fellows will promptly find effective ways of utilizing their fellowship experience. It is the intention that those who are granted fellowships receive the best training anywhere available in their particular fields. For the most part they study outside their native countries and return to their homelands to take up positions of usefulness and distinction in government service, on university faculties or in research laboratories.

A substantial number of the fellows receive additional aid from the Foundation in later years, through grants to their institutions or through grants in aid for their individual research programs.

(…)

A fellowship is in one sense an uncontrolled experiment. What kind of record the man in question might have established without the fellowship can never be determined. The aim at the start is to choose outstanding individuals for fellowships. To the extent that the selection procedure is effective, it can be assumed that many of these young men would carve out distinguished careers whether or not they held a fellowship. Thus it would be wholly unwarranted to attribute to the fellowship itself the proud record made by many hundreds of Rockefeller Foundation fellows. The direct testimony of the men themselves, however, is convincing evidence that fellowship experience, wisely planned and coming at a critical juncture in a man's development, really plays a significant role.

The sustained fellowship program of the Foundation has contributed to the remarkable progress in the field of public health during the past quarter of a century. The Foundation began in 1916 by granting funds to build public health schools on the university level, to train faculties and to arouse student interest.

Schools such as those at Johns Hopkins University and Harvard University have played a significant role in helping to convert the job of the public health officer from a political one to a professional one. This transformation was facilitated by a fellowship program which supplied the new public health schools with qualified students and with an improved faculty.

In foreign countries, public health men who received some of their early training on Foundation fellowships have been responsible for introducing modern public health practices and for training younger men in public health posts.

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## HUMAN ECOLOGY, COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION

In the Review of last year it was suggested that a convenient framework for securing a balanced view of the problems with which mankind may deliberately concern itself could be constructed by putting together the interrelated classifications of population, communication and cooperation. The scheme then set forth has helped to show the relevance and significance of many separate fields of interest. It has also provided an additional aid for the evaluation of projects which come under consideration. For example, plant and animal genetics are given a high emphasis from the standpoint of pure science. At the same time they are of intense human interest because they have a salient bearing on the breeding of more useful plants and animals. Interest in genetics increases still further, however, when it is recognized that this subject is important in the relationship of men to their environment as well as in the sustenance of populations and the elucidation of the fundamental life processes.

Further reflection on the implications of this scheme and a study of some of the pertinent problems led to the adoption of the phrase human ecology in place of the narrower population. Human ecology, together with the numerous fields of study that it embraces, is now widely recognized as a subject of first importance. Its ramifications and complexities are great.

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It is no longer possible for natural science, medical science, social science and humanism to exist in separate and self-contained spheres. There are today new ties between them and a realization that these communicating threads make for a truly vital understanding and perhaps even mastery of the world of knowledge as a whole.

The Foundation was established originally on the premise that the welfare of mankind could be advanced through an increase in knowledge. It has become more and more clear that the most important knowledge is that which concerns human beings, and that the key to the attainment of dignified and rational existence for all men depends essentially upon a vastly improved understanding of human behavior. To achieve this understanding there must be a synthesis of effort toward which all disciplines contribute. Since so very large a fraction of all human behavior has for a major purpose the achieving of communication, clearly there is a very broad and significant overlap between the Foundation's interest in human behavior and its interest in communication.

Cooperation among scientists in the various branches of knowledge is needed for two main reasons. First, they have much to learn from one another; second, many fundamental problems refuse to be categorized, and they must be attacked by way of two or more disciplines, with all the tools at hand.

The long record of Foundation activity in the field of public health is a classic example of the coalition of medical science, natural science and some aspects of social science toward a common goal. Indeed, the very term public health implies recognition of this unity of purpose.

These grants all exemplify a growing cooperation of the sciences and the humanities on common problems. It is the Foundation's policy to stress activities that promise to increase man's understanding of himself. And it is the belief of Foundation Trustees and officers that emphasis on cooperation between scholars and scientists in all fields may yield some of the wisdom to utilize that information properly. One scientist put it: "It may be that we shall presently begin to use science in a new and worthier way, to give us our bearings, to help us understand the ecology of our own species."

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

MEXICAN AGRICULTURE

One need in contemporary life is more and better food for undernourished populations in areas of low agricultural production. The Rockefeller Foundation and the Mexican government together are attacking this problem on a nation-wide scale in Mexico. This project represents a cooperative venture in a Western Hemisphere country, not ravaged by war, but coping with climatic contrasts and special physical conditions. Although predominantly an agrarian country, Mexico has in the past suffered from a shortage of available cropland, as well as from mediocre grain stocks. In the joint agricultural program which has been under way since 1943, the resources of modern science and technology are improving both quantity and quality in the output of Mexico's farms. This raising of nutritional levels through an expanded agricultural development may be expected to step up the whole Mexican economy in years to come.

In the short space of six or seven years, Foundation-appointed agricultural experts, working with Mexican scientists, have helped Mexico well along the way to self-sufficiency in the production of corn and other staple foods of the people. The heart of the field research program is the central experiment station, with its well-appointed laboratories and acres of experimental plantings, located on the grounds of the National College of Agriculture in Chapingo, a few miles east of Mexico City.

Pioneering research at Chapingo, as well as in the central laboratories in Mexico City and in experimental fields scattered throughout the republic, has brought into being new kinds of crop plants. New hybrid and synthetic varieties of corn and wheat, developed by geneticists in conjunction with plant pathologists, entomologists and soil experts, combine the desirable characteristics of the best native grains. They introduce new characteristics which are important both for yield and for disease resistance. Not only do these improved varieties give a much higher yield than the average native stock, they are especially adapted to the different climates and soils in Mexico. They have been bred to withstand the major plant diseases and insect pests -so costly to Mexican agriculture in the past. At the same time, methods are being worked out to rejuvenate exhausted soils by means of crop rotation and green manures, such procedures being essential for a country where commercial fertilizers are scarce and expensive. Modern farm machinery is gradually replacing primitive tools to make for greater efficiency in tillage practices. To round out the program, the Foundation staff, on the recommendation of the Mexican government, have given selected young Mexican scientists the opportunity to participate directly in laboratory and field work. It is expected that in time there will be enough of them to take over the program and make it wholly Mexican. These men and the new Rocamex grains — named for The Rockefeller Foundation and Mexico — are the insurance for Mexico's agricultural future, the insurance for more food and better food for all the people.

In the meantime, national grain commissions are distributing the improved seed as fast as it can be grown in quantity. Because of this policy of immediate practical application of results, thousands of farmers have already benefited from the program.

Little by little they are learning to get more out of their land, to improve the national food supply. The initial result was that in 1948, for the first time in 35 years, Mexico did not need to import corn. This does not mean that Mexico's food problem has been solved. In poor crop years there will still be shortages of corn. But certainly a promising beginning has already been made and additional progress is in sight.

Although the Mexican Agricultural Program bids fair to raise future standards of the entire Mexican economy, perhaps its greatest significance lies in the pattern it has set for other areas. It is a demonstration of how modern science can harness resources to meet basic needs. It indicates that, given expert personnel, enough capital and good organization, the way may be opened for unprecedented agricultural expansion in many underfed regions of the world. It must be remembered, however, that the critical ingredient for a successful program of this sort is well-trained, experienced, able and devoted personnel. Granted such personnel, plus reasonable backing, plus the requisite freedom of action, great results can eventuate.

To promote cooperation among Latin American agricultural scientists and make the results of the Mexican program more widely known, The Rockefeller Foundation in 1949 invited scientific workers from Arg, Bol, Braz, Chile, …. Since most of these men are actively engaged in plant breeding, the meeting proved very worth while. A number of good technical papers were presented, and the visitors had an opportunity to observe work in progress at the experimental field stations.

With the help of The Rockefeller Foundation, several of the Central and South American countries are strengthening the training offered in their agricultural schools and expanding their research programs.

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## NATURAL SCIENCE AND THE LIVING PAST

Since earliest times mankind has attempted to make practical use of the fact of heredity. Men have long recognized that heredity holds great potentialities for improving the food supply and, to a limited extent, perhaps the human race itself. Hence the centuries-old emphasis on "good blood" or "good stock" in matters of family, animal husbandry and plant culture. But attempts at selective breeding of plants or animals met with little success because there was no validated theory to serve as a yardstick in making decisions or setting up experiments. The commonly held beliefs regarding heredity had no basis in fact, as witness, for instance, the varying status of cousin marriages. Such marriages were highly esteemed in some societies and prohibited in

others. In human beings and animals, inheritance was often falsely assumed to be through the blood, and in plants outward appearance was likely to be mistakenly used as a criterion.

Today genetics takes as its province the broad questions of how living things came to possess their present natures and what potentialities they have for change in the future. Thus it is one of the most far reaching of modern sciences. Genetics has developed intimate connections not only with all the other branches of natural science, but also with many areas of human endeavor in the medical and the social sciences. Concern with genetics is not limited to geneticists per se. The subject has important ramifications in such widely varying fields as education, criminology, nutrition, psychiatry and demography, to name only a few.

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## THE CRETE SURVEY

Prompted by postwar economic emergencies, national governments, alone or through the United Nations, are spending millions of dollars annually not only to revive war-shattered economies but also to nique not commonly used in studying a backward area. They set out to collect their data at the "grass roots" where the people live. What they needed was not a generalized impressionistic report on Crete but a factual, down-to-earth picture of the way modern Cretans live and earn their bread, the kinds of problems they face and the needs they have. The only way to get this quickly, the staff decided, was to supplement the meager official data with sampling surveys.

Modern sampling techniques were applied in a broad, careful analysis of the area. Experienced personnel from the Statistical Office of Iowa State College were called in to help work out the sampling plan help accelerate the advancement of backward and unindustrialized populations.

The Rockefeller Foundation has long been concerned with some of the problems associated with this effort. For 35 years it has allocated funds to government agencies and universities, provided fellowships and sent out its own field staff to perform various services in every part of the world. A considerable part of Foundation activity has been designed to raise the level of medical, public health and agricultural practices.

Drawing on its experience in working with other countries the Foundation last year accepted an invitation from the Greek government to survey socioeconomic conditions in the Island of Crete. To obtain a reasonably comprehensive picture of present day Crete the Foundation sent public health experts, social scientists, nutritionists, a water geologist and other specialists to the island. All welcomed this opportunity because Crete in many respects is representative of all the Mediterranean countries.

Because the survey staff found little published material about modern Crete, they adopted a tech-unique not commonly used in studying a backward area. They set out to collect their data at the "grass roots" where the people live. What they needed was not a generalized impressionistic report on Crete but a factual, down-to-earth picture of the way modern Cretans live and earn their bread, the kinds of problems they face and the needs they have. The only way to get this quickly, the staff decided, was to supplement the meager official data with sampling surveys.

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Crete has been almost untouched by the industrial revolution or by the technological changes in agriculture which have accompanied the development of modern science. Its population, for the most part, is descended from families that have inhabited the land for generations, and the manner of living has not essentially changed for centuries. Over 80 per cent of the people live in rural areas, giving their major effort to the raising of food.

Many factors are delaying progress in Crete, among them the disruptions of war, mounting inflation, high taxation and lack of capital. While the deficiencies are not mild ones, many of them appear to be susceptible of correction, if attacked in the right way. Here perhaps is a crucial problem confronting those who seek to promote the welfare of backward populations. The standards in an underdeveloped area cannot and should not be judged by mere mechanical comparison with the more highly industrialized regions. Every culture has a pattern of its own; usually it is a mistake to assume that the people of one culture want the same things that others want. Recognition of this fact by outsiders who are to undertake remedial measures in the field ranks in importance with good planning and effective organization.

Perhaps one reason why the skills of more advanced countries are sometimes ineffectively and ineptly delivered to the underdeveloped countries is that results are expected in a great hurry. Changes cannot be imported ready-made from the outside. In speed, in scale and in character they must be suited to the cultural and social system which is indigenous. The desire for economic development and higher living levels is spreading rapidly. But successful change must be precisely adapted to the particular area; it must in the end spring from the labors of the people themselves. For this reason outside effort must not ignore the "grass roots" where the people live and work. Fundamentally the need is for a demonstration that recognizes the totality of human life, that makes an integrated attack from the bottom up. Specific recommendations for such an effort in Crete are still in the formative stage. In the meantime it is hoped that this survey will lead toward a pattern for identifying the most strategic and helpful points of attack

in any program of economic development.

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## EUROPEAN RECOVERY

Some months ago the Economic Cooperation Administration (EGA) requested the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, to undertake certain studies of the problems involved in aid to Europe. The ECA emphasized the value for administrators and policymakers of the advice of a group of competent private citizens unencumbered by the restrictions inherent in government organizations. The council, welcoming the opportunity to organize such studies, enlisted the

services of eminent authorities in the fields of economics, politics and military strategy. These include Allen Dulles, Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Hanson Baldwin, John H. Williams, Stacy May, Edward Mead Earle and General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who is chairman of the group. The council also appointed a staff of research experts to assist in the preparation of materials. To help defray the expenses of the program for the first year, The Rockefeller Foundation in 1949 allocated the sum of $50,000 to the Council on Foreign Relations.

The United States government, stressing economic stability as a key aid in promoting international order, in 1948 instituted the Marshall Plan for the economic recovery of Europe. This plan is unique in peacetime history. In the two years that it has been in operation, the plan has met with considerable success in bringing about expansion of European production and in checking inflation. These are first steps toward a balanced world economy. The Council on Foreign Relations is taking another essential step by reviewing present achievements so that plans can be made to meet future needs of Western Europe for the next three years, the life span of the Marshall Plan.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is likewise investigating the tendencies, especially the long-run tendencies, of European economy.

A growing store of information has been accumulated on the changing trends of the European economy. With these data as a working nucleus, the commission in 1949 embarked on a study of long-range economic possibilities and their relation to the current planning Programs. The focus of the new research is on the pattern of European industry and intra-European trade.

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## THE HUMANITIES IN EUROPE

When the officers of the Foundation returned to Europe after the war, it quickly became evident to them that the relatively small amounts which the Foundation could allot for work in the humanities in Europe were urgently needed. Though work in the humanities was of course strongly established in all the major universities of Europe, the governments of these countries quite naturally in the reconstruction period gave prior attention to more pressing needs.

As a result the humanists of Europe found it difficult to secure locally the funds they required to buy books essential for their work and to renew their direct acquaintance with the work of colleagues in other countries. In the years immediately preceding 1949, grants to the University of Oslo, the University of Leiden and to three major French provincial universities — Lyon, Toulouse and Bordeaux — provided the hard currency necessary for the purchase of books and travel abroad. The general outcome of the grants, none of which exceeded $ 10,000 a year, has

been to help the humanists of these universities bring their work back into the main stream of international humanistic studies. A grant of $50,000 to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities, Great Britain, provided for the purchase of needed books abroad which were allocated by this committee to the universities in accordance with their needs.

It was not until 1948 that representatives of the Foundation in the humanities were first able to revisit Italy. These visits soon revealed the keen desire of Italian humanists to regain the high standards which they had attained before their work was handicapped by the oppression of the fascist regime. Characteristic of their spirit was the act of the well known Italian scholar, Senator Benedetto Croce, in establishing in Naples an Institute of Historical Studies. Some 25

younger Italian historians have been brought together at this institute for advanced training and

research under the direction of another leading Italian historian, Federico Chabod. Here a 1949

grant of $21,000 from the Foundation over a three year period, besides meeting special needs of the institute, is facilitating the acquisition of foreign books and periodicals essential for the work of its students.

The total expenditure of the Foundation for the humanities in Europe during the postwar years is slight in comparison with the support the various countries themselves have given their universities.

But the discrimination and care with which the Foundation grants have been expended by their recipients undoubtedly have made for outcomes far out of proportion to the amounts of money involved.

With European recovery well under way, it is now a question whether further general assistance of this kind from the Foundation for the humanities in Europe can continue to be significant. Fortunately the humanists of Europe are now more and more able to find help for themselves at home. The significance of what the Foundation can contribute to work in the humanities in Europe over the coming years will depend, not on the temporary demands of the reconstruction period, but rather on the discovery of opportunities where aid on a scale the Foundation can consider is both necessary and strategic.

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THE NEAR EAST

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## RADIO AND PRESS IN KOREA AND JAPAN

It is not often that an organization like the Foundation can assist effectively in the improvement of such large and well-established enterprises as radio broadcasting and the daily press. Yet two grants made in 1949 seem likely to have marked effects on the development of broadcasting and journalism in Korea and Japan.

Since the early days of the Allied Powers' occupation of Japan and Korea it has been a policy of the occupying authority to encourage the decentralization of broadcasting in these countries by stimulating the development of additional broadcasting facilities.

New facilities, however, inevitably depend for their success on the availability of qualified personnel, and in this respect both countries suffered from a scarcity, Korea much more so than Japan. As Korea emerged from the long years of Japanese domination, it found itself virtually without trained radio personnel among its own citizenry, broadcasting there having been largely in the hands of the Japanese. In this situation the Allied occupying authorities asked the Bureau of Applied Social Research of Columbia University to provide a few Koreans and Japanese with the means to study broadcasting in the United States and Canada. The bureau had provided such experience to a group of German broadcasters in a previous year.

From the start the occupying authority also made it a policy to promote the independence of the press from the Japanese government and to abolish restrictive regulations, with the aim of fostering the development of a truly democratic press. As military government controls were relaxed, Japanese newspapermen had to learn to operate their newspapers under entirely changed conditions. The Allied authorities asked the American Press Institute of Columbia University to arrange a course of study in the United States and Canada for Japanese journalists, as it had already done for a group of German journalists.

In neither of these cases did the occupying authority have the means of providing the necessary funds, though in both cases it was possible to provide transportation to the United States.

These were instances in which the Foundation with its relative freedom in the use of funds was able to act when an agency with far larger resources, in this case the occupying authority, was initially unable to do so. The same had been true of the earlier projects for German broadcasters and journalists. Those projects had likewise been proposed by the occupying authorities in Germany, but prevailing regulations made it impossible for them to allot any funds for this purpose from the substantial resources at their disposal.

Indeed, they were unable even to provide transportation across the Atlantic, and the entire cost of both these German projects was met by the Foundation. It is noteworthy, however, that after the value of the visit of the German journalists had become evident, changes in regulations in Germany allowed the American authorities themselves to finance entirely the visit of a second group.

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## INTERGROUP RELATIONS

One of the main concerns of the Social Sciences division of The Rockefeller Foundation is exploration of the social, political and psychological factors involved in both the individual and the group behavior of human beings. This interest is founded on the conviction that a thorough understanding of the relationships between individuals, between groups and between the individual and the group is of great importance in establishing better bases of cooperation

for the functioning of present-day society.

In 1949 The Rockefeller Foundation made a number of grants for studies of interpersonal and intergroup relations. Of the four studies considered here, one is a socioanthropological project, two are in the field of international relations and one deals with a social problem of growing significance in the United States.

Students of anthropology have shown that men of different continents and regions are physically much more alike than they are different and that there are many parallels in their cultures.

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## PSYCHOSOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES

The complex problems associated with the successful conduct of human affairs at many different levels clearly call for attention from those trained in the study of individual behavior as well as from social scientists. Psychologists and psychiatrists especially must study these problems because, in the final analysis, a society can be understood only in terms of the individuals, or groups of individuals, who comprise it and their interaction with the environment.

The core of its working philosophy is the conviction that if we wish to promote the well-being or society as a whole we should not seek only to identify sources of failure but should also examine carefully those who have successfully adapted to their surroundings. We should study effective and happy people and try to find out just what it is that makes them so. What personality factors are responsible for their ability to cooperate with other human beings, to form lasting friendships, to triumph over difficult circumstances or to make adequate compromises with them, in short, to achieve a satisfactory and a satisfying adjustment to their total environment?

To get at some of the answers the institute carries out comprehensive psychological assessment of normal and supranormal persons in individual situations and in groups. This approach provides a basis for fundamental research on personality structure and development. It also furnishes a foundation for practical work such as personnel selection and the improvement of relations between members of a single group or between two or more groups. Particular attention is given to determining the defense mechanisms adopted by successful individuals. It

has been shown in the past that these persons in many cases exhibit the same basic anxieties that produce illness in others.

The institute believes, moreover, that it should not confine itself to research work and that it has an obligation to help meet the needs of the community.

It has therefore planned its operations along three lines: methodological research; training for additional personnel in the field; and specific projects conducted in collaboration with industrial firms, community service agencies and government bodies. It may well be that misunderstanding of ourselves is a main barrier in the long struggle of men to learn how to live together without recurrent catastrophes.

If so, greater knowledge of individual human beings and the application of such knowledge to group problems can do much to promote the smooth functioning of life at the family, community, national and even international levels.

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HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH

## P63 NEW TROPICAL VIRUSES

The New York Laboratories of the International Health Division this year opened a new chapter of Rockefeller Foundation work on diseases of potential public health importance. The new interest centers around a group of 18 tropical viruses discovered by the Foundation's research staff in its pursuit of yellow fever work in East Africa, West Africa, Brazil and Colombia.

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