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? volunteer

Mr. President. As a former Peace Corps volunteer, I have been concerned about the loss of vitality of this unique people-to-people program in recent years. I believe that survival of the organization depends on changes that go beyond naming a new Peace Corps Director. ~~I am~~ therefore, ~~introducing~~ ^{I am introducing} with my colleague, Senator Hatfield, the Peace Corps Reform Act. ~~The same bill~~ ^{An identical bill} was introduced in the House by Don Bonker and 43 co-sponsors.

The Peace Corps Reform Act establishes an independent foundation with a presidentially appointed board of directors. The board appoints the Peace Corps Director. An important feature is the creation of advisory councils with representation from Third World countries where the volunteers serve.

The Peace Corps has lost its identity since its incorporation into ACTION. I was willing two years ago to give this administration a chance to revitalize the agency within ACTION, but it is apparent this has not been accomplished. ~~Proposals have been made~~ ^{If recommendations I have been recommended} that Peace Corps be made a part of the ^{proposed} International Development Cooperation Administration (IDCA), but ~~I fear that this would~~ ^{I would} tie it too closely to the foreign policy bureaucracy and would destroy much of the credibility that ~~the Peace Corps enjoys and~~ ^{vital of Peace Corps volunteers} has been ~~so important to its success~~ ^{the} in the Third World. ~~Although the~~ ^{Earlier this month} House passed legislation making the Peace Corps an autonomous agency ~~within IDCA~~ ^{with} but showed concern about making too close a tie by giving the Peace Corps ~~independent budget and program authority~~ ^{within IDCA}. Although I am not entirely happy with this approach, ~~it is important that~~ ^{did} the House recognized a potential ~~conflict with~~ problems if the agency were incorporated completely within IDCA.

It is
I would like to elaborate on the importance ^{to} of keeping the Peace Corps independent ^{from} of foreign policy objectives. We have seen many examples

of effective work done by volunteers in countries whose governments were at odds with the U.S. for one reason or another. We have more volunteers in Africa than any other region of the world ~~and~~ they work there successfully ~~in spite of~~ ^{despite} the fact that U.S. policies with regard to Africa often run counter to prevailing opinion on that continent. A case in point would be the Front Line States of Africa, which look incredulously at the U.S. for its refusal to recognize Angola. Yet President Nyerere of Tanzania (last year) invited the Peace Corps back to his country ^{in the} and the first volunteers will arrive there ~~this~~ fall.

On a more personal level, I returned to Ethiopia in 1977, fifteen years after I had served there as a Volunteer. ^{In Addis Ababa} I met with students I had taught

On a more personal level, I returned to Ethiopia in 1977 and met with students I had taught ¹⁵ ~~fifteen~~ years earlier. At the time of our reunion, U.S.-Ethiopian relations were at rock bottom, posters of Lenin and Marx were prominently displayed in the main square, Russian and Cuban troops/visible ^{and there was} throughout the country, ~~but~~ no American Ambassador in residence. I was able to reestablish an American presence based on the friendship of years before. ^{I learned} ~~that~~ that on an ~~personal~~ ^{individual} basis Ethiopians still felt a kinship with Americans that may well be critical to our future relations with that country whether or not the Russians and Cubans leave.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT NOT ONLY AFRICAN PEOPLE, BUT THEIR LEADERS AS WELL, MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PEACE CORPS AND OTHER U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. ~~I THINK~~ ^{must} ~~IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE MAINTAIN THE DISTINCTION~~ ^{and do not} ~~THAT IS~~ ^{The Peace Corps should not be incorporated} ~~WHY I VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO INCORPORATE THE~~ ~~PEACE CORPS~~ INTO TOO CLOSE A RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS—THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP THAT IDCA WOULD PROMOTE.

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The Foreign Relations Committee will have an opportunity to revitalize the Peace Corps when it marks-up the ^{next week} ~~foreign-aid-authorization next week~~ Peace Corps Act Amendments. I ^{support} ~~hope~~ the Committee will ^{vote for} ~~hope~~ an independent Peace Corps as outlined in the Peace Corps Reform Act.