

**United States Senate**

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Contact: Mary Helen  
Thompson  
224-2742TSONGAS WANTS PEACE CORPS REMOVED FROM ACTION

In testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee today, Senator Paul Tsongas called for the removal of the Peace Corps from ACTION and urged that it be established as an independent agency "removed from the bureaucracy and shielded from politics."

Tsongas, who served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia from 1962-64, said that the present ACTION administration has failed to revitalize the Peace Corps and that the Corps was "rapidly losing its identity and vitality."

"The Peace Corps thrives on the collective personalities of the thousands of Americans who spread their idealism, their technical skills, and willingness to work on a people-to-people basis in underdeveloped Third World nations," Tsongas stated. "When the staff and volunteers are caught up in battles over turf within the bureaucracy, their creativity is suffocated and usefulness compromised."

The freshman Senator from Massachusetts appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in support of HR-2995, sponsored by Rep. Don Bonker (D-Wash.). The bill would make the Peace Corps an independent agency, with a board of directors and an advisory council that includes representatives from Third World nations and former Peace Corps volunteers. Tsongas plans to introduce a companion bill in the Senate shortly.

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