

two years abroad with value

In view of the expanding program the executive secretary of CUSO, Bill McWhinney, said, "A number of contacts were made with the United Nations with a view to the possibility of CUSO volunteers working with the United Nations projects overseas. At the present time, there is a program known as the associate expert scheme whereby various junior professional personnel are assigned to the United Nations to work on projects in developing countries. The participating governments are ex-

pected to pay the full costs for such personnel."

CUSO, having limited funds, has not been able to participate in these programs. "However," Mr. McWhinney said, "The United Nations has been considering the possibility of establishing programs

whereby volunteers could be assigned to UN agencies and would receive appropriate local salaries or allowances paid from project funds."

As CUSO is run independently of the Canadian Government, funds are limited. They are supplied partial-

ly by Canadian universities and affiliated organizations and additional financial support comes from provincial governments, business and industry, private donors and other sources.

The governments of the countries requesting volunteers are responsible for paying the local salaries and sometimes financial assistance required for maintaining operations in the area. CUSO supplies the pocket money and expenses for legitimate holidays, as well as transportation to and from the host country.

Some nations, who have demonstrated the need for assistance cannot meet the necessary financial obligations. This can be illustrated by the small islands of the Caribbean and some South American nations.

Once overseas, the volunteers are directly responsible to the officials of the government or the requesting agency.

Since the host country supplies the necessary accommodation for the volunteer, the living conditions, as do the salaries, vary from region to region. Many volunteers expressed embarrassment and uneasiness when they discovered that instead of living in a grass hut or other primitive conditions, they found themselves in the possession of a three-room bungalow, complete with maid service, running water, and even electricity until 10 p.m.! Others stayed in private homes and became one of a close family group. Teachers often live in the school boarding houses and nurses might be given accommodation right in the hospital or health clinic.

Living customs may surprise the new volunteer. Not only are the food-stuffs oftentimes completely foreign, but the volunteer has to adapt to new methods of preparation. Local markets become familiar to volunteers, as imported products are too expensive for constant use.

The volunteer felt one could "get by" on the local salary. However, if any assistance is ever required, the volunteers are to contact CUSO headquarters, or their co-ordinator, where they are given personal consideration and an immediate reply.

A CUSO pamphlet reads: "Emerging Nations are striving to close the gap. What Can We Do? We Can Lend Volunteers."

With the words of the UN Secretary-General, U Thant, I conclude.

"I am looking forward to the day when the average youngster—and parent or employer—will consider that one or two years of work for the cause of development, either in a faraway country or in a depressed area of his own community, is a normal part of one's education."



this is a good university, but . . .

Asked whether the university as an entity should involve itself in the matters of the community, Dr. Davy said the educated person has had and still does have a greater responsibility to be active in a society. "We are also members of the academic community itself, which is world-wide, and our first responsibility is to it," he emphasized.

"I don't think a university president, vice-president, dean or any faculty member has any right to say that he has an overriding obligation to the immediate community in which the university is located," he stated.

Dr. Davy objected to the tendency of university administrations to treat academic staff who were engaged in social protests as "nuts".

"The humorous, head-patting, big-papa treatment is intensely patronizing, and often equals soul-selling," he said.

Speaking of Alberta, Dr. Davy felt that our society is distinguished by a characteristically provincial, and cowardly attitude.

"Much of our bad social climate is due to the Social Credit government," he said. "However there are honourable and honest people who are aware of corruption, yet won't speak out, and do nothing."

"Disgusting" was the term Dr. Davy applied to them.

"Creeping apathy is far worse than creeping socialism," he said.

Dr. Davy blamed many of Alberta's problems on the fact that she is the home of "an affluent frontier society." He felt that a minor portion of the hostility which has been expressed towards intellectualism and universities in general can be traced to this.

Dr. Davy stressed although U of A is supported by a materialistic society, money is not the key to a university's existence. Particularly money gained by the loss of academic freedom.

He admitted we are economically well-off under our present provincial government, but he qualified this: "We have money because of wealth, produced by resources such as oil. This has nothing to do with any particular virtue of Social Credit."

"Many believe it does," he added. Professionalism is also to blame for a lack of concern about academic freedom, said Dr. Davy.

"Our professional faculties aren't interested in this sort of thing."

He summarized their disengagement with the comment, "They spend four or five years in university to get the union card they need!"

Our academic situation, he felt, was also affected by the size of this university.

"We have an excellent grad school but the undergraduate courses are in bad shape. Many of their courses are given by teaching assistants, who, although well-informed, are not always capable teachers."

To close the interview, Dr. Davy gave his opinions on Vietnam. He described it briefly — "An incredible mess!" He thought much of the public hostility toward the U.S. was due to the ever-present discrepancy between what has been described as the American ideal, and actuality.

His final statement denounced a well known hypocrisy:

"It's no good talking about 'great societies,' and keeping up the bombing."

It was, suitably enough, Dominion Day, 1965.

