

In fact, most of the U.N. help in this matter has been extended by granting "fellowships" to a few Haitians, Thais and Israelis to go to Indonesia and learn on the spot how fish-farming is done.

Something was said in the preceding paragraph about rice. That is the basic food for nearly half the world's population--the hungriest half. Growing more rice has become a matter of life or death for millions of Asians, since the population of that teeming continent has increased by more than 10 per cent in the past 12 years while rice production is still below the pre-1940 level. Food must now be imported, and when too many begin to starve it must be begged. Sometimes the American gifts, as in the recent case of Pakistan, are accompanied by congressional oratory which does nothing to improve relations.

Space limitations make it impossible to tell the full story of what ETAP is doing to help Asia grow more rice. But the experiments now under way at the Central Rice Research Station in the state of Orissa, India, quite conceivably can turn most of that continent from a food-deficit to a food-surplus area. Do you see what that could do to the effort of communism to entice hungry Asians? This experimentation is based on the fact that in Japan an acre of rice yields 2,352 pounds, while in India an acre yields only 772 pounds and in Indo-China only 716.

Hybridization seems to be the answer, just as it has been for cereals in the United States. So ETAP, working with the government of India, with the help of the British Commonwealth's Colombo Plan and through its own Food and Agriculture Organization, using experts of all sorts from all over the world, is searching for the hybrid rice which will make all the rice-producing areas of Asia yield as much, or nearly as much, as do the fields of Japan. They haven't found the answer yet, but they are confident they will.

If there were space we'd tell how the U.N. helped the people of Greece rebuild the roads in their war-scarred country; how it has shown isolated Iran the way to open its communications with the rest of the world by planning modern airfields and training the young men of Iran to handle their intricate equipment; how it is working to show jam-packed Israel ways to build very low-cost "stabilized earth" housing. The stories of ETAP achievements are endless, even though this U.N. program has only been under way since 1950.

In some instances the U.N. has tackled more than a single specialized problem; at the request of certain governments a whole program for government and social improvement has been worked out. Thus at present El Salvador is entertaining 16 experts: a Chilean to advise on social welfare; an American on economics, another American on a survey of family income, another on farm management and two more on health education; a Dane on dairy technology; an Italian on educational administration; a Belgian on grade school education; a Mexican and an American on civil aviation; a Peruvian, a Colombian, a Briton, in addition to the two Americans already listed, on health education; a Mexican on health statistics and a Frenchman on social legislation.

"Jules Verne himself," says a booklet recently published in Switzerland, "would find it hard to imagine that technical assistance could mean that a Haitian coffee specialist went to help Ethiopians to establish a new