

# Peace Corps Official On Recruiting Drive

Mike Sarka, community campaign coordinator for the Peace Corps with offices in Los Angeles, is recruiting in Alaska this week.

"One of the key things I'm looking for are experienced fishermen. There is a potential of fishing industry in the Philippines," said Sarka last week in Fairbanks.

He said that the Phillipine Island people have in the past fished for subsistence only.

"They need experienced fishermen," he added. "Alaska type fishermen would be far more qualified to teach the people there their type of fishing."

He said that another Peace Corps volunteer that would be important to the plan in the Phillipines would be mechanics for fishing boats.

"These types of mechanics are needed all over the world," Sarka pointed out.

The Peace Corps has been in existence for nine years. It was put in operation on March 1, 1961 by the late President John F. Kennedy.

Since that time there has been about 40,000 Peace Corps volunteers. At the present time, 11,000 are working in 61 countries.

The usual length of service is 27 months that includes three months of training program in which a volunteer learn the language, culture and technical training on what kind of job the volunteer would be doing in a country to which he is assigned

After training, he goes overseas for 24 months.

The pay is based on the economy of the country to which he is assigned. Housing is paid separately from the salary. Training and return trip are paid for. Medical care is also paid for under special arrangements.

A Peace Corps volunteer is also paid \$75 per month called readjustment allowance and which is paid in a lump sum after terminating as a volunteer.

There is also a vacation allowance of two days per month and which can be taken anytime during Peace Corps service with per diem of \$9 per day.

"You live right with the people you're working with," Sarka explained, "so that you become familiar with their daily problems and way of life and you're expected to live much the same way that they do so that the people, after a bit of time, look upon you as one of them and accept you like they would any other neighbor."

Volunteers have to be over 18 years of age or over. They should have experiences in some field so this can be a basis for teaching people overseas.

Sarka said that there have been 57 Alaskans who have served or who are serving in the Peace Corps.

"I just feel that there are many here in Alaska who could serve in the Peace Corps," Sarka stated. "There is a spirit of adventure going overseas as a Peace Corps

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volunteer, something like the spirit of adventure that made Alaska what it is."

"Peace Corps," Mike Sarka concluded, "is for all segments of society. It's for the skilled worker as well as the PhD in business, and each of these people are equally important to the nations of the developing world. If a guy knows engines who has an 8th grade education, he's needed."

Sarka himself served in Iran in the Middle East for 26 months.

"It wasn't important that I was an American, but it was important that I wanted to help."

Further information on Peace Corps is available locally by writing to Peace Corps, Federal Station, Pouch 300, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.