EXPLANATION OF THE "DOLE" AMENDMENT ADOPTED
BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1966

The amendment would add a new Sec. 406 to Public Law 480.

PURPOSE

The main purpose of the amendment would be to strengthen the agricultural economies of friendly countries in order to meet rising world food needs.

JURISDICTION

This technical assistance activity would be established within the USDA and would operate under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture who would be directed to carry out 2 types of coordination:

(1) Coordination within the USDA with the Federal Extension Service; Foreign Agricultural Service; the Federal-State Cooperative Research Service and other departmental agencies.

(2) Coordination with the Peace Corps, Agency for International Development, State Department, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and other U.S. government agencies and international organizations.

Persons who are trained and serving in the program could be assigned or re-assigned for duty with other U.S. government agencies such as the Peace Corps or AID missions.

Nothing in the amendment is intended to infringe upon the powers and responsibilities of the Secretary of State to conduct U.S. foreign policy.

LAND GRANT AND OTHER COLLEGES

The amendment authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to, or enter into contracts or other cooperative arrangements with the land grant colleges (or other institutions of higher learning) to carry out various activities including:

*The recruitment, training, and education of persons volunteering for service in the program. It is contemplated that curricula would emphasize the language, local laws and customs, practices, economic and social conditions, and other subjects directly related to conditions in the nation where the volunteers will be working.

*The establishment of agricultural institutes both in the U.S.A. and overseas to provide continuing practical training for corps members and foreign nationals.

COST

To the maximum extent possible, local currencies generated by the sale of U.S. farm commodities would be used to finance this program. In addition, the sum of $33 million (1 percent of total anticipated spending under the bill) would be authorized to be appropriated each year to carry out the purposes of this program.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Secretary would establish the criteria for eligibility, retention, dismissal, terms, length of service, nature of service, compensation, status, oaths of office, security clearance, areas of assignment, and other administrative details.

The amendment establishes one requirement for service in the corps. A volunteer must be qualified by reason of (a) training or education, or (b) practical experience in agriculture or home economics.
Page 20, line 16, insert:

"Sec. 406. (a) In order to further assist friendly developing countries to become self-sufficient in food production, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, notwithstanding any other provision of law --

(1) To establish and administer through existing agencies of the Department of Agriculture a program of farmer-to-farmer assistance between the United States and such countries to help farmers in such countries in the practical aspects of increasing food production and distribution and improving the effectiveness of their farming operations;

(2) To enter into contracts or other cooperative agreements with, or make grants to, land grant colleges and universities and other institutions of higher learning in the United States to recruit persons who by reason of training, education, or practical experience are knowledgeable in the practical arts and sciences of agriculture and home economics, and to train such persons in the practical techniques of transmitting to farmers in such countries improved practices in agriculture, and to participate in carrying out the program in such countries including, where desirable, additional courses for training or retraining in such countries;

(3) To conduct research in tropical and subtropical agriculture for the improvement and development of tropical and subtropical food products for dissemination and cultivation in friendly countries.

(4) To coordinate the program authorized in this section with the activities of the Peace Corps, the Agency for International Development, and other agencies of the United States and to assign, upon agreement with such agencies, such persons to work with and under the administration of such agencies; Provided, That nothing in this section shall be construed to infringe upon the powers or functions of the Secretary of State;

(5) To establish by such rules and regulations as he deems necessary the conditions for eligibility and retention in and dismissal from the program established in this section, together with the terms, length and nature of service, compensation, employee status, oaths of office, and security clearances, and such persons shall be entitled to the benefits and subject to the responsibilities applicable to persons serving in the Peace Corps pursuant to the provisions of 75 Stat 612, as amended; and

(6) To the maximum extent practicable, to pay the costs of such program through the use of foreign currencies accruing from the sale of agricultural commodities under this Act, as provided in Sec. 104(1).

(b). There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, not to exceed $53,000,000 during any fiscal year, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section."

Page 12, after line 17, insert:

"(1) for paying, to the maximum extent practicable, the costs outside the United States of carrying out the program authorized in section 406 of this Act."