

DESCRIPTION OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE

Page 1

THE NEED

9

Mexican Immigration to the U.S.
Families Separated by the Border in
the San Diego-Tijuana Area
Causes of Family Separations
New Immigrants
Language Problem
Cultural Adjustment
Occupational Orientation and Job
Placement in the Labor Force
Existing Services
ISS Assistance Requested

THE PROGRAM

5

Objectives
Intercountry Social Services
Post-migration Services
Pre-migration Services
Community Involvement
Casework Service in Mexico

IMPLEMENTATION

9

Personnel
Facilities
Projected Time Phases

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

11

Review
Final Conference

ESTIMATED BUDGET

12

APPENDIX I LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN
EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS

APPENDIX II CASE ILLUSTRATION

The American Branch of International Social Service submits a proposal to establish a three-year pilot project in the San Diego - Tijuana area to: assist Mexican families separated by the border, stimulate services to newly arrived Mexican immigrants who are settling permanently in the San Diego area, and serve as a demonstration project for possible replication in other border cities. The total amount requested is : \$151,779 for a three year period.

DESCRIPTION OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE

The American Branch of International Social Service (ISS) is an integral but autonomous part of a worldwide nonprofit organization with branches, delegations, or correspondents in more than 120 countries. The American Branch works with local agencies here and abroad to help resolve personal and family problems arising from the movement of people across national boundaries. It provides intercountry casework service, training and exchange, and explains immigration problems and intercountry adoption practices to the public. ISS has had extensive experience working with immigrants and their problems.

THE NEED

Mexican Immigration to the United States

Historically, immigration from Mexico has been unrestricted numerically and has averaged 35-40,000 persons annually - an immigration rate higher than that of any other country except Canada. Even with the numerical limitations imposed upon Western Hemisphere countries as of July 1, 1968, it is anticipated that the annual number of immigrants from Mexico will remain around the 40,000 level. There are now approximately 670,000 permanent resident aliens from Mexico in the United States, with over half of this number residing in California.

Mexican-Americans are one of the most severely disadvantaged ethnic groups in the United States. They have one of the highest unemployment and lowest income rates of any minority, and suffer from some of the most severe housing and educational problems in the country.

Families Separated by the Border in San Diego - Tijuana Area

One of the three main visa issuing posts for Mexicans immigrating to the United States is Tijuana, Mexico. During consultation with the U.S. Consulate in January, 1969, the Consul General estimated that 1,200 - 1,500 immigrant visas were issued monthly. Although the majority of these new immigrants head for other destinations in California, a significant number, but one difficult to estimate, remain in San Diego.

Most of these persons immigrate to San Diego to be reunited with members of their family already living there. For many of them, the reunion takes place after a long separation entailing considerable personal and financial hardships. A man who has emigrated earlier in order to prepare a home for his family may have to wait for months - or longer - before his wife and children in Tijuana can join him. Or the wife may be living in San Diego while her husband remains in Tijuana, trying to obtain a visa. In one such case, a young Mexican woman, a legal resident of the U.S., was receiving welfare payments for her seven children; her husband in Tijuana had been trying for over six months to get a visa but was unable to do so because of inadequate documentation. In still other cases, a parent may be separated from his or her children: a widow, for example, who migrated to San Diego and was working there, had to wait for months before her children received visas and were able to join her.

Still another type of separation frequently encountered in the San Diego - Tijuana area (and elsewhere) concerns Mexicans who have been deported for illegal entry into the United States. It is generally recognized that many deportees are men who have been in the U.S. for many years, have worked as law-abiding and tax-paying residents and have established families. Although these men are eligible to re-enter the U.S. in order to be reunited with their U.S. citizen relatives, the process is often very lengthy. (See attached case description for more detailed discussion of a typical problem.)

Although there are now several programs focusing on the overall problems of the Mexican-American, there is none which addresses itself to the specific and special problems of families who are separated by the U.S. - Mexican border.

Causes of Family Separations

The long separations which families in the San Diego - Tijuana area have to endure are the result of a variety of factors. Lack of social planning in earlier stages may be responsible. The complexity of visa requirements presents another obstacle. Both visa applicants in Tijuana and relatives sponsoring them in San Diego are usually unfamiliar with technical procedures and requirements and have considerable difficulty in working their way through a maze of difficult, and sometimes varying, sets of procedures and regulations. The difficulty that visa applicants frequently have in obtaining the Mexican documentation required when submitting an application for a visa to the U.S. also contributes to the delay.

A further complicating factor is the crowding of Tijuana by visa applicants. The U.S. Consul General in Tijuana estimated in January, 1969, that of the 350,000 residents in Tijuana, almost 100,000 of this total had come to the border from the

interior sections of Mexico to apply for visas, believing that visas would be more readily available there than in their home states. Even though many of this group will eventually be considered eligible for visas from the Tijuana Consulate, their travel to Tijuana may actually impede their progress, since it may be much more difficult for them to obtain the required Mexican documentation (birth certificates, police clearances, marriage or divorce certificates, etc.) in Tijuana. Also the presence of so many "transients" around Tijuana adds to the already serious conditions existing in Tijuana, in respect to shortages of housing, employment, health and educational facilities.

New Immigrants

It is apparent that the adjustment of new immigrants is impeded by the facts that: 1) they do not always make early contact with the existing health, welfare and educational institutions which are already available to serve them, and 2) existing institutions are not always geared to meeting the special needs of new immigrants, in terms of specialized personnel and approaches. Social workers in San Diego have identified some common problems of immigrants:

Language Problem: The language problem is frequently compounded by the fact that linguistic perfection in the immigrant's native language has not been attained in the little formal education that a large percentage of immigrants have had prior to migration.

Cultural Adjustment: The problem of acculturation is influenced by the factors of low economic status, and lack of understanding of available social and health agencies and institutions at the disposal of the immigrant. Not only are the social institutions themselves different, but the expectations in terms of the relationship with the institutions are different from that of his native country.

Occupational Orientation and Job Placement in the Labor Force: The new immigrant very often lacks the basic skills that are necessary to find a place in a rapidly changing labor system. His language, and his lack of formal education and of skill training combine to place almost insurmountable barriers toward his employment in a job that offers adequate financial security and opportunities for advancement. There is an obvious inter-relationship between the immigrant's failure to use the educational and training programs already available and his inability to obtain suitable employment.

The immigrant not only needs information about services available, but actual experience in using these services, especially in

relation to concrete "survival" problems. Such experience will lead to the new immigrant's increased identification with and use of American institutions and to his active involvement as a participating member of his community in all phases of community life.

Existing Services

The San Diego Family Service Association, a private social welfare agency offering family counseling services, has recently made special efforts to reach out to the Mexican-American community in San Diego. These efforts have resulted in a steadily increasing Mexican-American caseload, one which the already short-staffed agency cannot handle. Furthermore, the agency has found that many of the cases involving Mexican-Americans concern families separated by border and thus require special knowledge of immigration procedures, as well as intercountry casework experience.

The Family Service Association is also in contact with a number of established agencies and volunteer Mexican-American groups in San Diego who are interested in reaching out to new immigrants. These groups meet under the aegis of the Immigration Committee of IMPACT, a loose coalition of community groups. Despite interest and concern, there is a basic lack of coordination among these groups, as well as an absence of "know-how" based on experience. IMPACT has no funds for services to immigrants and its ability to help is therefore obviously limited. Yet one of the leaders of IMPACT estimates that he receives about 100 requests per month from individuals who need advice on immigration problems, many of whom could benefit from intercountry assistance.

ISS Assistance Requested

Because of ISS experience with immigrants, its development of pre- and post-migration programs, and its expertise in the field of intercountry problems, the Family Service Association of San Diego requested assistance from ISS to improve service to families separated by the border. The Family Service Association stated that its interests centered especially on facilitating family reunions. At the same time, the San Diego State College School of Social Work, a recently established school which places special emphasis on preparing students for community organization and which is particularly interested in intercountry social welfare projects, indicated its desire to have social work students participate in a program providing intercountry services to Mexican immigrants. The Chicano Studies Department at San Diego State College has also conveyed its interest in relating a proposed course on immigration to this project.

During the past year, ISS has consulted with the Family Service Association, the School of Social Work, the United States Consulate in Tijuana, and representatives of local welfare organizations and leaders on both sides of the border. A special visit was also made by the Associate Director of ISS, accompanied by the ISS Latin American Regional Director, to the federal health and welfare authorities in Mexico City, the Secretaria de Salubridad y Asistencia, in order to determine the extent of their interest and to identify the resources which they might be able to contribute towards the program.

The proposal described below is based upon these extensive investigations and explorations.

THE PROGRAM

Objectives

- 1) Develop intercountry services between San Diego and Tijuana, primarily to facilitate the reunion of families separated by the border.
- 2) Coordinate existing post-migration programs in San Diego and stimulate the development of other needed services by working with existing public and private institutions in that community.
- 3) Determine during the course of the project the feasibility of pre-migration services for those prospective immigrants who are not necessarily involved in family reunions through careful analysis of the total flow of immigration from Mexico and considerable consultation with Mexican and U.S. bodies, both official and voluntary.
- 4) Work with Mexican institutions, private and public, towards the incorporation into the existing social service structure of intercountry social services and pre-migration counseling.

Intercountry Social Services

The American Branch of International Social Service will assign a caseworker trained in the principles of intercountry casework and immigration problems to the San Diego Family Service Association. ISS will be responsible for the training of this worker and for the initial orientation period, during which ISS will arrange for meetings and conferences with appropriate organizations and agencies in the fields of immigration and Mexican-American affairs. ISS will continue to act as a resource, sharing its experience and its expertise in the area of

immigration planning and the handling of intercountry problems related to family reunions as well as to problems of non-support, abandonment, and child migration. The Family Service Association of San Diego will contribute direct administrative supervision out of its operating budget.

The caseworker will be assisted on a limited number of cases by students from the San Diego State College School of Social Work, who will be supervised by a Field Instructor from the School. Student participation will have a number of direct advantages to the program, though it is not anticipated that their involvement will constitute a major contribution in terms of direct service to clients where mature skills and a significant body of technical knowledge are required. In addition, the students will receive unique training in a particularly neglected aspect of social work practice - immigration and intercountry casework. Their direct involvement with the Mexican-American community as part of this program will also be useful in their later professional careers. It is hoped that some of the students receiving field placement training in conjunction with this program may elect to participate in similar programs in other geographical areas which we hope to see established on the basis of the San Diego - Tijuana experience.

The caseworker will divide his or her time between San Diego and Tijuana. He or she will be primarily responsible for providing casework and immigration services to separated families, but as the need arises will assist with other intercountry problems as those described above.

If time permits, the caseworker will also provide cooperating service in Tijuana for other agencies north of San Diego, such as the International Institutes in Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco. These agencies are frequently in need of service in Tijuana to facilitate family reunions.

During the course of his or her work, the caseworker will cooperate with appropriate agencies in San Diego and with the Council of Social Agencies, a recently formed coalition of voluntary social welfare groups in Tijuana. Through these contacts, as well as through a public information campaign and the operation of the program itself, private and public groups in Tijuana will become increasingly aware of the availability and value of intercountry services. Since ISS already has a cooperating agency in Mexico City, the Secretaria de Salubridad y Asistencia, one of whose workers provides services in Mexico City for ISS intercountry cases, it is hoped that this department might ask their representative in Tijuana to assume the leadership in provision of intercountry services related to this project.

Post-Migration Services

A community organizer will be assigned to coordinate and stimulate services to newly arrived immigrants. ISS will make its experience with pre- and post-migration services for immigrants available to the community organizer.

The community organizer will first determine the number, nature, and objectives of those groups in San Diego and in Tijuana concerned with services for immigrants. In cooperation with the Mexican-American community, he or she will work to coordinate these activities, to suggest what other services might be needed, and to stimulate existing organizations to incorporate services geared to Mexican immigrants into their programs. The organizer will work with volunteer groups, private social agencies, the Board of Education, Department of Employment, and appropriate components of San Diego's anti-poverty program. All services which are developed will be fully publicized.

The community organizer will be responsible for identifying regulations and policies of both the Mexican and American governments which may be needlessly hindering family reunions and effective integration of new immigrants into the San Diego community, so that ISS, with its already established relationships with key governmental agencies in both countries, may initiate actions aimed at resolving these problems.

Pre-Migration Services

Discussions with personnel in the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana have confirmed the need for a program of pre-migration services, including such items as counseling, orientation to life in the U.S., and assistance in completing visa applications. The community organizer will determine which private and/or governmental groups in Tijuana can be stimulated to develop pre-migration services which would then be coordinated to post-migration services in San Diego. The importance of discouraging people from moving from the interior of Mexico to border areas to apply for visas would be emphasized, and the development of a public education program in cooperation with both U.S. and Mexican authorities would be explored.

Community Involvement

Direct involvement of the Mexican-American community, particularly in San Diego, is a requisite for the successful implementation of the program. This consideration is especially true in today's climate where Mexican-American groups are increasingly demanding direct participation in the formulation and implementation of services designed to assist the Mexican-American population. In this instance, community involvement is not only

psychologically important in terms of group identity, but is also necessary in order to make the availability of services known to potential clients. Considerable discussion has already taken place with Mexican-American groups in San Diego and, to a lesser extent, with groups and individuals in Tijuana. There is a consensus that the services proposed are needed. Also, the various groups have indicated their wish to support and participate in the program. However, the Mexican-American organizations in San Diego are not organized in a monolithic structure and it will be important to spend time organizing and coordinating community involvement.

To this end a project advisory committee will be established to: 1) work with ISS and the Family Service Association of San Diego in implementing the project; 2) relate community concerns to the project staff; 3) help make known the project objectives and services; and 4) constitute a forum for discussion and possible resolution of problems or bottlenecks relating to program goals. Composition of the committee will be worked out at the time that the project is started. However, it is anticipated that membership would include representatives of the Mexican-American community, representatives of cooperating agencies or organizations (e.g., other social agencies in San Diego, Consul General's office), and possibly "consumers of services," in other words, actual clients or former clients if this appears to be practicable.

Casework Service in Mexico

In the context of this program, intercountry casework, by definition, requires availability of service and consultation in both Mexico and the United States. One of the purposes of the program is to provide and stimulate provision of services in Tijuana. However, in many family reunion and other intercountry problems, family members on the Mexican side of the border will reside in areas other than Tijuana. To provide service to these families will require a greater involvement of the Mexican social welfare structure than at present. While Mexican authorities have cooperated with ISS on intercountry problems over the years and have indicated their willingness to participate in the present proposed program to the extent possible, Mexico is not at this time equipped to provide the type of intercountry service needed for handling a significant number of geographically dispersed intercountry cases.

With limited resources and many high priority concerns, it is understandable that the Mexican social welfare structure has not been heavily involved in intercountry casework. An important by-product of this family reunion project should be to stimulate an awareness of the need to extend intercountry casework facilities and to provide pre-migration services for the emigrants and their families in border areas.

IMPLEMENTATION

Personnel

1 Caseworker - Spanish speaking, Mexican-American, skilled in intercountry casework and immigration counseling. This person will be trained by ISS and will function as a staff member of the San Diego Family Service Association.

1 Community Organizer - Spanish speaking, Mexican-American, experienced in community organization, special knowledge of immigrant problems. This person will also work out of SDFSA.

1 Secretary - bilingual.

Facilities

The project staff will work from a district office of the Family Service Association in the Mexican-American area of San Diego. Office space in Tijuana will have to be acquired.

Projected Time Phases

First Year

First six months: project staff will be given training and orientation by ISS

caseworker will begin providing casework and immigration services to separated families

First six months:
(continued)

community organizer will determine concerns and begin working with groups in San Diego and Tijuana concerned with immigration services.

Second six months:

Caseworker's caseload will be increasing as result of contacts with agencies in San Diego and Tijuana and as result of cases referred through community organizer's contacts.

community organizer will begin coordinating post-migration services and stimulating new ones

(by end of the first year, social work students will have been absorbed into program as their field work placements permit)

Second Year

caseworker will continue immigration and casework services in cooperation with San Diego and Tijuana agencies

community organizer will continue activities; also, utilizing experience gained and contacts made, will explore possibility of pre-migration services in Tijuana and development of program to discourage visa applicants from moving to Tijuana.

Third Year

caseworker's activities will continue as described above, with special emphasis on encouraging incorporation of intercountry services into Tijuana social service structure.

community organizer will concentrate on the areas of organizing which need the most attention. Special emphasis will be given to ensuring that coordination achieved and new services initiated will continue after completion of program.

Throughout the three year period, ISS will work with Mexican authorities to stimulate services in Mexico.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Review

There will be a periodic evaluation of the program. At approximately four month intervals during the first year, and at longer intervals during succeeding years, senior staff from ISS and project staff will review problems and the progress to date. Through conferences and consultations with project staff, the San Diego Family Service Association, the San Diego State College School of Social Work, and representatives of voluntary agencies in San Diego and Tijuana, problem areas will be identified and priorities for the next period will be determined. If necessary, shifts in emphasis will be made. Where appropriate, special consultants will be asked to participate in these review sessions and contribute their expertise to the program.

During the final review periods, special attention will be given to ensuring that services developed as a result of the project will continue after its completion. The community organizer position will no longer be required. It is anticipated, however, that the caseworker's services will be incorporated into the regular program of the San Diego Family Service Association and that, over the three year period, independent sources of funding based on clearly demonstrated need and value will have been developed. Support from the San Diego United Community Services is one potential source of continuing funding as are organizations within the Mexican-American community.

Final Conference

At the conclusion of the three-year period, ISS and the San Diego Family Service Association will sponsor a conference on the development of the program, its results, and its application to other border communities. Those attending the conference will include:

Organizations and individuals, Mexican and American, involved in the project

San Diego and Tijuana city officials and community leaders, and United Community Services staff from San Diego

American and perhaps Mexican consular officers

American and Mexican government officials responsible for immigration and welfare matters, as available

Those specialists in Mexican-American affairs, immigration, and community organization who will have special interest in the project, its results, and implementation

Community leaders, social service agencies, and representatives of Mexican-American groups from other border areas facing problems similar to those of San Diego-Tijuana.

Agency staffs and other individuals and organizations who participated in the project will review the program's rationale, its objectives, its achievements, and the problems encountered. Similar needs in other communities along the border will be discussed, with reference to the San Diego - Tijuana project and its possible replication or adaptation elsewhere.

A final evaluation report on the project will be written and made generally available.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

FIRST YEAR

Caseworker	\$11,000	
Community Organizer	12,000	
Secretary	6,000	
Supervision and Exec. Time	<u>3,500</u>	
	32,500	
Fringe Benefits at 10%	<u>3,250</u>	
Sub-Total		\$35,750
District Office Rental, San Diego	1,500	
Office Rental, Tijuana	900	
Office Equipment, Supplies, Postage - Tijuana	1,200	
Public Information Expenses	500	
Administration Expenses - incorporated in FSA Budget		
Sub-Total		4,100
ISS Consultation, Training, 1/5 Executive Time	4,000	
Secretarial Time- 1/10 time	<u>600</u>	
	4,600	
Supplies and administrative costs at 10%	<u>460</u>	
Sub-Total		5,060

FIRST YEAR (Continued)

Local travel (car) for caseworker, community organizer and student unit	2,000
Transportation, Los Angeles and San Francisco for orientation and training - two round trips at \$78 @	156
Transportation, San Diego - New York and return for orientation and training - two trips at \$308@	616
Per Diem, 20 days at \$25 @ during orientation and training	500
Transportation, New York - San Diego - Mexico City at \$325 @, 3 round trips	975
Per Diem, 42 days at \$25 @, San Diego	1,050
Per Diem, 21 days at \$20 @, Mexico City	<u>420</u>

Sub-Total 5,717

TOTAL FIRST YEAR \$50,627

SECOND YEAR

Caseworker	11,550
Community Organizer	12,600
Secretary	6,300
Supervision and Exec. Time	<u>3,675</u>
	34,125
Fringe Benefits at 10%	<u>3,412</u>

Sub-Total 37,557

District Office Rental - San Diego	1,500
Office Rental - Tijuana	900
Postage and Supplies	600
Public Information Expenses	250
Administration Expenses - incorporated in FSA Budget	<u> </u>

Sub-Total 3,250

ISS Consultation and Supervision - 1/5 Executive time	4,000
Secretarial Time - 1/10 time	600
	<u>4,600</u>
Supplies and administrative costs at 10%	<u>460</u>

Sub-Total 5,060

SECOND YEAR (Continued)

Local Transportation	2,000	
Transportation, New York-San Diego-		
Mexico City at \$325 @ - two round trips	650	
Per Diem, 14 days at \$25 @ - San Diego	350	
Per Diem, 14 days at \$20 @ - Mexico City	<u>280</u>	
Sub-Total		3,280
<u>TOTAL SECOND YEAR</u>		<u>\$49,147</u>

THIRD YEAR

Caseworker	12,128	
Community Organizer	13,230	
Secretary	6,615	
Supervision and Exec. Time	<u>3,859</u>	
	35,832	
Fringe Benefits at 10%	<u>3,583</u>	
Sub-Total		39,415
District Office Rental - San Diego	1,500	
Office Rental - Tijuana	900	
Postage and Supplies	600	
Public Information Expenses	250	
Administration Expenses - incorporated in FSA Budget	<u> </u>	
Sub-Total		3,250
ISS Consultation and Supervision - 1/5 Executive Time	4,000	
Secretarial Time - 1/10 time	<u>600</u>	
	4,600	
Supplies and administrative costs, 10%	<u>460</u>	
Sub-Total		5,060
Local Transportation	2,000	
Transportation, New York-San Diego - Mexico City, two round trips at \$325	650	
Per Diem, 14 days at \$25 @, San Diego	350	
Per Diem, 14 days at \$20 @, Mexico City	<u>250</u>	
Sub-Total		3,280
Final Conference and evaluation - Estimated costs		1,000
<u>TOTAL THIRD YEAR</u>		<u>\$52,005</u>

PROJECT TOTAL FOR THREE YEARS \$151,779

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THUS FAR INVOLVED IN
EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS

Family Service Association of San Diego

Mrs. John Stewart, President - Executive Committee, and Program and Planning Committee, and full 32 member Board plus Boards of 6 Affiliate agencies in San Diego County

Mrs. Virginia Hogan, Executive Director

Miss Helen Finlayson, Program Supervisor

Mrs. Donna Salk, Social Worker in Charge, Southeast Branch

Miss Alicia Jimenez, Social Worker on staff - specialist in Immigration Cases

Miss Elsa Villa, Mexican-American Community Worker and full staff

San Diego State College School of Social Work

Dr. Ernest F. Witte, former Dean

Dr. Irving Tebor, Acting Dean until August 15, 1970

Dr. Earl Brennen, Acting Dean as of August 15, 1970

Richard Bistriz, Coordinator of Field Instruction

Dr. Joseph Kelley, Faculty Member

Mrs. Marta Schlatter, Field Work Instructor (formerly Field Instructor with Family Service and as of Fall 1970 with San Ysidro Center)

Mrs. Elizabeth Watson, Faculty Member

Mrs. Winona Gilliam, Field Instructor, FSA, Fall, 1970

Guilliana Moretony, Student - Participated in writing the Project Proposal for funding the San Diego Chicano Federation through United Community Services

Community Groups

Mr. Jesse Ramirez, Executive Director, Chicano Federation

Mr. Carlos Gonzales, Community Action Council - OEO - Chairman, Immigration Committee of IMPACT (Involvement of the Mexican Population in Active Community Tasks) and on-going discussions with total Committee whose names are not here listed.

Mr. Candelario J. Mendoza, Director, ESL Program (English as a Second Language), San Diego City School System

Mr. Carl Hudson, Trabajores Sociales de la Raza, and Economic Opportunity Commission, San Diego

Mr. Joe Tafolla, Director, Mexican-American Advisory Committee of San Diego

Mr. Manuel Ramos, President, Club Internationale de Mexico (operates on both sides of the Border) - CEO, Manpower Development, Operation Mainstream, Jobs Now (by telephone only)

Miss Ruby Hubert, Executive Director, Neighborhood House

Mrs. Felicia Garner, Social Services Supervisor, Neighborhood House

Mr. John Johnson, former Executive, Urban League

Mr. Frank Patterson, presenting Acting Director, Urban League

Mrs. Dorothy Sumner, Director, Project STAR (cooperative project Urban League, Association for the Retarded, and FSA, in minority community)

Mr. Claude Townsend, Associate Executive Director, United Community Services

APPENDIX I - continued

Mr. Edgar Brown, Executive Director, Community Welfare Council of San Diego County

Mr. Mario Guzman, Executive Director, Economic Opportunity Commission of San Diego County

Mr. Wayne Hinrichs, Executive Director, Travelers Aid Society of San Diego

Mr. John Williams, Executive Director, San Diego Model Cities Program

Mr. Michael Amados, Community Relations, EOC of San Diego County

Federal Representatives

Mr. Dewey Heising, U.S./Mexico Border Commission for Border Development and Friendship

Other Communities in California

International Institute of San Francisco

International Institute of South Bay - Oakland

International Institute of Los Angeles

Tijuana and Mexican Authorities in San Diego

United States Consulate

Mr. J. Raymond Ylatalo, former Consul General

Mr. Alejandro Ynigo, former Staff Member, Project Concern, and Director, Tijuana Council of Social Agencies

Mexico City

Secretaria de Salubridad y Asistencia

Profesora Giselda Alvarez - Chief, Social Service Department

Dr. Alvarez - Gutierrez - Director of Coordinated Services

CASE ILLUSTRATION

A young Mexican-American woman, born in California, is living in San Diego with her five children while her common-law husband, Mr. G, with whom she has had a stable relationship for six years, is in Tijuana trying to obtain an immigration visa in order to rejoin her. The "G's" have never been married because an earlier marriage of Mr. G's, which ended after 6 months when his wife left him, has never been officially dissolved.

Mr. G was deported from San Diego 8 months ago for illegal entry; like many others he had lived in the U.S. for several years prior to his deportation, working, paying taxes, and raising a family. Since Mr. G is not legally married to his "wife," he is not entitled to any special considerations for reentry into the U.S.

Mr. G's absence has forced his "wife" and children to go on welfare and has resulted in considerable emotional stress for all members of the family. The children, who cannot understand why their father is gone and who are told by neighborhood children that "he won't come back" are developing behavior problems. The wife, lonely and caught between attempting to make ends meet and trying to reassure as well as control her children, is becoming increasingly distraught and unable to cope with her situation. Mr. G is confused by all the immigration requirements and does not know how to go about getting himself declared eligible for a visa.

This case illustrates problems faced both by Mexican-American families separated by the border and by social workers trying to help them. Mr. G and his family need casework services as well as immigration and technical assistance. Mr. G requires help in working out a plan which will include the dissolution of his first marriage, the legalization of his common-law relationship, and then the actual application for a visa. He will also probably need employment assistance - and perhaps additional training - since as a result of his deportation he lost his job and will have to look for a new one in San Diego, where jobs are already scarce. Mr. G's "wife" and children need considerable counseling in order to cope with their various problems. The social workers in San Diego, in trying to help this family, are hampered by the lack of service available in Tijuana, and by their own inexperience in the field of immigration laws and regulations.