

U.S. Peace Corps  
Box 2613  
Dar es Salaam  
Tanzania (Tanganyika)  
East Africa

It is Thanksgiving and we have just been sworn in as Peace Corps Volunteers, seventy-two of us from the original eighty-nine trainees. This marks the end of a fourteen week period of very concentrated and vigorous training. It had its tense, frustrating and trying moments, but also we had some fun plus enjoyable classes and lectures. Our transportation was by bicycle, with which we went up and down the hills of Syracuse from classes to living quarters to dining hall.

Only yesterday were we told of our acceptance as Volunteers. A most thorough investigation, including life history and physical and emotional check up, was done on each of us. These studies are unbelievably detailed and old skeletons from closets are produced, dusted off and rattled. As a matter of fact, some training officers maintain that this investigation is more thorough than many done on foreign diplomats.

Yes, now I am a P.C.V., committed to serve for two years as a teacher in Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika). Where I will be stationed I will not know until we arrive in Dar es Salaam on December sixth. We will have three more weeks of in-country training at Mbeya before our group is dispersed into different school areas, two to six of us together. We will teach in the upper primary, patterned after the English system.

To all of you I send an early but happy Season's Greetings and a "Kwa Heri" in Swahili.

Affectionately,  
*Margaret E. Maier*  
Margaret E. Maier

November 27, 1964

*Margaret Macier*

Dear Margaret:

thank you for your good wishes for the New Year which have crossed with mine of January 1. I wonder whether my letter has been forwarded to you from Pasadena. I mentioned that I saw Henry in November in London, but he did not tell me of your Peace Corps assignment which certainly must be a very exciting experience and hopefully also a very gratifying one.

During my recent journey to Europe, I met several friends of your parents who asked about you. So in Frankfurt a/M. Dr. Binder, and in Stuttgart Mrs. Else Wüst. That your uncle is planning to visit Germany, I learned in Bonn from the Arbeiterwohlfahrt; I do not know when he plans to be in Europe, but I shall write him whether he wants your father's book "Karl Flesch's soziales Vermächtnis" back or whether I should send it to your brother in Seattle when he returns from England.

Since I published last year a small research study, "Some Child Welfare Problems in African countries", I am, of course, very much interested in your observations and experiences in Tanzania, and I should appreciate learning of them, if you could include me in the circulation of any round-letters, reports etc.

I hope very much that you do not consider this suggestion an imposition as I am well aware that I never have met you and only was a friend of your parents.

For your life and work with the Peace Corps my sincere wishes. I chaired a meeting on the Peace Corps contributions to social welfare, last year in May at the National Conference on Social Welfare in Los Angeles without knowing that you would join this important work.

If you write to Henry, please give him and his family my best regards.

Cordially yours,

March, 1965

Dear Folks at Home,

This will be the first report of my life in the Peace Corps and now that I have somewhat settled down at my assignment, it is time to let you know something of my doings.

Because of the ~~swift~~ flight from N.Y. to Dar es Salaam, 16 hours plus 8 hours lost in transit because of time changes, it is hard to realize how far Africa really is from the U.S.A. Only in the slowness of receiving mail it became clearer that I am 17000 miles away (so hurry up and write!)

After our training at a secondary boarding school near Mbeya our P.C.V. group Tanzania II, was send into all directions all over Tanzania to their respective posts. At the incountry training at the school we were thought by Africans and English teachers, either from the Ministry of Primary Education ~~of~~ the Inspectorate or by teachers from the Teacher's Training College at Dar. With ample preparation of what it will be like to teach at the African School System we were well prepared to face our assignments. - Of course reality is always different than lectured learning, but the preparation by the Peace Corps as well as by the Tanzanian government has taught as well, "never take anything for granted!"

My assignment placed me into Mbeya town. My only regret is, that it did not give me any chance for traveling and seeing some of Africa. When we arrived at Dar, late in the afternoon in December, we left very early the next morning. Some of us flying directly to Mbeya 550 miles from Dar. I flew, others got a hectic busride for 24 hours to Mbeya. They really saw, and mostly felt the country since only 50 miles are paved and the

Buses broke down several times.

Mbeya's only transportation are buses, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> class that will go all over the country (on dirt roads) to Zambia and Malawi. There is a plan for a railroad in the far future. One airplane, <sup>single</sup> engine, flies once a day to Dar but only three times a week it takes passengers. - Airfares are very expensive and not made for Peace Corps Salaries.

Mbeya is 5500 ft high surrounded by hills and mountains of which I have climbed two, the highest Mbeya Peak being 9800 ft high. It is rather cool and pleasant here, somewhat like Southern California on its best days. Now it is the rainy season and it rains in intervals during the day, about two hours in all.

This part of the country is where the rift-valleys meet from the North and the East and not far from here on a high plateau one can see for miles and in the horizon mountain chains that already belong to Zambia 150 miles away.

Lake Rukwa is 100 miles away and supposedly a wildlife paradise even claiming a spotted zebra. I am anxious to go there some day. So far I have not seen anything of any wildlife bigger than a camelion and of these only a few.

At the surrounding hills there is going on some experiment reforestation of Eucalyptus trees, Pines and Cypress trees which make a lovely sight. Native trees grow only sparsely here, a few Acacias with their typical flat tops and a very few other ones. The hills and mountains have mostly grassland and a few shrubs. There are gorgeous wildflowers on the hills, away from the city. They are plentiful and very brilliant in color.

Mbeya has approximately 4000 inhabitants (estimates vary, depending whom you ask). About 1200 are Asians (Indians) about 80 Europeans (mostly English) and a handful of Arabs, the rest

(2)

## Are Africans.

Almost without any exception the shops are owned and operated by Asians. This is the pattern all over the country. The family often live behind or over their stores sometimes rather comfortable sometimes in very crowded conditions the store being their living room.

The Asian community is divided into several groups, Somalis, Muslims, Hindus being the majority with a few smaller groups mixed in such as Goans.

The local government is run mostly by Africans as well as the Police and the Courts with a few Europeans and Asians still preceding.

The reason for my more detailed description of the Asian community is, because I am teaching in a predominately Asian school, now nationalised, but formerly completely under the jurisdiction of the Somali community. My living quarters too, a very comfortable but single house, is ~~also~~ in the Asian section of town, on a hill with a beautiful view of the town and to the mountains.

I live with an other P.C.V that has been here for a year already with her various dogs (and dog's dog friends). We both teach at the same school just a 200 ft walk down the hill.

We have a lovely garden, full of flowers and weeds and some vegetables from a previous P.C.V. Because of very limited time and less push buttons, we have a "House Boy". A very nice older African who <sup>for many</sup> long years was employed by an English family as a cook. He washes, irons, cleans and cooks for us and even takes care that a nice bouquet of fresh flowers are on the table and in our rooms. He is very trustworthy and a real release to us.

Now to my job. All of us teachers were placed in upper primary schools. Partly because in African schools, English is taught

from the 4 Standard (Grade) on and English used for all instructions only from standard 6<sup>th</sup> on.

I teach in the H.H. The Agalchen School that goes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade that is Standards and it is a so called "English Medium School", that means English instructions are started from the first std. on.

In all schools, although in ours, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Std a nation wide test is taken and who fails is out of school, even though there is some squeezing through specially in our school. In Standard 8 however, an even stiffer test is given nation wide and only those who pass are accepted for free secondary education from form 1 through 4 leading to the Cambridge examinations. If a child does not pass, it is usually the end for him of school. There is however one private school in this town for those who fail and can pay the money to go there.

The number that passes depends on how many places are available at the secondary schools in the country. So far 35% of all children go to school but provisions are made in the Five year government plan to have more schools and more places available each year. The teacher's shortage is great especially qualified grade A Teachers. (That is the reasons we are here). Many are grade B and C teachers with an 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Std. education and with no or little teacher's training. An A grade teacher finished secondary school and had 2 years of teacher's training.

Whether a child goes on to school after 4 or 8 years depends almost entirely on the November test, and for this reason all teaching is geared in this direction.

At lunch time all children go home for somewhat less than two hours. But school is in session from 8<sup>00</sup> am to 4<sup>00</sup> pm with

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Eight periods a day. I teach six periods and have to do other work the rest <sup>of the time.</sup> There are endless exercise books to check (one must check every sentence or problem), lesson plans to prepare daily, logbooks to fill out, registers to keep and school fees to collect. Primary schools are not free. Then there are endless papers to fill out and oh yes, lessons to prepare.

I teach among other subjects, a subject last prepared for "Mathematics" in Standard 6 and 8; partly because I was daring enough to accept it since everyone was afraid to take the subject. - Well so far I stay ahead just one step of the children and learn a lot.

In both classes I have 46 students. In Std 6 they range from 9 to 15 years of age and in Std 8 from 11 to 18 years of age. The classrooms are very small cement floors and just enough room in two isles to go side ways. Asian children are rather a noisy group, that is mostly the boys and are just as hard to handle as American kids except they are not quite as sophisticated as their age and grade mates would be. Girls wear white blouses and green pinafores as their uniform in our school and boys wear white shirts and shorts (sometimes very short) kakis pants.

Saturday is school until noon.

Some classes, tests and then usually a society meets, such as debates, Quiz programs trophy clubs of which each teacher is assigned to a few. Very often Saturday afternoon and part of Sunday I spend grading tests and preparing lessons.

But of course there is some time to squeeze in some diversion. I enjoy gardening but it is hard to keep ahead of the weeds. Besides too many dogs in the neighborhood, including our own, make it almost impossible to fix up a real decent looking garden.

The Asian community is very friendly and one is often invited to stay over for "tea" or for one kind of a party or another. These are musical get togethers when Indian songs are sung with the accompaniment of drums or occasionally a hand pump harmonium.

Children love to come to visit with us, stay for hours if we let them sing and dance for us or just like to talk. They like to bring to us special Indian foods, sweet or very hot and sometimes rice and meat <sup>and</sup> ~~very~~ dishes. This is true on special Moslem holidays when it is a custom to bring food dishes to ones friends.

In town is a moviehouse that shows old American and Indian movies ~~changing~~ twice every week. We go occasionally. It is also a meeting place of friends from the surround.

There are several mission churches in town, mostly manned by English or American missionaries.

There is a Baptist V.B. hospital right at the outskirts of town with an American Baptist Missionary Dr whom we can call on too if needed.

Mbeya has a Peace Corps office and representative that serves the Southeastern region up to 800 miles circumference. From here landrovers are sent out to fetch and supply the P.C.'s that live in remote areas, that is really in "the bush".

This letter should give you an introduction into my life here; my doings and the area in which I live.

"Salam" to all of you  
(a greeting denoting Peace be with you)

and let me hear from you.

Cordially yours,  
Margaret



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

School of Social Welfare  
April 13, 1965

AIR LETTER

H.H. Miss Margaret Meier  
The Agakham School  
P.O. Box 47, Mbeya  
Tanzania, East Africa

Dear Margaret:

Thank you very much for sending me, through your friends in New York, your very interesting report of March 1965 about your first experiences with the Peace Corps.

Your description of the climatic and cultural condition, the transportation system, and the reaction of the people is no surprise to those of us who have been interested for some time in the basic conditions of community development and of educational and social aid to the developing countries. But I was particularly interested to learn about the reactions of the pupils and your experiences with the educational system of Tanzania. I was glad to see that the personal arrangements for your quarters and for your health have been satisfactory. One of my former students who spent two years in Peru was by far worse off than you obviously are. The number of your students seems to me rather high and it must be fairly difficult to keep them interested and eager to learn if you are unable to divide them into smaller groups.

Obviously, the Asian group is much easier for you to contact, but the basic problem certainly still remains--your communication with the African group.

A few weeks ago I had a letter from your brother in London and was glad to hear that he had a very successful seminar recently in Hamburg for which I could send him some fundamental material. I hope that after the end of his basic assignment in England, he will have an opportunity to see some more of continental Europe with his family before he returns to Seattle.

Some time ago, I also had a very nice letter from your uncle in Brazil. I assume he will be on his European journey in the near future again. But I hope that he will be able to visit with me here in Berkeley when he should go to see your brother in Washington.

It will be scarcely necessary to tell you that I will be anxious to hear more of your experiences in the Peace Corps and of your professional plans for the future. With my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Friedlander  
Professor of Social Welfare  
Emeritus

WF:js

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

School of Social Welfare  
April 13, 1965

AIR LETTER

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The Agakham School  
P.O. Box 47, Mbaya  
Tanzania, East Africa

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Sincerely yours,

Walter Friedlander  
Professor of Social Welfare  
Emeritus

WF:js

Margaret Maier

US Peace Corps  
Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania East Africa

May 24, 1965

Dear Margaret:

I trust you have my last letter. Enclosed, you find a photostat of a report on Tanzania by a group of VISA volunteers under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee which did not impress me at all. What do you think of it?, after your own experience during the past months?

I question whether this type of orientation is not very superficial and meaningless. I hope the Peace Corps gave you a better introduction. How are your classes going? I participated during this spring semester in a sociological course on Comparative Community Development with a well informed British professor, Dr. Brockensha who spent many years in Africa, particularly in Ghana.

I have'nt heard from Henry recently, but trust that he enjoys his stay in London very much and will return with new stimulations and pleasant experiences.

From several colleagues in Los Angeles and in St. Louis, Mo I recently had extremely nice letters after they had read the biographical study on your father of whom they did not know before.

Please let me know of your well-being and your challenging work in Africa.

With my best wishes,

Cordially yours,



HH The Agakhan School  
P.O.Box 47, Mbeya,  
Tanzania, East Africa.  
November 28, 1965.

Oh ou Lord Moulana Shan Karim Al-husseini Hazar,  
(well educated, merciful King, descended of the  
Husseini family, our present leader). We humble  
students, most humbly pray for thee. Make firm our  
faith in thee and give us courage to be virtuous.  
Give us the divine guidance to discharge our duties  
loyally and sincerely. Give health, happiness and  
peace to our worthy teachers, parents and all our  
bretheren. Oh Lord, oh our Savior bless us with  
your holy noorani didar (appearance, full of light)  
in this world and the next. Amen.

With this prayer we begin our school day every morning and I send  
it to you as my Christmas greetings.

★ Now I am starting my second year in the Peace Corps in Tanzania.  
There have been some changes, a cut in living allowance for one,  
even though prices are rising. We still have enough and can live  
like the better off Africans, being also provided with housing and  
medical care.

There are changes in the P.C.V. groups. Almost all of Tanz. III  
group have terminated and are on their way home. Among them I had  
many friends, because many were stationed in this area. New groups  
have arrived, the latest one being Tanz. IX, another teacher's  
group. That makes us Tanz. VI the "older" ones, more knowledgeable  
in the ways of the country and our mission. The matter of fact is  
that the new group looks very young and green to us. But I guess we  
gave the same impression upon our arrival a year ago. ★

Now to my job. Although throughout the year I have been teaching  
mathematics and arithmetic in standards 3 and 6, art and some English  
in standards 6,7, and 8, there were often changes, either very tem-  
porarily or for longer. Teachers left, were transferred or were sick.  
So I have at one time or another been teaching in standards 1, 2, 3, 5 be-  
sides my standards, ~~at one time or another~~. I am really getting an  
experience in teaching even though teaching here is quite different  
from the U.S.A. It is more formal, more dogmatic and and more  
limited because of less materials and books available and the  
limitation of background of the children. The understanding of  
the subject by the children is often very shallow and to stimulate  
and motivate the children to learn is the most difficult task. ★

At the beginning of the second term our headmaster went for an up-  
grading course and made me headmistress pro temp.. Upon his return I  
gladly gave back this privilege to him, especially because of shortage  
of some other teachers I often had to teach 40 hours a week. While he  
was gone, one afternoon I had to march with the entire upper school to  
the airport, four miles away, to greet the vice-president of Tanzania Mr  
Kawawa. He was to arrive at one p. m. but finally came at six. School  
children from all surrounding schools were there to welcome him. When  
he finally came he hardly stopped to greet the children.

★ Since September I have been teaching an English course twice a  
week in the evening on the secondary school level to adults. This  
is part of Adult Education Extension, a branch that just recently has  
opened in Mbeya. This has been a very rewarding experience even though  
it added more work to my load. The student's English is limited, es-  
pecially in comprehension. Many of the students are teachers, two  
were headmasters, some medical assistants in the nearby hospital, a

preacher, farmers and secretaries from the regional government office.

In November our standard 8 had finally their big general entrance examination that lasted for the whole day. The children are now waiting anxiously for the results to know who are the lucky ones to be selected to go to secondary schools. There is a fear that this year there will be fewer selected than usually because this year citizenship and Swahili play an important role. Many of our children are either Indian or Pakistanian citizen or hold still a British passport, even though most of them were born in this country. The Swahili paper this year carries exactly the same point value (75) than any of the other subjects: English, mathematics, general knowledge (science, history and geography-). Many of the children have studied Swahili formally only for the past two years, speaking mostly Gujarati at home and English at school.

At the examination itself I was an invigilator (test supervisor) at another school, being personally invited by the Educational District Officer. To watch the poor students from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with only one hour off for lunch was very tiring but interesting. This way I had a chance to take a good look at the test papers.

Of course there are always some parties in and out of school for one reason or another. If it is at one of the Asian homes there are always interesting and strange goodies being served; ample and numerous. Food plays an important role in the Asian community, Hindus, Muslims and Moslems alike.

For relaxation I sometimes work in the garden, often somewhat "Tom Sayer" fashion. Only last Sunday I was trimming a rather large Cyprus hedge around our house, when from next door first one and later two more of the Southwest African refugees came to help. The other day I was preparing the ground for seeding vegetables when a little neighbor servant girl came to help. There is a small brick walk to our entrance full of holes. When I was fixing it our favored pedlar came by selling local made drums and spears. Sometimes he sells us porkmeat or ivory bracelets (some are made out of plastic). His clothing, whatever there is of it, is held together with string and safety pins and his bare feet are full of healed sores and calluses. That day there was no business at our house. He put down his goods and offered his help. He could do a far better job than I ever could have done, using his hands and feet to put the bricks in place securely.

On one week end several of us P.C.V.'s went on a safari by landrover, about 100 miles from here to the Uzungu flats. The flats at this time were very barren and dry. The rivers had hardly any water and the grass was sparse. Some areas had Fevertrees, a beautiful very thorny tree with light bark and yellow flowers. In this area I saw my first wild giraffes, sometimes three to five together and wild beasts, gazellas and many interesting birds. The area is a hunting area and for this reason the animals there are very shy.

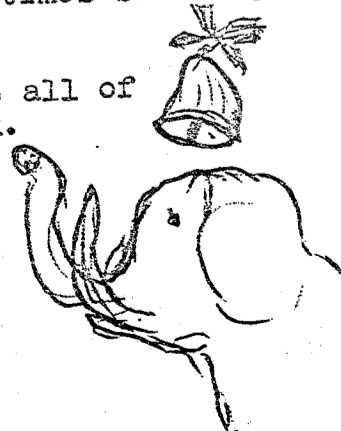
And then I have a little black dog, across bread between an overgrown dachshound and a poodle. He is seven months old and very clever. He obeys well, he knows what "no" means, except as far as he is concerned when it is about chickens. They are around to be chased and pulled on their tail feathers, just for fun of course. He looks for the ball when he is told to and feels like it and stays in the garden when he cannot go with me, sometimes sneaking around the bushes trying it anyhow.

I am looking forward to hear from ALL of you. To all of you I wish a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

From far away Africa.

Yours,

Margaret Mair



January 7, 1966

Miss Margaret Maier  
HH The Agakhan School  
P.O. Box 47, Mbeya  
Tanzania, EAST AFRICA

Dear Margaret:

Thank you for your good wishes for the new year which I cordially return. I was very much interested in your further experience in the Peace Corps, and I hope you will be successful now in your second year in helping the young volunteers find their way in their new assignment in Africa.

I was also interested to learn that you are teaching an adult course in English which is obviously an extension course connected with the University, is it not?

You probably have heard from your brother that he is planning to translate my biographical study of your father into English, and I hope this will help to make it useful for your nephews and for other people not familiar with German. I have also sent the list of your father's publications to the Leo Baeck Institute in New York and to the main archive of social work in Germany. This was done since the original publication of your father's life and work did not include the list of publications which I had prepared for his biography.

Your uncle in Brazil wrote me recently that he was quite interested in reading the compilation of the books and articles which your father had written.

I hope that this second year of your volunteer activity with the Peace Corps will bring you further satisfaction in spite of all the hardships connected with your present work. I would like to hear from you again about your experiences.

With my best wishes in which Mrs. Friedlander joins with me, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Walter A. Friedlander  
Professor of Social Welfare  
Emeritus

WF:ot

February 3, 1971

Miss Margaret E. Maier  
908½ Arroyo Terrace  
Pasadena, California 91103

Dear Miss Maier:

I talked with your brother, Henry, at the Council on Social Work Education Convention in Seattle and he told me that you are from time to time coming to Berkeley to visit friends.

I wonder whether you could arrange to be here in this region on Friday, February 26. I am planning to have a meeting of the NASW Golden Gate Chapter Commission on International Social Welfare on that evening in my house, 6437 Regent Street, Oakland - at the border of Berkeley and Oakland - and I would like very much for you to give a report on your experiences in the Peace Corps if you would like to help us. I shall appreciate word from you whether it might be possible for you to share your experiences with us.

You probably remember the biography which I wrote about your father and which was published in Germany several years ago.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Friedlander  
Professor Emeritus

WF:ms



February 7, 1971

Dear Dr. Friedlander,

Thank you for your invitation to speak to your N.A.S.W. Golden Gate Chapter. I would very much like to accept but have had no plans or funds to come up at that time.

Of course I remember the very fine biography you wrote about my father and I have copies and cherish them very much.

The last time I was in San Francisco, was last summer on my way back from the North. At that time I visited my brother too, and went as far as Vancouver, Canada.

My next big trip will be to Brazil next summer. I'll be there to the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of my uncle Max H. Maier.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Maier