

Biographical note.

Mr. R. S. Tufnell arrived in Iran in October 1961, following 30 years in the United Kingdom's Overseas Service, and is working with the Ministry Health in connection with its narcotics control problems. He believes that healthy outlets for youth in the form of youth organizations, community centres and training in youth leadership are important ways of combatting successfully the alarming incidence of heroin addiction among the young. This state of affairs is symptomatic of young people's energies and enthusiasms not being adequately or constructively utilized. The creation of a well-led and sponsored national youth movement catering for the intellectual, cultural and social needs of the rising generation seems to him the best method of harnessing the huge potential that is Iran's youth and leading it from the path of the drug trafficker towards worth-while pursuits.

Massa-c-l-e Iran

The British Outward Bound Movement

Text of Lecture by R. S. Tufnell, United Nations, Teheran.

Considerable interest has been expressed in Iran about the United Kingdom's Outward Bound Trust for Youth and it is thought that you may wish to hear of the training which it provides as a practical and effective means of developing character in young people.

The movement was started in Britain 23 years ago when training was first given to boys entering the Merchant Navy in order to develop their physical and mental resistance to the ordeals and hardships of war. In 1946 the Outward Bound Trust was formed to apply these principles in peace-time for the purpose of helping boys in all walks of life acquire the confidence and purpose necessary to meet the problems of their adult life and their careers. The impact of mechanization and the increasing speed of life highlighted the need to focus the attention of young people on two important objectives: technical skill and moral integrity. Industrial leaders, whilst able to organise for the former, freely admitted the need for outside help for the latter objective - help which bears directly upon training and selection of future leaders and upon the spirit of co-operation and imagination essential for future progress.

It is as well to set out here the principles on which

courses in Outward Bound training are now based and the application of which is only possible when the people involved live together as a community. They may be summarized as follows:

- 1) that the country's educational system stands in need of increased opportunities for the development of character;
- 2) that the natural love of adventure in young people should be so directed as to develop the right qualities of character;
- 3) that only by experiencing for themselves the pride resulting from a job well done, or the satisfaction of a greater effort sustained by sheer will-power can boys (and girls) discover their better qualities and feel the urge and inspiration to develop them;
- 4) that self-confidence can be greatly strengthened by the exercise of self-control and by the realization of improvement in physical and mental agility;
- 5) that if discipline is imposed by those who command respect, it will be accepted, welcome and reproduced;
- 6) that the obligation of service to others can best be inspired by the experience of subordinating self to a greater cause.

In short, that by facing and surmounting 'searching occasions' under skilled guidance and by experiencing the sensations involved, a permanent impact on character can be achieved.

The methods evolved in the United Kingdom were such as to fire the boys' imagination and to present situations which challenged their powers of determination and self-control and called for initiative, a sense of responsibility and a readiness to serve their fellows. Boys sent by industry and other organizations showed a firmer attitude on return from a month's course - they were fitter, more alert and applied themselves with greater concentration to their work. Potential leaders were discovered and there were many instances of backward and even wayward boys finding new sources of energy and inspiration as a result of adventurous and challenging conditions in the training. As has so aptly been said: "To realize his better

self everyone in youth should pass through some test of adventure and hardship and the adventure must be real."

The initial success of the movement led to increased demand for training which the Trust has been able to meet by generous financial support from industrial companies, charitable trusts, private individuals and the Government. There are now six Outward Bound Schools in the United Kingdom operating to capacity and training annually some 9,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 19½ years. Over 1,000 firms and more than 100 local Educational Authorities have sponsored candidates and many of them do so regularly. Public Undertakings, Police Forces and Municipal Departments also send boys and there are many private sponsors, including parents of scholars at Public and Grammar Schools. All of normal physique are accepted whatever their career, class, creed or nationality.

Throughout a 26 day course the boys earn marks in each phase of the training (e.g. athletics, expeditions, skill in sea and mountain-craft) in which 'honours' and 'merit' standards are laid down according to age. These marks also form the basis of a daily competition between the 'watches' or 'patrols' into which each course is divided. In this way, rivalry between one boy and another is eliminated and the team benefits from the success of each member in attaining his own objective. In addition the boys' individual effort and reaction in the face of each specific challenge is systematically observed and assessed by the Staff. His general behaviour is noted and the development of his character recorded with particular reference to such qualities as courage, unselfishness, truthfulness, perseverance, loyalty and powers of leadership.

At the end of the course a confidential report based on these tests and observations is compiled by the School Warden and sent to the sponsor of each boy. These reports are found to be of great value in providing a skilled and unbiased appreciation of the character and potentialities of the boys. Following their course, the boys are also encouraged to write a report on their experiences in which

comments and criticisms are welcomed. These reports frequently provide further insight into the boy's imagination, judgement and powers of understanding. All boys who complete the course without breaking training conditions are awarded the Outward Bound Badge depicting a compass and a rope on a blue background. A special Warden's Badge, which has a white background, is occasionally awarded to boys whose performance and conduct during a course are exceptionally meritorious.

Much of the discipline of the schools is maintained by the boys themselves. At the beginning of each course the staff selects captains and vice-captains of the 'watches' or 'patrols' comprising the course. At the end of the first week those so selected may be replaced by others chosen by the boys themselves but this right is seldom exercised. The Warden's task in maintaining the tradition of the school is greatly helped by these leaders and through them the influence of the boys' own contemporaries is brought to bear.

The Trust has given help and guidance in the establishing of similar schools abroad and there are now six centres in the British Commonwealth, two in Germany, and one each in the United States of America, Puerto Rico and Holland. The Outward Bound Trust is a nonprofit making company of charitable status. The schools charge a common fee of £40 (Rls. 8,500), including personal accident insurance, per student for each 26 day course. This income meets all running expenses and provides a contribution towards Headquarters' costs of administration. The Trust is dependant on its regular charitable income for that part of the cost of Headquarters not contributed by the schools, as well as the provision of minor capital needs, servicing of loans and mortgages, and for work done for the eleven affiliated Outward Bound Schools overseas.

So far as Iran is concerned one cannot resist the thought that as in England and elsewhere the motives, ideals and principles for which the Outward Bound movement stands should have equal appeal in this country. Iran's youth is her best asset and her most valuable

potential in an age of hectic development and progress. Without a well frained, self-reliant, venturesome and decisive young element equipped to follow their seniors in all grades of the administration and industry, the momentum could slow down and jeopardise economic progress: and when one considers that half the population of Iran is under 18 years of age and over 75% is under 35 the importance of training youth for this vital rôle needs no emphasis.

Finally it must be stressed that the movement is not itself a youth organization. It merely provides a means by which organizations can test their members to the full and by which boys who do not belong to any organization can test or prove themselves and very often thereby be attracted to join an organization. But of the success of the movement in an age of youth there is no doubt.

خوانندگان ارجمند

ضمن اینکه این مجله مورد توجه شما و مجامع علمی و اجتماعی ایران واقع شده خوانندگان خارجی زبان هم بان علاقمند شده‌اند .
در نظر است که در آینده قسمتی از مجله را بزبان انگلیسی یا فرانسه منتشر نماییم . اینک بطور آزمایش مقاله بسیار سودمندی که از آقای تافلن مشاور فرهنگی سازمان ملل متحد در ایران رسیده عیناً درج می‌کنیم ، تا بعداً فرصت ترجمه آن نیز حاصل گردد .

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