THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANIES

SALUTE: STANTON PEEL


His projects have been as short as a matter of minutes, as long as several weeks. They have ranged from studies assignments for the Current Plans Office.

Stanton Peel, like many young engineers, is impatient to make things happen for his company and himself. There are few places where such restlessness is more welcomed or rewarded than in the fast-growing telephone business.

By Lydia Castle

For over two years, a vast development effort has been underway in the Guayana region of Venezuela, an effort unique in the resources at its disposal. In the partnership which has guided it, and in the prospects for its success.

Early in 1961, the Corporacion Venezolana de Guayana (CVG), an Independent corporation of the Venezuelan government, offered the Joint Center for Urban Studies of MIT and Harvard an extraordinary opportunity to participate in the planned development of one of the world’s great resource areas, and in the creation of a major new city in which has been one of the least studied regions of Venezuela.

Centered in 1961 by MIT and Harvard with the aid of a Ford Foundation grant, the Joint Center has brought together, in a single organization, the thinking and research of professors and students from two universities and a dozen academic departments who, whatever their professional disciplines, share a common interest in the problems of the city.

The current Guayana venture, one of the Joint Center’s largest projects, is the only one overseas.

Dual aim

As consultant to the CVG, the Center has two primary aims. It advises the CVG in areas of urban design, industrial development and social planning, simultaneously working with the Venezuelans in building up a counterpart staff able to continue the project without interruption at the end of Joint Center participation.

The appeal of the enterprise to the Joint Center lies in its challenge of handling all of the problems of linking national resources and micro-planning—i.e., the type of problems in which advances in design most often arise from the stimulus of bold experiences.

Partnership with the CVG provides the Center with the opportunity for carrying on advisory work within the research-oriented center group. In turn, the breadth of skills and interests that the Joint Center offers is an undeniably useful adjunct to a project in a developing economy.

A primary responsibility of the CVG-Joint Center undertaking is to provide both long-range strategy and short run tactics for the economic growth of the region and the promotion of a diversified heavy industrial complex at the new city.

Stano Tome de Guayana, Pioneer city

Since comprehensive regional planning based on heavy industry has not been attempted before this, the Guayana project will have great significance for the entire continent.

That urbanization and industrialization go hand in hand and must be integrated within a larger regional framework is the major premise on which all the planning of the project is based. Stanton Peel, working closely with the CVG, began a major experiment in August, 1962; and the public announcement of the project will be presented on Sunday, December 17, at Central Square, New Haven. The presentation will be simulcast to switchover areas in the region.

It is the Center’s hope to provide training experience in the field, its workers must look to the near future; two have already been able to participate actively as members of the resident staff.

Urban Studies Center designs city

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Challenging venture

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