THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANIES

SALUTE: STANTON PEEP

With Southern New England Telephone in New Haven, Stanton Peep (B.S., 1962) handles important engineering assignments for the Current Plans Office. His projects have been as short as a matter of minutes, as long as several weeks. They have ranged from studies such as he made on the telephone facilities layout around Saybrook and Middlesex Junction, Connecticut, to the very comprehensive package he put together on Weather Announcement Service. Even though he's been with Southern New England Telephone less than a year, Stanton Peep has already established an enviable reputation for his thoroughness and keen analytical ability.

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

By Lydia Castle

Urban Studies Center designs city

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 resources areas, and in the creation of a major new city in what has been one of the least settled regions of Venezuela.

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

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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 Venezuela in building up a counterpart staff able to continue the project without interruption at the end of Joint Center participation.

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It is the Center's hope to provide training experience in the field of graduate students in the near future; two have already been able to participate actively as members of the resident staff.

The appeal of the enterprise to the Joint Center lies in its challenge of handling all of the problems of linking national, regional and micro-planning—the type of problems in which advancement is thought least often arises from the stimulus of field experience.

Partnership with the CVG provides the Center with the opportunity for carrying on advisory work within the scope of the project group. In turn, the breadth of skills and interests that the Joint Center brings to the project will undoubtedly yield insights and reformation value concerning the process of urbanization and industrial growth in this particular case.

A primary responsibility of the CVG-Joint Center undertaking is to provide both a 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, Santo Tomas de Guayana.

Pioneer project

Since comprehensive regional planning based on heavy industry has not been attempted before this, the Guayanese project will have great significance for the entire continent. The urbanization and industrialization go hand in hand and must be integrated within a larger regional framework in which all the planning of the project is based. Therefore, early in the growth of the Guayanese industrial complex, the CVG-Joint Center established a special priority for the development of an urban design for the new city.

The city was not merely to provide homes and urban facilities, but would be called upon to reflect the dynamic role that San Tome is slated to play in the industrial development of the region of Venezuela, of Latin America. At the same time, it was necessary to design a city which would most efficiently and effectively serve the needs of industry, its workers, managers, businessmen and professional people; one that would grow with the industry, provide the educational facilities, technical training, health improvements, recreational and cultural backing, as well as satisfactorily distribute the goods and services of a growing area.

Every attempt is being made to avoid the excessive rigidity of a merely monumental and static concept, while at the same time to establish a genuine sense of urbanity and visual expression of the vigor and promise of the new region.

Housing Problem

The most pressing need is for housing units. San Tome has been growing in population more rapidity in the last decade than any city in Venezuela. The 10,000 housing units now in existence are largely substandard, totally inadequate to meet the needs of the 50,000 people in the region in August, 1963; none of the public and private housing programs currently underway are not sufficient to fill the gap.

In May of 1963, the Joint Center, working closely with the CVG, began a major experimental program in self-help housing.

Simultaneously, the two groups made an intensive effort to attract residential investment from private sources.

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