



THE PEACE CORPS

PRESIDENT KENNEDY SIGNS THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE PEACE CORPS.



On March 1, 1961 (13 Adar 5721) President John F. Kennedy held a press conference announcing the signing of Executive Order 10924, establishing the Peace Corps. The following is a transcript of his announcement:

I have today signed an Executive Order providing for the establishment of a Peace Corps on a temporary pilot basis. I'm also sending to Congress a message proposing authorization of a permanent Peace Corps.

This Corps will be a pool of trained men and women sent overseas by the United States Government or through private institutions and organizations to help foreign countries meet their urgent needs for skilled manpower. It is our hope to have between 500 to 1000 people in the field by the end of this year.

We will send Americans abroad who are qualified to do a job. We will send those abroad who are committed to the concept which motivates the Peace Corps. It will not be easy: None of the men and women will be paid a salary. They will live at the same level as the citizens of the country which they're sent to - doing the same work, eating the same food, speaking the same language. We're going to put particular emphasis on those men and women who have skills in teaching, agriculture, and in health.

I am hopeful that it will be a source of satisfaction to Americans and a contribution to world peace.

The next day, during the Purim farbrengen, the Rebbe elaborated on the pertinent message this presidential announcement has for every Chossid:

The Baal Shem Tov teaches that every occurrence is a message for Yidden in *avodas Hashem*. The recent announcement by the president

serves as a reminder to us all about a critical call to action, which has been painfully neglected until now.

For quite some time I have declared, “הערט זיך איין אידן” Listen! There are many “spiritually undeveloped” Jewish communities throughout the world. Yidden that did not have the good fortune to be properly exposed to the beauty of Torah and mitzvos. They lacked a Jewish education and are painfully unaware of the basics of *aleph-beis*. To the point that they are unaware that they are lacking in any way.

Unfortunately, it was necessary to have a gentile broadcast this idea and for it to be publicized in the media, in the hopes that every individual will finally understand that it is directed to him personally.

Since you have been privileged, by no credit of your own, to be raised in a proper Torah environment, you have the obligation to share this treasure with your brethren across the globe.

Do not convince yourself that you can live off the “fat of the land” and remain the rest of your life in these immediate few blocks to enjoy the amenities available here. Television, radio, a shower twice a day and the

highest standards of *cholov Yisroel* and *pas Yisroel*.

Leave these comforts behind and invest some time to reach out to Jews in a foreign location who do not even know that they are lacking the most essential elements of life—Torah and mitzvos. It may be necessary to be there for a day, a week, a month, a year, ten years... however long it will take. Hashem will provide for you the years you need to fulfill your mission and nothing of your own will be diminished.

I have been pleading for years now, in various ways, to encourage everyone to take on this shlichus. I have heard every strange excuse to remain in these few blocks where there is fresh kosher milk available daily.

And when I demand, "What will be with the spiritually undeveloped Jewish communities?" He responds,

"Someone else will deal with them. I am not obligated to worry about Hashem's world."

A Jew is capable of making this choice since he was granted בחירה חפשית. The Alter Rebbe explains that this is a result of the fact that the *neshama* is derived from עצמות ומהות אין סוף ברוך הוא—the only reality where there is true free will.

Now, a Jew is using this powerful gift, entrusted to him as Hashem's royal prince, to defy Hashem's clear directive communicated to us by the Baal Shem Tov: One is obligated to love a fellow Jew across the globe, even if you have never met him!

Finally, this idea appears in the newspapers, in English, and is now "popular" and "modern." Hashem is sending a message through the president and the media to each and every one of us.

לע"נ
התינוק ישראל נח ע"ה
בן יבלחט"א הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל
אדר"ח תמוז ה'תשס"ה

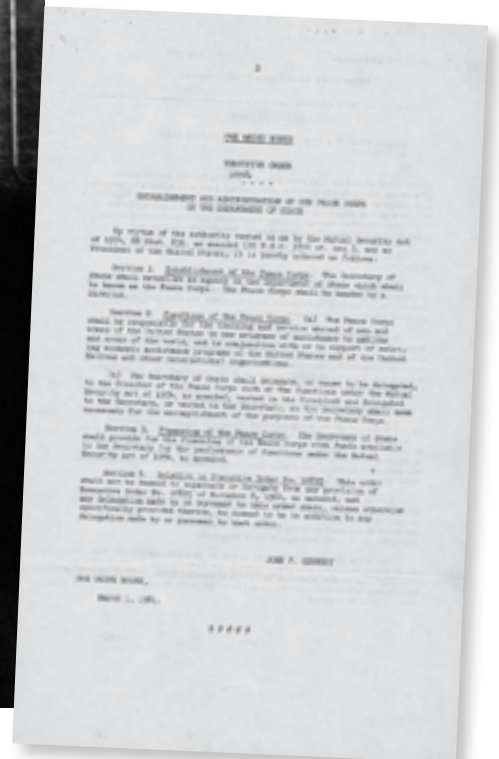
גדפס ע"י הוריו
הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל
וזוגתו מרת חנה ומשפחתם שיחיו
קארנפילד



Do not consult with those whom you know will convince you that you are exempt from this obligation. They themselves know that they are deceiving you.

I cannot guarantee you what your salary will be or what you will eat and drink. One thing is certain: You will be going as a shliach of Hashem on a noble mission, fusing together your *ahavas Hashem* with *ahavas Yisrael*.

Since the *galus* occurred due to unfounded hatred, surely this expression of unbounded love for our fellow Jews will bring about the true and final *geulah*, speedily in our times. T



EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE PEACE CORPS

CIRCA 5721, G SCHUSTERMAN via JEM 303185