Experts and Volunteers in the Field:
Their Work, Life and Thoughts

### By STIG LINDHOLM

THE DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD FOUNDATION UPPSALA, SWEDEN

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To seek the similarities behind the dissimilarities

Almqvist & Wiksell, Stockholm

The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation 1974

The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation was established in 1962 in memory of the late Secretary-General of the United Nations. The views expressed in its publications are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.

General editor: Sven Hamrell

Translated by Neil Tomkinson, B.A.

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ISBN 91-85214-02-7

Printed in Sweden by Almqvist & Wiksell, Uppsala 1974

#### **Preface**

The work on this investigation was done within the framework of the research which I am carrying out on behalf of the Swedish Council for Social Science Research. The Council also defrayed the cost of translating the Swedish manuscript into English. In preparing the data, I was also able to take advantage of a grant from the Tercentenary Fund of the Bank of Sweden. The expenses of travel and accommodation in connection with the collection of data in Africa were defrayed by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA).

The investigation came about on my initiative. In planning it, I had the benefit of meetings with SIDA representatives and was also able to study the material which the SIDA has collected from experts and volunteers on their return to Sweden. I was at liberty to design the investigation in whatever way I considered to be most productive. The responsibility for its planning, execution and reporting therefore rests entirely on me personally.

During my stay in Africa, I was received with kindness and courtesy and secured much help on practical questions. This applied to both the Africans and the Swedish Development Assistance Offices (DAO) and individual experts and volunteers. These two categories are in the following referred to as technical assistants.

The present book is a somewhat shortened version of the research report already published in Swedish. The main results were also presented at the Dag Hammarskjöld Seminar on "Communication—an Essential Component in Development Work", arranged by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Uppsala in September 1972. It refers to Swedish technical assistants, but I consider that it is very relevant to technical

assistants of other nationalities as well. In many respects, we Swedes are not as unique as we often imagine.

Last but not least, it is a matter of great satisfaction to me that the report has now been published in English, because by this means people in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and other countries will have a fresh opportunity to receive feedback from the technical assistants. I, in my turn, shall be grateful to receive criticism and other reactions from readers in both the developing and the industrialized countries.

Stig Lindholm

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