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## Inventory of the George Loft papers

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Library and Archives Staff

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**Title:** George Loft papers

**Date (inclusive):** 1957-1989

**Collection Number:** 2006C21

**Contributing Institution:** Hoover Institution Library and Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 11 manuscript boxes(4.4 Linear Feet)

**Abstract:** Correspondence, memoranda, reports, interview summaries, printed matter, and photographs, relating to American Friends Service Committee activities in Africa, especially relating to housing in Zambia; international development projects in Africa; and political and social conditions in Zambia, Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Africa.

**Creator:** Loft, George

Hoover Institution Library & Archives

**Access**

The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.

**Publication Rights**

For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Library & Archives.

**Acquisition Information**

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Library & Archives in 2005.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], George Loft Papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Library & Archives.

1915

January 27 Born, New York City

1931 Graduated, High School of Commerce, New York

1932-1942 Assistant to Economist, National Dairy Products Corporation, New York

1938 Graduated, Bachelor's degree in Accounting, New York University

1940 Completed Master of Business Administration, New York University

1942 Married Eleanor Riddle

1942-1945 Chief of Subsistence Requirements Section, Military Planning Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington, D.C.

1945-1947 Executive Assistant to Director, Frozen Food Foundation, Inc., Syracuse, N.Y.

1948

January-May Legislative Representative, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Washington, D.C.

1948-1953 Associate Public Relations Secretary, American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia

1953-1957 Director, Public Relations, Atlas Chemical Industries, Wilmington, Delaware

1957-1960 Representative in Sub-Saharan Africa, American Friends Service Committee, based in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia

1960-1961 Advisor on African Programs, American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia

1961-1963 Director, Quaker Program at the United Nations, American Friends Service Committee

1963-1966 Vice President, African-American Institute, New York

1966

November-December Consultant, United Nations Development Program, Malawi

1967-1977 Employed by Field Foundation, New York

1969

July-September Consultant, American Friends Service Committee, Kafue Self-help Housing Project, Zambia

1971

February Consultant, American Friends Service Committee, Kafue Self-help Housing Project, Zambia

1972 Special Mission to Rhodesia, with Eleanor Loft, on behalf of Friends Service Council, London, and American Friends Service Committee

1974-1979 Special Representative, African Service Programs and International Programs, American Friends Service Committee

1975 Consultant, American Friends Service Committee, Kafue Self-help Housing Project, Zambia

1976 Attended Rhodesia Conference, held in Geneva, as member of Quaker Rhodesia Conference group

**Scope and Content of Collection**

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The George Loft Papers, acquired in 2005, document the activities of Quaker activist Loft and his wife Eleanor in southern Africa from the late 1950s through the 1970s. Initially the Lofts were sent by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1958, where George Loft was appointed to be the AFSC's Special Representative for Sub-Saharan Africa, and was based in Salisbury (Harare), Southern Rhodesia.

In this role, Loft served as an intermediary between the British colonial governments in that region and African nationalist leaders. In doing this, the AFSC hoped to foster non-violent social and political change in the region. During this period many African nationalist leaders were imprisoned, and as Loft visited them, he often brought books and news from the families of detainees, and sought to advocate on their behalf before government leaders. Much of the Correspondence dates from this period, and documents Loft's close contacts with government leaders such as Colonial Secretary Iain Macleod, former Southern Rhodesian Governor Garfield Todd, former Governor of Northern Rhodesia Sir Evelyn Hone, and Sir Robert Tredgold, Chief Justice of the Federation High Court. This series also contains correspondence with African nationalist leaders such as Kenneth Kaunda and Hastings K. Banda, who later were long-time presidents of the independent countries of Zambia and Malawi, respectively.

Upon returning to the United States in 1960, Loft continued to work with the AFSC, initially as a full-time employee and later as a consultant on specific projects, most often related to southern Africa. The Subject File documents some of the specific projects and development programs that Loft was involved with in various parts of Africa, most notably in Zambia, where his friendship with President Kaunda and many of his governmental ministers stretched back to their time as detainees under the colonial government. Loft made several trips to Zambia as a consultant on an AFSC project to provide housing for urban squatters, and networked with a wide array of European aid organizations and foundations to obtain funding for such programs.

During the 1970s, as the movement accelerated to bring about black majority rule in Rhodesia, Loft found himself drawn back to the country where he had earlier lived. Because of his connections with many nationalist leaders, such as Joshua Nkomo, Robert Mugabe, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, and a number of others, the AFSC sent him to Rhodesia in 1972 in the hope that his mediating influence could help bring the white minority government back to the negotiating table with these leaders. Loft joined a team of other Quakers from the U.S. and Britain at the Rhodesia Conference that was held in Geneva in 1976, and met informally with many of these leaders once again during the conference, hoping to help further a peaceful settlement that would lead to black majority rule. These activities are also documented in the Subject File.

In addition, the Photographs contain color photographic slides made by Loft documenting his work in Africa, with the strongest representation being from the years 1959-1964, and also of aid and development projects in Zambia and in the West African country of Mali in the early to mid 1970s.

#### **Arrangement**

Organized into three series: Correspondence, Subject File, and Photographs.

#### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Technical assistance -- Africa

Housing -- Zambia

Malawi

American Friends Service Committee

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box 1

#### **Correspondence 1957-1998.**

##### **Scope and Contents note**

Letters to and from African nationalist and governmental leaders, British colonial officials, American diplomats and aid workers, and officials within the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Service Council, London. Largely consists of typed notes describing meetings with individuals as well as correspondence with individuals, arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, followed by a smaller group of chronological correspondence files between Loft and the American Friends Service Committee headquarters in Philadelphia

box 1, folder 1

#### **General. Detainees 1959-1960 Alphabetical**

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box 1, folder 2	<b>A 1958-1960</b>
box 1, folder 3	<b>African National Congress 1958</b>
box 1, folder 4	<b>Alderson, Cecil 1957-1958</b>
box 1, folder 5	<b>Armitage, Sir Robert 1959-1960</b>
box 1, folder 6	<b>Ashton, Hugh 1957-1966</b>
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box 1, folder 8	<b>Banda, Aleke 1959-1966</b>
	<b>Banda, Hastings K.</b>
box 1, folder 9	<b>Correspondence with 1958-1965</b>
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box 1, folder 11	<b>Memoranda of meetings with 1958-1960</b>
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box 1, folder 25	<b>Chakuamba, Steve-George 1958-1962</b>
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box 2, folder 9	<b>E 1960-1979</b>
box 2, folder 10	<b>Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe, e.V. (Bonn, W. Germany) 1975-1980</b>
box 2, folder 11	<b>F 1958-1959</b>
box 2, folder 12	<b>Field, Winston 1962-1964</b>
box 2, folder 13	<b>Finn, H. R. 1958-1959</b>
box 2, folder 14	<b>Foot, Sir Hugh 1962-1969</b>
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box 2, folder 16	<b>Garley, David 1958-1960</b>
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box 2, folder 22	<b>Hadsel, Fred 1958-1959</b>
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	<b>Howard, Phillip</b>
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box 2, folder 31	<b>1967-1974</b>
box 2, folder 32	<b>1975-1986</b>
box 3, folder 1	<b>I 1958-1959</b>
box 3, folder 2	<b>Interchurch Coordination Committee for Development Projects (Netherlands) 1974-1979</b>
	<b>J 1959-1960</b>
box 3, folder 3	<b>Jere, Harrington 1983-1987</b>
box 3, folder 4	<b>Jones, Sir Glyn 1960-1965</b>
box 3, folder 5	<b>K 1957-1970</b>
box 3, folder 6	<b>Kalulu, Solomon 1962-1975</b>
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	<b>Kaunda, Kenneth</b>
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box 4, folder 8	<b>Moffat, Sir John 1959-1964</b>
box 4, folder 9	<b>Morris, Colin 1958-1969</b>

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box 4, folder 10	<b>Mpofu, Alfred 1959</b>
box 4, folder 11	<b>Msika, Joseph 1959-1980</b>
box 4, folder 12	<b>Msonthi, John 1959-1966</b>
box 4, folder 13	<b>Mtandwa, Peter 1960-1974</b>
box 4, folder 14	<b>Mugabe, Robert and Sally 1967-1980</b>
box 4, folder 15	<b>Muhsin, Ali 1959-1963</b>
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box 4, folder 18	<b>Murphy, Richard 1957-1974</b>
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box 4, folder 20	<b>Mushonga, Paul and Evelin 1959</b>
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box 4, folder 22	<b>Mutasa, Didymus 1958-1973</b>
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box 4, folder 30	<b>Nkomo, Joshua 1959-1980</b>
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box 4, folder 38	<b>P 1957-1976</b>
box 4, folder 39	<b>Padmore, George 1958-1959</b>
box 4, folder 40	<b>Palley, Ahrn 1962-1966</b>
box 4, folder 41	<b>Palmer, Joseph 1958-1969</b>
box 4, folder 42	<b>Paradis, Ronald 1960</b>
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box 4, folder 44	<b>Parry, Hugh 1959-1963</b>
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box 4, folder 46	<b>Pifer, Alan 1957</b>
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box 4, folder 48	<b>Prain, Sir Ronald 1957-1969</b>
box 4, folder 49	<b>Pretorius, J. L. 1959-1965</b>
box 4, folder 50	<b>R 1957-1960</b>
box 4, folder 51	<b>Radley, Philip 1958-1959</b>
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box 5, folder 1	<b>Rennie, Sir Gilbert 1959-1960</b>
box 5, folder 2	<b>Rhodes, Willard 1958</b>
box 5, folder 3	<b>Rubadiri, David and Gertrude 1963-1998</b>
box 5, folder 4	<b>S 1957-1984</b>
box 5, folder 5	<b>Senn, G. C. 1959-1980</b>
box 5, folder 6	<b>Shamuyarira, Nathan 1962-1979</b>
box 5, folder 7	<b>SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority) 1975-1981</b>
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box 5, folder 9	<b>Sipalo, Munukayumbwa 1964</b>
box 5, folder 10	<b>Sithole, Edson 1959</b>
box 5, folder 11	<b>Sithole, Rev. Ndabaningi 1960-1966</b>
box 5, folder 12	<b>Sjöman, Vilgot 1958</b>
box 5, folder 13	<b>Smith, George-Ivan 1974-1975</b>
box 5, folder 14	<b>Smith, Leslie 1959-1960</b>
box 5, folder 15	<b>Smyly, David and Veronica 1958-1959</b>

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box 5, folder 16	<b>Sonjo, A. Machila 1959-1960</b>
box 5, folder 17	<b>Spivey, Ronald 1959</b>
box 5, folder 18	<b>Steere, Loyd V. 1957-1959</b>
box 5, folder 19	<b>Stephens, Christopher and Alice 1959</b>
box 5, folder 20	<b>Stewart, Joyce 1958-1959</b>
box 5, folder 21	<b>Swart, Edward 1958-1959</b>
box 5, folder 22	<b>T 1957-1960</b>
box 5, folder 23	<b>Takawira, Leopold 1962-1970</b>
box 5, folder 24	<b>Tatum, Lyle 1962-1963</b>
box 5, folder 25	<b>Temple, Merfyn 1957-1965</b>
box 5, folder 26	<b>Thompson, Jack 1957-1960</b>
box 5, folder 27	<b>Thorne, F. T. 1958</b>
box 5, folder 28	<b>Todd, Garfield 1959-1988</b>
box 5, folder 29	<b>Tredgold, Barbara 1958-1985</b>
box 6, folder 1	<b>Tredgold, Sir Robert 1962-1977</b>
box 6, folder 2	<b>Union Miniere du Haut Katanga 1957</b>
box 6, folder 3	<b>V 1958-1960</b>
box 6, folder 4	<b>Van der Merwe, Hendrik 1984-1987</b>
box 6, folder 5	<b>Van Wyk, Fred J. 1979</b>
box 6, folder 6	<b>Vernon-Jackson, Hugh 1975</b>
box 6, folder 7	<b>W 1957-1979</b>
box 6, folder 8	<b>Welensky, Sir Roy 1960</b>
box 6, folder 9	<b>Whitehead, Sir Edgar 1958-1959</b>
box 6, folder 10	<b>Wilson, Anthony E. 1971-1977</b>
box 6, folder 11	<b>Wilson, Roger 1959</b>
box 6, folder 12	<b>Wina, Arthur 1964-1965</b>
box 6, folder 13	<b>Wina, Sikota 1964</b>
box 6, folder 14	<b>Y 1958</b>
box 6, folder 15	<b>Zvogbo, Eddison 1973-1980</b>
	<b>Chronological</b>
	<b>George Loft to AFSC Headquarters, Philadelphia</b>
box 6, folder 16	<b>1957</b>
	<b>1958</b>
box 6, folder 17	<b>January-May</b>
box 6, folder 18	<b>June-December</b>
	<b>1959</b>
box 6, folder 19	<b>January-May</b>
box 6, folder 20	<b>July-December</b>
box 6, folder 21	<b>1960</b>
box 6, folder 22	<b>AFSC Headquarters, Philadelphia, to George Loft 1957-1960</b>
box 7	<b>Subject File 1958-1980.</b>

**Scope and Contents note**

Correspondence, reports, memoranda, news clippings, pamphlets, government publications, minutes of meetings, and press releases, which primarily document American Friends Service Committee projects and initiatives related to Africa, and especially in the countries of Malawi, Mali, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). Arranged alphabetically by name of country

**General**

box 7, folder 1	<b>All-African People's Conference, Accra, Ghana 1958</b>
	<b>Fundraising trips to Europe and Africa, for AFSC sponsored projects</b>
box 7, folder 2	<b>1969 September</b>
box 7, folder 3	<b>1974 September-October</b>
box 7, folder 4	<b>1975 September-November</b>
box 7, folder 5	<b>South Africa / Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, trip report, George Loft and Louis Schneider 1958</b>
box 7, folder 6	<b>Southern Africa reports from George Loft 1958-1960</b>
	<b>Malawi</b>

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box 7, folder 7	<b>Cabinet crisis 1964</b>
	<b>U.N. Development Program, special mission (1966)</b>
box 7, folder 8	<b>Background information 1966-1967</b>
box 7, folder 9	<b>Correspondence 1966-1967</b>
box 7, folder 10	<b>Itinerary and contacts list 1966</b>
	<b>Reports</b>
box 7, folder 11	<b>George Loft 1966</b>
box 7, folder 12	<b>International Labor Organization 1966</b>
box 7, folder 13	<b>United Nations Development Program 1965-1966</b>
box 7, folder 14	<b>Government offices directory 1974</b>
	<b>Mali</b>
box 7, folder 15	<b>Drought relief project 1974</b>
box 7, folder 16	<b>Drought relief project 1975</b>
box 7, folder 17	<b>Photographs, relief projects circa 1977</b>
box 8	<b>Zambia / AFSC housing projects</b>
box 8, folder 1	<b>Agreements with the Zambian government 1967-1968</b>
box 8, folder 2	<b>Contact lists 1967-1968</b>
	<b>Correspondence</b>
box 8, folder 3	<b>General 1967-1974</b>
	<b>Bard McAllister, AFSC Zambia Field Director</b>
box 8, folder 4	<b>1967</b>
box 8, folder 5	<b>1968</b>
box 8, folder 6	<b>1969</b>
box 8, folder 7	<b>1971</b>
	<b>Henry Passmore, AFSC Headquarters</b>
box 8, folder 8	<b>1967</b>
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	<b>Zambian government</b>
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box 8, folder 14	<b>President Kenneth Kaunda 1967-1970</b>
	<b>George Loft visits</b>
box 8, folder 15	<b>1967</b>
	<b>1969</b>
box 8, folder 16	<b>Correspondence and news reports 1969</b>
box 8, folder 17	<b>News clippings and background information 1969</b>
	<b>1971</b>
	<b>Background information</b>
box 8, folder 18	<b>General 1968-1971</b>
box 8, folder 19	<b>Kafue Housing Project 1967-1971</b>
	<b>Correspondence</b>
box 8, folder 20	<b>Contacts in Geneva 1971</b>
box 8, folder 21	<b>Contacts in Zambia 1971</b>
box 8, folder 22	<b>Other aid and development agencies 1971</b>
box 8, folder 23	<b>Miscellany 1971</b>
box 9, folder 1	<b>1975</b>
box 9, folder 2	<b>Photographs 1969-1977</b>
box 9, folder 3	<b>Publicity 1970-1978</b>
	<b>Reports</b>
box 9, folder 4	<b>"A View of the Kafue Squatter," 1970</b>
box 9, folder 5	<b>"Chawama Self-Help Housing Project," 1975</b>
	<b>Zimbabwe-Rhodesia</b>
	<b>George and Eleanor Loft mission (September-October 1972)</b>
	<b>Background material</b>
box 9, folder 6	<b>Abel Muzorewa, pamphlets 1972</b>
	<b>Government publications, Rhodesia</b>

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box 9, folder 7	<b>"Anglo-Rhodesian Relations," 1971</b>
box 9, folder 8	<b>"Constitution," 1969</b>
box 9, folder 9	<b>"Economic Survey of Rhodesia," 1972</b>
box 9, folder 10	<b>Government publications, United Kingdom, Pearce Commission Report 1972</b>
box 9, folder 11	<b>Justice for Rhodesia campaign 1972</b>
box 9, folder 12	<b>Miscellany 1969-1972</b>
	<b>Report 1972</b>
box 9, folder 13	<b>Part I</b>
box 9, folder 14	<b>Part II</b>
box 10	<b>Rhodesia Conference, Geneva (October-December 1976)</b>
box 10, folder 1	<b>Background material 1976-1977</b>
	<b>Correspondence</b>
box 10, folder 2	<b>Conference participants 1976-1977</b>
	<b>Friends Service Council, London</b>
	<b>Walter Martin 1976-1977</b>
box 10, folder 3	<b>Others 1976</b>
box 10, folder 4	<b>Trevor Jepson 1976-1977</b>
box 10, folder 5	<b>Kenneth Kaunda 1976</b>
box 10, folder 6	<b>Others 1976</b>
box 10, folder 7	<b>Meeting minutes, Friends Service Council, London, Ad Hoc Group on Quaker</b>
box 10, folder 8	<b>Presence at Geneva Talks 1976</b>
box 10, folder 9	<b>Meeting notes (George Loft, Trevor Jepson, Lyle Tatum) 1976</b>
box 10,	<b>Press clippings 1976</b>
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	<b>Press releases and position papers</b>
box 10, folder 12	<b>African National Council 1976</b>
box 10, folder 13	<b>Zimbabwe African National Union 1976</b>
box 10, folder 14	<b>Other parties 1976</b>
box 10, folder 15	<b>Weekly reports (George Loft, Trevor Jepson) 1976</b>
box 10, folder 16	<b>Friends Service Council / Quaker Peace and Service, London 1978-1980</b>
box 10, folder 17	<b>London Conference (1979)</b>
	<b>Freedom House--Election monitoring (1979)</b>
box 10, folder 18	<b>Correspondence and press clippings 1979</b>
box 10, folder 19	<b>Report 1979</b>
	<b>News clippings</b>
box 10, folder 20	<b>1969</b>
box 10, folder 21	<b>1974</b>
box 10, folder 22	<b>1976-1977</b>
box 10, folder 23	<b>1978-1980</b>
box 11	<b>Photographs 1958-1979.</b>
	<b>Scope and Contents note</b>
	Although there are a few photographic prints, the bulk of this series are color 35mm slides taken by Loft and documenting his work in southern Africa from 1958 to 1964, as well as the three All-African Conferences held between 1958 and 1961 in Accra, Tunis, and Cairo. Also included are photographs from trips during this period to Nigeria, Congo, Tanzania, and Senegal, as well as development projects in Mali and Zambia during the 1970s. Arranged by format, prints and slides, with slides arranged in groups A-L, representing events or subjects
box 11, folder 1	<b>Prints.</b>
	<b>Scope and Contents note</b>
	Miscellaneous African leaders (Henry Chipembere, Kenneth Kaunda, Eduardo Mondland, Holden Roberto)
box 11, folder 2	<b>35mm slides, taken by George Loft 1958-1979</b>
	<b>List of individual slides, arranged by group</b>
	<b>Group A: Third All-African People's Conference, Cairo, Egypt March 1961</b>
	<b>Group B: Second All-African People's Conference, Tunis, Tunisia January 1960</b>

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**Group C: First All-African People's Conference, Accra, Ghana December 1958**  
**Group D: Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) 1959-1964**  
**Group E: Northern Rhodesia / Zambia 1957-1964**  
**Group F: Nyasaland / Malawi 1957-1964**  
**Group G: First International Congress of Africanists, Accra, Ghana December 1962**  
**Group H: Dakar Colloquium on African Economic Development and Ways of Socialism, Dakar, Senegal December 1962**  
**Group I: Field trip for American Friends Service Committee to Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania), Congo Republic, Nigeria April-May 1961**  
**Group J: Belgian Congo trips, Elizabethville (1957), Leopoldville (1958)**  
**Group K: Mission to Mali, American Friends Service Committee resettlement scheme for Sahel nomads; women's work projects March 1979**  
**Group L: Lusaka, Zambia, October 1974 and October 1975, Self-help urban squatter upgrading scheme at John Howard Compound, led by American Friends Service Committee**