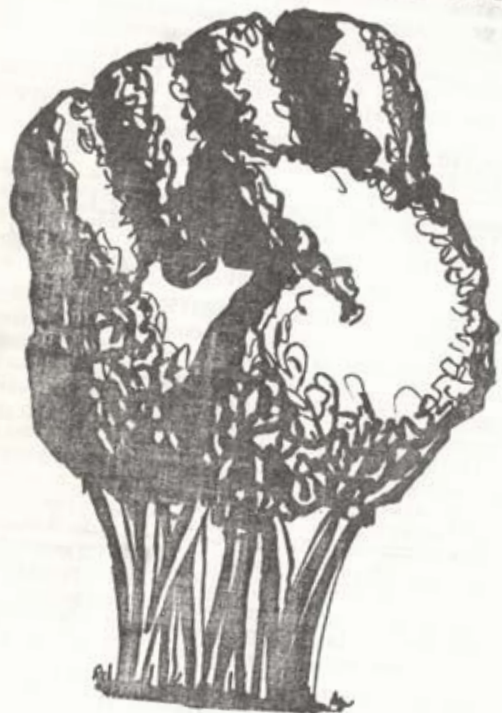


**RIO**  
**+20**  
**STH+40**

# The UN participatory rebellion - People's Stockholm Summits '72



**folkets forum**



**ABF huset 7-12/6**

**sveavägen 41**



# The true history of global environmentalism

*Photo below by Björn Gustavsson. A mass demonstration by some 7 000 directly outside the UN conference venue to the left in June 1972. The protest opposed the ecocide caused by the US use of Agent Orange killing the forests in Vietnam. You find more information at: [www.agentorangerecord.com](http://www.agentorangerecord.com).*

Already in 1972 at the first UN environmental conference popular movements had radically different ideas from the governmental agenda. In the building of a popular movement for social and environmental justice against privatization of welfare and nature towards and beyond Rio+20 this can give strength to long term commitment. In 1972 the environmental movement based on a strong alliance between activists from the South and North challenged the main stream solutions to solve the global environmental crisis by privatizing nature and postponing solutions into the future. According to both governmental and influential non-governmental actors political confrontations had to be avoided by replacing politics with science and the hope for what growth and development could bring in the future without social changes.

It was the first time in history when independent popular activities took place at a summit with interaction both ways at the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in 1972 in Stockholm. The popular movement activities was planned well ahead. A small group of twelve activists from different strands formed the Powwow group. A call for international decentralized action was issued. By participating in the official youth preparatory meeting in Hamilton in Canada an alliance with people from all over the world could be built. The Powwow group also organized events in Stockholm and initiated a coalition of organizations that arranged the People's Forum. These independent initiatives opened up also for the government to support the Environmental Forum where third world activists from the OI Committee could challenge the main stream Anglo American environmentalism.



# The People's Stockholm Summits 1972 Documents

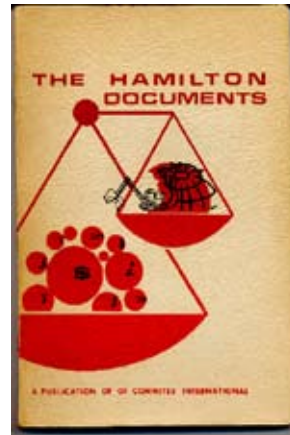
The material we here present are the key documents from the popular activities. The Powwow manifesto from March 1971, The Hamilton documents from August 1971 and the Oi committee declaration from June 1972.

This material is published by Association Aktivism.info. It is a contribution to the Global Day of Action June 5 and The People's Summit for Social and Environmental Justice in Rio June 2012. Editor Tord Björk. Gathering of material Ingrid Eriksson and Jan Wiklund

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POWWOW



Oi Committee International  
An International Committee of Young Scientists and Workers  
for a New and Better World - Opposed to Capitalism and the Atomic Bomb

**DECLARATION  
on the  
THIRD WORLD  
and the  
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

**STOCKHOLM JUNE 1972**





# The People's Summits at The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 1972

In June 1972 many politicians, journalists and activists gathered in Stockholm to start actions to save the global environment. People from every strand were there, Indians from North and South America together with Christian peace activists, supporters of liberation movements, groups closely related to corporate interests, emerging international environmental organizations as Friends of the Earth and tree huggers that recently had saved Elms some 200 meters away from the UN conference venue in a violent battle with the police. Two People's Summits were organized as well as special conferences and meetings as the Christian Peace initiative Dai Dong with Samir Amin as a key participant or Black Mesa meeting to denounce the oppression of Indians in all of Americas.

14 months ahead -  
Call for international action day

Once more are popular movements confronting governmental and corporate plans for the future in the preparations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio June 2012 called Rio+20 taking place 40 years after the first conference in Stockholm. The criticism against the official agenda of the UN conference were in many aspects as radical or even more than as it is today. The biggest difference is that prior to the People's activities in 1972 the earliest emphasis was put on making a coherent



*Danish action during the conference by Noah,  
today Friends of the Earth Denmark,*

call for an international action day 14 months ahead of the gatherings in Stockholm. In 2012 the call was issued only 5 months ahead. You find the call made in April 1971 as the first document in this publication.

The local direct action group Alternativ Stad was the main force in promoting decentralized actions internationally and during the UN conference in Stockholm. The Anti Vietnam war movement ranging from Christians to social democrats, anti imperialists and peace activists contributed strongly to gather mass participation in protesting at the conference venue. Thus action embedded the People's Summits rather than the other way around, action being a decoration for meetings.

## The influence of 1972 on the movement

The People's Summit and other activities during Rio+20 will have a larger participation. But the people's activities in 1972 are important forerunners and had a lasting influence.

Before these people's summits Anglo-American ideologies were dominating the public discussion in many countries. Ideas about population control of the poor, natives incapacity to protect nature as their commons led to deterioration of ecosystems contrary to private ownership, that the individual moral was the main problem - all this was presented as scientific unquestionable truths also by Friends of the Earth.

Afterwards the environmental movement including groups as Friends of the Earth instead chose to confront power and question the unfair world order. In academic literature this is seldom or never mentioned. Thus is the material presented in this publication unique. Two of the documents, the Powwow manifesto and the Hamilton documents, have never before been made accessible on the internet, and very hard to find in stencil or printed form if at all possible.



*Dutch poster protesting  
against the UN conference*



*The Powwow group makes propaganda one year ahead at Gärdet music festival, from the left Per Janse, Ann Zacharias and Björn Eriksson*

The last document was issued by The Oi Committee during the conference. It was under such extreme stress that it was 10 minutes to late for the press conference and the copies got lost. The group of some 60 activists from the third world more or less dispersed. 33 years later the declaration was found by the Association Aktivism.info and given to the then chair of Friends of the Earth International, Meena Raman, at a ceremony in Stockholm.

We will present more material in this Rio+20 series which will give more knowledge about what happened in 1972 and what we can learn from that in the future.

## **Powwow, Hamilton and Oi**

The material shows that social justice concerns and the participation from activists from Asia, Africa and Latin America were crucial from the very beginning of the global environmental movement and the op-

position against the official governmental agenda as strong as it is now. The mainstream description of the history of the environmental movement claiming that there was only one global environmental movement dominated by Anglo American ideologies is false. The ideas that the environmental issue was socially neutral was successfully defeated as the main ideology of the movement by a coalition of people from the third world and Swedish popular movements. Ideas that gained no more ground in the movement but every time now and then is introduced again as solutions included to avoid "the tragedy of the commons" by establishing ownership of nature, that the main problem was what was called "population explosion" which according to some should be controlled by forced sterilization of people in the third world and the idea that we live in "spaceship earth" were politics was the problem that could be solved by relying on scientists using computers.

The problem was addressed in the Powwow manifesto as "The earth is being raped. Economic Growth has become a god for whom life on earth is crippled, natural resources are plundered, and man is enslaved." The view of the role of man is seen as "Man is not the Master of Nature, but a Part of It - an Active Modifying part of the ensemble of species in the Ecosystem." followed by:

"Maximum Economic Growth, Maximum Production, Maximum Consumption - these cannot be sane goals for a humanity living inside a thin Membrane of Life on a Limited Planet. Each day more and more people realize the madness of striving for these goals as they experience the utter dirt, traffic jams, polluted air and water, poisoned food and vanishing nature. ... These [] goals hide a reality of material wealth for some, impoverishment for many, and a reduction in the overall Quality of Life for all of us. ... These goals are also used to justify the ever-increasing Centralisation of Influence and Power in Giant Multinational Corporations, Powerful Governments, and Monstrous Military Machines."

The UN Conference agenda is denounced:

"Forced by the intensified discussion of the Conditions of Life on Our Limited Planet, Politicians, Government, Corporations, and International Organizations have begun to talk about the "human environment. ... But politi-

cians from all over the world, assembled for a couple of weeks in Sweden will not be able to solve the problems we face. What the politicians can do is to refer to Foggy Clouds made by the Experts and thus make many of us believe that the problems are too difficult for us to understand.”

At the Hamilton youth conference a rebellion started against the agenda of the meeting set up by dominant US concerns. The scheduled expert talks were dismissed and replaced by working sessions for each continent producing a joint Statement of the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment. It starts with the conclusion:

“Considering that a majority of the world’s people are suffering from unequal and insufficient access to resources, and hence are robbed of their right to use their environment for their own human needs, we have reached the conclusion that most particular environmental problems are the result of the unequal distribution of wealth and power both nationally and internationally. Contributing to this sense of crisis is the fact that the production of economic goods

is for the most part organised not with regard to human needs and the imperatives of the human environment, but for the sake of private gain or the achievement of military power.”

The Youth at Hamilton elected a Vietnamese as their spokes person at UNCHE. The general secretary of the conference Maurice Strong had put a lot of effort into establishing the youth participation. But after Hamilton it was erased from the process and replaced by a statement from Scouts. At Hamilton the youth inside the official process stressed the need for demanding acknowledgement of power relations that needs to be addressed. This was further expressed by the representatives from 41 countries in the Oi Committee during the Stockholm Summit:

“By using the concept “**THIRD WORLD**” we focus attention on problems common to peoples who have the shared historical and ongoing experience of being dominated and exploited by other nations. This domination has sharpened the conflict of certain classes ruling over others in our respective societies in the underdeveloped as well as the industrialized regions of the world. The common root of these expressions of domination is in the

*Below members of the Oi Committee criticizing Western Environmentalism at the Environmental Forum*



socio-economic system which allows and favors "development" for one part of society at the expense of another. The price is hunger, disease, environmental deterioration and lack of freedom, lack of access to vital information and of participation."

The Club of Rome and others addressing the environmental issue as a question of individual moral or growth as such rather than the social organizing of production and consumption was challenged:

"We strongly reject models of stagnation, proposed by certain alarmist Western ecologists, economists, industrialists and computerfans and assert that holding economic growth per se responsible for environmental ills amounts to a diversion of attention from the real causes of the problem which lie in the profit-motivation of the systems of production in the capitalist world. Likewise we state that the level of consumption (affluence) per se is not a cause of environmental problems. Therefore the bulk of the so-called "ecology movements" in most industrialized countries that stress personal ethics of recycling and non-consumption are at best diversionary tactics which fail to put the primary emphasis on the destruction of the profit-oriented system of production."

Of special concern was to respond to the emphasis on population control in the South advocated by Western environmentalists.

"It has often been suggested that the root cause of environmental problems is that the world is "overpopulated"; thus population control is demanded as a solution. We assert, on the contrary, that population growth is neither the most important nor the most decisive factor affecting the human environment. In fact, when population is considered in relation to the development of the environment, there is a vast, as yet underutilized and wasted human energy which can be used to promote development. The question of population is inevitably linked to the question of access to resources. Most arguments for population control are based on the concept of an optimal population size, ignoring that the world is not under one system."

Prior to UNCHE Friends of the Earth issued the book *Population Explosion* by Paul Ehrlich. In it the author proposed forced sterilization of people in the third world. At the Environmental Forum the debate between on the one side OI committee and their

Swedish allies and the Anglo American view got a lot of attention. The view of the OI Committee was not rejecting totally the idea of a need for stabilizing population growth but put the issue in a broader perspective and opposing external pressure:

"We also reject the thesis that the onus of population control must fall on the industrialized countries. Recognizing that in the latter the mode of production of economic goods is a much larger contributor to the environmental crisis than population growth, it is clear that the emphasis must be on changing the modes of production, which, we believe, implies a fundamental change in the socio-economic systems governing the means of production. Nevertheless we do not deny that there may be an eventual need to stabilize population growth. This should not be achieved through exerting external pressures of manipulating people to go against their immediate individual interests. Such an approach is intrinsically inhuman and demands a constant technical control over people. What is needed, in our view, is a process which releases the internal mechanisms by which a population stabilizes itself. The emphasis must be placed on generating a consciousness among people to relate their immediate interests to the broader and long-term interests of the community as a whole. This consciousness, of course, must be preceded by a reorganization of society and the system of production for an equitable distribution of resources. We therefore strongly condemn the international agencies and aid programs for their involvement in population control policies which are against Third World peoples and which will perpetuate their exploitation."

Only people opposing oppression can save the world, not UN controlled by powerful expansionist states:

Finally, we do not believe that the United Nations organization will be able to find solutions to the problems of mankind so long as it is directed and controlled by the very powerful expansionist industrial and military states which oppress the peoples of the exploited world. It is absurd to expect the oppressors to initiate and implement the process of liberation of the oppressed. We assert that the problems of this world can only be solved by the people. Therefore we call on all the people of the world to intensify their struggle against the forces that oppress us.





The earth is being raped.

Economic Growth has become a god  
for whom life on earth is crippled,  
natural resources are plundered, and  
man is enslaved.

Each day more and more people realize  
that we must *Create a New Way of Life*,  
we must change our views of Man,  
of Nature, and  
of the Purpose of Human Societies.

Man is not the *Master of Nature*, but a *Part of It* -  
an *Active Modifying* part of the ensemble of species in the Ecosystem.  
He has developed technology to modify nature  
ever since he first threw a spear at an animal.

Now we must learn to work with nature  
instead of against it.

Maximum Economic Growth,  
Maximum Production,  
Maximum Consumption -  
these cannot be sane goals for a humanity  
living inside a thin Membrane of Life on a *Depleted Planet*.

Each day more and more people realize the madness  
of striving for these goals  
as they experience the litter and dirt,  
traffic jams,  
polluted air and water,  
poisoned food and  
vanishing nature.

These goals lead to the building of *Artificial and Inhuman Cities*  
that favor the *Growth of Bureaucracy*,  
*Alienate Man from his Nature*, and  
force him to live in *Gloominess*,  
*Crowding*, and  
often *Misery* and  
*bottomless Poverty*.

These same goals hide a reality of material wealth for some,  
impoverishment for many, and  
a reduction in the overall *Quality of Life* for all of us.

These goals are also used to justify  
the ever-increasing *Centralization of Influence and Power*  
in *Giant Multinational Corporations*,  
*Powerful Governments*, and  
*Honorable Military Machines*.

This development increasingly turns people into *Objects*,  
controlled and  
handled by *Man of Power*,  
*Alienating Man from the Product of his Labor*  
and from his *Yellow Man*.

Now we must find new ways of production  
that enable us to live with the *Resources of the Earth* instead of  
poisoning and devastating them.  
We must find new ways of *Sharing and Utilizing* this production  
for *Human Liberation*.

What we must do  
is to cooperate in order to *Seize Control of Our Own Lives*.  
In this struggle we must anticipate powerful antagonists,  
and we must analyse their strengths,  
interests, and intentions.  
At the same time we must intensify our discussion on  
strategy  
and *Viable Alternatives*  
for a new way of life,  
where free people freely cooperate with each other.  
We must be in solidarity with oppressed people struggling for liberation  
in poor countries and everywhere.





Forced by the intensified discussion of the conditions of life  
 on our limited planet,  
 politicians,  
 governments,  
 corporations, and  
 international organizations  
 have begun to talk about the "human environment".  
 With this title the United Nations is planning a huge conference  
 to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, during June 5 - 16, 1972.  
 The conference will be visited by some 1200 delegates -  
 primarily politicians -  
 from more than a hundred countries.

Get politicians from all over the world,  
 assembled for a couple of weeks in Sweden  
 will not be able to solve the problems we face.  
 What the politicians can do is to  
 refer to "Stage One" made by the experts  
 and thus make many of us believe  
 that the problems are too difficult for us to understand.  
 as reflected already in the conference title,  
 they will present a picture  
 in which politicians heal the wounds  
 of Man's Environment,  
 while we himself is left powerless and  
 without a creative role.

They will formulate the issues so that the task appears to be  
 to modify the consequences of the current development  
 rather than to create a New Way of Life.  
 They will present Sadistic Proposals  
 to convince us and maybe even themselves  
 that our future is in Good Hands.

The "Message" from the conference will be propagated all over the world.  
 At least 500 journalists  
 from newspapers, magazines, radio, and television, will be present.

#### OUR TASK IS SIMPLE

Get together and do some thing  
 during June 5-16, 1972.  
 Join these actions, which will be  
 2 4 6 8 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Every group undertakes the kinds of actions they prefer,  
 and no one will act as international bureaucrats.

In Stockholm many events are planned under the common name of  
 POWWOW.

This is an American Indian word  
 meaning a gathering of people  
 talking about important things  
 or performing magical, feasting and dancing  
 for the cure of disease or to reach victory.

Your contribution could deal with global as well as local problems.  
 You could make

exhibitions leaflets bulletins comic strips  
 street theater discussions interviews films parades  
 video tapes press conferences  
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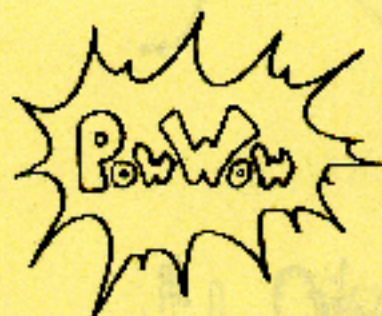
We have been working with the POWWOW for some time in Stockholm.  
 Our address is: POWWOW c/o R. Koonen

NOR / X-22  
 Sveavägen 166  
 S-112 46 Stockholm, Sweden

So write and tell us about your ideas and plans (or just anything!).  
 Then we can pass it around  
 to all groups that want to participate

for Mutual Inspiration  
 and to enable all of us to get in contact with each other.

Also, the mass media assembled in Stockholm  
 can spread the message of a people's movement:  
 that people around the world  
 are beginning to cooperate for the creation  
 of a new way of life!





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discussions  
comic strips  
video tapes  
interviews  
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parades  
or whatever your thing is.

We have been working with the POWWOW for some  
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Our address is: POWWOW c/o R.Noonan  
W6C / M-22  
Sveavägen 166  
S-113 46 Stockholm, Sweden

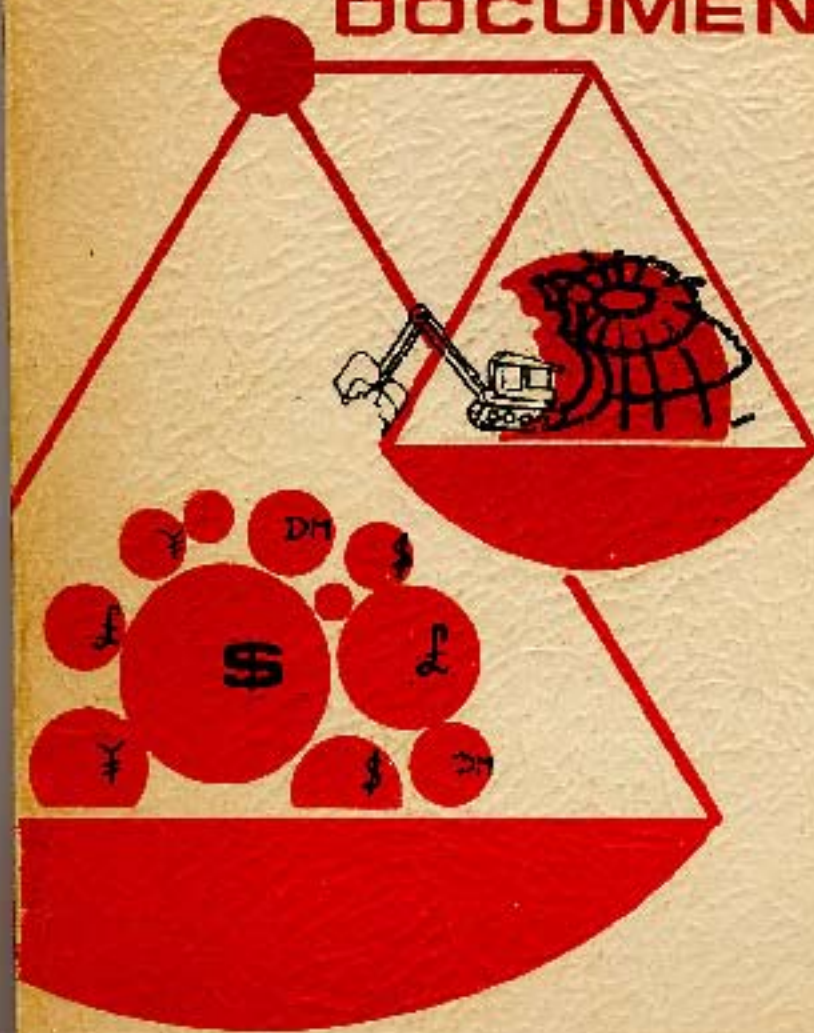
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POWWOW

# THE HAMILTON DOCUMENTS



A PUBLICATION OF OI COMMITTEE INTERNATIONAL



## PREFACE

What happened in Hamilton is of historic importance. What the young people had to say there is worthy of being heard by all. In the context of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (June, 1972) it is all the more important to have the input of youth—for the message of Hamilton goes beyond political bureaucracies and crosses the boundary of conventional analysis of the environment issue to speak out on the relationship between the global environmental crisis and: the underdevelopment of the Third World; gross and growing disparity in the distribution of power, wealth and resources between the rich and the poor; the implications of warfare and modern weapons systems for the environment; mismanagement of technology; and most of all, the need for a radical restructuring of most present social and economic systems into forms more responsive to human needs and environmental imperatives. It is for these reasons that Oi Committee International took the initiative to publish *The Hamilton Ornaments*. What this book contains is not a scholarly treatise nor exhaustive analysis on one particular issue; it is a framework that describes youth perspective with an unusually strong Third World emphasis on global environmental issues, with a holistic approach to these problems. Here lies the primary significance of these documents.

Oi Committee International is pleased to bring *The Hamilton Ornament* to public attention. Aside from the intrinsic merit of much of the context, the Oi Committee has its special attachment to the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment. It was there that the Committee had its genesis. Oi Committee International is an independent, international and multicultural group of young scientists and scholars primarily working for a critical and holistic approach to development and the human environment in the Third World. The holistic approach of the Committee is encompassed in the name Oi which is derived from the initial letters of a Swahili proverb, *Ote iwappo* (all that is, must be considered). The Committee believes that any solution to global environmental problems must go beyond the traditional concern with the physical aspects of the problems to include the basic social, economic, cultural and political causes and implications.

The spirit of Hamilton will be carried on to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Twelve observers have been delegated by the youth representatives in Hamilton for this purpose:

\*Jaime Hurtubia, Chile, Spokesman,  
Mostafa el-Chtaini, Morocco  
Wilfredo Clemente, Philippines  
Ricardo Izurieta, Ecuador.  
David Mc Creary, Canada  
Taniu Micheu, Bulgaria  
Roland de Miller, France  
Anthony Pearce, Australia  
Jurgenne Primavera, Philippines  
Simon Reeves, New Zealand  
Ross Vincent, USA  
Joseph Wiredu, Ghana

We hope that *The Hamilton Documents* shall prove helpful in their efforts.

Circumstantial conditions have led to the task of printing and publishing this volume in a very short time. All the documents have been kept in practically the same form as they appeared in Hamilton, with the exception of some minor linguistic and grammatical corrections. We considered it an obligation to preserve the integrity of *The Hamilton Documents*

Many people helped us in the preparation of, the book. Special thanks and gratitude are due Kathy Howard and Jamie Lewontin for the overall supervision of this particular project, Tom Barbee for reading through the manuscript and making the necessary editorial corrections, Amy Papian, Nancy Leutwiler and Bekah Schmitt for composing and typesetting the manuscript, and to Paul Camp who let us use the typesetting facilities at Washington University Student Union. Tony Carrasco and Fereshte Bekratt designed the cover of this book. A word of thanks should go to the following five co-sponsors of the Hamilton Conference: The Secretariat for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE); The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO); International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN); International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) and the Environic Foundation International, Inc. (EFI). According to our information the originator of the concept of the youth conference was Le Roy Troyer; the fund raiser in the U.S. was Royce Lanier, original Organizer in Canada was Fred J. Losee, and Frank Genzer and Ronald Passarelli helped. We feel that the Conference owes a special debt to Mr. Richard Davies who succeeded Losee as Conference Secretary and who did everything in his power to help the Third World participants in their attempts to gain independence from the bonds of a preset and incompatible programme. Also according to information received from Patrick Horsburgh of the Environic Foundation International, gratitude is due to many individuals and organizations who made the assembly possible among them U.S. and Canadian government agencies, industrial and commercial enterprises, Foundations and Conservation societies and for individuals who determined that the rising generation should contribute to this unique U.N. event. Finally we thank McMaster University for providing accommodations and supplementary services.

May 1972

Deepak Bajracharya  
M. Taghi Farvar  
Kariba J. C. Munio  
for Oi Committee

The original spokeswoman for the group was chosen by the General Assembly to be Nguyen Thi Thanh, Vietnam. Unfortunately she had to resign for personal reasons. Sarjeet Singh, Malaysia also parted from the group for personal reasons. Jamie Hurtubia with the second highest number of votes substituted for the position of Thanh.

Wilfredo Clemente and Jurgenne Primavera became the new Asian representatives.

## INTRODUCTION

The Hamilton Documents is one of the most significant developments in the current international concern with the human environment. It also represents an authentic record of the reports of the International Youth Conference on Problems of the Human Environment, held in Hamilton, Canada, in August, 1971.

While the statements, resolutions, regional and workshop reports contained in the documents speak for themselves, some background information, with respect to the participants and their accomplishments in Hamilton is helpful.

In as much as there is a tradition in the relatively young environmental movement, the customary leadership of the Western world was evident in the Conference. It was organized and staffed entirely by Westerners, and the agenda had been structured around those concepts which had to date defined the bulk of the environmental concern: air and water pollution, wildlife conservation, over-consumption and over-population. The working structure of the conference further reflected the Western bias through staff appointments of Western chairmen, moderators, and speakers, control over agenda and scheduling, etc.

Credit is due the organizers of the conference for the remarkable variety of social, political, economic, cultural, and national backgrounds represented by the conference participants, despite technical difficulties which considerably limited representation from Socialist countries.

In all, some seventy-five countries were represented by a total of 163 delegates. Of these, ninety-four, a clear majority came from non-Western nations--the underdeveloped countries, or the Third World.

Very early in the Conference it became apparent that for a multitude of reasons the nature of the programme and the composition of the participants were irreconcilably at odds. The conflicts, based on essential differences in cultural and national attitudes regarding the nature of the environmental crisis led to a complete restructuring of the conference. The conference divided itself into six regional caucuses, roughly according to continental divisions. The reports of those caucuses are presented here as well as their recommendations to the United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

A comparison of the reports from the Western regional caucuses (Europe, North America and Australasia), and Africa, Asia and Latin America shows the ideological schism quite clearly. Whereas the North American, European, and Australasian regional reports deal primarily with the treatment of symptoms, through heavy emphasis on citizen-activist 'movements', environmental education, and legislative controls on environmental degradation, the Asian, African, and Latin American regional reports deal with more basic issues such as wars of liberation, poverty, hunger, disease and the distribution of wealth and power. Some illustrations from the regional reports will be instructive:

The Latin American regional report indicates that the reason for most environmental problems is lack of meaningful development. It then goes further to elaborate the cause of lack of such development as, first and foremost, the overwhelming problem of dependence on foreign powers such as the United States and other industrialized nations. Resources are exported from the region for barely compensatory payment and, furthermore, models of consumption are established in ways that do not meet the real needs of

Latin America. Within the countries of the region, the power of decision about social: political and economic matters is vested in a few 'elites' that have strong ties with large foreign corporations and capital.

A further example of the points of view shared by the developing countries (Third World) is evident from the African regional report:

When the issue of environmental crisis is raised, the task of conserving natural resources is almost invariably brought to the fore, as if only the pollution of these resources constitutes our environmental crisis. This tendency to regard ecological pollution as synonymous to the environmental crisis is not entirely unexplainable. It has its roots in the fact that those whom we might paradoxically refer to as 'pace-setters' in the quest for a better environment--North America, Western Europe and Japan--have unwittingly or otherwise set the tune to which the quest for a better environment must mark. .

. . in the eyes of peoples of developing world (Third World), conservation of natural resources in the form it promises to take in the western societies is a luxury. For the developing world, it is - the squalor of their surrounding, caused by poverty, combined with poor health and illiteracy, which constitutes part of their ecological problem. For them the environmental crisis is the sum total of daily crises they go through in an attempt of gain just a half-decent standard of living.

For several decades the resources of Africa have been exploited. The exploitation process has had drastic environmental effects. The blatant disregard of the environment has resulted in the destruction of eco-systems, and has caused human displacement and the loss of social and cultural heritages. Foreign industry and foreign investments are the major contributors to environmental pollution and destruction in Africa.

And from the Asian report:

The Asian delegates believe that their environmental problems--depletion of natural resources, population growth, urbanization, industrialization--result from the class conflict necessarily generated by colonization.. .

In short, the heart of Asia, composed of the rural masses and the urban working classes, has been rendered impotent by colonialism and forgotten. A sound economic base, social mobility or political participation is very difficult, if not impossible to attain in Asian societies. Because the social, cultural, economic and political pressures in Asian countries are the overriding realities in the lives of their people, the problems of the physical environment will have to be analyzed within this context.

These illustrations from the regional reports are significant because they present the perspective of the Third World as regards the human environment.

The difference in the perception of the environmental crisis stems from an obvious source: the history of the environmental movement itself. In countries where, for the last five years, the environmental movement has grown to respond to technological phenomena, the perception of the crisis has been decidedly technological and reductionist. In the Third World, on the other hand, environmental awareness has grown in the context of painfully unfulfilled basic human needs, and the pillage of their environment for the benefit of the wealthier, more powerful metropolitan nations.



The Hamilton experience is a significant point in the history of global environmental concern. For it was here, for the first time, that it became painfully clear that environment and ecology were far from being an innocuous 'motherhood' issue. In fact, the nature of the environmental problems has shown that here is where the old issues of social justice and exploitation are visible in their bluntest form. An example of this division is seen in the report of the Population Workshop, which, after days of hard debate, was divided into two parts. Part I represents the views of the largely Western or pro-Western participants, while Part II was written by an uncompromisingly Third World caucus within it.

From the start then, there existed regional differences with regard to the problems of the human environment. Furthermore, because of the similarities, as seen from the above illustrations, between Africa, Asia and Latin America, the conference exhibited an inherent superstructure, with developed countries as one bloc and the Third World (developing countries) as another. A process of negotiation, in the form of re-education and learning, had to take place. This, indeed, was what happened.

In the end, a powerful consensus was reached by the young people gathered in Hamilton. This is seen in the Statement of the Conference (including the 14 Resolutions) which was passed verbatim and almost unanimously by the General Assembly of the Conference:

We, the young scientists from 75 countries who assembled together in Hamilton ... have reached a consensus on the condition of the world-wide human environment. We regard this consensus to be a unique diagnosis of the environmental crisis.

Considering that a majority of the world's people are suffering from unequal and insufficient access to resources and hence are robbed of their rights to use their environment for their own human needs, we have reached the conclusion that most particular environmental problems are the result of the unequal distribution of wealth and power both nationally and internationally. Contributing to this sense of crisis is the fact that the production of economic goods is for the most part organized not with regard to human needs and the imperatives of the human environment, but for the sake of private gain or the achievement of military power. Without first admitting these facts and making a prior commitment to bring about a basic change in the present social and economic relations between the developed and the underdeveloped countries and between the rich and the poor, it becomes fruitless to discuss the solution of the problems implied by the agenda of the United Nations 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Problems of the Human Environment...

The Hamilton Documents, therefore, is the first attempt at a synthesis of very different perceptions of the 'environmental crisis,' and represents the beginning of a true international movement. Since Hamilton, Western environmentalists have shown an increasing awareness of the problems of the Third World and the decisive role of the West in causing them. The Third World has meanwhile become more aware of the failures of Western society and technology, and has begun to generate considerable indigenous momentum towards the development of alternative, non-Western modes of social, economic and technological development.

The Statement and Resolutions of the Conference were meant to be presented to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) at Stockholm in June, 1972. Twelve observers to the UNCHE--two from each region--have been chosen by their respective

groups to represent the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment to the world body. The spokesman of the group, who was chosen by the General Assembly on the Hamilton Conference, will be responsible for reading the Statement as the major youth input to the United Nations Conference.

The Workshop and Regional Reports included The Hamilton Documents contain recommendations to the United Nations Stockholm Conference. The Conference as a whole also passed a number of specific Proposals to the U.N. that appear at the end of the book. It remains to be seen how responsive UNCHE will be to the views of Youth who were Galled together specifically to provide this sort of input to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

One of the most significant accomplishments of the Hamilton Conference was that it facilitated the creation and strengthening of a number of international organizations of Independent young scientists concerned with environmental problems. Thus the Latin American Youth Federation for Studies on the Human Environment (FEJLA) was formed in Hamilton. Similarly, the Oi Committee International (under whose auspices The Hamilton Documents are being published) saw its genesis in Hamilton. The newly created Arian Environmental Society (AES) was able to lay a stronger foundation for future action,

These organizations were created to carry out effective action involving young scientists in relation to the environmental problems at local, national and regional levels. One important purpose is to overcome the lack of adequate channels of communications and information for both the scientific and the lay communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America relating to the priorities and strategies vis-a-vis the global environmental crisis. In this regard Oi Committee International--composed mainly of young scientists from the Third World--has been particularly active since Hamilton in working across regional groups on problems of development and the human environment.

It is hoped that this effort by youth will serve as a basis for weighing and judging the issues, and for constructing a strategy for rectifying the pillage of the global environment and for achieving social justice.

Santiago, Chile May, 1972      Jaime Hurtubia

Spokesman for the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment

## STATEMENT AND RESOLUTIONS

### STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

We, the young scientists and citizens from 75 countries who assembled together in Hamilton for the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment from August 20-30th, 1971, have reached a consensus on the condition of the world-wide human environment. We regard this consensus to be a unique diagnosis of the environmental crisis. Considering that a majority of the world's people are suffering from unequal and insufficient access to resources, and hence are robbed of their right to use their environment for their own human needs, we have reached the conclusion that most particular environmental problems are the result of the unequal distribution of wealth and power both nationally and internationally. Contributing to this sense of crisis is the fact that the production of economic goods is for the most part organized not with regard to human needs and the imperatives of the human environment, but for the sake of private gain or the achievement of military power. Without first admitting these facts and making a prior commitment to bring about a basic change in the present social and economic relations between the developed and the under-developed countries and between the rich and the poor, it becomes fruitless to discuss the solution of the problems implied by the agenda of the United Nations 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Problems of the Human Environment.

In each region of the world we find this basic situation occurring in different forms. In underdeveloped countries it is manifested in poverty, lack of social mobility, and political instability. To the Asians, Africans, and Latin Americans it is inconceivable to discuss the environment before they can control their own economic, political, and social life and their natural resources. This lack of self-determination prevents any meaningful discussion of the environment, and the rectification of this situation must take priority over any other proposed solutions to 'The Environmental Crisis'.

In Europe, the problem of social and economic inequality expresses itself drastically externally in the continued exploitation of the underdeveloped countries, and also internally in the relation between the socially, economically, and culturally dominant urban areas over the rural areas, as well as the domination of highly industrialized Northern Europe over the less developed Southern Europe with high unemployment. Northern Europe imports cheap labour from Southern Europe to do the hazardous and unhealthy work in northern industries.

The basic problem in North America is a distorted social and economic system which places private gain far above the social needs of its own citizens, and those of the rest of the world.

Early in the Conference, it became clear that the resolution of this basic premise presents a task of great magnitude, but if we wish to talk seriously about the environment, then we must talk seriously about that discrepancy in order even to discuss the latter. Many sacrifices of ideologies and viewpoints will have to be made. We implore all men to take on the challenge of reassessing those factors which together create the inequalities here mentioned, and thereby the problems of the whole environment.

It is often suggested that the root cause of environmental problems is population; but this argument depends for its strength almost entirely on the standpoint from which it is made. We believe that population is not a single global or biological problem but one which has

a complex inter-relationship with the social, economic and natural environment of man.

In other words, some areas have a population problem relating to too many people, and others to too few. For instance, Latin America has the distinct problem arising from urbanization which leaves large rural areas seriously under-populated. Whatever may be the numerical situation, in each case the problem is related to the power of an economic elite. On an inter-national scale the population problems of the under-developed countries have arisen solely since the imperial expansions of the last two centuries. At the same time within the developed countries the need for increased labor forces at the time of industrial expansion has also resulted in the population problems they are experiencing today. That is to say, both situations may be linked to the same cause. The population problem now facing industrial states is accentuated by the rise in capital-intensive technology which renders large numbers of the population superfluous for the productive system. On the international state, the removal of the colonial powers' labor-intensive methods for natural resource production has similarly left in its wake an economically superfluous and hence a marginal population. One of the immediate remedies we see for both situations is a return to labor-intensive methods of production both in under-developed and developed countries.

Finally, the most fundamental problem of the under-developed countries with respect to population is access to resources. The people of the under-developed countries must regain full access to their own resources which are vitally important to the improvement of living standards. In this respect, population control is at best a piecemeal approach and avoids the fundamental question of social change.

The basic premise of inequality of power relates also to physical pollution and mismanagement of the earth and its resources, insofar as much mismanagement and depredation are the result of non-responsible industrial agents whose ability to continue these acts is a testimony to the imbalance of power both within and between nations.

Consequently once more it appears futile to discuss serious air pollution or marine oil pollution, pesticides, and natural wilderness' areas until both national and international systems provide opportunity for checks and balances on the decision-making and organizational processes. The vast machinery existing to perpetuate such acts of depredation and mismanagement, including the massive onslaught of commercial advertising as part of the global consumer society constitutes a massive obstacle to the dissemination of dissenting information which would serve to bring about both a more balanced distribution of power, and exposure to appropriate ecological information.

We also recognize that modern warfare together with nuclear and bio-chemical weapons is the greatest single threat to ecological survival. No international government conference on the Problems of the Human Environment can be considered serious unless accompanied by a world agreement for an immediate and unconditional abandoning of nuclear and bio-chemical weapons.

One of the chief factors that helps deprive the public of the opportunity to participate in social, political, and economic decisions is the tight control on information of vital concern to the public, by governments, international agencies, and private corporations. In the end, the people must be the ultimate judge of matters affecting their own well-being, and only a system which freely yields information to both the scientific and lay communities will give the people a chance for independent evaluations.



Finally, we recognize that the United Nations' system has inherent limitations as a forum for effective action on such vital environmental issues as the threat of nuclear war or the gross maldistribution of resources. The governments represented in the U.N. are, after all, participants in a worldwide political and economic system which is designed to perpetuate economic competition and the inequality of access to resources. There is an urgent need therefore for many independent mechanisms of information dissemination and environmental action.

## RESOLUTIONS OF THE HAMILTON CONFERENCE

1. Maintaining that the environmental problem is above all, not a people problem but a system problem having profound implications for economic, social and political structure of all societies, we call for action to bring about the needed change.

2. Taking the ecological problems and constraints into consideration, we call for a new production system, one which will be people and not profit oriented.

3. Recognizing that proper role of science and technology is to help man to live with nature and not to conquer it, we call for the use of ecologically sounder technologies.

4. Recognizing that an alternative approach to population is needed which insists on improving the conditions of the people of developing countries rather than on population control, we call for immediate social reform as a more positive and humane measure to achieve population balance by raising health and living standards.

5. Given that development programs constitute large scale alterations in the human environment and that these alterations in turn affect the destiny of many people, we demand that international development agencies make environmental impact statements which are open to public scrutiny. The freedom of information regarding the issues and alternatives involved in development programs is essential for enabling the public to arrive at more meaningful decisions concerning matters affecting their destiny.

6. Recognizing that there is an urgent need to change the order of priorities in considering the cost-benefit of technological development, we call for a reordering of priorities such that the innate ecological characteristics of the affected area and human need are considered first, the economic assessment comes next and the technological feasibility last.

7. Recognizing that the greatest and most catastrophic of all environmental crises is that brought about by the development and possession of nuclear weapons, we demand that as the first step towards an ecologically sound world, all nuclear weapons be abolished and destroyed in the safest possible way.

8. We demand that ecological considerations, the solutions to environmental problems, all monitoring and controls should be subsidiary to the national life of all countries, particularly the developing nations of the world. Parallel to this, we call for a transfer of means of production to domestic rather than foreign ownership. The foregoing implies a call for a radical change in the present relationship between the industrialized and the poorer countries where a great deal of the means of production and raw materials are owned by the developed countries.

9. We call for policies that stress agricultural commodities that can be grown in an environmentally sound way in the developing countries, the processing and finishing of natural products in the developing

countries where they are produced and the ownership of the means of production and distribution by the producer nations. In producing these materials, we call for stressing technologies that are environmentally compatible and for the substitution of the use of natural products for the more pollutive synthetic products. In connection with this we call for the presently industrialized nations to import a major amount of their needs from the developing countries, and in return for this privilege, to accept all the conditions of dependency (political, economic, and other) on the part of the presently industrialized nations, which implies a complete reversal of the present dependency system.

10. Although we recognize that the availability of competent ecological experts is essential to developing sounder alternatives, yet we warn against the dangers of a system in which the experts make the decisions without consulting the public. We demand that the conclusions of the experts must be submitted to open debate by the public and its representatives.

11. To help pay the enormous costs of rebuilding both the environment and our social systems, we demand that the present orientation of our economic systems be altered away from favoring and stressing military technology and capability in favor of the humane provision of human needs.

12. We call for an immediate elimination of the use of chemical and biological weapons in plain contradiction to international agreements, and for the destruction of all present stock piles and means of production of these weapons. The inhuman and anti-ecological war in Southeast Asia must be brought to an immediate end. All United States and other foreign troops should be withdrawn from foreign territories and colonies and massive reparations should be paid to the affected populations for the prolonged damage to the social, psychological and natural environments.

13. Recognizing that the right of self-determination is necessary before the people of present occupied areas can begin to build up their standards of living and cater to their own urgent and justified needs, and given that such an improvement in the conditions of living is necessary before such peoples can begin to stabilize the relationship between their populations and the environment in which they live, we demand an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces from occupied territories, and the granting of the right of self-determination to the affected peoples. This position includes situations where a minority is in control of the lives and destiny of the larger population living in the same area, specifically South Africa, Rhodesia, and other similar regions.

14. Given the damage inflicted upon both the environments and the social systems of the developing countries by colonialist and neo-colonialist dominant powers, we demand that the industrialized countries: A) stop further damage and exploitation now; B) concede a more advantageous economic position to the less developed countries in the arena of international trade without bias and allow the importation of finished products from the developing countries.



Motion adopted: Although the statement above does not necessarily express the personal view of each single participant, it does reflect the views of the Conference as a whole as to the present overall crisis, and is adopted as the Statement of the Conference.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### AFRICAN REGIONAL REPORT

#### Introduction

When the issue of environmental crisis is raised, the task of conserving natural resources is almost invariably brought to the fore, as if only the pollution of these resources constitutes our environmental crisis. This tendency to regard ecological pollution as synonymous with the environmental crisis is not entirely unexplainable. It has its roots in the fact that those whom we might paradoxically refer to as 'pace-setters' in the quest for a better environment--North America, Western Europe and Japan--have unwittingly or otherwise set the tune to which the quest for a better environment must march.

These pace-setters are faced with identical environmental problems resulting from their own economic activities. No rare insight is displayed when one asserts that their intensive industrialization is having dangerous if not lethal effects on natural resources. It is no insignificant irony that a top priority business, as implied by its creation of a high-level Environmental Quality Committee, and while the Council of Europe sponsors efforts geared towards a better environment, and had in fact designated 1970 as Conservation Year, the rest of the world, especially the developing world, appears to be unconcerned about this senseless abuse of the environment. Far from being an insignificant irony, this situation is instructive.

It demonstrates the awareness that, identical as the conditions which give rise to the emphasis on conservation of natural resources may be among the "pace setters", they are not universal. Pollution of natural resources will force upon the "pace setters" a choice between Well-being and prosperity. For the developing world, there is neither well-being nor prosperity. In these circumstances one cannot dismiss as reckless and irresponsible the assertion that in the eyes of peoples of the developing world conservation of natural resources in the form it promises to take in western societies is a luxury. For the developing World, it is the squalor of surroundings caused by poverty combined with poor health and illiteracy which constitute part of the ecological problem. The environmental crisis is the sum total of daily crises gone through in an attempt to gain just a half-decent standard of living.

#### Problems Related to Human Settlements

The African nations' social dichotomy manifests itself in the existence of urban, rural, suburban and transitory settlements. The varying population densities of these respective localities are determined by numerous factors. The acute problems of human movement from rural to urban areas are engendered primarily by the revolution of rising expectations. The unequal development of rural and urban areas in most African nations is a legacy of colonialism. The rural areas, which in most instances cover the higher percentage of land area in all nations, and which support the life blood of national economies, suffer from the discriminating policies of governments,

so far as development is concerned. Development is heavily concentrated in urban areas. This offers employment opportunities which in turn draw upon a pool of workers from less developed regions. These transient workers, in their pursuit of greater economic and social advancement, accept sub-standard and sub-human living conditions in the urban areas. Their low incomes subject them to poor localities with poor sanitary conditions and inadequate educational and medical facilities. Unfavorable social conditions caused by poor local management prevail. Such conditions breed numerous social ills, including the inevitable deterioration of the areas to squatters, slums and shantytowns which contribute to environmental decay. The increase in population in the urban areas is very high and taxation is very low or non-existent. This limits the resources which could be utilized to improve housing and general environmental quality.

#### Education, Informational, Social and Cultural Problems

The educational systems imposed by the colonial powers are still prevalent in today's societies. They do not correspond to the pace or the needs of African views. Stress is laid upon the study of traditional, colonial disciplinary biased. Africa's current, massive programs for new educational systems and structures must be supported by all available means.

The high rate of illiteracy in all countries is a terrible obstacle for social development. Apart from the lack of radios, telephones and televisions, there are many areas in rural Africa which do not even have access to newspapers. New educational approaches, like the Ivory Coast's rural TV literacy project must be encouraged along with other developments.

African scholars have been oriented by foreign governments and absorbed by European cultures for too long. This attitude has made many Africans city dwellers. This is a threat to the survival of traditional African culture. African elites are often divorced from the realities of social problems in their own societies. The limited financial resources of their countries are not distributed among the population.

Rather, they are used for the interests of small elitist groups.

Tribalism, regionalism and sectarianism in African countries have brought nations to civil wars and have kept Africa divided in its quest for economic development. Refugees are becoming an alarming problem on the African continent. Such problems are aggravated and maximized by international corporations and imperialist agencies, such as NATO, the CIA, West German Intelligence, British Intelligence and Israeli Intelligence, as has been shown in the trial of the West German mercenary, Rolf Steiner.

The policy of apartheid has socially robbed the indigenous South African of his basic human rights. Out of 83,137 university students in South Africa, only 4,578 are African.

In order to overcome the gigantic social, economic and cultural problems of the African human environment,



Africa must help itself to a greater extent. If this is not possible, due to limitation of financial and manpower resources, international assistance should be sought in close collaboration with the countries affected.

### Problems of Natural Resource Management

Africa's natural resources--renewable and non-renewable alike--are largely untapped and not yet used rationally by the African people. Large-scale mineral exploitation schemes go on in Southern Africa (controlled by multi-national corporations), while most other countries don't even know the status of their mineral resources.

The land's soil, water and vegetation resources are used largely in uneconomic ways. Soil erosion, increasing flood problems and depletion of African forest lands result.

Although Africa has taken a lead in wildlife conservation and its environment to attract tourists, much better use could be made if more wildlife management schemes were developed which operate on the basis that wildlife is a valuable protein resource.

Proper resource management is largely a matter of education on all levels. It begins at the top, with the training of government officials and specialists in integrated regional planning and natural resources management. The imposition of foreign training schemes and school syllabi have impeded such training. African colleges and universities need to restructure their curricula in order to meet resource demands for future years.

Primary and secondary education must also emphasize the inter-relationships between social and natural environments. Many parts of Africa experience extreme environmental conditions -- the world's largest desert is just one of them. Deserts, savannas, swamps and rain forest require different human attitudes to be optimally utilized by human populations.

Large scale development projects need to be carefully planned in order to assess potential detrimental side-effects on the environment. To meet this challenge, Africa needs its own resource management. Efforts must be concentrated on developing highly skilled manpower in this field and forging teams of economists, engineers, ecologists, sociologists, etc.

Crop pests, livestock diseases and haphazard agricultural practices reduce African food resources and cause malnutrition, which affects the embryonic and infantile brain and nerve centers of African children, and deprives them at the very start of their lives of equal development, compared to the wealthy children in industrialized countries. The mismanagement and scarcity of water resources hinders agriculture and rural development and settlement.

### Development and Environment

The subject of environmental quality cannot be treated in isolation, but must remain an integral part of overall national development strategies.

Traditional African societies were marked by sound environmental standards, consistent with the African attachment to nature. Our traditional social institutions were developed and sustained by a realization of the need to be in harmony with our natural and cultural surroundings. This rational and considerate development progression was abruptly stopped by the advent of colonialism. Colonialism introduced new values into the overall African society and implanted patterns of development that were alien to the African people.

For several decades the African resources have been exploited. The exploitation process has had drastic environmental effects. Blatant disregard of the environment has resulted in the destruction of eco-systems and has caused human displacement and the loss of social and cultural heritages. Foreign industry and investments are the major contributors to environmental pollution and destruction in Africa.

Many of Africa's rivers are still exceptionally clear, but sediments and chemical pollution in rural Africa caused by industrial wastes might cause severe problems, because drinking water will not be treated there for many years to come. Industrial development is rapid, though often widely dispersed geographically. No double standards must be employed in Africa with regard to the use of pesticides and other potential pollutants. Of great concern is the increasing oil pollution off Africa's coasts, which is almost entirely due to the criminal negligence of non-African business corporations.

While we realize that the scientific aspects of environmental quality are of world-wide concern, they must remain of small academic interest for African countries as long as African people still suffer the pangs of poverty and foreign domination. The blatant disregard of human rights and equality by the Republic of South Africa, Zimbabwe and the colonial domination of Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau by Portugal must end. We also demand the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab occupied territories and the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland. Severe international measures should be taken to eliminate the uses of chemical and biological weapons because of their fatal, sterilizing, genetically deformative and environmentally destructive effects, as has been clear in the case of the Portuguese colonies.

### Recommendations and Proposals for Actions

In view of the foregoing and the personal experiences of African delegates to the International Youth Conference on the Problems of the Human Environment, the following proposals are made:

1. The educational structure should accommodate facilities which will guarantee skills for the employment of women and men in rural and Urban areas.
2. Governments should tap other African countries to supplement their supply of teachers and resort to the recruitment of non-African teachers only if and when this is not possible.

3. African Governments should initiate national youth services to speed up literacy campaigns, assist in rural development and foster cultural education.
4. Africans who live in multi-lingual areas should be taught African languages other than their own at school, in order to combat tribalism.
5. African Governments should, in co-operation with the United Nations, establish documentation centres for youth and adult groups in rural and urban areas.
6. The United Nations should decentralize its operations and recruit more African experts to work within the African region.
7. More United Nations assistance is needed, especially in the fields of health, malnutrition, education, planning and administrative techniques,
8. An African Development Institute should be established which, among other objectives, would assemble all reports compiled by experts in Africa.
9. A Conference on Environment and Development in Africa should be held in 1974.
10. A permanent youth delegation should be established at the OAU.
11. The news media should develop a better understanding of environmental problems.
12. Research and training in environmental sciences should be encouraged in African universities.
13. We recommend to the Stockholm Conference the creation of regional research facilities for independent scientists to monitor the dynamics of human environments and natural resources, socio-economic and cultural conditions alike.
14. We recommend that our governments give recognition to the role of youth in our national development, and that African youth therefor assist in any follow-up activities before and after Stockholm, for instance, the development of International Youth Centres on the Human Environment.
15. Africa's youth should be represented in the African delegations the Stockholm Conference

## ASIAN REGIONAL REPORT

### Conceptual Framework

As the result of three centuries of colonial rule, Asian countries have been societies of a few rich, urban and educated and many poor, rural and uneducated. Today Asian countries, constituting the greater part of the exploited world, are still struggling to free

themselves from the military-and economic clutches of Western exploitation.

The Asian delegates believe that their environmental problems--depletion of natural resources, population growth, urbanization, industrialization--result from a class conflict necessarily generated by colonization. In trying to understand and confront Asian environmental problems, the delegates devised a conceptual framework of the economic, political, social and cultural structures as dictated historically by imperialism and neocolonialism, explained Asia's problems in the light of these structures, and proposed concrete actions.

From the seventeenth century to the present, Asian societies have been powerless in warding off the industrial expansion of Europe and America to their shores. Colonization in Asia is either conventional and direct, as in the military occupation of Vietnam, or subtle and indirect, as in Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. This second group of nations is neocolonial -- politically independent but with captive economies. This Western imposition has devastated some countries and stunted others in their struggle for development.

On top of the Asian economic pyramid are the foreign investors, such as the British, Dutch and Americans. They control most of the major economic bases; the French-owned Michelin Rubber Plantation in Vietnam and the Dutch-Japanese- and American-owned oil companies in Indonesia and the Gulf of Siam. At the bottom is the peasantry. At least 80 per cent of the rural masses are sharecroppers living at subsistence level. Their lives are confined to the villages and to working for the landlords. Their incomes range from U.S. \$35 to U.S. \$200 per annum, with the only alternative to farming or fishing or the hard life of an unskilled and unemployed urban worker.

Socially, Asian societies have been divided on a vertical scale. The Upper elite is Western-oriented in thinking, education and way of life. High status and access to professional training open political and social opportunities to them. The rural masses still live with traditional customs and beliefs they have had for generations. A young lawyer in Jakarta can go abroad for further studies; his children may enjoy the same advantages. In contrast, a Sumatran peasant will leave no such legacy when he dies.

Politically, Asian leaders range from Western-educated intellectuals in India, Singapore and the Philippines to professional military generals in Vietnam, Burma, Indonesia and Thailand. They rely either entirely on foreign military and financial support (President Thieu of South Vietnam on the U.S.) or on other economic interest groups (the Thai military clique on the Bangkok Chinese community and the U.S.) The masses are prevented from participating in the political process.

Culturally, there is alienation of the urban elite from the tradition-bound lower class and conflict between deeply-rooted values and modernization.

In short, the heart of Asia, composed of the rural masses and the urban working class, has been

rendered impotent by colonialism and forgotten. A sound economic base, social mobility or political participation is very difficult, if not impossible to attain in Asian societies. Because these social, cultural, economic and political pressures in Asian countries are the overriding realities in the lives of the people, the problems of the physical environment will have to be analyzed within this context.

## Natural Resources

### A. Introduction

1. Depletion of non-renewable resources and malpractice in exploiting renewable natural resources are more pressing issues than pollution of the environment because of the relatively less advanced level of technology and industrialization in most of the Asian countries.

2. Many Asian nations depend on export of primary commodities as the major source of hard currency in the international market, thereby depleting natural resources like timber, minerals, metals, oil and marine and aquatic products. Rich mangrove and rain forests in most parts of Southeast Asia are cut for timber and firewood or destroyed by war, with little or no effort expended to replace them.

3. Asia is the biggest supplier of oil which is extremely vital to the industrial economy of the West. The seven largest multinational oil companies' total revenues of \$31 billion in 1960 exceed the combined revenues of the governments of Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy. Oil from the Middle East is estimated to last only for about 80 more years, while oil from Indonesia and South Vietnam's coast will last for less time.

4. In many ways, Asians and Asian governments themselves are also to be blamed for these problems.

a) An example of corruption in government is the logging operations inside national parks up to 1966 allowed by park officials in the Philippines, resulting in extensive denuding of forest lands and soil erosion.

b) Poverty and lack of alternative means of livelihood are also internal factors. In Nepal, for example, forests are cleared to supply wood for fuel in the absence of other energy sources. Logging, followed by slash-and-burn agricultural practices, irreversibly damages the plant and soil ecosystem in countries like Indonesia and the Philippines.

c) Asia has extensive marine resources but problems are already arising from overfishing by the Japanese fishing industry. Greater understanding is needed of the interplay between marine and terrestrial environments, as in coral reefs, estuaries, and regional understanding must be reached about the multiple use and management of marine resources,

d) Lack of funds, personnel and equipment to enforce existing legislation on the use of natural resources allows illegal use and exploitation; for example, there is one forestry guard for every 17,000 hectares (656 square miles) of public forest in the Philippines.

### B. Action

1. Extensive research should be carried out in tropical ecology.

2. The multiple use of natural resources should be explored, as well as the use of unconventional resources for food.

3. Regional understanding and cooperation in the exploitation of the high seas or in the sharing of waterways like the Mekong River should be established.

4. In the absence of rational just utilization and distribution of the world's natural resources among the world's peoples, Asian nations should by concerted and organized action increase the price of raw materials, particularly in strategic areas like oil production, as was done by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

5. On the personal level, Asians should resist all Western pressure toward luxurious and unessential consumption of material goods. All Asians should refuse to follow the distorted Western emphasis on material goods in place of the non-material, humane and spiritual Asian values we are all in danger of losing.

## Wildlife Conservation

### A, Intro

1. Wildlife conservation is part of the religious and cultural heritage in most countries of Asia, as wildlife is an important natural resource. However, lack of proper scientific management in a variety of areas has caused much deterioration of the wild environment and its inhabitants.

2. Increasing population pressure on agriculture, coupled with the obsolescent practice of "Slash-and-burn" land clearing methods, has caused the disappearance of ever-increasing areas of forest habitat. Domestic cattle, because of their concentration and vast numbers, out-compete wild herbivores in areas where both are to be found.

3. Industrial excesses, like the illegal logging carried on in the national parks of Ceylon, India and the Philippines, and projects which overlook long-term damage, e.g., the depletion of rhinoceros populations caused by the Rapti Development Project in Nepal, are common and deplorable.

4. Poaching for commercial uses, illegal or unrestricted overhunting by sportsmen and excessive commercial fishing seriously deplete animal, particularly predator, populations, causing serious ecological imbalances and forcing many species, like the tiger, leopard, crocodile, Asian lion and rhinoceros into virtual extinction.

5. It must be kept in mind that these factors seldom occur in vacuo, but rather, generally, in combination, thereby accelerating the trouble and complicating its



solution.

## B. Action

1. Strong measures should be taken to enforce strict laws against indiscriminate agricultural practices and overgrazing by domestic cattle substituting harvesting of plants and animals based on scientific management.

2. Educational programs to instill awareness of the need for wildlife preservation should be instituted.

3. More people should be trained in ecology, wildlife management and environmental education.

## Population

### A. Introduction

1. Population is an integral part of economic development; however there is no clear-cut relationship between population and economic growth.

2. Family planning, as suggested by certain countries, in the initial stages of development, can only be a minor aspect of population control. Investments in the fields of public health, education transportation, agriculture, etc., are a more important prerequisite for fertility declines. Family planning is the method cheapest and least likely to make radical demands on Western economic interests, furthermore it does not require the radical social and political change needed for development growth.

3. Reducing population control to family planning alone a reducing the adoption of contraception to technical issues enabling neo-Malthusians to evade the radical political, economic, and social reforms which a population policy worthy of the name would imply. A decrease in population, unless accompanied by political, social, economic changes leading to a better distribution of the national income, will accomplish very little. Economic and social development, seen in a holistic process of which population is only one aspect, would include four main variables:

a) A certain quantity of disposable resources, including capital.

b) A certain level of technology.

c) A certain population and, more important, a given rate of growth of population (including zero growth).

d) A form of social organization which will equably decide who receives the fruit of work and social activity and in what quantities, that is, how the cake is to be shared.

4. Distribution of population has created local problems, e.g., 6.9 per cent of the total area of Indonesia supports 64.9 per cent of the total population.

5. The high level of consumption by the industrial nations represents a much greater drain on world resources and stability (and thus, a greater ecological and political menace) than the rapid rates of population growth in the Third World.

### B. Actions:

1. A reorganization of our social, political, and economic structure

a) to equalize the share of national production, so that the poor can find sources of security other than children;

b) to protect our national resources by not selling to foreign capitalists at cheap prices and for the benefit of a few rich;

c) to provide more jobs for our people; and

d) to establish an educational system which is responsive to national needs.

2. A redistribution of world wealth stopping capitalist exploitation of our natural resources and control of our economies.

3. The question of birth control should be left to the discretion of each individual, and information and materials should be made freely available to all, regardless of economic, social, and political factors.

## Urbanization

### A. Introduction

Urbanization has developed rapidly in the last few decades in Asia. This problem has been caused by:

1. Rapid rate of population growth.

2. Migration from rural to urban areas in search of better education, employment opportunities, recreation facilities and health services.

3. An expanding technology, with its associated increase in demands for space, food and natural resources.

### B. Actions

1. Western planning concepts must not be adopted indiscriminately.

2. A value gap between young and old in the cities and between urban and rural people, created by rapid urbanization, must be avoided.

3. Social effects, such as the replacement of traditional extended families by nuclear families in urban areas, must be considered in planning.

4. Reverse migration from urban to rural areas by means of decentralization of factories using labor-

intensive industries; as in the case of the People's Republic of China, must be managed.

5. Economic factors must be the key in forming policies and strategies. This includes cost analysis of investments in, residential developments and urban infrastructures.

6. Rehabilitation of squatter settlements and slums.

7. Urban land policies must be based on the interrelation of legislation, availability of land for planned development and density of land use.

8. Design of low cost housing and community facilities.

9. Much attention should be devoted to developing locally appropriate building materials and technologies.

## Rural Development

### A. Introduction

1. In the last few decades there has been an imbalance development between the countryside and cities; characterized by:

a) heavy concentration of population in cities with ensuing high rate of unemployment, and

b) concentration of investment and development in the cities, to the relative neglect of rural areas.

2. This process has been accentuated by the lack of regional or national planning, or its non-implementation when present.

### B. Actions

1. Decentralization, the process of diverting development away from the big cities, is an important step toward solving this problem, and should be included in all national and regional plans.

2. Providing better housing, utilities, education, transportation, communication, sanitary facilities and health services in rural areas may also counteract the rural-to-urban migration trend.

3. Priority should be given to rural development in the allocation of national developmental investments.

4. Formal and informal education on the importance of rural development, changing the attitude of people toward working in the countryside, should be instituted. Example: China's experience in the mass mobilization of the people as a means of counteracting the imbalance of growth in China.

5. Asia, as an overpopulated region, needs to consider mass international migration to other parts of the world, where undeveloped lands are barred from Asians by discriminatory racial laws.

## Industrialization

### A. Introduction

1. The concept of environmental pollution control in the developed nations is irrelevant and preposterous in the context of economic development in Asia. If pollution is the price to be paid for industrialization, it would even be welcomed in some countries.

2. The issue of industrialization needs, therefore, to be analyzed more in terms of economic, political, social, and cultural implications of the human environment, rather than in terms of its necessity vs. disorder of the physical environment.

### B. Actions

1. Since industrialization is needed by some countries to improve their economies and solve unemployment problems, the industries in such cases should be built by the governments themselves rather than by private agencies.

2. While we recognize that capital-intensive industries are beneficial in a few cases, Asian countries should emphasize labor-intensive industries, with maximum utilization of man-power and local natural resources. The successful experience of the People's Republic of China in her conjoined program of industrialization and agricultural development deserves attention.

3. Industrial planning must take into account long-term impact of factories on the human environment. Excessive concentration of industries in any one area is undesirable. Laws must be adopted to strongly enforce minimal standards and criteria for the preservation and betterment of the environment.

4. We recommend that all developing countries take the necessary steps to ensure that all foreign companies operating within their borders are registered as independent bodies within that particular country, and not as branches of companies registered elsewhere, in order to prevent loss of control over the actions and profits of the company.

5. Recognizing the role of regional economic cooperation in rapid economic growth, we emphasize the need for and demand the opening of markets by developed countries. To facilitate this economic development, tariffs should be lowered and quota systems withdrawn in developed countries.

## Public Health

### A. Introduction

1. Diseases are serious obstacles in improving the living standards in Asia, especially in the rural areas where cholera, malaria, dysentery and etc. arise from poor living and environmental conditions. Present malaria eradication methods treat the symptoms rather than the basic cause of malaria, avoid the social reforms necessary for achieving better living conditions conducive to good health, and have resulted in unsuccessful programs.

2. Contaminated drinking water has been a major cause of disease outbreaks in Asia, and treatment plants are often absent. With sewage there is a similar lack of treatment facilities and waterways have been the frequent receptacles for waste. Unsanitary practices, such as open air defecation often lead to contamination of the waterways while overcrowded slums have provided a means of transmission of communicable diseases.

3. Adequate medical facilities are lacking in most of Asia. This problem is amplified by the phenomena of "brain drain" and urban concentration of Asian doctors. Although the use of Western medical practices is common in several parts of Asia, many people still believe in traditional practices.

4. Misuse of chemicals, such as drugs, pesticides, and industrial chemicals (mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls), have caused serious public health problems. In most Asian countries, there is a lack of legislation for controlling use and establishing levels of tolerance.

## B. Action

I. All research efforts should therefore be directed toward alternate methods of vector control, such as autocidal methods, safe chemicals, applications, etc. The final goal should be to develop an integrated approach or management system involving man, vector, pathogen and the environment. Camps and teach-ins should be organized through the existing youth organizations to educate the people and improve the environment.

2. The various governments of Asia should devote a greater portion of their resources towards the development, construction and/or improvement of water and sewage treatment facilities. The young can help with mass education of the people about proper sanitary practices. Government agencies should help resettle people from crowded to less crowded districts at government expense.

3. We feel that more research should be done on traditional medical practices, instead of Western practices now utilized. Shortage of doctors is a global problem and China's approaches toward solving this problem (such as the "barefoot doctors") should serve as models for most Asian countries.

4. We believe that governmental and/or intergovernmental organizations should regulate the use of chemicals.

## Social and Cultural Life

### A. Introduction

1. Changes in social, religious and cultural values of Asia from what they were a decade ago are mainly due to changes in the environment caused by technological advances and population growth. In the past, these values acted as feedback to the maintenance of equilibrium in the ecosystem, e.g., the practice of Bo tree worship among the hill Nepalese and Gingko tree worship among the Chinese. At present, they are

geared towards technological systems. The traditional joint family system is rapidly breaking down as a result of urbanization and Industrialization.

2. Certain political and economic systems are more detrimental to the environment than others. For example, under a capitalistic system more value is placed in private ownership of material goods, such as cars, which directly contribute to the degradation of the environment.

4. Similarly, certain religious values and beliefs have been of more hindrance than help in the betterment of the environment. Examples: Hindu belief in the holy cow, Catholic belief in population control (????).

5. War, undertaken by developed nations to further their ideologies and economic interests, is a source of socio-cultural and religious dislocation in developing countries such as Vietnam. In the context of historical findings, the social and cultural crises that face most Asian countries today can be traced back to their colonial and neo-colonial situation.

## D. Action

I. Initiative must be taken by governments and youth in individual countries in establishing committees of professionals from different fields which would identify ecologically supportive concepts of traditional societies.

2. Such concepts must be synthesized with modern technological advancements to bring about a harmonious relationship between socio-cultural values and the environment.

3. Communication about these findings must be maintained with the general public by the formation of action groups.

## Information

### A. Introduction

1. There has been a general lack of scientific information, particularly on tropical ecosystems in developing countries.

2. Governments in these nations are reluctant to release any information available on controversial environmental issues.

### B. Action

1. Governments should collect more information on environmental problems and make it available to anyone.

2. For better management of information, competent scholarship and discrimination in the application of Western knowledge to local conditions should be supported.

3. There should be social responsibility and cooperation among scientists in Asian countries and coordination



of research studies. Research along the lines of independent evaluation of environmental problems related to development, and the dissemination of relevant information are examples of action programs, particularly for young scientists.

4. Youth groups can help with the problem of environmental information by general agitation methods such as demonstrations, mass meetings, lobbying, pressuring political parties, and through access to mass media.

## Education

### A. Introduction

1. Existing educational systems have been to a large extent Western-oriented and not designed to meet the social, cultural and economic needs of Asian peoples.

### B. Action

1. These educational systems should be re-evaluated and re-oriented to solving Asian environmental problems and enhancing the popular desire to live in harmony with nature.

2. Environmental education should be introduced as early and effectively as possible in order to reach the maximum number of people.

3. When governments are not responsive to the needs of the people youth groups may establish information centers and publish their own newspapers, support counter-institutions such as free universities and engage in independent political action or the support of revolutionary movements.

## Warfare and weaponry

### A. Introduction

1. Warfare is a wasteful diversion of societies' resources away from the amelioration of the human environment and the fulfillment of human needs. The total annual appropriations of many nations for education and health are much less than those for defense and related military activities.

2. Warfare, particularly with modern weaponry, results in damage to the ecological fabric necessary to the maintenance of human life and well-being. In Vietnam, massive defoliation and other chemical warfare have damaged, often irreversibly, eco-systems like the mangrove and rain forests in addition to valuable croplands.

3. Refugee movements resulting in large-scale destruction of human societies and their means of livelihood cause immense human suffering, hunger, disease and social disorganization, as evidenced in Vietnamese, Bengali, and Palestinian refugee populations.

4. Use of nuclear weapons results in radioactive fallout

of great hazard to present and future generations; the threat of nuclear war remains as long as nations continue to possess and develop such weapons.

### B. Declaration

We, the Asian delegates at the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment, hold that war is the greatest threat to the Integrity of the human environment, particularly when imposed or manipulated from outside a society. We recognize that nuclear warfare is the greatest single threat to the human environment. We admit that without solving the social and economic problems underlying our societies, e.g., external ownership of our resources, unequal distribution of wealth and profit orientation which are the basic causes of war and conflict, it will be impossible to cure the symptoms of environmental deterioration.

1. We call for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign troops from Asian territories. More specifically, we demand an immediate end to the genocidal war in Vietnam and an unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and allied troops from Southeast Asia and condemn the Nixon policy of Vietnamization in Indochina.

2. We call for a just and lasting peace, negotiated between the Arab states and Israel, and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied territories and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland.

3. We condemn all foreign, as well as internal, military and civil intelligence activities designed to destroy national liberation struggles and prevent societies from gaining control of their own environments and resources.

4. We call for an immediate and unconditional abandoning of nuclear weapons of all kinds and a complete end to further development of such devices by any country.

5. We call for a peaceful solution to the problem of the Bengali people and a return of the refugees to their homelands. We demand especially that any foreign intervention in this case be prohibited.

6. We call for an immediate dissolution of the so-called defense pacts, such as SEATO, CENTO and NATO, which serve foreign military and economic interests.

7. We condemn the revival of Japanese militarism, which is a threat to the Asian environment and to world peace, and vigilantly warn the Japanese government not to encroach on the territory of any country in the course of its economic expansion.

### Conclusion

We believe that the entire environmental problem reflects and concerns the political, social, cultural, and economic structures of our societies. As such, it should be seen in its totality, with all the related ramifications of the interacting system. It is therefore not useful to isolate special problems and identify them as being of an economic or social nature, since the alternatives to such problems are also problematic in the same terms. We feel that it is of greater value to first identify the scientific and technical problems involved in improving the environment and then

subjecting them to the analysis of political, social, cultural, and economic criteria and dimensions, in order to evaluate their possible effects for the greatest good of all. Accordingly, we feel there is no basis for making recommendations of a specifically economic and social nature until the possible scientific and technical ramifications have been explored and integrated. In order to achieve the necessary balance among all the factors, scientific know-how and technological expertise should be brought to bear on the state of the human environment.

We note with deep concern that under the political, economic and organizational structure found in most developing countries, the only possibility for the equitable spread of the benefits of economic progress and social justice throughout a country's population is an enlightened leadership, together with effective public participation at all levels of decision-making. We further note that even a full-scale revolution is not in itself a guarantee for the long-term good of all the people.

The war in Indochina has created an aura of superficial affluence in many neighboring Asian cities, e.g., Bangkok and Singapore, resulting from such war-related activities as "Rest and Recreation," tourism, industry and oil extraction. This superficial affluence, with its limited distributional effects, has intensified the already existing disparity in standards of living and economic well-being between the privileged class and the masses.

We note with regret that aid from the developed countries, channeled bilaterally or multilaterally, has not materially affected the social and economic well-being of our peoples, the rate of industrialization, capital formation or human resource development. Instead, technical, financial and commodity "assistance" have served to distract the attention of the underdeveloped countries, by providing false euphoria, from the true objectives and priorities of development. Accordingly, we feel that in the early stages of development a program of national austerity, such as has been followed in the People's Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, can be of great value in setting the climate and basic conditions for a more rapid and successful capitalization at a later stage. Unless and until we are prepared to make such sacrifices at all levels ourselves, any developmental plan or assistance program is but an open mockery of our people.

Finally, we must remember that we ourselves belong to the Western-oriented privileged class, and as youth we feel it our responsibility to remind the entire Conference that our participation here is in itself a result of the disparity of income and education opportunities in the developing countries.

## **AUSTRALASIA REGIONAL REPORT**

Area: Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands, i.e., Fiji

Background: European settlement 130-200 years ago. Maori and Polynesian settlement (except Australia) several centuries earlier. Australian aboriginals probably arrived many thousand years before.

Population: Australia: 12,000,000; New Zealand: 3,000,000; Fiji: 500,000. Each is about 70-75% urban.

Problems: A two-cultures problem is evident in each country mentioned, to varying degrees. Urbanization in N.Z. and Fiji exacerbates cultural tensions.

Land use Policies leading to the depletion of natural resources have resulted in much destruction and erosion in all three countries. Overgrazing by introduced mammals (rabbit and deer in New Zealand, rabbits in Australia) have permanently ruined much of the environment, and the mongoose is a major introduced pest in Fiji. Inadequate provision for national parks in Australia provokes increasing community concern - only 1.5 per cent of land area set aside, cf. over 10 per cent in New Zealand; Fiji has only 1400 acres reserved. Modern technology enables minor decisions regarding land use to precipitate major environmental catastrophes.

Fauna Conservation: In New Zealand 30 per cent of the native birds have become extinct since European settlement, and in Australia and Fiji also, much of the indigenous fauna has disappeared. Habitat destruction and the introduction of exotic species are major causes of this.

Tourism is growing in all three countries, though in Australia the effect is hardly evident. This growth poses a threat to both natural ecology and rural culture, and is hence an extra resource-management problem.

The economies of these countries are largely tied to the U.K. and the U.S.A., in respect to both trade and capital. Australia is relatively independent trade-wise, but this is only at the cost of huge foreign capital investment. All three countries suffer greatly from the widespread adoption of synthetics, Australia's wool and Fiji's copra industries being examples.

Pollution from industry is starting to become a local problem in parts of Australia and cities generally suffer from car and other domestic pollution. New Zealand is adversely affected by overuse of fertilizers.

Education regarding the environment is grossly deficient in all three countries, and this is now being tackled on the levels of school curricula, tertiary courses, and the establishment of environment studies centres (in Australia).

### **Major Challenges:**

1. Environment Education: It is essential to act so as to enable effective environment education of all citizens. This must be tackled in a variety of ways (see Workshop).

2. Development of environmentally-oriented youth action. This has started with the emergence of articulate conservation societies in some Australian universities, but a great deal more remains to be done in the way of stimulus, coordination and by provision of resources. The Australian Conservation Foundation is providing a new dimension of expertise in relation to the letter, but the emergence of something akin to IYF would be welcome.

3. Economic Vulnerability: with the economics of each

country tied to primary produce, they are utterly dependent on outside markets. Australia's economy depends on wool, meat, wheat, and (lately) minerals. New Zealand produces little other than meat and butter and Fiji copra (for oils) and sugar. If industrialized nations determinedly secure their trade independence of such resources by the increasing development of synthetic alternatives, hence exacerbating their ecological instability, this will have a very adverse effect on antipodean economics.

4. Tourism: For New Zealand and the South Pacific and, to a lesser extent, Australia, tourism represents a growing problem. The influx of tourists is expected to increase exponentially in the next ten years, and this will cause severe strains on the economy, the scenic area and the indigenous cultures. This damage must be weighed against the economic gains. The intrinsic value of unique natural, cultural and economic biomes means that some areas in each country should be retained in their natural state, with no development at all in them.

## EUROPEAN REGIONAL REPORT

### Environmental Problems

It is impossible to generalize about specific environmental problems of Europe. The Continent is broadly divided into two political and economic blocs, and yet the individual countries within each bloc have achieved different levels of economic development. Ever since 1945 the economic structure in large parts of Europe has been characterized by enormous concentrations of capital, integration of markets (EEC, EFTA, and COMECON), increase in the means of production and raising of the technological level of the production process. In the wealthy countries, science, technology and organization have started to play roles in industry which are much greater than the roles they played during the pre-war period. However, countries such as Spain, Greece and Ireland remain predominantly agriculturally oriented.

Some parts of the Continent have severe problems of overpopulation. Such is the case in the industrialized northwestern part of Europe. The Netherlands, for example, has a population density exceeding 350 inhabitants per square kilometer. Almost everywhere rural communities are substantially losing population because people are attracted by greater social and economic opportunities to urban centers. The labor needs of the most industrialized areas have resulted in a migration of workers, primarily from the Mediterranean countries.

The widespread effects of industrialization have created an unpleasant society for man to live in. The problems include ineffective or insufficient land use planning, congested cities and transportation systems, derelict land, rising demands for water and energy and difficulties in disposing of the solid and fluid wastes produced by consumption-oriented societies. Industrial, chemical and human effluents are polluting river systems, which in turn contribute greatly to the pollution of the seas. Because of the profit-making principles which underpin European economic bases, little attention has been given to the proper treatment of industrial wastes, which are

often dumped into the seas. No part of Europe can cope alone with these problems. Rivers like the Rhine and the Danube cross national boundaries, and no single national authority can preserve the qualities of the threatened North Irish, Baltic and Black Seas. The pollutants emitted from large factories into the atmosphere often effect more than one country. Europe's rural areas face growing environmental problems as increased urbanization results in the devitalization of rural communities. The evolution of modern (mechanized) agricultural techniques and of new forestry and land reclamation schemes is transforming the landscape. Pesticides and fertilizers are polluting many streams. Excessive cropping and grazing end the removal of woodlands and hedges are causing soil erosion problems. The countryside is being subjected to the conflicting demands of industrial development; to the creation of reservoirs and the extraction of mineral resources. In addition, recreational and leisure activities being fostered by increasingly mobile, urban populations are endangering the scenery and resources of previously isolated rural settle. Environmental problems faced by European countries cover a much wider range of issues than is sometimes imagined; from the rural concerns of less developed regions to the intensive urban pressures of highly industrialized areas. There is no common way of attacking the causes of such problems, and often not even common agreement on the purposes and objectives behind schemes for environmental conservation. Our governments are becoming increasingly aware of societal deficiencies, but the reactive plans they formulate are not always effective. In some cases, they do not even recognize that difficulties exist. Therefore, young people can play useful roles in shaking up authorities and drawing their attention toward unpleasant realities.

### Environmental Action by Young People in Europe

Young people throughout Europe have been prominent in identifying problems within our societies, seeking to correct them and fighting against the factors which cause them in the first place. It seems valuable to set before this conference some examples of the broad scope of youth action campaigns which have occurred in Europe. The particular issues may appear on their own to be insignificant, but their importance is often in their success in making the general public more concerned about the degradation of the human environment. The activities of youth must create a public opinion which is clearly aware of the hazards ahead. Moreover, greater successes can be achieved by actions which may be spear-headed by youth, but which also involve older people. It is then harder for such efforts to be dismissed as the mere outrages of student revolutionaries.

A common theme which runs through many actions is that of protesting official decisions which are made without carefully considering real needs of the community. For example, the planning of routes for new roads has often aroused great anger among local people in such diverse countries as Britain, the Netherlands and Portugal. In the Netherlands and Portugal, there have been proposals to build roads through rural areas of high scientific and natural importance. Campaigns of protest, petition and presentation of alternative plans were sometimes successful in creating such public opposition that



the schemes were abandoned. Other proposals of modern developments for tourism, water reservoirs and industry can destroy the qualities of great scenic areas. It is through the efforts of interested groups that the public is awakened to these dangers. In France, a proposal for vast tourist developments in the national park of La Vanoise was partly withdrawn in the face of strong hostility from young people, scientists and the general public. In Sweden, students and others concerned about the countryside were successful in preventing the construction of several dams on the Vindelälven River which would have flooded a large area of outstanding natural importance. In Poland, students have been working in their free time with local villagers to revive communal interests in a depopulated rural area. Volunteers have been involved in similar plans throughout Europe to combat soil erosion, to work in nature reserves and to otherwise conserve the countryside. By such means, the campaign of the European Conservation Year (1970) achieved its goal of informing people about the problems.

An important aspect of many successful youth actions has been that they present alternatives to the schemes which they oppose. Strictly negative protests have less chance of affecting change than do those which also present clear alternatives. Examples of constructive youth involvement in community environmental action plans in cities have included establishing open spaces and playgrounds for children, resisting ill-considered building proposals and becoming involved in housing and other special problems. In cities such as London, Munich and Amsterdam, some youth groups have encouraged squatting in unoccupied houses as a means of overcoming homelessness. There have been many protests against city traffic congestion. Such protests have occasionally resulted in the closure of streets to motor vehicles. In Stockholm this summer there have been continuous citizen protests against official attempts to cut down elm trees in a park in preparation for building a new subway station. Such symbolic issues can be important in moulding public opinion about environmental matters. The effect of changing attitudes can be seen in the implications of a recent Swedish campaign against the use of a phosphate detergent. Young people and housewives held demonstrations, circulated leaflets and posters, and contacted shop-keepers. They were successful in securing a 15% reduction in the sales of the detergent.

The industrial zones face special environmental problems. Youth actions are often handicapped by the countervailing strengths of vast economic interests which resist change. However, there have been voluntary efforts by young people in countries like the United Kingdom to clear and landscape derelict industrial lands so that the terrain no longer remains an eyesore to the community. In Germany, Sweden, Holland and elsewhere, protests against industrial air and water pollution have been successful in beginning to change public attitudes to such problems. For example, objections by workers and young people in Scandinavia, Britain and the Netherlands encouraged those governments to prevent the voyage of the Dutch ship *Stella Maris* to dump toxic waste in the Atlantic Ocean.

Youth conservation movements in Belgium and

elsewhere are actively opposing the establishment of industrial plants which cannot guarantee pollution-free production processes.

In England and Holland, protests against airport noise succeeded in causing the governments to decide against further extending Heathrow, Gatwick and Schiphol Airports. It is not easy to successfully oppose the establishment of a new industry. However, the Dutch experience in opposing the construction by the Pechiney Company of a new aluminum smelter indicated, although the factory was finally built, many people can be induced to concern themselves with environmental problems as a result of protests.

Actions undertaken by young people can be a worthwhile way of educating and informing ever larger numbers of citizens about immediate and urgent environmental problems. Quite often, the particular objective of the action is not achieved, but the cumulative effects of many individual projects can perhaps significantly influence people to become more fully involved in deciding the affairs of their own country.

## **LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL REPORT**

### **Introduction**

It is necessary to point out that in order to elaborate on the present report the following items must first be considered.

A. The final objective of the Conference is elaboration of various ways of executing solutions to environmental problems; to be delivered as recommendations at different levels (national and international); at the same time and primarily, it is to try to elaborate on the global strategies of youth action, which have the same ends.

B. Said recommendations and strategies of youth action ought to be more than adequate to attack effectively the problems which have been detected.

C. The environmental problems do not exist, as such, in an isolated form. They are located in processes that possess many interrelated variables within themselves.

D. In order to guarantee the effectiveness of the recommendations; to realize and to establish the strategies; one should understand the problems and all their ramifications, studying even the elements which they generate; these also should be forcefully attacked.

The displays considered have fixed the following plan as the most adequate for the regional report which is presented:

1. Identification of the most urgent environmental problems on the regional Latin American scale.
2. A general explanation of the final causes which generate or condition the existence (present and potential) of the annotated problems.

3. Identification of those socio-economic, political and cultural elements which have a direct relationship with the problems described in point '1', be it as causal elements or as consequences of the problem.

4. The execution of regional and global strategies of youth action, and of recommendations to governments and international organizations.

#### Environmental Problems of Latin America

The region is subject to an aggregate of common problems, highly important and more often than not with profound structural roots. A brief enumeration and explanation of them, in order of gravity, follows.

It is necessary to point out, however, that some problems are noted which do not affect the whole region in a generalized way, but acquire vital importance in those geographical areas where they are located.

##### A. Degeneration of the Eco-Systems

The most serious problem, having the greatest priority for solution, is the strong process of degeneration from which their eco-systems suffer. The most important and representative expressions of the afore-mentioned situation are the destruction of the soil, the existence of serious limitations in the available water resources and the destruction of wildlife.

**Destruction of the soil:** More than half of the soil in Latin America is subject to some degree of destruction from erosion. This is primarily due to bad management of the land, represented by the following principal elements:

a. **Monocultural practices-** Latin American agriculture is based on a small number of crops which are permanently repeated, that is, without rotation. This situation promotes a progressive impoverishment of the soil. Lands are abandoned when their productivity falls to levels which make it economically unfeasible to continue their exploitation. These lands then become extremely susceptible to erosion by natural elements such as rainfall and wind.

b. **Indiscriminate use of fire-** The general practice of clearing the lands by means of fire, without adequate control, is another of the elements which produce erosion, as it is observed in Latin American soil.

c. **Destructive use of slopes-** Even if this is not done in the whole geographical region, it constitutes another important factor of erosion. The general practice of plowing hillsides in the same direction as the hill allows rain or irrigation water to wash away the soil, carry away the plant covering and thereby promote its erosion.

d. **Farm use of forest soil and irrational commercial exploitation of forests** are another factor causing erosion of Latin American soils through the indiscriminate cutting and clearing of trees, be it for agricultural use or for commercial exploitation. In

the first case the use of soil unsuited for agriculture, combined with inept management (in some of the ways established previously), promotes the terrible process of erosion. Second, deforestation due to irrational commercial exploitation of forest and to fires, means the establishment of conditions leading to loss of the protective covering of the soil, thus inducing erosion.

e. **Cattle raising** is dependent on the capacity of the soil to support a particular number of cattle for each surface unit. Traditional pastoral practice uses natural meadows, which do not submit themselves to processes of improvement. This means that the soil has to support an excessive number of cattle, leading eventually to its erosion.

f. **Still another factor** which means the destruction of soil is the absolute absence of a process for re-integration of organic matter.

g. **Finally one must point out** that two other elements promote destruction of Latin American soil. They are salinization and laterization, the spreading of salts through the soil. The first is due to inadequate irrigation practices in arid zones, helped along by floods. The second is fundamentally due to exploitation of forests situated in the ferrous lands of tropical areas.

**2. Limitation of Water Resources:** A second aspect of the degeneration of the eco-system in Latin America is the growing process of limitation from which the water resources suffer. It is primarily due to:

a. **The extension of sources of water:** the decrease of wealth from rivers and the descreation of lakes.

b. **The salinization of water** fundamentally due to bad practices of irrigation employed to control floods.

**3. Destruction of Wildlife:** As an effect of the degeneration of the eco-system, chiefly due to a lack of real control over the exploitation of 'flora and fauna', continental as well as oceanic, a strong process of wildlife destruction has been produced in Latin America. The danger of disappearance of some species also exists. The introduction of new species has also promoted disruptive alterations in the eco-system.

##### B. Population Problems

Unlike other regions of the world, there exist great expanses of territory on the continent of Latin America that are practically uninhabited. It is obvious from the start that the population problems in Latin America do not involve a high population density.

The problems of the region in this matter are principally the following: the distribution and settlement of the population, and the inadequate relation of measurements of growth between the population and the 'gross regional product'.

**1. Problems of Concentration and Settlement:** One of the most urgent problems to solve in Latin America is the excessive concentration of population in the

cities.

Analyzing the process of concentration, one observes that it derives principally from internal currents of migration. The 'biological' growth of the urban population of Latin America. This fact is demonstrated when one observes the composition, according to their origin, of the urban population of Latin America. Approximately 10% of the population under 10 years of age has been born outside the cities; those from 15 to 19 years of age, 25%; from 35 to 39 years old the percentage is 50%; and above 65 years it is more than 66%. This composition of urban population is compatible with models of internal migration in youth, with some migration of a certain magnitude in advanced ages.

At the same time, this urban concentration is accompanied by settlement of the immigrating population, which means the exaggerated growth of the cities in a horizontal direction. A great number of the families that arrive in the cities establish themselves on the periphery.

This brings as a consequence a series of socio-economic problems that we shall discuss later.

2. Growth of Population versus Growth of the Gross Product: Over a period of twenty years, from 1950-1969, the Latin American population grew at an approximate rate of 2.8% annually, while the gross product for the same period was 4 to 5%. At the same time within the levels of growth of the product, the increase in finished goods and services amounted to 8% annually. This shows how the relation between population growth and internal distribution of goods and services generates a scarcity of these goods. Furthermore, the level of growth for the mentioned product is relatively high at the beginning of the 60's. There exists a definite downward trend. This implies that the problem of scarcity of goods and basic services is even more serious.

### C. Problems of Pollution

Third in the order of priorities and distinctly different from the rest is the problem of pollution.

1. Atmospheric pollution: is localized in a very definite way in a few big cities. Nevertheless, because of the problem of population concentration previously mentioned, the situation acquires a certain seriousness. In some cities the level of pollution has reached critical limits, due primarily to the increase of automobiles and heavy industries in the absence of regulatory norms.

2. Pollution of water: includes with equal intensity the oceanic and continental waters.

3. Pollution of the soil: is due fundamentally to the use of pesticides, and in a small part of the disposable wastes of industries.

### General Explanation of the Problems

In this part of the report we shall try to fix the general

framework which characterizes Latin American under-development as the first cause of all the problems previously mentioned.

It is necessary to point out, nevertheless, that we are not presenting an exhaustive analysis on such material, but only some reference points that may permit a global understanding of the problems.

### Latin American Dependence

The fundamental characteristic of Latin American development is the dependence it has always maintained with respect to foreign powers. Said relation of dependence implies the following principal conditions:

A. A continual flux of resources which, in one form or another, leave the region with at best only a compensatory payment.

B. The establishment of types of consumption which do not satisfy the real needs of the Latin American people, derived fundamentally from the propaganda of industrialized nations through various channels in search of markets.

C. The power of decision about political, social and economic matters is concentrated in small ruling cliques. Generally, these "elites" coincide with representatives of large foreign corporations (or at least are strongly influenced by them). This leads to the situation defined above, and in general to the execution of economic, social and political matters in a way which satisfies foreign, instead of national or regional, interests.

The historical influence of this relation of dependence (of Spanish, Portuguese and English colonialism in the first epoch and of North American and other powers' neocolonialism in the second period), on the development of economic, social and political structures and systems has meant the continuation of what has been called "international colonialism". In the same line of thought as the beginning of this part of the report, some concrete expressions of this situation are now presented:

1. Concentration of an elevated proportion of money in small social groups. This generates, in the majority of Latin American countries, a structure characterized by two clearly defined economic and social groups—a minority with a high level of living (and with a conspicuous or sumptuary consumption) and a great mass in sub-human living conditions. Even in some Latin American countries where a "middle class" of some importance exists, the unequal distribution of money received is a problem that affects them in a substantial way.

2. Socio-economic isolation of the peasants. The form which Latin American agriculture has developed, and its relation with the "modern" sectors of the national economies, has meant that a large corporation of the peasant class is not protected by the institutional channels of the various societies. In those countries where the indigenous proportion of the population is high the problem is aggravated by racial and cultural



factors.

3. The relation between the political and economic powers, accompanied by characteristic centralization of big corporations (in general, of the industrial enterprises), has meant that power is completely concentrated in the capitals of the different nations.

4. Because of the nature of "internal colonialism", an aggregate of other problems which could qualify as "institutional" are derived. Among those which possess a more direct relation with environmental problems and their consequences are as follows:

a. Lack of official and private economic backing for basic scientific investigation.

b. Insensitivity of public opinion in the face of environmental problems and their consequences.

c. Lack of long-range planning in agricultural production, urbanization, industrialization and industrial localization, etc. Little emphasis is put on the necessity to diversify national economies. This element is of vital importance if Latin American economies are to become stable, instead of dependent on the fluctuations of international markets.

d. Finally, it is imperative that a comprehensive examination of the problem of Latin American underdevelopment be attempted.

#### Explanatory Plans of the Problems Pointed Out

In this part of the report schematic diagrams are presented which, in the context established show some direct relationships between the annotated problems and other factors. If one desires the solution to environmental problems, one should direct oneself to those factors which originate said problems. Nothing is gained by attacking the "appearance of the problems", if the problem itself is not attacked.

This part of the report treats of some consequences of the environmental aspects enumerated in the beginning. (especially the socio-economic area.)

#### A. Degeneration of the Eco-Systems

The principal and most direct consequence of the problem in question is the progressive deterioration in the rhythm of growth in the agricultural sectors of the region. This can be separated into two levels:

1. The productivity of the land falls: a progressive loss of soil is produced, by which the land becomes useless for the production that the food or any other kind of primary product. This means potential agricultural production of the continent is continually being reduced. Each year the region on the whole can produce less with the surface presently being used.

2. It therefore becomes necessary to expand the agricultural frontiers to virgin areas. This exploitation requires large infra-structure investments, which the Latin American countries are not in a position

to support by themselves. They must instead resort to external financing, thus increasing negative capital flow and dependence on big multi-national corporations.

3. In addition, international assistance (e.g., credit, "unilateral agreements" with industrialized nations, etc.) implies, in a majority of cases, importation of technology that does not suit the needs of Latin America. This promotes yet another series of consequences leading to degeneration of the ecosystem.

#### Problems of Populations

Without specifying the specific consequences in figure 1 it is worthwhile to emphasize the problem of the relation between standards of population growth and standards of product growth. In the figure one can see on one side the serious problem of unemployment and underemployment (rural as well as urban), and on the other side a progressive lack of basic products from internal sources (especially food).

Nevertheless, the control of population cannot be used as the solution to the problem. THE PROBLEM IS NOT TO DISTRIBUTE WEALTH AMONG A FEW SO THAT EACH ONE IS LESS POOR, but to develop the region effectively and distribute the wealth among all. Everything is based, in Latin American culture, on the independence and sovereignty of each Latin American country.

#### ACTION PROGRAMS

##### At the International level

An international youth organization shall coordinate effective action plans in all Latin American countries (the same is suggested for regions.), for the improvement of environmental conditions. Further, this Latin American youth organization will be in permanent contact with similar groups in other regions of the world.

This organization would:

A. Assemble as soon as possible a methodological and practical guide for the study of environmental sciences (ecology, sociology, etc.), for the use of those charged with teaching the young and for the young themselves.

B. Promote international and regional courses for selected young people (if possible in their own countries or in those possessing similar characteristics) who are interested in environmental sciences; upon their return to their countries, these young people would offer regional and national courses to their brethren.

C. Coordinate with governments of different countries the mechanisms for carrying out national advancement courses on environmental sciences for primary and secondary school teachers. This will stimulate the introduction of these topics in the school curricula. In addition, this organization should collaborate, technically and financially, in the administration of

these courses.

D. Help governments of different countries, and institutions or regional centers devoted to environmental sciences in other activities that would improve the teaching of ecology and other sciences related to the human environment.

E. Promote the creation and diffusion of national and international scientific journals, in collaboration with environmental youth organizations.

F. Obtain from the national committees, on a regular basis, information regarding youth action on environmental problems in each country.

At the National level

In each country, national youth organizations should exist and be charged with developing action programs to improve present environmental conditions. To this effect, the following recommendations are made:

A. In those countries where there already exists an organization of this kind, the biggest possible support should be given; where there aren't any, their prompt creation should be promoted.

B. Should it not be feasible to form national organizations, the formation of local or regional committees is desirable.

C. These committees should be formed by young people who are knowledgeable about environmental sciences in general and about the ecologic characteristics of their own country in particular experienced in group direction and who come from different professional backgrounds.

D. The activities of the national committee or its equivalents should be directed to:

1. promoting courses of instruction in ecological theory and on identification of the main environmental problems of the country.

2. keeping the members of the organization informed about advances related to ecology, sociology, economy of development, etc., stimulating the introduction of this new information into the action programs underway, and promoting the inclusion of this new knowledge in the teaching programs of universities and high schools in the country or region.

3. fomenting periodic meetings of university and secondary school level youth for a comprehensive treatment of the formulation of those action programs needed for the solution of the environmental problems of the country.

4. promoting the giving of speeches to the young, by specialists from their own country, with the help of films, slides, etc., so as to enable them to carry out simple analyses of the most important environmental conditions.

5. building a stock of key informative and bibliographic material in order to arrive at a pragmatic and theoretical knowledge of environmental problems.

6. fomenting the creation of public libraries dealing with environmental sciences and their use.

7. collecting information about the diffusion and application of modern methods in ecology and other environmental sciences in secondary schools in every country, and if necessary, helping through direct or indirect actions the advancement of these methods.

8. lobbying in official authority circles, so as to facilitate official action against practices that endanger the environmental heritage of the nation.

## **NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPORT**

### **Introduction**

Environmentalists have often been accused of wasting their time chasing rainbows. This is understandable, because of the magnitude, novelty, and complexity of the environmental problems as they have recently emerged all around us have produced a flurry of confused, disorganized action on the one hand, and despair on the other.

This report is an attempt to identify the problems in our region, as we now see them, in order that environmental action can now be directed and organized more efficiently for the future.

It has been suggested that all environmental problems arise from a faulty social and economic system. If this is true, then we will find only upon looking deeply into our society which socio-economic practices have led us to our current cultural egocentricity and disrespect for the quality of life.

We feel that the reckless exploitation of consumers in affluent nations such as ours, and of the land and resources in the developing countries, coupled with the obvious danger of global environmental carnage to fragile international relations, demonstrates how deeply these social and economic practices have been crystallized into our national attitude.

Thus, we gain insight into the fact that, while our past environmental action projects have been fine short-term efforts, they have really only helped to shore up the ruins of a decadent society. Our lack of significant national progress, qualitative rather than quantitative progress, proves to us that ours has been a rear-guard action, and that we cannot effectively swing a broadsword and run backwards at the same time.

We must dig deeper still. As we grope into the headwaters of what is now a monstrous world-wide technocratic power structure, we find it is dependent upon the classical "laissez faire" ideology of unlimited private ownership and enterprise free of sanctions, governmental or social. Even though at first glance there appear to be vast dissimilarities between the ruthless capitalism of days past and the supposed governmentally supervised industry of today, a closer

look is less than reassuring.

We find there has been no social sanction placed on industry because our society in its overwhelming entirety is totally enmeshed in the inescapable web of consumption, and through this accelerating economic snowball our society has been rendered completely helpless to extricate itself. Furthermore, the grossly misrepresentative lure of manufactured goods and easy credit has been so masterfully sold to us that few victims would turn away from their plastic opiate, even if given the chance.

Government offers no real threat or challenge either, since our governmental leaders and economic directors are little more than valets of the industrial giants. The prolonging of the Vietnam war in South East Asia is cited as a particularly nasty bit of evidence.

To sum up, "our current decisions regarding scientific, technological and industrial development are still considered within a social, political (and economic) framework that is inherited from the pre-industrial period," when global unity and environmental considerations could not possibly have been formulated.

The fact that industrial society holds so tenaciously and stubbornly to such archaic practices gives us, the youth of the world, a clue to how difficult our task will be. We will have to challenge our societies on many fronts simultaneously, with the final goal of diverting the course of mainstream social values to embrace a comprehension of global responsibility to man and his environment. This paper will identify some further obstacles on the path to environmental consciousness.

This paper attempts only to identify some of the problems. Reams of reports are available to more fully explain that which we have laid out here. We must work together with our brothers and sisters around the world in a unified and effective course toward the reordering of our social values and economic systems, so that the global relatedness of man and his environment is realized and protected.

## Mass Production

The North American economy is based largely on mass production, high turnover of goods and planned obsolescence. Where markets do not exist, they are created by advertising. Power consumption, for example, is stimulated by promotion of all-electric homes and convenience appliances, such as electric tooth-brushes and garbage smashers. The result is a convenience-oriented society of conspicuous consumers living in an atmosphere of confusion over which "new gadget" to buy. The phrase "be the first on your block..." is at least a century old, and entices the buyer just as much as it did in the days of the first telephone.

Unbridled economic growth is the inevitable outcome of this kind of society promoted and accepted as an unqualified benefit -- an attitude which can be partly traced to our frontier days. This entire economic pattern (and historical philosophy) is now under intensive

critical review by a large segment of North American youth. Through music, writing and social action, we have begun to expose the pattern's contradictions and are increasingly developing alternative economics based on new creativity, cultural lessons, ecological quality and nerve.

The production and use of organic foods, the renaissance in skills and crafts and the rise of communal living are now a part of this approach, as are counter-institutions such as free clinics, food cooperatives and work collectives.

Historically, the patterns of urban industrial development have been based on our transportation systems: first water, then rail, now highway. These transportation systems have facilitated the abuse of our vast natural resources, especially coal and oil, and today the interstate highway system has isolated farm land from water sources, split the Appalachian and Allegheny mountain ranges with wide swaths of concrete and disturbed the tranquility of the countryside with the din and hazard of speeding motor vehicles. Fifty thousand human beings and 365 million wild animals die on these roads each year.

Natural resources and agricultural goods are usually shipped long distances for processing and manufacturing; this has created intense economic dependence of one geographic area upon another, and amplifies vulnerability to whims of man and nature (e.g. strikes of labor unions, fungal blight and rusts). The net effect seems to be helpless dependence of one region on the economic needs of another in times of crisis.

The heritage of expansion, growth and materialism is strong and allows for little change, except in areas that contribute to quantitative advances on all fronts. National efforts are still couched in terms of competition and conflict rather than cooperation and consensus; witness the "space race" and the "War on Poverty". The philosophy of the environmental movement is of course incompatible with these precepts of competition and conflict and will only be able to flourish as fundamental changes which recognize other purposes of life begin to occur.

## The Urban Environment

Virtually every city resident is subject to and contributes to a variety of environmental insults, some of which are cumulative and lead to unpredictable combined effects. In many cases the urban resident is unaware of their presence around him, as with the discharge of chromium, copper sulfate and other heavy metal compounds from air conditioning units into recreational waters around warm weather resorts.

The impact of the urban environment tends to manifest itself differently within the different strata of the urban social system. The inner-city resident generally lacks the economic resources to escape and the political power to protect himself, whereas the members of the middle class, who control most of the political and corporate structures, are able to escape to the suburbs. The disadvantaged ghetto dweller is subjected to a continuously increasing level

of pollution, noise and crime, and as his environment deteriorates around him, so also does his sense of respect for himself, society and the law.

Those who live on the edges of cities are fated with somewhat more subtle but nonetheless critical influences. The suburban resident is characteristically a commuter, often travelling fifty or more miles a day by automobile. Where the city dweller is often too close to his neighbor, the suburbanite is too far away. Consequently, he buys rather than borrows and clutters his home and garage with tools and appliances that are seldom used. He becomes isolated from his fellow citizens, engaging only in the most superficial of social contacts, and often finds himself completely out of touch with both urban and rural communities, upon which he is dependent. The most tragic result of this alienation is the loss of willingness to get involved in, the problems of the community.

### Pollutants

The increasingly elaborate technology of the developed world has introduced thousands of substances into the environment which are foreign to natural systems. North Americans are exposed to carbon monoxide, sulfuric acid, DDT, mercury, lead, radioactive isotopes, extreme noise levels, untested food additives, etc., present in their air, water and food. The effects of these substances alone and together on the environment and on our bodies are incompletely understood. New synthetic and organic compounds are discovered daily by research and development, and as yet in North America there is no control over their production and use. Chemicals, introduced in products and in production processes, must be proven medically and environmentally harmless in terms of immediate dosage and long-range accumulation, before they are released, rather than waiting for a final, major disaster. This is a matter in which the whole world has a stake.

### Population and Resource Depletion

Each North American has an impact on the global environment magnified by his rate of consumption and generation of waste. The industrial and consumer activities of North America require a huge and constant flow of resources, facilitated by an economic ability to acquire scarce resources and divert them for their own use. As production expands and the population increases, sources of critically needed resources are increasingly in short per capita supply. There can be no question that North Americans are presently consuming vast supplies of natural resources disproportionate to the size of the world's population. The population question is not so much one of numbers as it is one of restraint of consumption. An immediate priority is to change consumption patterns and recycle rather than dispose of solid waste. Unless this is done, the drain on the world's natural resources by North America will become more acute.

### Land Use

The universal ownership of automobiles in North America offers each man increased mobility, which permits him to flee daily from the city to his own house and plot of land. The resulting suburban

sprawl has obliterated great areas of the most fertile agricultural land on the continent, as well as destroyed valuable recreational land. The once famous orchards of southern California, for example, have virtually disappeared. Our urban plans rarely recognize the existence of these open spaces as limited natural resources.

Only now are planners beginning to recognize the value of rural land and open space in the urban areas. The location of factories, commercial buildings, roads, parks and homes must be seen in relationship to natural resources and their impact on the physical and social environment. We have to end the routing of highways through rich farming valleys and valuable urban areas for the sole purpose of getting to places faster. We have to end the destruction of forests, agricultural lands, streams and people's lives for maximum profits to corporations now benefiting the area. An example of this would be strip mining, in Appalachia or the Black Mesa.

The free access to land has resulted in building in areas that are subject to natural disasters. Mammoth shopping centers, with hundreds of acres cemented over, have caused grave danger to watershed because of drainage alterations. Governments are then asked to prevent flooding of the natural floodplains, rechannel streams through cities or attempt to stop erosion of steep slopes at costs that could have been avoided by proper land use control.

Factory agriculture has employed ever greater quantities of fertilizers, pesticides and mechanization, which have poisoned our rural lands and wildlife. At the same time they have made our food production increasingly susceptible to pests and diseases, which in turn require increasingly self-defeating use of new chemicals.

A return to more natural systems of agriculture, employing mixed crops and carefully regulated systems of biological pest control as well as the processing of organic wastes collected from sewage treatment facilities for use as fertilizers, at present requires greater research and labor inputs, but will prevent soil depletion and chemical contamination of our foods. At present, our food costs do not reflect the cost of the degradation of our land and natural resources. This we will pay for in the future.

Resource planning and urban design must, in the future, realize and account for the total impact on the environment-natural, social and cultural. Unless these attitudes are reflected in future design of human settlements the North American urban city is doomed to a slow and miserable death, along with, possibly, many of the urban dwellers.

### U.S. Governmental Pollution Abatement Procedures

The different government structures of Canada and the United States have resulted in different legislative and judicial approaches to environmental protection. The roots of present environmental legislation in the United States are found to have developed almost simultaneously at the levels of state, county and municipal governments. Several factors then influenced the progression to national regulation.



Significant among these are: 1) the failure of state and local governments to coordinate their implementation programs as well as designate their responsibilities in relation to each other; and 2) the fact that pollution does not honor the geographical boundaries of these governments. Early Federal regulation divided the United States into regions for the purpose of establishing air and water quality standards. The nine water quality standard regions were set up according to major watersheds, while the air quality standard regions were based on industrial and urban centers, crossing over state boundaries. In both cases, quality standards and control programs were developed at the regional level, based on standards recommended by the Federal government and enforced by the States.

The Federal Government reviews all state implementation programs, and if such plans are not approved, the Federal government will enforce the Federal minimum standards.

These procedures for air and water quality do not provide the tools for dealing with individual polluters. The amendments to the Clean Air Act and application of the effluent permit program under the 1899 Refuse Act indicate a trend toward pollution control of emissions by point source, a more effective and equitable method. The requirement of federal agencies to file environmental impact statements, as required under section 102 of the National Environmental Protection Act, has forced many Federal programs to consider the impact of specific projects on the total environment. This procedure, though, is still under critical review, especially as it fails to include considerations of impact on the cultural environment.

At the federal level, two agencies have responsibilities for environmental quality - The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), established in the Executive Office of the President in 1969, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), established in 1970. EPA is responsible for administering, developing and conducting Federal pollution enforcement activities, while CEQ is responsible for providing policy advice to the President, as well as reviewing and coordinating the environmental impact and control activities of all Federal agencies. Both these agencies are within the Executive Branch of government, and it must be recognized that, while they may advise the President, their policies can be over-ruled by the President according to his priorities or vested interests and those of the other Federal agencies. Unfortunately, many of the national abatement programs have been politically compromised by giving into the complaints of industry that EPA was being too hard on them. The success or failure of EPA now depends on how much citizen pressure can be brought to bear on the agency to force it to stand up to industry and, if necessary, to the President. In addition, EPA must develop significant sensibility and organizational mechanisms to ensure long range inter-disciplinary planning in policy areas to protect the environment, rather than continuing to deal only with crises as they arise. The traditional ties to the program areas of air pollution, water pollution, pesticides, environmental radiation and solid waste disposal have inhibited inter-program planning and coordination. These ties have not been effectively broken down by the EPA structural reorganization, which separated enforcement,

research and monitoring programs from operating programs. These programs must be re-integrated, with an understanding of the inter-dependencies of the environment, and must begin to adopt preventive rather than curative approaches.

The use of the court for environmental protection by citizens and governmental agencies in the United States has increased drastically in recent years. One of the most striking and significant developments is the right of citizens to take to court Federal agencies for failure to procedurally comply with regulations for consideration of the environment in their actions, as set forth in the N.E.P.A. Citizens do not have this right if the agencies have complied with the law: however, they do have the right to bring suit against a polluter under nuisance, common and statutory laws. The courts' have only allowed compensation in the most flagrant cases. To redress this judicial situation, Michigan has passed a citizen class action law that gives a citizen the right to take to court any industry, agency or individual for causing pollution or environmental degradation. The burden, after prima facie evidence has been presented, is on the polluter to prove otherwise. Although this has only been a law since July, 1970, it has already proved to be an excellent tool. A bill similar to the Michigan law is pending before the United States Congress.

## Science and Technology

Science and technology, in and of themselves, are neutral. It is rather the effect of society on science in determining its direction and the goals for application of technology that has resulted in detrimental impact on the environment. To blame a rapidly growing technology for pollution is to blame the gun and not the hand that aims it. Technology is a tool designed to pioneer methods of fulfilling the needs of only a small segment of the global society, while completely ignoring its impact on those in other parts of the world, who are helpless to defend themselves against the economic, social and environmental effects of our present reckless and culturally chauvinistic technological caprices. And this is at a time when it is becoming obvious that, through technology, the residents of this planet can actually choose and design their future, rather than simply be passengers on an evolutionary train ride.

Therefore, assuming that scientists and technicians grasp and fulfill their responsibility to the planet as a whole, and not to the multivarious governments and industries for whom they are now working, we see specific directions in which scientific and technological development must go.

The first priority is to gear technology toward the halting of such environmentally unsound adventures as general warfare and developmental shortsightedness.

Some of the most grave threats to our North American environment which have resulted from this carelessness are:

1. Contamination of recreational and drinking water by untreated or poorly treated municipal sewage discharge. The alleviation of this problem will take

character strength on the part of city and state politicians, pushing for the necessary treatment plants in the place of perhaps more popular projects, such as new athletic stadia and unbridled freeway construction.

2. Power generation and transportation technology are responsible for by far the greatest percentage of air pollution, since all forms of power production require the burning of fossil fuels. Sixty percent of all pollutants added to the air in the United States come from the internal combustion engine. Four years ago Los Angeles spewed 14,000 tons of contaminants into the air each day, and 87.4 percent of that was from gasoline powered motor vehicles. Similarly, the prolonged acceptance of power production based on fossil fuels will mean more offshore drilling, concomitant oil spills and the development of million ton super tankers, a few of which will no doubt collide with something.

Any real progress toward other means of energy and power production, despite rapidly disappearing resources, will be difficult, because of the enormous political and social power wielded by the transportation industry and the highway trust.

3. Technology related to agriculture must move ahead at all possible speed in developing strains which will heighten productivity and at the same time be more resistant to pests and plant disease. Again we have the case that the greater part of necessary technology is on hand, it simply needs to be realized, in conjunction with advice from social and environmental planners from all nations, to see how best to implement the knowledge on hand, and to make clear the directions in which research must go. The "Green Revolution" fiasco and the United Fruit excursions into Central and Latin America, not to mention the insensitive outcry against free food for undernourished third world countries, demonstrate the thoughtlessness and greed that developed countries in general have shown toward world-wide agricultural development.

Technological and scientific innovations can no longer be made that do not consider the effects of their products on a global scale, both socially and environmentally (consider Leo Szilard, co-inventor of the atom bomb, who exclaimed as an afterthought, "They're not really going to use it, are they ? ! ? !"), nor can these advances be forced upon or given to developing nations. Our economic system must be modified so that it is stimulated and not threatened by the free sharing of technological and scientific knowledge with our friends and neighbors around the world.

The pervasive technological externality is the great unsolved problem of economics uncovered by the environmental crisis in North America. The accounting system has failed to recognize, much less quantify, the social costs of business, military and governmental activities, that have now run into tens of billions of dollars each year.

The air pollution problem provides a good example of such an externality. Suppose that, in a small city, each individual is allowed to burn his trash with no regulation on the gaseous or particulate emission.

The large number of insignificant contributors from each source amount to a "dirty" air phenomenon that has tangible and intangible costs. One tangible cost is that clothes wear out at a far higher rate in the city than in the country. An intangible cost from long term, low level insults to the lungs may be reduced life expectancy for the citizens, especially those with some form of lung disease. Indeed, in the United States the respiratory disease emphysema is being listed as the cause of death in an increasingly large number of cases.

A slightly different example of an externality would be the dumping of untreated sewage into a river, with a city downstream and an active fishing area nearby. If the city downstream finds its drinking water unsuitable, how can it affect the procedures of another region? Since property rights have not been defined for the water quality of the stream, neither city has a recognizable avenue for negotiation. If the fish leave the area for a cleaner portion, who will compensate the man who used to sell bait?

Without a clear answer in the private enterprise system, three principal policy measures are employed to reduce the damages. They are the setting of effluent standards, taxes and subsidies, and legal regulations and prohibitions. In recent years, as these strategies were shown to have a major effect, lawsuits have been filed and controversy has been sent to court.

Two specific cases of taxes and standards -- concerning sulfur oxides and lead--follow:

**Sulfur oxides:** Sulfur oxides as air pollutants account for one half of the total damages from air pollution. Damage to national health costs over \$3,300,000,000 and damage to materials, property and vegetation \$5,000,000,000 annually. If uncontrolled, annual sulfur dioxide emissions will nearly quadruple by the year 2000. There is a lack of technology for controlling sulfur oxides. A sulfur oxides emission charge would provide economic incentive for developing demonstrations and use of technology to meet air quality standards called for by the Clean Air Act. The change would provide incentive to achieve even more abatement than required by standard. The international effect should not be ignored in this example. If the United States wanted to economically penalize countries with large reserves of high-sulfur oil, on a strict standard basis, it could be crippling. Standards should be constantly checked for their effects on the economics of developing countries.

**Lead:** Lead emissions from an over-abundant number of automobiles accumulate in the human body, causing lead poisoning. Although consumers have unleaded gasolines available to them, the price of it, at specific octane levels, is higher than the corresponding leaded brands. A tax on lead additives in gasoline would therefore serve to equalize leaded and unleaded gasoline prices, producing the economic incentive for refineries to make available low or unleaded products: This is expected to be an excruciatingly slow transition; in the meanwhile we would still be exposed to lead poisoning.

Education

Environmental education, as we define it to mean the learning of inter-relationships between the biological, climatic, cultural and political worlds, is just beginning in North America. There have always been aspects of this taught in schools, fragmented in the course curriculum into specific topics such as conservation, marine biology, forestry, economics of scarce resources, etc. In addition, there has long been a scientific field of "ecology" in North America, developed most notably perhaps at the University of Chicago in the United States, and supported by programs of field study in many schools and universities, for example, the estuarine ecology program at Solomon Island on the Chesapeake Bay, sponsored by the University of Maryland. Government agencies have also fostered the development of field ecology; the Smithsonian Institute has maintained Barro Colorado Island, in the Panama Canal Zone for the study of tropical ecosystems, since 1930.

The recent creation of the Office of Environmental Education within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare reemphasizes the need for formal and informal education programs at all levels. Last year two million dollars was made available by the federal government to develop environmental education programs, and the National Science Foundation offered money to students wanting to engage in environmental research and public education. Environmental Response, a student group in St. Louis, for example, received fifty thousand dollars to build a network of ecology centers within public libraries (Ecology Centers, non-profit environmental information and education efforts which began in Berkeley, California in 1969, are now operating in thirty or more cities).

It must be kept in mind that in North America education has become an industry, and whenever a new idea catches the public's fancy, everyone is suddenly engaged in selling the same product or service. This is the case with "The environment", and it is too early to say whether this industry will be a help or hindrance to the public's need to understand their environmental conditions.

Environmental education is closely related to the environmental information movement. The best example of this is the creation of the Scientists Institute for Public Information. Originally started during the 1950's as the Committee for Nuclear Information, its original purpose was to alert the public to the dangers of nuclear fallout. It has grown to a nation-wide group of Committees for Environmental Information, dealing with all aspects of environmental problems, and it publishes the monthly magazine, "Environment". Those scientists also offer technical assistance, advice, lecturers, etc., at no cost to the public.

The environmental education movement has spread to the private corporation as well. Thousands of texts and films have been made on the subject, and even Junior Chambers of Commerce are involved in environmental projects. Recently Coca Cola Company has offered a box containing ecology games and literature about the environmental crisis as seen from the beverage industry. Some of these private efforts are carefully done and researched, but more often they are propaganda for industry which wants to say

to everyone, "Look what good I am doing for the environment". Some are obvious attempts to capture attention for their products and make profits at the expense of our anxiety.

Despite the development of new schools specifically concerned with the environment, such as the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, the greatest obstacles to the full-blooming of environmental education are the lack of educators and the refusal by many who determine educational policy to allow us to teach the social and economic implications of the environmental crisis. If followed to its logical conclusion, ecology always leads to the lessons of how we have plundered our continent, the world and its people. For those who resist change, environmental education is a serious threat, because there is much wealth and power at stake, and they will always stand in our way. Our job must be to continue educating the public to the causes of environmental decay and encourage them to break that resistance.

### Youth Involvement

Youth involvement in environmental action has been increasingly extensive and committed. Student and youth organizations exist throughout the region, independently in the community and on college campuses with statewide confederations existing in California, Iowa and Michigan. There has been no formal regional coordination and national coordination in the United States existed for only a few months prior to Earth Day, April 22, 1970. At this time, the emphasis has shifted away from education and publicity campaigns to more local issues and action projects such as litter clean-up, recycling programs, the cutting down of billboards and the like. Concurrently, there is a growing awareness and shift in tactics toward dealing with the more fundamental socio-economic and political problems that are causing environmental deterioration. Schools in the region are now setting up environmental community involvement programs aimed at having students integrate their studies with environmental research and action directed toward political change.

Youth environmental awareness programs are frequently part of other organizations not specifically or primarily environmental, such as the Scouts, Four-H Clubs and church youth groups. In addition, youth contribute their manpower and talents to agencies, organizations and programs not specifically youth oriented, such as the Sierra Club, government agency internship programs, the S.C.O.P.E. program within the E.P.A., etc., and frequently work in positions of leadership in such organizations along with senior adult environmentalists. Involvement in inner-city and urban environmental problems has developed independently and through organizations with a different primary focus, such as the Y.A.R.E. Program of the Izaak Walton League, Black Survival in St. Louis and the Student Urban Environmental Health Program of the Michigan Student Environmental Confederation.

### The Canadian Dilemma

Canada for all practical purposes is an economic colony of multinational corporations based primarily in

the United States. The corporations, guided by profit motives are particularly insensitive to the human and natural environment (witness the International Nickel Corporation's destruction of vast areas of a once natural environment in the Sudbury, Ontario region.) These corporations in conjunction with equally, and more regrettable, insensitive governmental actions have adversely altered the natural heritage of innumerable ecosystems and people in Canada.

In return for the state of Canada's natural heritage we have attained an exceptionally high standard of material living which people in other countries can never hope to reach. Even our life style is precariously dependent on the whims of foreign interests (such as the potential loss of 1200 jobs in Newfoundland with the probable closing of the Bowater Paper Corp. Ltd. of London, England). While we continually search for a "Canadian Identity" we readily accept the loss of small farmers, maritime fishermen, Indian and French styles as an inevitable result of economic progress. We accept a poverty level estimated to be more than one in five while we waste close to two billion dollars a year on military defense. Governments create monuments to themselves, such as the 21 million dollar Ontario Place in Toronto, Ontario, while sufficient funds are not available for low income housing. We permit the ecological destruction of the unique Athabasca Delta by the Bennet Dam and call it progress.

These examples and innumerable others are merely symptoms of much deeper problems embodied in the social, economic and political institutions of our time. We in Canada with our rich natural resources will have to face the fact that a mass redistribution of wealth and subsequent power is required. Until we squarely face these basic issues any attempt to regulate the outflow of pollutants from any factory is merely an exercise in futility designed to appease a vocal minority of environmentalists.

We have to appraise the direction of our future both internally and in relation to the entire world. We have to accept the fact that all living and non-living elements are tied, however willingly, into one ecological system. Finally, we can no permit the destruction of this precarious balance whether it is perpetrated by individuals, corporations or governments in Canada or the rest of the world.

Young people in Canada and the entire world have to become deeply involved in the problems of environment and restructuring of priorities if we are to effect change. Our approach has to be a positive assertion of a future direction. We can not, for example, reject all technology merely because it has enabled man to construct Super Sonic Transports or atomic bombs; rather we must determine that which is socially and ecologically sound and encourage it and reject that which is contrary to those values. We have to encourage industry and commerce to restructure their priorities. We have to support governments we agree with and give them the power to implement change. We have to educate individuals and encourage an ecological awareness of life. Above all, we can not accept failure because the consequences are catastrophic.



## WORKSHOP REPORTS

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The socio-economic structure of the modern world may be described as a global web of bureaucratic arrangements supported by powerful financial and political groups. The existence of this web is based on maintaining the "third world" and the world's underprivileged in an inferior position. This arrangement ensures cheap sources of labour and raw materials. Further, a low economic status in the underdeveloped nations seemingly ensures that they will become dependent on the existing structures for finished manufactured goods.

A powerful weapon used by the leaders of this structure is propaganda, often of the most subtle proportions, aimed at cultural and commercial domination. When this fails, a military-economic complex is arranged through the corruption of local and national governments, whose tactics then turn to violence and strong economic pressures, such as the placing of "strings" on technical and financial aid, the imposition of trade barriers and the disruption of international trade through "dumping" and price-fixing.

This pressure is also applied indirectly. Because of their political and economic power, the leaders of this structure control most aspects of the theoretically neutral organizations and their programmes. At the local level, they create small scale parallel structures of the parent organizations. Small, well educated ruling elites then gain control of all the economic and social processes within their respective countries. Thus, we see large masses of people throughout the world, with little or no education, at poverty levels, and with little hope of ever realizing their full potential value as human beings.

The conditions described above are not new but rather the end process of a long historical development during which it was taken as a matter of natural law that the strong could exploit the weak. Some manifestations of this perverted social ecology are:

- a) discrimination of human beings on the basis of race, religion, culture and sex;
- b) the displacement of large groups of people by war, technological processes or political change, and their resulting existence as displaced persons or migrants in their own cities, in foreign countries or in camps;
- c) the emphasis on the development of more and greater technological power at the expense of the non-elite populations seeking to scratch a living from the land.

It is emphatically repeated that this analysis does not refer to any nation in particular and that this situation is not the direct result of any particular government's policy. Rather, the misery is the end product of a way of life which has been "progressing" for several

centuries. Just as the concept of material progress is being redefined in the developed countries, so too must the progression of international exploitative forces be recognized and reformed. The time has come for man's unchecked exploitation of man, and man's inexcusable abuse of the environment, to end. Should the trend continue, neither the exploiter nor the exploited can expect to survive much longer. The youth of the world consequently calls for the war that man wages against man and nature to finally come to peace. This peace can only take place when the existing social, economic and political structure is changed to be completely responsive to the needs of all mankind and the environment. To achieve and promote these ends, the workshop on economic and social aspects has therefore made the following recommendations, resolutions and suggestions for action:

#### On Elites

Because of historical developments and the growth of industrialized societies, small elites have arisen throughout the world and fully control the social, economic and political process. The world's youth turns to these elites and asks them to share with us and the world's underprivileged our viewpoint. The critical situation of the environment and rising expectations for higher standards of living make this request very urgent. Should this request not be heeded, the world's youth hold the elites responsible for the consequences that may arise. More concretely, we propose:

- a) that international organizations establish educational programs geared specifically to the underprivileged of all nations;
- b) that at the local level, the world's youth must participate very actively in community social and economic programs with the aim that at last more and more of the underprivileged will see their rising expectations fulfilled;
- c) that the world's youth organize and link up environmental action groups with existing community and political action groups;
- d) that in deference to the youth who have already died in the struggle, it is asked from the elites that they cease their suppression of those of us who continue to fight ill in the world-wide human environment.

#### On Discrimination

We demand that any form of discrimination, overt or inherent in double standards, based on race, colour, creed, language, culture or sex be condemned as one of the most subtle and degrading forms of exploitation.

#### On the Role of the Military

We view with grave concern the unnecessary, wasteful and destructive nature of the military complex as presently found in all countries, developed and developing, and the harmful effects that result from the activities of the military establishment on the

human and natural environment.

We therefore recommend the following steps be taken by all governments, individually and collectively, to mitigate the military complex:

a) that the amounts of national expenditures presently being allocated to the military establishment be transferred to educational and other socially beneficial activities and that at no time should the expenditure on such activities be less than that on the military establishment during a period of transition;

b) that the armies of the world be disbanded and replaced by compulsory national service that shall take the form of educational, agricultural, settlement, cultural and environmental development, as being the contribution of a country's youth to the well-being and improvement of the living and social standards of its own and other countries;

c) that the present nature of armies be meanwhile adapted so as to allow for non-military activities within the framework of an army, along the line of national social service, as above;

d) that all youth groups and associations discourage their members from being connected in any way with any research for military purposes;

e) that better information communication be established between youth groups in the world on a bilateral basis for the purposes of this resolution.

#### On International Trade

Whereas international trade, either through the utilization of manpower, deployment of market or price-fixing, has always worked to the detriment of developing countries, and

Whereas the developed countries want to maintain this imbalance through political and economic blackmail, and

Whereas the developing countries find it difficult to address themselves to environmental concerns until this historical and structural imbalance is revised,

We therefore urge the elimination of this imbalance and the following efforts to correct it:

a) the fixing of minimum prices for all goods, and an international body to regulate prices for the purpose of smoother economic development in the world. This group would draw on a special fund set up by the wealthy nations, who would be in a minority voting position, to offset losses to a developing country if prices must be revised below the minimum;

b) that developed countries permit no restriction against the carrying of products made in their countries to others by ships under foreign

c) that the World Bank and other financial aid organizations cease the offering of aid to developing

countries with a proviso for population control programs;

d) that developed countries cease the political use of foreign trade, wherein they produce or have produced for them very cheaply products of no particular interest to them, but which are economic cornerstones to nations they wish to influence. Such goods are dumped on the national market to lower the product's price and increase the developed country's political position;

e) that an international regulating body be established to ensure against the extreme setting of environmental standards as a tool for managing import to developed nations.

#### On International Organizations

No international organization's program can be successful if it is not supported by the people it purports to help. The world's youth should act in their own nations, according to their particular situation, to help carry out beneficial programs.

We see several dangers regarding international agencies, however. Any international work by the UN on the subject of the environment should be proceeded by reformation along the following lines:

a) The various international organizations and the international affairs agencies of particular governments control the news media and are able to direct or stop information for their own private purposes. It is proposed that the Youth Conference on the Human Environment establish a news media commission to ensure that all available information from all viewpoints, political or otherwise, be made available to youth groups throughout the world;

b) It is further proposed that present international organizations immediately set up an investigating committee to analyze the concrete and specific steps which were taken to help or not to help, financially or otherwise, all the international conferences proposed or held during the last two (2) years, and that the information gathered be made fully public;

c) It is also proposed that the size of all embassy or consular staffs be limited to a number no greater than the smaller embassies' staff;

d) Several international agencies and individual nations have large technical, scientific or economic assistance agencies established in other countries. It is proposed that these agencies be required to employ at least one half (1/2) of their staff from members of their host nation and that these employees have posts throughout all organizational levels of the agency. This proposal does not apply to headquarters or regional offices of international agencies, such as the UN headquarters in New York or UNESCO in Paris;

e) It is finally proposed that world youth must take a predominant role in these agencies within their own nations, and that this must be a matter of policy of the agencies.

## On The International Court

Whereas the present international system allows only governments the right to appear in international court, and

Whereas the principles of ecology dictate that this administrative response is insufficient to the standing of the individual in international affairs, and

Whereas environmental damages are usually inflicted upon a surrounding or distant ecosystem, or places future generations in a jeopardy without process of law, and

Whereas it is becoming apparent that state jurisdictions are expanding the rights of their citizens in such a way,

We therefore recommend and urge that individuals or organized groups be enfranchised to have standing to sue before the World Court, without having to prove direct injury or damage. We further suggest that the court have a power of injunction while such individual cases are being adjudicated. We recommend to the Stockholm conference that nations present seek an amendment to the Hague Convention to the effect of this resolution before the General Assembly of the United Nations.

## On The Address of the United Nations and Its Agencies

Whereas all officials and correspondents to the United Nations must recognize that our existence is dependent upon our only and finite world, and

Whereas we believe that children should learn of this concept when they learn of the United Nations,

We therefore propose that the official address for mailing and telegrams of the United Nations and all of its agencies include a last line out of respect, "The Planet Earth."

## On the Withdrawal of Occupying Forces

We recommend that a resolution be passed demanding the unconditional withdrawal of all aggressive forces occupying territories not within their own territorial jurisdictions as specified by international agreements.

## On Social Priorities for Space Programs

Whereas we are grateful for the adventures of astronauts and cosmonauts, some of whom have given their lives to expand the horizons of man and allow him to see the entire planet as his home, and

Whereas urgent problems exist on the earth itself to which technical expertise is both welcome and urgently needed,

We therefore recommend that only such space programs whose impact is positively beneficial to

mankind and our environment, now and in the future, be continued, with the following specific priorities:

a) that programs of special benefit to underdeveloped nations such as remote sensing satellites for the survey and development of agricultural and fishery resources, and for the detection and measurement of pollution levels (especially petroleum fraction on the ocean surface, thermal discharges to lakes and streams and night-time emissions from industrial facilities) be implemented on a world-wide and significant scale;

b) that technical manpower, know-how and facilities for space exploration and engineering be redesigned and converted to programs of more direct social benefit;

c) that information coming from all outer space programs be fully accessible to the public;

d) that no commercial advertisements be allowed over international administration airwaves via satellite.

Furthermore, the world's youth strongly condemns the use of outer space activities for further exploitation of the earth's natural resources, for the commercial interests of the few, for military purposes and far psychological propaganda techniques.

## On the SST (Super Sonic Transport)

We unequivocally condemn the supersonic transport (SST) and propose that the youth of the world, in their own nations, oppose the construction of supersonic transport landing facilities. Further, that in those nations in which the SST is already flying, the youth initiate activities toward bringing to the public complete data on the pollution which these air transport systems create.

## On Energy Sources and Economic Development

Whereas novel energy sources may exist which are nearly infinite and non-polluting, such as controlled thermonuclear fusion and solar energy, and

Whereas the provision of such energy will relieve the dependence on oil, coal and rare and dangerous material for nuclear fission, and

Whereas the developing countries will greatly benefit from large energy sources in the industrialization process, and

Whereas developed countries are not devoting sufficient intellectual and financial interest to the development of fusion and solar energy because energy corporations (oil, coal and gas) have a vested interest in fossil fuels,

We therefore urge the creation of a Clean Energy Research Fund, to intensively investigate thermonuclear fusion and solar energy, by the allocation of additional funds. We recommend that an international mediating body should be formed to discuss the implementation of new energy technology

in advance of solving research problems.

Whereas the UN Committee on Natural Resources is investigating extra high energy transmission over long distance, and

Whereas this technology will enable the construction of an intercontinental energy network, and

Whereas such a network will enable the development of tidal, geothermal and hydro-electric power in remote areas that cannot presently support capital investment, and

Whereas, in the case of a hydro-electric power project, the effects of a dam may alter the life styles of nationals dependent on vegetation, which in turn is dependent on water levels, and may stagnate water giving rise to disease-carrying insects, among other effects,

We therefore commend the investigation of an international power network and appreciate every advance to implementation. We recommend, however, that aquatic and cultural research be incorporated, before implementation, by open participation of those who will be affected.

#### The Green Revolution

We condemn the present misuse of the Green Revolution for economic exploitation. Large land owners and corporations which have better access to new strains of crops, fertilizers and pesticides have eliminated the economic basis of small farmers who cannot afford to use these new technologies. Also, the excessive use of pesticides means an ecological threat whose long term contribution to environmental deterioration must be recognized.

Through a proper social structure, the benefits of increased agricultural production have to be made available to all members of society, not only a small possessing class.

#### Beaches as International Property for the Public

We recommend that all natural waterfronts, including those created by the construction of dams, be designated to public property by international agreement. We strongly oppose the private ownership by individuals, private groups or commercial organizations of these areas, both at high and low tide.

#### The Right of Common Access to Private Property

We urge and recommend to all nations who have not yet culturally or legally adopted the principle of temporary (less than three (3) days) access to private property, that they accept the spirit of sharing known as the right of common access. This principle is now public law in Sweden. All such use must be accompanied by the restoration of the land to its original state. We recommend this principle as a way of promoting a respect for the land that has been lost in the urbanization process. We specifically emphasize

that tourism is not included by the proposition, and that permission for use must be obtained by visitors to foreign nations.

#### On Housing

In view of the housing problem in different cities around the world, we demand that empty houses, apartments and office buildings owned by a city or corporation be opened for the poor and poorly housed as living quarters.

#### On Small Businesses

We strongly recommend the creation of special small businesses, or shops, to be operated largely by youth, of two kinds:

a) in developed countries, the importation and sale of manufactured and cultural items, with proceeds furthering the shop as well as international programs beneficial to the underprivileged;

b) in developing countries, the creation of shops to sell goods manufactured in developing countries for the purpose of building internal markets. Cultural material free of Western influence should be sold or on display.

The stores should be operated as ecologically as possible, recycling paper for more than a single use, etc.

#### On a Communication Program for the Future

We endorse the principle of the International Youth Centre proposal for the coordination of information on youth action all the world over, and submit the WC proposal to the plenary session as a comprehensive strategy for follow-up and action.

It is recognized, in all of the above, that proposals and programs offered by international organizations cannot be successful without the support of the respective youth movements of the world, and we recommend that the world's youth translate all the proposals made in the workshop in the most effective manner they see fit.

#### APPENDIX

##### The International Declaration of Interdependence

We recommend that the plenary session adopt the following statement, prepared by Nick Brestoff, USA, as a sense of the Workshop and a general expression of this conference.

When the human condition becomes intolerable by the conscious division of wealthy and poor, and by an indifferent and long separation from nature, the youth of the world must boldly seek to reassert the principle of interdependence for the sake of generations to come

Thus, whenever members of the human species



become destructive to the basic aspirations for food, health, happiness and education, then it is the function and first priority of the other members to reject and peacefully obstruct their fellow's actions. For the environmental is a beacon to man's failure to his fellow man. The nearly mortal wounds of the global life-support system compel our attention and dedication because we are survival partners with nature.

But certain motivations have been the root cause. The tendencies to conquer, accumulate and dominate have respectively bred warfare, economic exploitation and discrimination by culture, race and sex. We must replace these values with a concept recognized by ancient philosophies, wherein all life is more ideally held than material possession. Yet for centuries, the principle of interdependence has been ignored or cast down. Indeed, there have been pious intonations of this principle perversely uttered to shield the exploitative interests of a few. Now we are faced with a strife-torn and anxious world:

People have warred upon each other to impose their own economic, religious and ideological systems;

People have set their priorities foolishly by placing defense and prestige above the needs of the hungry, the sick, the poor and the illiterate;

People have initiated cultural frictions by keeping foreign life styles and philosophies a mystery to their children;

People have transformed the face of the earth to express their false notion of independence of it;

People have caused the extinction of their fellow species for their feathers and fur, for their skin and tusks

The human species must no longer follow the path of arrogance. The road of exploitation is treacherous to man and his environment

Therefore, as the vanguard of future generations, we do solemnly affirm the interdependence between man and his fellows, between man and his natural surroundings, and between man and his companion species of the earth. We further believe that major conflicts between environmental protection and the essentials of Life should be judged in favor of man, who shall then owe a debt of restoration. We pledge our intelligence, our spirit and our hands to the fulfillment of these principles.

We offer our hearts in an urgent plea to those who can influence national and international policy to share this vision for a more just and equitable future.

## THE RELATIONSHIP OF HUMAN POPULATIONS TO RESOURCES

### PART I

The size of any biological population is regulated by controls intrinsic to the ecosystem. Man, in his

domination of natural cycles, has been led to think (by traditional religious and cultural beliefs) that he can ignore the action of these controls. However, exploding numbers of people on a finite planet must ultimately face a form of ecological backlash, be it manifested by war, disease, famine, resource depletion or other cataclysmic results. Therefore, at some point human population must be stabilized through intelligent intervention by man himself if the devastation of the ultimate catastrophe is to be avoided. Man must come to recognize that he is part of the system and cannot operate outside it.

The earth and her resources provided abundantly for man when his numbers remained small. He would live in any manner that suited him and the natural systems would absorb the imbalance created by his life-style. The capacity of the water's tolerance for his wastes, the land's tolerance for his agriculture, and the animal kingdom's tolerance for his hunting made the earth appear an infinite source of wealth. But as man's numbers grew it became evident that these resources were indeed finite, and if man is to continue to flourish he must make his desires and actions congruent with the capacities of his land.

The population problem can only be faced in the context of the fundamental causes of the deterioration of human life which characterizes a large proportion of the world. Inequitable patterns of development and sharing of resources are a consequence of various forms of exploitation of the major portion of mankind by a small elite. Therefore, the relative roles of economic and political injustices and the pressure of sheer numbers must be critically analyzed. Any program of population stabilization cannot be viewed separately from the whole development strategy. Rather, it must be linked with various reforms in the present system of economic disparities and in redistribution of resources. The measures for increasing awareness of population issues discussed here must therefore never be used to divert efforts from rectifying the true underlying injustices and developmental needs.

The population and resources workshop agreed to adopt the following plan to guide its deliberations:

- 1) To define the problem;
- 2) To consider what needs to be changed;
- 3) To suggest means of implementing change;
- 4) To draw up an action plan.

There were lengthy discussions regarding the definition of the problem, and although viewpoints were diverse, the fundamental assumption was adopted that a serious global problem of overpopulation exists and will worsen with excessive population growth. In the developing nations overpopulation impedes the development process and is one reason why people fail to enjoy fulfillment of housing, education and health facilities. It seems that as efforts are made in the social and economic spheres the benefits are ultimately either partially or wholly nullified by population growth. The demographic profile of most developing countries is characterized by a considerable

proportion of population which consumes rather than produces, causing a high degree of economic dependence. Progress is thus slow or nonexistent. In the industrialized nations, technological changes, population and economic growth are characterized by urban congestion, overcrowding, general pollution, degradation of the natural environment, overconsumption, overproduction and moreover, global degradation of the quality of life. In view of the increasing demands for high living standards and fulfillment of individual aspirations, coupled with the catastrophic effects of rapid population growth on the world's dwindling resources and its threat to world peace, we need a massive international policy aimed at population stabilization. This must be implemented both in industrialized and developing nations. The runaway western growth economy must be stabilized as well, to halt the devastation of the earth and the permanent poverty of the Third World before we choke in the waste products of our affluence. There should be a thorough reassessment and reversal of unlimited economic growth as national goals for governments.

We then considered what must be changed in existing systems in order to achieve this goal. Several participants cited specific cases from their own countries and the following were identified as obstacles to be removed or changed:

#### 1. Economic:

- A. Belief that an additional child is an economic asset.
- B. Governmental financial incentives to produce larger families.
- C. Unfair allocation of and access to resources.
- D. The present socio-economic structures.

#### II. Education:

- A. A high degree of illiteracy.
- B. Ignorance of family planning techniques and facilities.
- C. Lack of information and facilities for family planning techniques (birth control, abortion, and voluntary sterilization).

#### III. Traditions:

- A. Cultural attitudes toward the size of families.
- B. The importance placed on having male children,
- C. Superstitions and taboos
- D. Traditional role of women.
- E. The structure of the nuclear family, emphasizing the importance of having one's own biological offspring, rather than of adopting or communally raising children.

#### F. Religious beliefs and restraints.

#### IV. Political:

A. Suspicions that minority groups will be the butt of population control programs designed to eliminate their influence and the real possibility that this is often the case.

B. Governmental policies favoring population growth for the purpose of serving the military-industrial complex.

#### Youth Action Plan On Population

Action in the area of family planning services.

A. Young people should develop the expertise to facilitate and direct family planning programs in their countries, in conjunction with medical services, social services, community leadership, etc.

B. Modern management techniques have to be applied and programs have to be constantly evaluated and geared towards meeting requirements. From an organizational point of view, it is an advantage to try to reach people at a time when, for one reason or another, contact has been established with them. Thus, for example, great potential exists for introducing the idea of family planning to women immediately after childbirth or abortion.

C. Research into birth control methods.

#### II. Action in the area of population education.

A. Establishment of population education programs within each country which should include information on:

1. Relation of rapid population growth to environmental pollution and global degradation of the quality of life.
2. The interaction of economic, social and cultural systems with population growth.
3. Population growth, population distribution, allocation and access to resources as they interact with the development process.
4. Family planning services and the desirability of practicing family planning.
5. Ideas regarding roles and advantages of small sized families in promoting individual, family and national welfare and health.
6. Sex education (human reproductive physiology).

B. Population education programs should be implemented by means of:

1. curriculum changes within schools and higher education to reflect the above

2. informal education and adult education programs
3. special workshops and seminars utilizing community forums.
4. utilization of mass media (TV, magazines, newspapers, films, etc.)
5. population programs included in developing projects of the U.N. agencies

C. Bearing in mind that different education programs and methods of approach need to be evolved for various population groups, action facilitating the development of population education programs could take the form of:

1. compiling material (bibliographies, films, books, curriculum guidelines, etc.)
2. working within schools for the introduction and promotion of environmental awareness including population education and recognition of inter-related issues.
3. working with other groups to encourage discussion of population issues as a major priority, e.g., churches, educators, business, medical and social welfare units, government agencies, U.N. agencies, trade unions, etc.
4. establishing concern with action for population stabilization as a major priority of youth groups.

### III. Action in the area of population policy.

A. Working on a legislative level to remove restrictions on laws concerning birth control, abortion and voluntary sterilization; working to revise present tax laws which give incentive to large families.

B. Encouraging the establishment of population commissions in each country to study population growth as it relates specifically to problems of the country, and to promote a national population policy. Policies should develop, encourage and implement the necessary attitudes, social standards and actions which will by voluntary means, consistent with human rights and individual conscience, work towards population stabilization.

### IV. Youth involvement in activities of the U.N. World Population Year, 1974.

We call for youth involvement in the activities of the United Nations plans for World Population Year, 1974,

1. on a local level
2. on a national level
3. on a regional level
4. on an international level.

This could take the form of preparing youth and informing them on the issues involved (contained in the information<sup>o</sup> on population education above). Involvement should begin right now, and work for implementation of programs into the planned activities for 1974. This may take the form of convening a regional or international youth conference on population which would have the following objectives:

1. to further muster and encourage youth concern for population growth as it relates to environmental and developmental problems.
2. to further promote and develop youth action programs on population issues.

### PART 11

The less developed countries are thought to be caught in a kind of low level equilibrium trap in which high rates of population growth impede economic development, and economic backwardness and traditionalism hold back the completion of the demographic transition. This view is widely accepted by population experts who hold that in many developing countries even a moderate rate of population growth can be looked upon as a barrier, or perhaps the barrier to economic development and the amelioration such development brings. The idea that population growth is the main obstacle of development has become the cornerstone of official wisdom, as is stated not only in official publications, but also in budgetary considerations.

What cannot help but strike one, however, is the troubling fact that both history and the contemporary scene offer examples of highly successful development despite very rapid rates of population growth. If there were any clear-cut relationship between economic development and population growth, then France, which started practicing birth control almost one century before the rest of Europe, should have had a considerable advantage, whereas the contrary proved to be the case. So far, one can distinguish no clear-cut relationship between population and economic growth, and history offers so many apparently contradictory examples that anyone who wants to prove this point is certain to find examples. Taiwan is an interesting contemporary example of a country which clearly contradicts the present New-Malthusian case. From 1951-65, despite its very high rate of population growth, industrial production was multiplied by four, agricultural production by 70 per cent, exports tripled and the illiteracy rate was lowered from 45 per cent to 24 per cent. In the period preceding the war, (1920-1940) the population expanded by 60.4 per cent, giving Taiwan the highest rate of population growth in the world. Those who would contend that this was due to "special circumstances" (i.e. four billion dollars in American aid and an energetic land reform) would just prove another point -- when a country is of sufficient strategic interest to the West (or East) it is given enough assistance to overcome the possible disadvantages of rapid population growth. South Korea is another similar case of successful economic "take off" despite a high rate of population growth and with a background of heavy American investments.

The fact is that family planning, in the initial stages of development, can only be a minor aspect of

population control. That is, investments in the fields of public health, education, transportation, agriculture, etc., are a more important prerequisite for fertility declines. Nevertheless, proponents of family planning rationalize their position with the idea that the methods "beyond family planning" are, for various reasons, impractical. However, we cannot help suspecting that family planning is considered the cheapest and least likely to make radical demands of Western economic interests. The more vigorous development (e.g. Taiwan's) implicit in real population control would inevitably cost significantly more. The policy of the present family planning type would thus aim at improving conditions where they are bad without imposing any serious handicap or sacrifice on those in the more fortunate and economically strong of the sparsely peopled regions.

Furthermore, family planning does not require the radical social and political changes which real development requires (examples--China, Algeria, Tanzania, Cuba and other countries--have shown). The idea is even put forward that population control via family planning is an effective means of counteracting the radical political changes that might be the result of sustained population growth. Family planning establishments are loath to face the basic problems of structural change inherent in population control--land reform, the status of women, problems of international trade, the distribution of wealth. Thus, it tends to reduce the serious question raised by the problem of birth control for the poor, semi or totally illiterate populations to purely technical problems. Getting family planning is considered simply a matter of more research and better administration, or more subtle use of mass communication, and especially of better contraceptive techniques.

A more serious fact is that false hopes are created among governments and people in developing countries, leading them to believe that family planning could be a way of solving their population problem--as if there could be a population problem per se while the truth is that there can only be development problems of which population is only one aspect. Thus a report of the Population Council to the government of Kenya upholds the idea that national family planning program "might reduce fertility by as much as 50 per cent in 10 to 15 years, a decrease no greater than desirable". In the absence of previous experience with comparable population the claim appears to be over-optimistic and extravagant. As of today, there is no clear example of a large scale fertility decline brought about by an action programme initiated by a government in an area where the decline has not already started on its own. One cannot help being struck by the use of the word "desirable" in the claim. Desirable from whose point of view? According to what criteria? Such simple value judgements abound in Western literature which advises on the problems of lesser developed countries.

The reasons are very clear: reducing population control to family planning alone and reducing the adoption of contraception to technical issues enables neo-Malthusians to evade the radical political, economic and social reforms which a population policy worthy of the name would imply. A decrease in population, unless accompanied by political, social, economic changes leading to a better distribution of the

national income will accomplish very little. Economic and social development seen in a holistic process, of which population is only one aspect, would include four main variables:

- a) A certain quantity of disposable resources, including capital--which is limited
- b) A certain level of technology
- c) A certain population and more important, a given rate of growth of population (including zero growth)
- d) A certain form of social organisation which will decide, among other things, who receives the fruit of work and social activity and in what quantities -- that is, how the cake is to be shared.

The high levels of consumption of the industrial nations--and mainly the United States -- represent a much greater drain on world resources and stability (thus a greater ecological and political menace) than the rapid rates of population growth in the Third World. In a world of finite resources and still limited technological ability, it is quite clear that the rising expectations of the "have-nots" will sooner or later come into opposition with the consumption habits of the "haves" unless one can cut down on the number of the former (which is just what Neo-Malthusianism is all about) or cut down on the tastes of the latter, which should be the route taken. But no sane politician would dare to seriously advocate such a plan.

. There have been no fundamental, qualitative changes in the economic relationships between industrialized countries and developing countries. The Third World still relies heavily on the exportation of raw materials, and the relative gap between rich and poor nations appears to be growing continuously without any clear signs of the reversal which should occur in the trends.

In dealing with population control we will have to deal with planned socio-economic development, and radical changes in world trade, such that industrialized countries will depend more on finished goods from the developing nations, and in the consumption habits of the industrialized nations--205 million Americans are depleting the world's resources and polluting the natural environment more than the 2.5 billion inhabitants of the less developed countries. Because Americans account for more than half of the world's consumption of resources, even if it does not lead them to voluntarily delay the development of the retarded areas, it does encourage them to adopt an attitude which goes in the same direction. All the commercial policy of the developed nations in unfair competition with the population growth of the developing nations and their development.

## Recommendations

The neo-Malthusian's simplistic production of the population problem does not touch the root of the issue. It tries to remove people who are produced by an unjust social, political and economic system. If this is the solution, population will eternally be a problem.



We demand:

1. A reorganization of our social, political and economic structure

a) to equalize the share of national production so that the poor can find other sources of security than children;

b) to protect our national resources by not selling to foreign capitalists at cheaper prices and only for the benefit of the few rich;

c) to build a new economic structure to provide jobs for our people; and

d) to establish an educational system which is responsive to national needs.

2. A redistribution of world wealth by stopping capitalist exploitation of our natural resources and control of our economies.

\*\*\*In doing this, we do not overlook the importance of the short-term device of family planning as one of the many ways to solve the population problem, which is but one aspect of the development process.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE MANAGEMENT AND USES OF NATURAL RESOURCES

During the past few decades, poor management of natural resources has brought about widespread environmental imbalance. A universal failure to examine the long-range ecological implications of development measures has besieged developed and developing countries alike. In order to allow greater harmony with the overall ecological process, a more thorough understanding of proper methods by which we can fulfill our needs and requirements must be reached. In an attempt to build such an understanding, we propose the following steps:

1. A broadly-based scientific review board should be established to set maximum total quotas on the harvest of all living organisms which migrate between countries or in international waters. An independent observer system should be internationally funded to assure observation of these quotas. The purpose of this proposal is to prevent further destruction of valuable natural resources, such as fisheries, and to prevent extinction of such species as the whale.

2. The United Nations should repeal its prohibitions upon the acceptance of local people as personnel in U.N. development projects. At the present time, citizens of developing nations, regardless of their qualifications, cannot be employed in U.N. projects within their own countries. If such involvement were not forbidden, U.N. projects would be viewed with less suspicion by local inhabitants, and insight into local problems would be significantly increased. 3. Existing international voluntary service programs should not merely send volunteers from developed countries to underdeveloped countries. Volunteers from underdeveloped countries should be sent to developed countries, as part of a reciprocal education

process.

4. Environmental research institutes must be established in developing countries, so that greater environmental insight can be used in the planning of land-use projects, recycling techniques (both industrial and agricultural), and industrial programs. This proposal has two goals:

a. to protect developing countries from the dangers of soil erosion, due to poorly planned deforestation, insufficient recycling techniques, etc.;

b. to give necessary training to local people in order to enable greater local involvement in U.N. and other development projects.

5. The U.N. should provide a larger number of scholarships for environmental studies to students from developing nations. Such a step would provide developing nations with a capable staff of ecologists, who could operate the above-mentioned environmental research institutes and become involved in development projects in their own countries.

6. Delegates to this conference should form an international youth organization, the function of which would be to promote greater environmental consciousness throughout the world. Delegates should establish national committees within their own nations, the responsibilities of national committees would be to:

a. promote and help in the establishment of environmental education programs at all levels of education;

b. collect and disseminate environmental information through the news media and through educational systems;

c. participate in the formation of an international environmental publication, to be published periodically.

7. The world's youth, particularly delegates of this conference, must urge their nations to:

a. Set aside areas as national parks and reserves, having regard for their fauna) and floral interest, their beauty of scenery, their great value as untouched areas of ecological balance, and for the appeal they will have to future generations.

b. Establish wildlife sanctuaries, in order to protect the breeding grounds and migrational stops of wildlife.

c. Recognize, by international agreement, the need for stronger legislation on behalf of the protection of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

d. Include a conservation message in school curricula at all levels.

8. In order to lessen the danger of oil spillages and similar disasters on the seas:

a. An international system of ship-routing must be established, similar to the presently employed air-routing system. All commercial ships would be given specific courses to which they would have to adhere.

b. All shippers engaged in transportation of oil and all other large quantities of dangerous substances must be required by international mandate to file insurance policies, as protection against damage to all affected surrounding in the event of spillage. Reimbursement to affected nations would be determined according to clean-up costs. Furthermore, the shipper himself would be required personally to pay an additional penalty to all governments whose waters were damaged.

c. Intentional dumping of dangerous substances into international waters must be forbidden by U.N. mandate. Violators should be subject to monetary penalty. In-harbor treatment of bilge-waste would be strongly urged.

d. All substances which have not been conclusively proven harmless must be classified as dangerous and must therefore be made subject to all appropriate restrictions.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science: the search and accumulation of knowledge.

Technology: the process or machinery for the application of science.

It was the conclusion of the workshop, based on the above working definitions, that science and technology are of themselves neutral, and that the environmental impact is a result of society's effect on the direction of science and the goals for which technology is implemented.

Outlined below are the topics considered by the workshop: 1. Criteria, Standards, and Legislation

A. The need for international criteria and standards (proposed for U.N. action):

i. areas of urgent concern

ii. international operations, e.g., noise due to aircraft

B. National legislation for regulating air, water and soil contamination (proposal to '72 U.N. Conference calling for national government action)

### II. Transportation

A. Urban:

i. as related to dynamics of urban growth, use of local advantages to the fullest, e.g., waterways

B. Inter-city

C. Options in reaching mobility objectives

D. Development of regionally matched technologies based on an appropriate philosophy

### III. Agriculture and Forestry

A. The effect of farm machinery on productivity:

i. field size

ii. crop specialization

iii. Monoculture

iv. slash and burn agriculture. (statement of priority)

B. Use of chemicals to improve productivity:

i. pesticides, fertilizers

C. scientific development

i. Green Revolution need for biological control of insects to replace use of pesticides, e.g., DDT, 2,4,5-T

### IV. Medical Sciences

A. Epidemiology, such as Malaria, Cholera, V.D.

B. Abuse of modern medicine

C. Traditional herbal medicine, e.g., Ayurveda, and its modern role (proposal to '72 U.N. Conference for action by WHO)

D. Manpower priorities and availability in developing countries and rural areas:

i. First aid education

ii. paramedical personnel

iii. experts

E. Dangers of modern antibiotics as a result of the escalation of the fight against disease.

V. Brain-drain (proposals for action at all levels to U.N.)

A. Loss of scientific man power:

i. developing to developed countries

ii. rural to urban areas

B. Difficulties of predicting manpower needs

C. Education:

i. need for local environmental engineering programs in all countries

ii. environmental education at all levels

D. "Sister" University programs in environmentally related fields, providing for the exchange of faculty and students

E. Availability of equipment:

i. funds to purchase new equipment

ii. centralized market for sale of second hand equipment

F. How of information:

i. availability of abstracts and journals in developing countries

ii. regional environmental research and consultant institutes

## VI. Communications and Information Handling

A. Control of information explosion, particularly in U.N. system

B. Discriminating and selective use of new data processing technologies, e.g., computers and micro-film

C. Application to educational programs, e.g., telecommunications

D. Global surveillance and monitoring by satellites

## VII. Military Technology

A. Consumption of natural resources and funds

B. Impacts on environment:

i. war-time -- chemical and biological warfare

ii. peace-time arms race, nuclear testing, conflicts of military and development priorities

## VIII. Energy Production (to be covered in greater detail by ad-hoc inter-workshop groups)

A. Exploitation of renewable resources:

i. solar energy

ii. tides

iii. hydro-electric power, impact of dams, e.g. Aswan

B. Exploitation of non-renewable resources, inherently associated with pollution problems:

i. coal,

ii. oil

iii. natural gas

iv. nuclear power

## Science and Technology Workshop Proposals

1. It is strongly urged that this IYCHE recommend to the Stockholm Conference the adoption of a set of international standards based on agreed international criteria. Such standards should be designed to safeguard the global environment and to be within the capabilities of different nations to adapt and enforce, in the light of their varying local conditions.

2. This workshop commends to national governments its belief that:

i. A sound legal basis for environmental protection must be formed in individual countries.

ii. This could be achieved in part by regulating water, air, soil and noise pollution.

iii. Such laws should be matched to the peculiar needs of the country without imposing unnecessary restrictions. Within the law, criteria and standards would be specified for particularly hazardous or toxic substances.

3. This workshop of the IYCHE, aware that the penalty for infringing existing environmental control laws may often be a fine, which industries find cheaper than the installation of control devices, proposes that:

i. Individual managing directors of industrial enterprises should be held personally responsible for such infringements.

ii. The punishment should be a term of imprisonment.

iii. In other cases fines should be increased to a realistic magnitude.

4. This workshop of the IYCHE, recognizing the need to establish a technological basis for environmental action in individual countries, requests governments to finance Environmental Engineering and Science Institutes in their own Universities where such facilities are lacking. We further believe that:

i. Such high level educational centres could be organized with the help of consultants and teachers from developed countries and the International agencies.

ii. Courses offered should be tailored to the most pertinent problems of protecting a country's human environment, to include courses on water and waste water treatment, natural resource conservation, air pollution, chemicals for agriculture and disease control, sewerage and water systems.

5. This workshop of the IYCHE, recognizing the great need for expertise in the processes of nation-building and development, especially since the introduction of sophisticated but potentially hazardous agricultural practices, urges governments, in cooperation with the International Agencies, to institute programs designed to reverse the flow of professionals, scientists and technical workers from the developing to the industrialized countries. Concurrently these programs should be expanded to effect the movement of this trained expertise from the urban to the rural areas. This could be promoted by:

i. Improved transportation between rural and urban areas.

ii. Decentralization of cultural, recreational, industrial and administrative activities.

6. This workshop of the IYCHE commends the problems of the 'brain drain' to youth action by the following methods:

i. Persons leaving developing countries for advanced training should undergo a course of orientation with regard to job opportunities related to national priorities for development, and be urged to match their training to such needs.

ii. A coordinating organization should be established to maintain communications with such persons, and also to mobilize the activity of returning experts and help them to establish useful contacts with other people, to bring about a sounder implementation of their skills to the overall benefit of the country.

7. This workshop of the IYCHE calls upon the international scientific community, UN agencies and educational institutions:

i. To make available to all nations a clearinghouse for underutilized scientific equipment.

ii. To organize and promote an exchange of students, teachers and professors at a regional and international level, to enhance the flow of knowledge with particular regard to the environmental sciences.

iii. To further the pairing of brother and sister universities from the developing and developed world, for mutual benefit and assistance.

8. This workshop of the IYCHE, recognizing that traditional medicine, such as Ayurveda, is based on sound environmental principles, anxious to prevent the complete replacement of it by Western medicine, proposes to the Stockholm conference that, through WHO, research be performed on the advancement of such traditional medicine, for the following reasons:

i. Such practices are ecologically sound and closely matched to cultural considerations.

ii. They can be used harmoniously in conjunction with modern medicine to provide better health facilities on a wider scale.

iii. Their manufacture on a local basis would provide employment of a suitable nature and enable the costs of medical treatment to stay within bounds.

iv. In such countries as India, Nepal and China institutions already exist where with minimal financial assistance such researches could be carried out. We request WHO to enable this old science and the associated scriptures and texts to be updated and put on a useful pharmacological basis.

9. This workshop of the IYCHE, aware of the acute shortage of manpower and funds for providing medical attention in developing countries, requests national governments to give priority to the following, in the order stated:

i. Dissemination of first-aid education.

ii. Training and recruitment of paramedical personnel to provide basic services, such as maternity care and birth control advice and instruction.

iii. The provision of highly trained specialists and sophisticated medical centres.

10. This workshop of the IYCHE, recognizing the dangers which the use of chemical pesticides represent both for the environment and the quality and quantity of crops, requests the International Community to give greater priority to research and development of:

i. Soft, degradable pesticides, preferably based on natural substances.

ii. Methods of biological pest control

iii. Techniques for obtaining high productivity without excessive monoculture.

11. This workshop of the IYCHE, with regard to the proposals expressed in paragraph 104 of the Secretary General's Report, concerning the prediction of professional manpower needs, in relation to environmental problem solving, requests:

i. The Secretariat to bear in mind the extreme inaccuracy of many such predictions in the past.

ii. That the training of such personnel should enable them to be adaptable to the changing demands on their skills.

12. This workshop of the IYCHE, referring to pp. 77-78 of the Secretary General's Report, requests governments to encourage the provision of basic ecology courses for all first year science and technology undergraduates.

13. This workshop of the IYCHE commends for youth action the following alternative proposals to highlight water pollution problems:

i. On a national basis, possibly with the help of other interested parties, a one-off survey should be

undertaken and coordinated centrally, to cover many water courses contemporaneously to assess their water quality. Publicity of the results would help to expose the main problem areas and help to increase awareness of environmental issues throughout the general public.

ii. Regular monitoring should be undertaken of one water course that is liable to pollution, in the context of regular studies or additional voluntary activity.

15. This workshop of the IYCHE, alarmed at the extensive use of chemical and biological weapons and defoliants in several war zones and areas of civil disturbance, urgently requests the nations of the world to outlaw all such weapons including riot control gases, by a wider interpretation of the Geneva Protocol.

This workshop of the IYCHE recognizes that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is already coordinating efforts in the area of reducing noise from aircraft operation; urges that ICAO undertake intensive investigation of the impact of noise on communities surrounding airports, particularly in terms of the social, medical and legal factors; and recommends that attention in some developing countries be drawn to the problems created by noise from military aircraft operations, and that these problems should also be examined.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

### Introduction

Man must bring about fundamental changes in order to achieve environmental quality within human settlements, as this is part of the global environment in which he concentrates a majority of his social, political and economic activities. Although there is a wide diversity in types of settlement, from rural to highly industrialized, similar problems are increasingly affecting the conditions of life throughout the world. These include the unequal balance between town and country and the lack of an adequate infrastructure for planning and development, which results in rising levels of pollution, congestion and confusion. However, these problems are only symptoms of more fundamental issues. The political and economic systems which control the societies of the world place demand for profit above the real social needs of people. Attempts to improve the quality of the environment of human settlements must recognize this. The uncontrolled quest for profit or prestige has led to an unequal distribution and utilization of institutions and, in particular, by multi-national business and industrial corporations whose first aim has been their own advancement, irrespective of the good of countries or communities in which they operate.

All too often the operation of the political process is a factor which gives rise to further difficulties. Political decisions are frequently taken without relation to, or involvement of, the people whom they most affect, and there is no effective means of holding the decision-makers accountable for their actions. There is a widespread lack of comprehensive planning which

even attempts to deal with the problems of modern society, let alone to attack the causes. This is partly because in addition to discouraging the public from taking an active part in decisions which affect their lives and community, the system does not encourage long-term thought to change what is wrong. Moreover, most plans for development fall adequately to consider ecological and environmental factors and so are not calculated to induce improvements in the condition of life.

At root, the quality of the human environment is dependent on the attitudes, values and beliefs held to be most important in society. This demands that all men be made aware of their rights and the options available to them when dealing with bureaucracies and other institutions which dominate the basic decisions affecting their lives. It would thus seem to be a prime objective to work through education, information and practical action to change the minds of men and evolve a more well-ordered society, where the goals of man are directed away from the world's profit-oriented economic system toward a more equitable way of life.

### Basic Problems

The planning process is no more effective than the people who operate it, the levels of accountability to those affected by it, and the value of the basic assumptions that underlie it. This workshop identified three basic levels on which the problems of human settlements must be attacked.

#### 1. The level of attitudes, beliefs and ideas.

We must constantly question any value, belief or system which fails to consider man's activities in balance with his environment. For example, technologies must be reexamined to determine their net usefulness to man on the one hand, and the balance with natural systems on the other. Any technology which cannot be utilised on a world wide scale without serious eco-damage must be closely reexamined, for example, the SST, aluminum beer cans, etc.

#### 2. The technical level.

The planning process must be established as a comprehensive decision technique, not only for the design of new activities but for adequate evaluation of any new plan. Full public participation of those citizens affected must be established as a natural right, not only to include those directly affected by any decision, but those indirectly also.

Planning must also take cognizance of the needs of future generations, even though they remain unrepresented.

At a technical level many solutions remain to be found before establishing an ideal system. New methods of information display need to be recognized to inform the public fully. Only with adequate information can informed decisions be made. The assumption is that all citizens given this information and working within the frame work of ecological balance with nature will make sensible decisions.



New techniques are required for measuring the externalities of development. Only by considering both factual and qualitative information (the latter a function of citizen desire) can Man ever hope to understand the implications of any development. The better information available on alternative strategies, the costs and benefits of development, and the impact of new technologies, the more likely it is that the public will be able to effectively participate in the planning process which, instead of being a static and unyielding exercise, is constantly changing, adapting and developing to the needs of the society, whether it be at the international, national or local level.

### 3. The Political Level

More rational decision units must be established, for example: a watershed rather than separate municipalities adjacent to a river. It must be accepted that any change in political boundaries, no matter how reasonable the merits, will in general be vigorously opposed by the existing power structure.

Full public participation is fundamental to dealing with problems of equitable resource distribution and the re-ordering of existing priorities, and to permitting a constant re-evaluation of the quality of human welfare. Participation by itself will not take care of environmental factors; this will depend on a positive commitment to the ideal and must be a basic objective of the process.

As much a political as a technical decision is the nature of the information available to the public. Techniques are needed for displaying more information rapidly to a wide range of people. Further, the executive authorities also require constant up-dating of opinion and Ideas. These conditions are currently met by members of the community who fail to fall into these categories are often neglected in the final outcome, despite the fact they may have very genuine needs that the society is not presently meeting.

#### Basic goals and objectives

Irrespective of the problem, solutions must be formulated with a set objectives that fits the societies' values, meets ecological considerations and permits opportunities for further development. Below is formulated a (by no means comprehensive) list of objectives and priorities as a guideline in any future action.

1. Establish priorities which put the basic needs of men for shelter, food, health, care, education and meaningful employment ahead of the economic gains of the few.
2. Optimise diversity and choice in all activities and elements in any community, such that each citizen can optimise his freedom of choice without endangering the general conditions of the society he lives in, or ? : he eco-system in which that society stands.
3. Coordinate planning priorities so that all men have access to adequate health, care and meaningful employment as a basic right.

4. All development should be planned to adapt to the existing natural and built-in conditions of soil, topography, micro-climate. Historic building elements, natural form of waterways, etc. Such planning can be defined as organic.

5. Organic planning by adapting the natural conditions that exist should use technologies and built-in elements that harmonise rather than stress the existing ecology. Such development will heighten man's perception of his dependence on nature.

#### A Model of Community.

A proposed model would be a community where employment, welfare and community facilities such as daycare, schools, libraries, etc., are within the control of that community and are under shared responsibility of its citizens. The extent of commitment to free public transportation would be a goal with local varying needs, conditions and resources.

The environment would be diverse in scale, functions and type of facilities. Citizens would have the opportunity of meaningful employment and access to leisure facilities. This includes access to limited resources such as beaches, lakeshores and open space, which should always be public property. The care of children would be a shared community responsibility (daycare and education facilities). Each citizen would be able to maximise his choices of privacy, however culturally defined or social contact within a few minutes of his place or residence. He would similarly be able to maximise his choice of recess to natural or constructed environments.

The population would be mixed in age and occupational interest to provide for diversity and richness of experience.

Sections of the urban system would be in balance with each other, none dominating in scale, influence or noise but interacting in dynamic harmony with each other like the elements of an ecosystem.

#### IDEAS FOR ACTION

The workshop agreed that a proposal for international programmes of action is realistic only in a few limited instances. As a result the proposed in this report only serve to endorse the current work of young environmental activists and to reaffirm our faith in the approaches of direct action they adopt.

However, some specific action at the international level can still be included (see section D.). Publicity in student press, young workers' press and the underground press, and active support for young people involved in a local, regional or national action in a particular country is always useful. Co-ordinated international action can also be employed when dealing with problems such as:

a. the pollution of a river which crosses national boundaries and passes through different settlement, e.g., Danube or Mekong. In such a case, water pollution could render the river useless of the collection of potable water and for industrial purposes

in settlements which were not even responsible for the damage.

b. the activities of a particular international business of industrial concern. In some cases the factories of one corporation are persistent polluters and disrupting influences in many settlements of different countries. In such cases concerted and co-ordinated action is required from all quarters.

The major overall proposal is in favour of more action which concentrates on the issues and problems in a local community and its environment. In these instances, young people can help raise the level of consciousness of the community, analyse the local situation and, through action, give members of the community confidence to tackle problems at their sources or even initiate further projects. Housing rehabilitation; construction of water wells; eradication of vermin; stopping air pollution or the contamination of water supplies; establishing children's playgrounds, day-care centres; open space, communities -- all fall within this category of direct environmental action and community development.

Local projects which have a basic educational objective can also be tied in with these forms of action. This is particularly the case in predominantly rural areas in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (e.g., Tanzania, Ceylon, Uganda), where young people will compose the main body of educators in any given rural situation. They will also form a major force which may serve to strengthen the cultural values and economic diversity of the rural areas.

Concerning the pressing need for social change, the workshop felt that extra-legal action is being steadily forced on us by the apparent omnipotence and inflexibility of governments and institutions. In order to stop motorways, ensure that housing resources are adequately distributed and stop irresponsible State- and privately-owned factories from causing environmental disruption, extra-legal methods appear to be the only hope.

On the question of short and long-term action: it is clear that even in countries where considerations of the quality of environment are viewed as a luxury, because of the widespread and crushing poverty which can be found there, immediate and short-term action has to be the aim sometimes. Stopping the contamination of water supplies, food and air by industrial waste (from factories and research establishments) in the form of lead and mercury compounds and irradiated materials are cases in point.

Therefore, the workshop proposes all forms of direct action for consideration: short-term and long-term, and legal and extra-legal.

There are of course other levels of action which have to be taken by young people. These include:

a. de-mystification of the community, by carefully explaining the issues, and guidance of the community through the maze of bureaucracies.

b. involvement in socially responsible and ecologically

sound research which is conducive to any necessary cultural change.

c. explanation of the implication of science to the community.

d. students of the professions such as architecture, engineering, surveying, and town planning becoming involved in problem solving for settlements in a way which is environmentally sound. For example, they can work for a diverse population structure, a diverse man-made environment and a pattern of land use which respects natural constraints when dealing with new town, village or re-development projects.

e. a boycott of research and participation in projects which do not make sense socially (e.g., African townships and Bantustans in the Republic of South Africa) or ecologically (e.g., Kariba Dam and related resettlement schemes).

Last but not least, young people can form the backbone of any political fight to stop the forces of pressures inhibiting a solution to environmental problems in urban and rural settlements in all parts of the world.

#### Ideas for United Nations Actions

Although the Workshop believed that at this time the scope was limited for international action to improve the condition of human settlements, there were a number of constructive suggestions which (could involve the U.N. and its specialized agencies in plans for action. It is most important that the international community should be aware of the ways in which it can react to the increasingly serious problems of the human environment. It is to be hoped that the structure of the U.N. and its agencies will be gradually reformed to enable it to play a more influential role in influencing environmental change. Only if the problems of natural resources are considered on a world scale can any comprehensive plan of development be evolved. The Workshop suggests that the U.N. might consider the following points: mental decay

##### 1. Comprehensive planning

The U.N. should use a comprehensive planning process that allows maximum public participation in any project they fund. This process should include considerations of the following elements: housing; transportation; public health and welfare; relationship to energy sources; employment; open space and impact on cultural values; before approving any development program. The goal should always be to minimize the use of energy, provide diversity of housing, transportation and employment and insure that all development be based on ecologically sound principles.

##### 2. Fund for housing development

An international housing finance authority should be organized, backed by increased contributions by the developed nations to make grants to national authorities for housing projects, maintain a staff of planning and technical personnel to evaluate the use

of grant monies and assist in planning for optimum utilization and to subsidise interest rates to reduce housing costs.

3. Decentralisation of economic development  
To encourage the decentralisation of economic development and to limit rural to urban migration, the U.N. should set up programs providing incentives to small scale service and basic industries located in rural areas, to prevent rural unemployment. Special attention should be given to industrial development related to that areas agricultural and mineral resources.

#### 4. Regional Research

The U.N. should encourage the use of local materials, talents and expertise to make full use of these resources in development Research should concentrate regionally on these issues to provide a counterpoint to modern technological devices.

#### 5. Centre for Technological Impact Assessment

A U.N. Centre for Technological Assessment should be established, to analyse the global and specific cultural impact of technological innovations, and should attempt to develop predictions of the impact on specific societies in which a new technology is to be introduced.

#### 6. Environmental Impact Statement

An environmental impact statement should be filed for any project funded, or partially funded, by or via the U.N. This statement should include the impact on cultural, social and physical environment.

#### 7. Advisory Council on Environmental Quality

There should be established a professional advisory council on environmental quality to the U.N. It would review the procedure of the agencies, review and make recommendations on all U.N. environmental impact statements. It would also make recommendations on environmental quality to the Secretary-General.

#### 8. International Monitoring System on Environmental Factors

A network of field stations and staff conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis of physical and social environmental factors, independent of national government control, irrespective of national reporting, responsible to the U.N., and reporting emergency situations as they develop, should be instituted. Factors to be monitored would include pollution levels, housing quality and adequacy, land use patterns, density, etc. The network would feed data into and alert the U.N. decision-making apparatus to regional and global trends, maximizing the effectiveness of U.N. aid. Such a system would soon develop and document the accuracy of the world's ecosystem. The monitoring system would be urged to hire students and give them experience and training in field work and monitoring.

#### 9. Aid

Aid aid should be Tunneled through the U.N. in order to eliminate excessive influence by the donor country. Aid will be coordinated by the U.N. rather than through the donor country's bi-lateral aid programs.

#### Staff tum over

To provide an influx of ideas and freshness of thought, all staff members employed for the U.N. should work for only a 5 year period, with at least a 5 year gap before reappointment.

## ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

### Part I

#### The Philosophy of Education

Present day education unfortunately reflects present day preoccupation with short term profit motives. Unlimited economic growth, unlimited production and unlimited consumption cannot be sane goals for humanity. Recognizing the urgency of environmental problems, we feel that there must be an immediate development of new systems which observe the )imitations of our environment. Each person must search for and discover particular modes of life within these limits -- this is education. Emphasis must be placed on learning by doing.

### Part II

#### Environmental Education in the Context of

#### Format Education

##### 1. Attitude

The conference expresses its strong concern with the prevalence and persistence in current educational systems, and hence in society generally, of an approach to the natural environment which fails to take proper account of the cyclic processes in nature and the non-renewable character of many resources, now being exploited for a kind of development which is ultimately wasteful of those resources.

The conference is resolved that this situation must be rectified as a matter of urgency, and proper environmental education at all levels is probably the most important means to this end in the long-term perspective.

##### 2. Definition of terms

(Note: These definitions will only apply with any precision to this section of the paper--Part II)

Education is a process of communicating knowledge

and skills and bringing about the development of particular attitudes. It is also concerned with the development of values. In the following, the term "education" also refers to a particular philosophy involving acceptance of a "total environment" perspective on the above. See also 1. above.

Environmental Education describes a process of teaching about man's relationship with his total environment, and it implies an enquiry-discovery discussion method.

Ecology is a specific discipline of study, and hence educational content, concerning the relationship of living organisms with their environment.

In the light of possibilities for radical education reform, only the two following presuppositions concerning educational structure are made:

i. That students progress from one year or level to the next.

ii. That there is some kind of curriculum.

Traditional groupings have been used only for the sake of clear arrangement.

### 3. Objectives

There should be the following objectives for proper environmental education, in all countries:

#### A. Academic Objective:

The individual should learn something of the biological, physical, and social properties of the environment, and of their inter-relationships. This learning can be achieved by exposure to analytical and demonstrative teaching situations, which may well include "single

subject" topics, within an ecological and total environmental orientation

#### B. Social, Economic, and Aesthetic Objective:

The individual must attain a consciousness of his part in the total environment, and an understanding of social value judgements concerning environmental resources. He is exposed and made sensitive to an environment which he sees as a dynamic totality, and which he learns to appreciate not only through academic understanding, but also through personal experience and involvement. For this objective to be realized, the individual should be able to extend this appreciation to other environments which he experiences elsewhere and in everyday life.

C. Cultural Objective: Achievement of the above objectives must enable an individual to belong to his own community, preserving the integrity of his own culture.

#### D. Summary:

The attainment of an awareness of the real social/

ecological environment is the most important single educational objective. It is thus imperative that an educational system cater to a comprehensive range of academic and social needs, in the courses and curricula available and the facilities provided.

### 4. Propositions

#### A. General:

It is essential that a sound education system, oriented to the total environment, be established in all countries, and that this aim should be the basis of all planning and curricula.

The teaching of environmental studies and ecology could be integrated into natural science or general science curricula, and could also be linked closely to social sciences or social studies. Enquiry-discovery-evaluation methods of learning should be developed and implemented.

#### B. Pre-primary and Primary (up to 6th grade):

Environmental education may be approached by starting with elementary outdoor nature observation, where positive attitudes and appreciation of the environment is encouraged through familiarization, involving learning the names of plants and animals, with some basic vocabulary.

In primary grades the subject would be approached through a "broad field type" curriculum which would include a wide range of subject matter.

#### C. Secondary (7.9/10th grade, 3-4 yrs):

Environmental education at secondary level should aim at a deeper understanding of ecological principles, and aspects of decision-making should also be introduced.

In particular, emphasis should be placed on the cyclic nature of processes in the biosphere, the finite nature of natural resources, and on specific examples of the inter-relatedness of the food web. Responsible attitudes concerning man's interaction with his broad natural and social ecosystem should be inculcated. All this should be in the context of subjects such as geography, human settlement, health & hygiene, natural sciences, chemistry and physics.

Ecology should directly occupy at least 30 teaching hours per year in the curriculum, and should preferably be treated as a distinct subject. The curriculum should aim for an integration of scientific, social and economic aspects.

In each country and region the particular content and emphasis will differ according to the particular situation and problems.

#### D. High School (post-secondary) (11-12th grade, 2 yrs):

At this level courses in ecology should be available

to as many students as possible. It is particularly important that future technologists, scientists, engineers, farmers, economists, etc., take such courses.

In this post-secondary education experimental and quantitative approaches in curricula should be adopted for tackling environmental issues. Development of ecology curriculum materials should be specifically within each region, and suited to that particular region.

**E. University and College (Tertiary): Professional Courses:** Include mandatory environmental studies units in later years of professional degree courses.

**Science and Humanities Courses:** Include ecology or environmental studies which will be treated according to the different perspectives of particular courses.

**Resource Management Courses:** These must be structured entirely around ecological principles and content.

**Teacher Training:** Teachers must be able and disposed to lead students in developing proper attitudes toward the environment, and therefore they must have a thorough training in this, with mandatory environmental education content.

#### F. Other Formal Education:

**Professional In-service Courses:** Opportunity should be provided for ecologically based in-service courses for those who professionally make far-reaching decisions concerning the environment, or who train others in this.

**Adult Education, Conferences, etc.:** Environmental courses should be a very high priority, and should be vigorously promoted.

### 5. Recommendations for General Action

#### A. Setting up Environment Studies Centers:

Governments should encourage and assist with the establishment and running of such centers. These should be set up in all countries, and should be a means by which people of all ages and from all sections of society can obtain at first hand an understanding of the environment, through professionally-presented courses offering a range of subjects to suit differing interests and backgrounds. This will greatly facilitate the implementation of all the above proposals.

#### B. Youth Action Programs.

Youth environmental organisations should be set up in each country for co-ordinating environmental programs, especially in relation to education. These could relate to an international federation, e.g., I.Y.F.

Within the schools these organizations could participate directly in the teaching of environmental studies in collaboration with the school staff, and

they could promote junior interest groups within the schools. They could also prepare teaching materials (e.g., audio-visuals), especially in relation to primary levels.

The experience acquired by these groups in the teaching of environmental studies should be taken into account by the government, when restructuring educational program around environmental principles. This would involve a proper representation of these youth organizations educational policy-making and curriculum development programs.

### 6. Other Recommendations To Governments:

That educational systems be completely reoriented according to the above detailed objectives and propositions. To the United Nations:

i. That the U.N. make high-level representation to member nations, in order to expedite the implementation of the recommendations and proposals of this report, and set this matter forward as being of central importance in the agenda of the 1972 Stockholm Conference, as well as in the future of every community and nation.

ii. That UNESCO promote environmental education through the establishment of Environment Studies Centers in all countries.

iii. That UNESCO promote the development of materials, facilities and methods for environmental education in the context of formal schooling, along the lines of the proposals in this report.

iv. That UNESCO promote the activities of national, regional and international youth environmental organizations through its division of youth activities, in relation with the IUCN and IYF.

**7. Dissemination of Environmental Education Information:** Proposals regarding this are contained in a separate report.



## PROPOSALS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

International Youth Conference on the Human Environment proposes to the United Nations:

### 1. Parallel Conference

Recognizing the inadequate and extremely vague provisions at present made for the meaningful participation of youth and other non-governmental organizations at Stockholm, that the U.N. Stockholm Conference organizers initiate immediate machinery to provide an independent parallel conference of such excluded parties to be held in Stockholm itself for the duration of the Conference or Environmental Forum at present being planned but completely and distinct therefrom.

### 2. U.N. Environmental Agency

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference prepare for the setting up by the General Assembly of a seventh Special Committee of that Assembly to deal with the coordination of standard setting procedures and action programs of existing U.N. and other agencies.

### 3. Individual Standing to Sue

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure that an individual, organization of individuals, or state will have the right to sue any other individuals, organizations of individuals, or states for damage to the environment without the necessity of proving direct injury or damage.

### 4. Environmental Legislation for Corporations

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will require each member nation to enact legislation making environmental considerations a primary factor in corporate decision-making by implication as a basic tenet of corporate charters, having priority over short-term economic gain, especially for private profit.

### 5. Production-Rearrangement, Ecologically-based Localization, and Return to Natural Products

That the U.N. Conference in Stockholm place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption on the topic of production that call for: a) a rearrangement in the present inequitable allocation of production among the developing and developed nations, b) a localization of production of specific resources in countries most ecologically suited to them, and c) a return to natural products from those environmentally hazardous.

### 6. International Criteria and international Standards for Environmental Pollutants

Recognizing the need to safeguard the global environment, the U.N. Stockholm Conference is urged to place on its agenda proposals for adoption

of international criteria, for setting up international standards on environmental pollutants and for enforcement by the respective countries, carefully considering the social, cultural, economic, political and ecological conditions in each country.

### 7. Environmental Impact Statement

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption to ensure that an environmental impact statement should be filed for any project funded partially or in whole by the U.N., to include consequences on the cultural, social, physical, and other aspects of the environment. A complete file of such statements should be accessible to the public.

### 8. Ban on Atomic, Biological, and Chemical Warfare

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and adoption of proposals that will ensure the complete ban on the possession and development of all atomic, biological, and chemical weapons of warfare by any nation. Modern warfare is the most immediate threat to ecological survival.

### 9. Marine Pollution Survey

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure an immediate survey by the U.N. of international marine pollution together with a survey of national and international marine territorial limits so as to allow for greater control by an international agency which we request to be set up to deal with marine pollution and resources.

### 10. Life Support Systems Preserves

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure the setting up of adequate life support system preserves as flora and fauna banks for present and future generations.

### 11. Regional Monitoring Facilities

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure the setting up of regional monitoring facilities for use by independent scientists.

### 12. International Information Exchange

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure a program of full exchange of scientific and other expert personnel and equipment at both national and international levels to ensure a better utilization thereof; e.g., through the pairing of sister universities of the developed and developing world.

### 13. Traditional Medicines, Etc., Promotion

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure a proper place in the World Health Organization for traditional non-Western medicines which are based on environmental rather than technological principles of production and effect.

#### 14. Environmental Education

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure a program of environmental education to be carried out by all member states at all levels of human education, including that of national and corporate decision-making. The role of youth environmental organizations must be considered as an important vehicle for the implementation of such U.N. or other programs.

#### 15. Dumping into International Waters

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure that intentional dumping into international waters of all substances which have not been conclusively proven harmless be forbidden by United Nations mandate, and that violators of such a mandate be subjected to severe monetary penalty.

#### 16. Scholarship Program

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure a large scholarship program to be provided by the United Nations for students from developing nations to engage in environmental studies.

#### 17. International Scientific Commission

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on its agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will create a broadly-based international scientific commission to set maximum total quotas on the harvest of migratory animals and international fisheries, in order to prevent the degradation of these resources. An internationally-funded observer system should assure observation of these quotas.

#### 18. Employment of Technical Personnel

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on the agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will allow the employment of technical personnel in U.N. projects within their own nations, to facilitate greater insight into local situations,

#### 19. Environmental Research Institutes

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference place on the agenda specific opportunities for discussion and proposals for adoption that will ensure the establishment of environmental research institutes in

developing countries throughout the world, so that more applicable knowledge can be developed for the planning of land-use projects, recycling techniques, etc., and people can be educated in environmental sciences within their own countries.

#### 20. Fond for Housing Development

An international housing financial authority, backed by increased contributions by the developed nations, to make grants to national authorities for housing projects, maintain a state of planning and technical personnel to evaluate the use of grant monies, assist in planning for optimum utilization and subsidize interest rates to reduce housing costs.

#### 21. Decentralization of Economic Development

To encourage the decentralization of economic development and to limit rural to urban migration, the U.N. should set up programs providing incentives for small scale service and basis industries to locate in rural areas, preventing rural unemployment. Special attention should be given to industrial development related to that area's agricultural and mineral resources.

#### 22. Regional Research

The U.N. should encourage the use of local materials, talents and expertise to make full use of these resources in development. Research should concentrate regionally on these issues to provide a counterpoint to modern technological devices.

#### 23. Center for Technological Impact Assessment

A U.N. Center for Technological Assessment should be established to analyze the global and specific cultural impact of technological innovations, and should attempt to develop predictions of the impact on specific societies in which a new technology is to be introduced.

#### 24. Aid

All aid should be funneled through the U.N., in order to eliminate excessive influence by the donor country, Aid will be coordinated by the U.N. rather than through the donor country's bi-lateral aid programs.

#### 25. Staff Turn-over

To provide an influx of ideas and freshness of thought, all staff members employed for the U.N. should work for only a five year period, with at least a five year gap before reappointment.

#### 26. Distribution of U.N. Specialized Agencies

The United Nations' specialized agencies and organs should be fairly distributed in Africa, Asia and Latin America and not be confined to the developed world as is now the case.

#### 27. Conference in Africa

That an International Conference on Environment and Development should be organized in Africa in the year 1974.

of the scientifically and technologically unsatisfactory guarantees that presently exist regarding the public health hazards from radiation.

## 28. Operation of Companies

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference recommend that all developing countries take the necessary steps to ensure that all companies operating within a country are registered as independent bodies within that particular country, and not as branches of companies registered elsewhere, in order to prevent the host country from losing control over the actions and profits of the company.

## 29. Transporting and Labeling of Hazardous Substances

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference recommend establishing international standards and practices for transporting and labeling of hazardous substances, including radioactive materials and man-made chemicals such as solvents, pesticides, and herbicides.

## 30. International Registry for Hazardous Substances

That the U.N. Stockholm Conference recommend establishing an international registry for recording the time, place of origin and manufacturer, as well as time, place of destination and use of hazardous substances including radioactive materials and man-made chemicals such as solvents, pesticides and herbicides.

## 31. Control over Coastal Resources

That every coastal country should have control over all the resources, biological and physical, of its continental shelf and the water above.

## 32. Representation of People's Republic of China

That the Conference strongly recommend that a representative of the People's Republic of China be present at the Stockholm Conference.

## 33. Conference on Population in Asia

This Conference proposes that the Stockholm Conference place on its agenda for discussion the proposal that the U.N. sponsor an International Youth Conference on Population to be organized in 1974 in Asia.

## 34. Literacy Campaigns

Governments should initiate National Youth Services to speed up literacy campaigns, assist in rural development and foster cultural education.

## 35. Nuclear Reactors

That the Stockholm Conference strongly recommend local and national governments not to place nuclear reactors in the neighborhood of urban areas, in view

# **Oi Committee International**

An International Committee of Young Scientists and Scholars  
for a Critical and Holistic Approach to Development and the Human Environment

## **DECLARATION on the THIRD WORLD and the HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

### **STOCKHOLM JUNE 1972**

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# Declaration on the Third World and the Human Environment

**Written by Oi Committe International - an international committee of young scientists and scholars for a critical and holistic approach to development and the human environment**

We participants from 41 nations in the Conference on Problems of the Third World and the Human Environment, sponsored by Oi-Committee International, have come together for an independent and critical analysis of the problems of the human environment, parallel to the efforts of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm Sweden June 4 - 16, 1972. On the basis of prepared papers and discussions in specialized working parties and plenary sessions, we have come to the following understanding.

## **DECLARATION ON THE THIRD WORLD AND THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

By using the concept "**THIRD WORLD**" we focus attention on problems common to peoples who have the shared historical and ongoing experience of being dominated and exploited by other nations. This domination has sharpened the conflict of certain classes ruling over others in our respective societies in the underdeveloped as well as the industrialized regions of the world. The common root of these expressions of domination is in the socio-economic system which allows and favors "development" for one part of society at the expense of another. The price is hunger, disease, environmental deterioration and lack of freedom, lack of access to vital information and of participation.

**The HUMAN ENVIRONMENT** is the total reality of man's world which includes physical, social, economic, cultural, and political components. We strongly oppose the narrow ecological approach which emphasizes the relations of "nature and man", ignoring the fundamental issues of relations between man, societies and classes. Any approach to the problems of the human environment is meaningless unless the economic, social and political inequalities that exist between, as well as within the countries are considered. Our analysis stresses the crucial importance of understanding and solidarity among all oppressed peoples of the world irrespective of where they are living.

## **Development of the Environment**

Development must necessarily consider the well-being of all the people. It must involve the total conscious participation by the people in all decisions that affect their lives. Equal distribution of resources and the means and control of the means of production combined with decentralization, and reject private material and status incentives and sanctions. Incentives must be for society as a whole. In each society the social system must be developed based on its own priorities and needs and must integrate all aspects of the human environment. The environmental crisis in both the industrialised countries and the third world is due to the faulty nature of development technology and the social and economic systems that are organized for private gain and the achievement of military power, and not with regard for human needs. We strongly reject models of stagnation, proposed

by certain alarmist Western ecologist, economists, industrialists and computer-fans <sup>[1]</sup> and assert that holding economic growth per se responsible for environmental ills amounts to a diversion of attention from the real causes of the problem which lie in the profit-motivation of the systems of production in the capitalist world. Likewise we state that the level of consumption (affluence) per se is not a cause of environmental problems. Therefore the bulk of the so-called "ecology movements" in most industrialized countries that stress personal ethics of recycling and non-consumption are at best diversionary tactics which fall to put the primary emphasis on the destruction of the profit-oriented system of production.

## **Agricultural Development**

Most specific problem areas in the environment follow the analysis above. For example, the programme of agricultural development known as "the Green Revolution", which is lauded as the answer to the world's food problems, rural unemployment and social stratification, is in reality a package solution involving pesticides, fertilizers, "improved" seeds, irrigation and mechanization, which does irreparable harm to the human environment. This approach has caused severe chemical pollution, elimination of irreplaceable genetic plant materials, increased vulnerability of the agricultural production systems, crop failures, famines, threats to human health from new diseases and malnutrition, and dispossession, dislocation and unemployment of large rural masses as a result of mechanization and the monocultural approach. Although some of the individual element in this approach may have validity for increasing food production under certain specific conditions, the entire package has, in effect, caused the reverse of its proclaimed aims of social justice. In fact, the widespread introduction of this technique has impeded the essential task of immediate redistribution of resources. In summary, far from serving the long-term interests of the rural masses, the so-called Green Revolution has resulted in more profits for the agricultural-business complexes (chemical, machinery, etc.) of the expansionist industrial states.

## **Public Health**

In the field of public health the same disparity and diversionary approach is evident. For example, the present distribution of malaria corresponds closely with the boundaries of the Third World. Malaria eradication programmes based on massive spraying of DDT and other persistent pesticides, have failed to dislodge the disease from developing countries. In Central America and Mexico the incidence of malaria is just as high or higher now, in spite of well over a decade of intensive spraying with DDT and other pesticides. In other places such as Ceylon, India, Iran and Ethiopia, there has been considerable resurgence of the disease following the apparent initial success. Meanwhile the world's greatest accumulation of pesticides in body-fat and human milk has been reported in countries like India and Guatemala, where the intensive insecticidal campaign against malaria as well as agricultural uses have been practiced for a long time. We therefore demand the immediate institution of environmentally more positive biological and cultural methods. We assert that the present disease eradication programmes based on simplistic chemical strategies are a diversion from the more urgent and effective task of social reorganization which would lead to better living and health conditions and facilities and would ultimately free the people of the Third World not only from malaria but also from other diseases.



## Population

"We hold that of all things in the world, people are the most precious."<sup>[2]</sup> It has often been suggested that the root cause of environmental problems is that the world is "overpopulated"; thus population control is demanded as a solution. We assert, on the contrary, that population growth is neither the most important nor the most decisive factor affecting the human environment. In fact, when population is considered in relation to the development of the environment, there is a vast, as yet underutilized and wasted human energy which can be used to promote development. The question of population is inevitably linked to the question of access to resources. Most arguments for population control are based on the concept of an optimal population size, ignoring that the world is not under one system. On a global scale, the population problems of the developing countries have arisen primarily since the colonial expansions of the last two centuries, due to the virtual exclusion of the populations of Asia, Africa and Latin America from full access to their own resources. This process of economic exploitation still continues in spite of the nominal independence of various former colonies and dependencies.

We also reject the thesis that the onus of population control must fall on the industrialized countries. Recognizing that in the latter the mode of production of economic goods is a much larger contributor to the environmental crisis than population growth, it is clear that the emphasis must be on changing the modes of

production, which, we believe, implies a fundamental change in the socio-economic systems governing the means of production. Nevertheless we do not deny that there may be an eventual need to stabilize population growth. This should not be achieved through exerting external pressures of manipulating people to go against their immediate individual interests. Such an approach is intrinsically inhuman and demands a constant technical control over people. What is needed, in our view, is a process which releases the internal mechanisms by which a population stabilizes itself. The emphasis must be placed on generating a consciousness among people to relate their immediate interests to the broader and long-term interests of the community as a whole. This consciousness, of course, must be preceded by a reorganization of society and the system of production for an equitable distribution of resources. We therefore strongly condemn the international agencies and aid programs for their involvement in population control policies which are against Third World peoples and which will perpetuate their exploitation.

## Rural Development and Urbanization

In many Third World countries expansionist and capitalist technologies such as the "Green Revolution" have replaced human labour by capital-intensive technology. This has forced rural people to migrate to the cities, resulting in high imbalance between urban and rural areas. This in turn has produced gross social, economic, and political injustices. We denounce the United States' bombing of the countryside in Vietnam which has intentionally forced the people of Vietnam into urban conglomerates where they are easier to pacify and control. The location of industries designed for high profits in large cities does not consider the development of the

human environment. A clear example is that cities in the Third World continue to serve as mere centers for the collection and export of raw materials and the import and distribution of finished goods from the metropolitan countries. We advocate the decentralization of industry into rural-urban communities in order to realize a meaningful development.

## Self Determination, National Liberation, War and Weaponry

Modern warfare by the expansionist industrialized states, including the threat of nuclear or bio-chemical war, presents the greatest urgent single threat to human survival. These states, chief among them the United States of America, are today engaged in their most barbaric drive against the people of the Third World, of which the Indochinese people are the most notable victims. Likewise, the United States is involved in an anti-liberation campaign against the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia, South America, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Palestine, Eritrea and others by providing materials to the colonialist wars of Portugal, Israel, Ethiopia, etc. Such domination is vital to the preservation of the U.S. capitalist economy. The armed forces of the United States and other expansionist states are an extension of their policies through which their imperial hegemony is maintained by maneuvering the Third World countries into dependent economic, political and military relationships. In any discussion concerning the development of the environment, a high priority must be given to the fact that whole cultures and peoples are being decimated, displaced, dispossessed, and in some cases, threatened with imminent extinction. Many groups who have and wish to maintain their cultural, racial, religious and national identities are victims of "double oppression"<sup>[3]</sup>. In addition to being oppressed in the same way as other exploited peoples, they are persecuted because of their particular ethnic, racial, cultural character. These blatant injustices, particularly against the Indians of North and South America, must be exposed and condemned. We affirm our unequivocal solidarity with their struggles to retain their cultural identity and to defend their right to exist.

We advocate and support the inalienable rights of the peoples of each nation to determine their own socio-economic and political systems. We also believe that when a government is unjust and perpetuates oppression, the oppressed have the right to resort to armed struggles for their liberation movement. We therefore affirm our unconditional support to the liberation movement in Indochina, Africa, and Latin America. We condemn the imperialist and neo-colonialist countries for their naked aggression in these areas.

## Humanizing Technology

The carelessness of technology is the product of market-oriented economy where the maximization of profits and price-free social costs are the governing factors. In this manner multi-national corporations and national elites are enriched at the cost of environmental deterioration and human degradation. Ecologically faulty technologies such as the production of synthetics (pesticides, inorganic fertilizers, detergents, plastics, synthetic rubber, etc.) can only be justified by market-directed corporations for distorted economic reasons. Processes of this kind have stifled the production of finished natural goods in the Third World, created unparalleled industrial pollution, destroyed socio-economic structures and forced the dependency of the



Third World on the expansionist industrialized world. Technology must be reoriented towards more egalitarian goals to account for the social welfare of peoples and their liberation from oppression by privileged and powerful classes with vested economic interests. Furthermore, the concept of the "transfer of technology" which is supposedly designed for the adaptation of technology to Third World environments is a myth and purely paternalistic in outlook. It fails to consider the social and economic context in which decisions are made regarding the adoption of technologies. A humane technology for the Third World must necessarily come out of the incentives of the people themselves. This can only happen after a far-reaching social revolution has achieved the goal of total participation by the masses. The new technology must also reinforce many already existing ones such as traditional farming and medical techniques; it must direct innovation in accordance with human needs and environmental imperatives.

### Science and Social Responsibility

The new technology must be based on a new concept of science intended only for the social well-being of all peoples. This requirement dictates that for science to benefit the people it must develop out of the struggle for the liberation of mankind. Scientists and other workers alike have the responsibility to participate in the economic and social development of all peoples and in the struggle for the liberation of mankind as a whole. We reject the concept of "neutrality of science and education". They can be used to enslave man or to liberate him. Man is a social and historical being and as such has the capacity to change his world of today, which is one of oppression, to the world of tomorrow, which will be one of liberation. We denounce the exploitative values forced on children through competitive education based on individual achievement. We condemn the attitude of the superiority of "intellectual" over manual labour. Education must enhance self-awareness and social concern and lead to a new consciousness for greater participation of the people at all levels of decision-making. Finally, we do not believe that the United Nations organization will be able to find solutions to the problems of mankind so long as it is directed and controlled by

the very powerful expansionist industrial and military states which oppress the peoples of the exploited world. It is absurd to expect the oppressors to initiate and implement the process of liberation of the oppressed. We assert that the problems of this world can only be solved by the people. Therefore we call on all the people of the world to intensify their struggle against the forces that oppress us.

### Notes:

- [1] See, for example, D.H. Meadows et al, *The Limits to Growth*, A Report of the Club of Rome's Project on the Predicament of Mankind. New York, Universe Books, 1972; ([www.clubofrome.org/archive/reports.php](http://www.clubofrome.org/archive/reports.php)) and

*Blueprint for Survival*, Ecologist, January 1972. ([www.theecologist.info/key27.html](http://www.theecologist.info/key27.html))

- [2] Speech by the Chairman of the delegation of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, June 1972

- [3] Declaration of Barbados. Symposium on Inter-Ethnic Conflict in South America. January, 1971.

([www.nativeweb.org/papers/statements/state/barbados1.php](http://www.nativeweb.org/papers/statements/state/barbados1.php))

The Declaration on the Third World and the Human Environment is available on the Internet:

<http://www.folkrorelser.org/rorelsemapp/dokument/oicommittee.html>

Photo by Björn Gustavsson, From the left: Jan Fjellander and Taghi Farvar from The Oi Committee.

**New initiative!**

*These two pages is a copy of the first leaflet announcing a  
People's Summit towards Rio+20 in Gothenburg May 18 -20*

**First call: International project and conference 2012**

# **RIO CELEBRATE +20 RESIST STH+40 CONSTRUCT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**



# Time to take control?

Politicians give in to business more and more and meet at summits producing less and less outcome. Popular movements have developed a broad understanding of social and environmental concerns and an agenda for change more advanced than what governments and corporations produce.

## Rio+20 - Stockholm+40

Friends of the Earth Sweden now call for all interested to take part in an initiative towards the Rio+20 UN conference. We want to contribute to the existing processes among popular movements such as those initiated at the World Social Forum and by the Brazilian Civil Society hosting the Peoples Summit for Social and Environmental Justice June 18 - 23. We see this as part of a growing cooperation in for global justice, demanding climate justice and just transition instead of carbon trading. In the context of the Rio+20 summit we want to emphasize the importance of not using market mechanisms and deregulation in the interest of corporations, because what is needed is global justice and a just transition. The project have three parts:

### Experience exchange

Between popular movements, academics and political parties.

### Popular education

To celebrate, resist and construct solutions.

### International conference

May 18 - 20 in Gothenburg, Sweden

### More information

At <http://openfsm.net/projects/rio20/project-home>

### Contact:

[rio-plus-20@mjbv.se](mailto:rio-plus-20@mjbv.se)



# Celebrate

It is time to celebrate more than 40 years of an international environmental movement that addresses both ecological and social justice concerns. In response to a growing worldwide concern politicians organized the first UN conference on the environment in Stockholm 1972 and once more in Rio de Janeiro 1992. Now there will be a new summit in Rio in 2012 called Rio+20 with the official title United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development June 20 - 22.

Since the first steps in the early 1970s the international environmental movement has matured considerably with the help of growing global democratic cooperation within the movement and in cooperating with other social movements.

So let us sing the songs, show the pictures and tell the stories of the earlier struggles and celebrate the hope that the cooperation between people can bring to our planet.

# Resist

At the UN conference in Rio de Janeiro 1992 several important agreements were made as the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Conventions on Biological Diversity and on Climate Change. Business interests influenced much of the outcome. Thus free trade was promoted as a main model for achieving sustainable development together with cooperation between business, governments and NGOs. But there were also important principles outlined in the conventions acknowledging the stronger demands that should be made on rich countries in contributing resources to solutions.

At Rio+20 a new model is promoted by rich countries called a green economy. Instead of binding international agreements built on the positive principles achieved in 1992 the idea is to promote market mechanisms at all levels as the main road to save the environment and combat poverty.

Many popular movements reject this. They see a need both of confronting false solutions and corporate interests and calling for international binding agreements built on global justice. But foremost to transform our societies here and now towards social and environmental justice.

# Construct

Constructive solutions to both the social and ecological crisis is of great importance in our common effort. Popular movements all over the world that confront governmental politics in the interest of corporations have better plans for the future than those who have no interest other than defending the present system and development model. The landless movement in Brazil with their people's project and trade unions together with the environmental movement in such countries as Denmark, South Africa, and the UK have set examples that are important to promote. We have to simultaneously celebrate our own efforts, resist false solutions and construct a just transition.



*Activist occupying trees day and night in Stockholm celebrating together with hundreds of thousands the victory against the police when the trees were saved in the violent Battle of the Elms one year ahead of the UN conference.*



*Demonstrators at COP17 in Durban 2011*





*From Stockholm Conference ECO in 1974. The paper first published daily during UNCHE by FOEI and the Ecologist was still published at special occasions after 1972, here during a nuclear meeting in California.*

## The legacy of the Stockholm People's Summits

After the People's Summits in Stockholm parallel popular movement meetings and protests became common both at UN and other summits as a way of democratizing global politics.

A stale mate between the movement and the state was also achieved. Two strategies evolved in building an independent global environmental movement. One was establishing global networks focused upon socially important issues as baby food, pesticides and forests. The other was to confront atomic power. Prior to UNCHE many environmental organizations saw in nuclear power an alternative to dam building. By confronting the nuclear program a mass movement evolved in most European and North American countries and to some degree also in Latin America and countries as India. This mass movement provided the basis for struggling for renewable energy.

Friends of the Earth shifted focus from questioning commons without private property relations

and ignorance or even paternalistic view on the third world. This was replaced by questioning Western world domination and technological fixes as solutions to the ecological crisis as seen in the caricature of president Nixon above. Others followed a similar path and a global environmental movement emerged as a result of the strong third world intervention in the Youth preparatory process and at the People's summits 1972.

For more information:

You find a detailed account of the popular participation at UNCHE in <http://folkrorelser.org/inenglish/stockholm72.html>

An analysis of the role of the UN conferences 1972 and 1992 in establishing a global NGO system in: <http://folkrorelser.org/inenglish/stockholm-rio.html>

In these papers you find many references.