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NEWSLETTER NO. 90 JANUARY – APRIL 2001

Dear friends and co-workers!

When we observe our present world situation, we see many positive and constructive developments for the betterment of the human race. Millions of people today are working actively to improve the plight of many millions of other people who are in situations of hardship and crisis. All those who are hard at work are beginning to have an impact in the world, and this is expressed in several international events, such as the United Nations Conference against Racism, which will be held this year in South Africa, the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels, the World Citizens Conference in Taiwan, the conferences on climate change and global warming. We also see more and more people speaking out on the importance of values. The United Nations has declared this Decade for the Culture of Peace. This year is the year of dialogue between civilisations; next year there will be a conference on Youth and Human Values in Geneva. UNESCO has launched with the Brahma Kumaris University the international Living Values Educational Program, that can be implemented in schools all over the world. This is also expressed in numerous local initiatives. This is a tendency which we, at the Institute for Planetary Synthesis, find particularly promising. From the beginning, one of the aims of the Institute has been to promote the practice of values in daily life, especially love of truth, personal responsibility, sense of justice, spirit of cooperation and selfless service.

Nevertheless, we see that the world is still in a very difficult situation, and that many positive projects do not progress. It is worth asking ourselves why. In our view, there are two main reasons.

The first is the present state of evolution of humanity itself. Most people resist change and prefer to keep their old attitudes and lifestyles, even if they are no longer appropriate in the present world situation. Most people are still egocentrically oriented and interested mainly in themselves and their own comfort and interests.

The other reason is that there exist on the planet today some groups of people who profit from the present world situation and who actively resist any change that threatens their interests. They manipulate the insecurity of the masses and direct the world through fear, false promises of material wealth, the suppression of truthful information and the dissemination of false information. In this way, they manage to accumulate large sums of money to the detriment of the large majority of the peoples. These minorities have built a very sophisticated planetary-control system and attack any positive initiatives, either directly or indirectly.

If we accept this analysis, the next question is: What can we do? There is not much we can do to change the attitude of those who control the planet. However, there is much we can do to overcome the egocentric inertia that characterises most of humanity. A very wise man once said that **if we can educate ourselves, there will be at least one fool fewer in the world**. There is much truth in that statement. If we change, our surroundings will change. Our first task is therefore to educate ourselves.

How should we educate ourselves? To educate does not mean only to accumulate knowledge in the same

way some people accumulate money in a bank. To educate means to learn to cultivate in our lives a formula which has always existed and will always exist. This formula consists of the **constant cultivation of active goodwill** in all circumstances. Active goodwill is a divine quality which can never be destroyed in a human being. It can only be suppressed or forgotten for some time. Active goodwill leads to right human relations, that is, to a culture of human rights on all levels of world society, to dignity and respect.

Let us therefore work all together with goodwill. Step by step, if we develop goodwill, we will learn the meaning of will to good, that is, the determination to work with persistence and dedication for the com-

mon good.

We would like to end by quoting a few words from the Masters concerning goodwill:

“When goodwill is expressed and organized, recognized and used, world problems, no matter what they may be, will in due time reach solution. When goodwill is a true and active factor in human affairs, we shall then pass on to a fuller and richer understanding of the nature of love and to an expression of some still higher aspect of that divine love. When goodwill is widespread among men, we shall see the establishing of right human relations, and a new spirit of confidence, trust and understanding will be found in mankind” (Problems of Humanity, pp. 115-121, by Alice A. Bailey)”

* * *

During the decline of an epoch, first of all a split is observed amidst inner structures.

When spiritual downfall overcomes the national consciousness, these signs are especially clear.

Looking over a chart of the World, one can easily be convinced that dissolution precedes the renaissance which can be brought about only through regeneration of the spirit.

Quest of the true renaissance leads to renewal of the spirit and of principles, and thus a new constructiveness can be affirmed.

The Service to Light must inspire the spirit with courage to manifest fiery constructiveness.

(Fiery World III, § 388).

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GROUP MEDITATIONS

FULL MOON MEDITATIONS

Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces Full Moon meditations with the Arcane School group in Geneva

UNITED NATIONS STAFF PEACE MEDITATION GROUP

02.01.2001	Applaud yourselves	20.02.2001	Silence, Peace, Love
09.01.2001	Joy – the energy of the soul	06.03.2001	The Soul, my Higher Self, is Perfect Purity
16.01.2001	I am a point of energy and divine light	13.03.2001	Goodwill, the basis of right human relations
30.01.2001	The New Group of World Servers in Action	27.03.2001	Life's breath
06.02.2001	Divine Light for global healing	24.04.2001	Joy in Taurus
13.02.2001	I am a peaceful soul		

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GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

15 January – 9 March 2001 – Exhibition of Photographs at the Library of the United Nations Geneva, on the theme “Water, World Mirror”

Sergio da Silva is fascinated by the life that flows through the watery element and loves to take his time to appreciate all that water can convey to us. Through his photographs, he aims at making us aware of the importance of this world heritage, and he hopes that the human being will learn to protect, respect, share water, and to have a more conscious relationship with this element, which is so often maltreated. The Earth is the only planet of the solar system where there is water in the liquid state. Water

is a cosmic gift – many scientists believe it came from outer space, brought by comets or meteorites. In any case, no life as we know it on Earth is possible without water. Let us be thankful and mindful of its blessing next time we drink it!

18-23 January 2001 – International Forum “Society as an Educational System: Projects and Development Perspectives”, Minsk, Belarus

Rudolf Schneider, IPS Secretary-General, was invited to present a paper on “Reawakening Basic Values for the Development of a Harmonious World Society” and to meet members of various groups in Minsk, in view of future cooperation. Several co-

workers from the IPS Moscow also came to the conference.

25 January 2001 – Group meeting on “A Culture of Values”, Geneva

Prof. Eya Nichama, member of the International Movement for Unity between Races (Burundi), was the guest speaker during this meeting of the “Culture of Values” group. This group of individuals from different walks of life and diverse cultural backgrounds assembled together in Geneva with the common objective to help one another “Live by our Values”. We believe that most of today’s major social problems, such as corruption, child abuse, violent crime, disintegration of family life, stress-induced ailments, AIDS, pollution of the environment, etc, are the result of the erosion of those fundamental values. To make values practical, we have chosen six fundamental values to practice during the year 2001. These are: personal responsibility, love of truth, commitment to justice, constructive cooperation, selfless service, respect for life on Earth. The process is simple. Each month we take one value from the list and make a conscious effort to perform all our normal activities in accordance with that value. Every person will self-evaluate one’s own performance and share with the group his/her experience. Each month the group meets to discuss our progress. After six months, the whole cycle repeats again. We would also like to inspire others to form their own value groups, wherever they are.

29 January 2001 – Conference on “Globalisation and Development” with Prof. Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Institute of Development Studies, University of Geneva

Prof. Joseph Ki-Zerbo, born in Toma (Burkina Faso), is one of the greatest African historians. He wrote “The History of Black Africa” (1978), and the first volume of the “History of Africa”, published under the sponsorship of UNESCO. He fought for the liberation of his country and for the establishment of democracy and the respect of human rights in Africa. He demonstrated during his talk that Africa has contributed and continues to contribute to promote human rights. For example, the sharing of responsibility between generations, which is traditional in Africa, makes an important contribution to sustainable development. The complementarity between the community and the individual is another important concept in Africa. Solidarity is deeply anchored in African society. Prof. Ki-Zerbo denounces the interference of Europe and the U.S. in Africa as the main cause of its problems, and asks for the development of a genuine African solution to African problems.

11 February 2001 – Workshop “Reawakening our Values”, Brahma Kumaris Centre, Geneva

We were invited by the Brahma Kumaris Centre in Geneva (12, rue J.A. Gautier, 1201 Genève, tel. +41-022-731.1235, fax +41-022-731.1270, e-mail genevabk@freesurf.ch) to participate in this workshop to explore and express our inner potential. Mr. Luca Campana started the group discussion on “Me, my Values, Society”. Helen Sayers presented her

“Reflections on Universal Values” and Jenna Maraj facilitated the afternoon discussions on “From theory into practice – using values in daily life” and “Living our Values”. Our basic values determine our thoughts, our thoughts determine our actions, our actions determine our habits, our habits determine our character, and our character determines our destiny. Our values can be material (money, wealth, success, profitability) or ethical (love, respect, honesty, responsibility, happiness). We value what we think can bring us happiness, and thus we can measure how true our values are by the happiness they give – not only to ourselves, but to our families, our communities, humanity and the planet.

16 February 2001 – “Childbirth and its long-term consequences”

The “Association Naissance Active” organised, in cooperation with Artimon cultural Association, a series of public conferences and workshops for midwives and healthcare professionals with Dr. Michel Odent, former director of the Pithiviers maternity (1962-1985). After his career as a maternity director, during which he introduced the concept of birthing pools and “home-like” birthing rooms in maternities, he founded in London the Primal Health Research Centre, whose objective is to study the long-term consequences of early experiences (from conception to first birthday) on physical and psychological health. He recently developed a preconceptional program in order to minimise the effects of intra-uterine and milk pollution by synthetic chemicals. His practice of childbirth may be resumed in the following words:

- Women’s bodies are designed to give birth. The knowledge about how to give birth already exists inside every woman.
- A woman will labour best wherever she feels the safest and most secure, whether at home or in hospital.
- Birth is one of the greatest challenges life has to offer. It provides an opportunity for personal growth (for mother and child).
- A woman in labour deserves an environment in which her privacy, autonomy and emotional security are protected, and her mobility is encouraged.

In his latest book, “The Scientification of Love”, Dr. Odent explores the impact on childbirth of the latest discoveries of science concerning the role of hormones in human psychology. During normal childbirth (without anaesthetics), the mother and child produce an extraordinary hormone cocktail which makes childbirth an intense experience and the basis for a person’s capacity to love throughout life. Undisturbed close contact between mother and child immediately after birth creates a deep bond, a feeling of unity which the person will later relive in all his or her relationships, in himself or herself, with other human beings and with nature.

Dr. Odent has created a data base (<http://www.birthworks.org/primalhealth>) for collecting the results of scientific research into primal health. His concern

is for humanity to learn to apply its scientific discoveries in order to enhance our collective capacity to love each other and nature, and thus avoid ecological and human disaster.

The "Association Naissance Active" (20 chemin Rieu, CH-1208 Geneva, +41-022-347.21.22) is the local representative of the Active Birth movement founded by Janet Balaskas (Active Birth Centre, 25 Bickerton Road, London N19 5JT, England, tel. +44-020-7482 5554, fax +44-020-7267 9683, mail@activebirthcentre.com, <http://www.activebirthcentre.com>). Artimon Cultural Association (20 chemin Rieu, CH-1208 Geneva, tel. +41-022-346.14.14) organises conferences and workshops in the Geneva area in order to allow a deeper reflection on all fields of human knowledge that lead to harmony of the body and spirit and to an expansion of consciousness.

9 March 2001: "Global Public Policy Networks: Promoting Innovation in Global Governance"

The World Bank Group Office in Geneva organised this panel with Mr. Mark Halle, Director of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (International Environment House, 13, chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine/Geneva, tel. +41-022-979.93.53, fax +41-022-979.90.93, e-mail: mark.halle@iprolink.ch, <http://iisd.ca>), Mr. Wolfgang H. Reinicke, Director of the Global Public Policy Project and Mr. Björn Stigson, President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (4 chemin des Conches, CH-1231 Conches/Geneva, tel. +41-022-839.3100, fax +41-022-839.3131, e-mail info@wbcsd.org, <http://www.wbcsd.ch>).

Economic and political liberalisation, as well as the technological revolution, in particular the revolution in information technology, have created two governance gaps. Policy-makers find it increasingly difficult to understand and face the complexity of policy issues in a liberalising, technologising and globalising world and, often as a result, tend to exclude the participation of the general public or particular stakeholders from their deliberations. The general public is also often at a loss to understand the implications of critical policy issues.

Global public policy networks may be able to bridge these gaps. They are broadly based, including governments, international organisations, civil society and the private sector to tackle issues that in today's interdependent world no single entity can resolve on its own.

The U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, as well as the President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, have recognised that global public policy networks can fulfil a multitude of functions, ranging from global agenda and standard-setting to sharing and dissemination of knowledge and serving as innovative implementation mechanisms for existing multi-lateral agreements. In today's world, power has shifted away from governments acting alone to a system in which state, non-state and private-sector actors work together on the international scene.

The three panelists presented the study carried out by the Global Public Policy Project on the role of global public policy networks. A summary or complete report of this study is available (in English and French) from Mr. Thorsten Benner, e-mail tbenner@globalpublicpolicy.net or Mr. Jan Martin Witte, e-mail jmwwitte@globalpublicpolicy.net. For further information visit the project's website at <http://www.globalpublicpolicy.net>.

13 March 2001 – "Human Rights and the World: The Conference about Racism (Durban 2001)"

The Swiss Forum for International Affairs (P.O.Bo 135 Champel, 1211 Geneva 12, Switzerland, e-mail fsfi@bluewin.ch) invited Ms. Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to speak on the UN activities for the protection and promotion of human rights, in particular on the coming World Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Durban, 31 August to 7 September 2001).

Ms. Robinson highlighted that human rights is one of the key issues of our times and could be the unifying focus of our efforts in the 21st century. Today, civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights have attained the status of international law. The UN is now moving its activities from a focus on standard setting to the work of **implementing** these standards in practice. That is why Ms. Robinson stated that she wanted the World Conference about Racism to be **action-oriented**, each nation to examine its record in improving relations between the elements and groups which make up their society and all of us to strengthen our resolve to reshape our identity in the modern world as inclusive, multicultural, multiracial communities where everyone is treated on an equal footing. For this purpose, she has circulated a Visionary Declaration which has now been signed by 76 Heads of State and government. The text of the declaration, information on the World Conference about Racism and on the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights is available from OHCHR-UNOG, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, tel. +41-022-917.9000, fax +41-022-9179016, and <http://www.unhchr.ch>.

18-25 March 2001 – Meetings in Siberia

Rudolf Schneider was invited to meet various groups in Siberia on the occasion of a roundtable which was held on 19-20 March in Novosibirsk on "Siberia as an Educational Space – International Cooperation Projects". During that roundtable, he delivered an address from which the introduction to this newsletter has been taken. On 23 March, he participated in a conference in Biysk on "Our Planet is a Temple of Education". During his trip, he visited the "Ecological Centre" and the "Helios Centre for healing and wellness" in Novosibirsk, and the "Centre of Education" in Biysk. He also attended a Spring Festival in Tsherepanova, and gave a radio interview on holistic education. Very close cooperation is thus developing between the IPS Geneva and far-sighted groups in Siberia.

24th March 2001- Visit to IDEJO, Montevideo, Uruguay

Our co-worker in Bolivia, Marion Remus, visited the *Instituto de los Jovenes*, a private school founded in 1988. It has now 250 children from 3 to 17 years. Central focus is meditation, beginning every morning with a few minutes of silence, guided relaxation and visualisations and finishing in the afternoon with group harmonization. Fulfilling completely the state curriculum, this school additionally integrates classes of yoga, art (pottery, corporal expression, theatre, music, dance), games to develop awareness and sensitivity, gardening, ecological excursions, cultivating the spiritual dimension of the growing human being. Vital and healthy nutrition is offered with school meals, avoiding refined sugar and wheat, red meat, soft drinks or the like, chewing gum and commercial sweets. Participation of the parents is another vital part. The close relationship between the teachers, pupils and parents makes this school feel like a big family. All activities take place within a framework of joy and reverence towards the surroundings, helping the inner ecology to flourish, and be naturally followed by the outer ecology. "To be" is the priority of the teaching system; its guiding principle is "all life is sacred". For further information contact Fernando Mirza or Edith Martirena, Instituto IDEJO, Avda. 19 de Abril 3333, Montevideo, Uruguay; tel./fax: 309.35.53, <http://www.idejo.reduy.com/>, e-mail: idejo@reduy.com.

28 March 2001 – Seminar on Education, Pavlodar, Kazakhstan

Ms. Lida Shkorkina, representative of IPS Moscow, participated in a very practical seminar on education in Pavlodar. For visa reasons, Rudolf Schneider could not attend, but his speech on Values in Education was read to the participants, as well as the article by Mr. René Wadlow, "2001 is a Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations". Many representatives from different cities of Kazakhstan and from Moscow took part in that seminar, discussing values in education. A project on "School is a Local Centre of Enlightenment" was developed. Teachers from different regions discussed the possibility of cooperation. The participants decided to arrange regular seminars for teachers and to study the free-school system of education in Denmark. They will invite Danish teachers to share their experience during the next seminar on education in Pavlodar.

30 March - 3 April 2001 - World Citizens' Assembly, Taipei, Taiwan

The 2001 WCA was expertly and painstakingly organised by the Association of World Citizens, 55 New Montgomery Street, 3F, San Francisco, CA 94104, USA. Tel. +1 415.541.9610, e-mail worldcit@best.com and executed with great flare, professionalism and caring attention to detail by the Taiwan Branch of the Association of World Citizens, under the direction of Dr. Hong Tao Tze, also President of the Tai ji men Academy and the Foundation for Peace and Love.

Imagine a venue in the shape of a Chinese Temple,

where traditionally visiting royalty and other dignitaries stay; a visit to the National Arts Museum of Taipei, and a musical play written on the origin and the role of Martial Arts in Peace making, building and keeping, written especially for the World Citizens Assembly, and presented in the elegant National Theatre of Taipei. Also imagine martial arts and dance performances, involving 5000 participants, including dragons 120 meters long, 1000 drummers, and a choir of 1000 children. This feast of sight and sound, held at the Taipei Stadium, at which the Peace Bell was rung, was honoured by guest speakers Mr. Chen, President of Taiwan and Mrs. Lieu, Vice President. If you can imagine all this and sumptuous meals provided as a part of the Conference, then you have an idea of the scope of this year's World Citizens Assembly.

The logistical demands of this Assembly were enormous. One example of the caring attention provided was in the form of assigned "companions". Each participant – speaker, working group chair, facilitator, etc. – was assisted by someone experienced in the local culture and savoir-faire. This thoughtful gesture smoothed over many of the awkward moments that inevitably involve foreign visitors.

Most striking of all was the atmosphere of love that accompanied everything we did. It started and ended at the airport, where all participants were given a rousing welcome and send-off by a host of laughing Tai ji men practitioners, dressed in their white outfits. One theme that was repeatedly brought up at the conference was the difficulty that people from developing countries have when they travel. They are often denied entry, and when they are given a visa, their bags and bodies are frequently searched, while they are treated with indignity. This reminds us why, as World Citizens, we must continue to do our utmost to create a global community based on unity and diversity.

The loving atmosphere created an ideal working environment, which was challenging due to the variety of cultures that attended. The first and second languages of many participants tended not to be English, the language spoken at the Conference. But the environment allowed us to rise way above our personal limitations. Personalities which tended to be consumed by their individual ideas, actually found themselves quite naturally standing back to make sure that those others came into their own, whose cultural reserve and shyness speaking English tended to hold back. This made for a rich texture of input and considerations, which continues to accelerate the follow-up work of the Conference.

Four working groups met during the assembly: on globalisation, on spirituality and technology, on the United Nations and civil society, and on The Abolish the War Campaign of the Association of World Citizens. The latter is of particular urgency, since it would be in a position to put a halt to the armament of outer space.

The Working Group on The United Nations was chaired by Ms. Lisinka Ulatowska, IPS representative at the UN. It produced a well thought-through

series of actions, focussing on the empowerment of civil society, especially NGOs. Everybody is invited to participate in these actions!

Action One: To create a definition of world citizenship, based on the input of all world citizens attending the AWC, world citizens groups worldwide, and the work done by organisations which acknowledge the importance of world citizenship.

Action Two: To introduce this concept to Governments at the United Nations, making use of the World Citizens Manual, which will be available by Email upon request. The Manual is available in English, Dutch, German, French and Chinese.

Action Three: To create World Citizens Groups worldwide, using the World Citizens Manual.

Action Four: To gather signatures for the Declaration for All Life (contact Mussie Hailu, e-mail Hope87@telecom.net.et).

Action Five: To support the work of the Federation of World Peace and Love (1324, S. Winchester Blvd., Apt. 94, San Jose, CA95128, USA, tel. +1-408-871.1638, <http://www.fowpal.org>).

Action Six: To hold an Interfaith Conference in Bangladesh in 2005. Those knowing of potential speakers and participating organizations, please contact the Foundation for Peace and Love.

1-19 April – Trip to Brazil

This trip to Brazil was quite rich in group contacts. First, we have renewed our cooperation with the Unit of Service for Integral Education, which is our contact group for the region of Rio and Resende, and has now branched out to Natal, in the north of the country. This group has embarked on a project of creating a spiritually-oriented phytotherapeutic research centre.

We have also renewed our contact with Ms. Vida Widmar, in Bahia. She has founded an ecological foundation, the *Fundação Vida à Mata Atlântica* and offered it as a contact group for the IPS in Bahia. She is also actively working to create a local peoples' assembly, and has created in her estate a healing centre, which accommodates and caters for up to 20 persons, and a beautiful temple shaped as a 6-sided pyramid.

In São Paulo, we visited the Willis Harman House, an association of business men and women, consultants, researchers, scientists, doctors, therapists, educators, artists and humanists with the aim to promote activities that further the expansion of consciousness, individual and social growth in response to the challenge of the present accelerating social transformation and the need for social, economic and ecological adjustments. The association is based on principles of planetary ethics and acts through projects created by its members. It serves as a meeting point and is centrally located in São Paulo, where it has seminar rooms and a very well-stocked bookshop.

During our visit, we were introduced to one of their projects, *Gira Sonhos – Associação Cultural em*

Valores Humanos, an association created to promote human values in a community of the Great São Paulo, stimulating cooperation and participatory administration in order to enhance quality of life. The project's address is: *Gira Sonhos*, Rua Ângelo Grigol 341, Guarã, Barão Geraldo, CEP 13082-010 Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, tel. +55-19-2874463, e-mail girasonhos@girasonhos.org.br,

<http://www.girasonhos.org.br>.

It is therefore with great joy that we indicate here the addresses of our three contact groups in Brazil:

Fundação Vida à Mata Atlântica

Fazenda Vida, CEP 45690.000 Comandatuba, UNA, Bahia, Brazil

tel. +55-73-613.11.22, fax +55-73-613.11.14

e-mail: fazvida@uol.com.br

Unidade de Serviço para Educação Integral

Av. Nova Resende, 300/COB-1, Campos Elíseos
CEP 27542-130 Resende, Rio de Janeiro

Willis Harman House

Rua Lisboa 328 – Pinheiros

CEP 05413-000 São Paulo – SP – Brazil

Tel/Fax: +55-11-3064.4630

e-mail: simra@terra.com.br; wwhouse@terra.com.br

Website: <http://www.willisharmanhouse.com.br>

25 April 2001 – Roundtable on “Integrating Values in Early Childhood Programmes – insuring attitudes of respect and equality in adulthood: an investment for the future of human rights”

The “Living Values: an Education Programme”, the World Women’s Summit Foundation and the Committee on the Status of Women of the Conference of NGOs with consultative status at the UN (CONGO) organised this roundtable. The Chairperson was Mr. Benoît Duché, coordinator of “Living Values: an Education Programme”, and the keynote speaker was Mr. Bernard Combes from the Early Childhood and Family Education Unit of UNESCO. Other speakers were Ms. Elly Pradervand, founder/ executive director of the World Women’s Summit Foundation, Ms. Karin Jensen, workshop facilitator of parenting and early childhood development programmes in Geneva “Building on Milestones”, 11 route du Guignard, CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva, tel. +41-022-786.49.30, e-mail K.jensen_edu@hotmail.com), and Ms. Helen Sayers, representative in Switzerland of “Living Values: an Education Programme”.

“Living Values: an Education Programme” is a partnership amongst educators around the world. It is supported by UNESCO, sponsored by the National Committee of UNICEF (Spain), Planet Society (Unesco) and the Brahma Kumaris Spiritual University, in consultation with the Education Cluster of UNICEF (New York). It is being used in over 70 countries worldwide. For further information, contact: “Living Values: an Education Programme”, c/o Global Co-operation House, 65 Pound Lane, London NW10 2HH, tel. +44-01242-512716, fax +44-01242-524536, e-mail lvep@cyberphile.co.uk, <http://www.livingvalues.net>.

The World Women’s Summit Foundation (WWSF) is

an international, non profit, non-confessional NGO and empowerment coalition (with UN ECOSOC consultative status), based in Geneva. It works for the implementation of women's and children's rights; convenes the annual "Prize for women's creativity in rural life", the World Rural Women's Day - 15 October; the World Fund for the Dignity of Children, and the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse -19 November. It address is : P.O.Box 2001, 1211 Geneva 1, tel: +41-022-738.66.19, fax +41-022-738.82.48, e-mail : wwsf@jprolink.ch, <http://www.woman.ch>

30 April 2001 – Meeting with Ms. Karen Mason, Director of Gender Affairs at the World Bank

The World Bank Group Office in Geneva and the UN Committee on the Status of Women organised a

meeting with NGO representatives at the UN in Geneva in order to promote an exchange of ideas on gender issues, equality and the advancement of women. The World Bank has come to recognise the importance for development of gender equality in the political, economic and legal fields. It has published a policy research report on that subject entitled "Engendering Development – Through Gender Equality in Rights, Resource and Voice", also available as a 32-page summary from World Bank Publications, P.O.Box 960, Herndon, VA 20172-0960, USA, fax +1-703-661.1501, tel. +1-703-661.1580, e-mail: books@worldbank.org, <http://www.worldbank.org/publications>.

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ENCLOSURES

Calendar of forthcoming group activities

ASSOCIATION OF WORLD CITIZENS PEACE DECLARATION OF TAIPEI 2001

WHEREAS, one year into the new millennium the threat of nuclear war remains a terrifying possibility in the twenty-first century and the militarization of space threatens to ignite a new nuclear arms race; and

WHEREAS, through globalization, a widening division between rich and poor has been created, with 20% of the world's population owning more than 80% of the world's wealth and the same rich 20% consume 80% of the world's resources; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies indicate that the present depletion of the world's resources and climate warming have imperiled the ecological system-biodiversity, and many corporations, along with the weapons industry, have produced unlimited toxic wastes which exterminated countless thousands of species and imperiled the entire life system of the planet; and

WHEREAS, human values have deteriorated through obsession with materialism, mass consumption and depletion of the earth's resources for profit, and as humanity now has the technological tools and means of communication to resolve these problems;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is imperative to abolish all nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and the sale of weapons for profit. The survival of the human race depends on eliminating the war system with its economic, cultural and political implications. Future conflicts among peoples must be settled within the peaceful framework of international law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that globalization must be democratic to benefit all people, leading to the eradication of poverty and ending the mass destruction of the world's resources, and not allowing our technologies to out-distance our humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Nations must be supported by both governments and people and be made more democratic and representative including a People's Assembly to provide moral and spiritual values alongside the General Assembly of nations. Furthermore, the Security Council needs to be restructured so as not to allow any nation to make the world hostage through its present veto power, and become the institution that provides security to all the people of the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to spread peaceful messages to over corner of the world, and to overcome the culture of war that ravaged the twentieth century, we must create a new culture of peace as specified by the United Nations 53rd Session of the General Assembly and its plan of action. This could be the foundation of a new civilization based on respect toward all life, with peace in our hearts and love of the world, with better communication among human beings, through cultural exchange programs, through peace education, and where human progress is measured not merely in economic gain, but through compassion and caring for others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as responsible citizens of the world, we call upon all peoples, all governments, international institutions and the United Nations to achieve these goals during the first decade of the new millennium.

Mr. Douglas Mattern
President of Association of World Citizens

Dr. Hong Tao Tze
Zhang-men-ren of Tai Ji Men Academy
President of Tai Ji Men Qigon.,
President of Federation of World Peace and Love
President of Association of World Citizens in Taiwan
Honorary Vice President of Association of World Citizens

Dr. Charles Mercieca
President of International Association of
Educators for World Peace

Dr. Rashmi Mayur
Director of International
Institute for Sustainable Future

This declaration has been signed by 90,000 people as of May 15. Please join us by gathering endorsements for the Declaration and sending them to the

Association of World Citizens, 55 New Montgomery Street, 3F, San Francisco, CA 94104, USA

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