



THE PEACEMAKER

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The Newsletter of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace

Assembly 2000: “Renewing the United Nations and Building a Culture of Peace”

by Dr. Thomas G. Walsh

On August 17-20, 2000, the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace convened Assembly 2000 to discuss the theme, “Renewing the United Nations and Building a Culture of Peace.” Meeting in sessions at the United Nations and the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, the conference brought together more than 400 government officials, former heads of state, United Nations ambassadors, religious leaders, scholars and representatives of a wide range of non-governmental organizations.

The Chairman for Assembly 2000 was H. E. Amb. Makarim Wibisono, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations and President of the U.N.’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Three missions to the United Nations cosponsored Assembly 2000: the Mission of Uganda, the Mission of Mongolia, and the Mission of Indonesia.

The theme was selected so that the speakers and delegates could both reflect on the message of U.N. renewal that had been advanced by the Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in his *We The Peoples* statement and support the U.N. proclamation of the year 2000 as the international year for a “culture of peace.”

Reverend Moon, founder of



IIFWP plenary session at the United Nations

IIFWP, also stated that the WCSF should advance “a new culture of peace” when he announced plans for the establishment of the World Culture and Sports Festival during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea.

A culture of peace has its foundation in a variety of internal dimensions of human experience, such as moral character, family life, patterns of social relationships, and religious beliefs and prac-
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THE PEACEMAKER

The Peacemaker seeks to promote a global culture of peace through dialogue and cooperation amongst secular and religious leaders of all nationalities, faiths and ethnic backgrounds. Published quarterly, *The Peacemaker* will provide updates on IIFWP events and activities, short articles and papers, as well as a digest of news on organizations, issues, and events related to achieving a peaceful world.

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The Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace is a worldwide, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of world peace through education programs, workshops, conferences, and publications.

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From the Editor

We are most pleased to launch this first issue of the IIFWP's newsletter, The Peacemaker. It is our sincere hope that this newsletter, along with our website (www.iifwp.org) will be a source of information, inspiration and networking opportunities for friends of the IIFWP community worldwide as we work together for world peace.

In this issue we present the Executive Summary from the recently convened Assembly 2000, which focussed on "Renewing the United Nations and Building a Culture of Peace." This was the IIFWP's most ambitious undertaking since our founding in February of 1999. It was our hope and intention that Assembly 2000 could make a contribution to the deliberations taking place throughout the year 2000, most especially those linked to the Millennium Summit and the Millennium General Assembly. The results of Assembly 2000 far exceeded our expectations, as people of great experience, substance and wisdom turned out from all corners of the globe to offer their insight, their commitment and their willingness to join hands in an effort to build a culture of peace.

The year 2000 presents a great opportunity for humanity. The United Nations community, in concert with U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has made a commitment to renewal that will result in greater effectiveness in carrying out the U.N.'s ideals and mission. Similarly, NGOs and civil society are equally poised for new collaborative efforts for peace. The IIFWP stands ready to participate and serve in whatever way it can to help make memorable and historic breakthroughs for peace. Let us not allow the year 2000 to pass as a mere interlude filled with rhetoric and good intentions, only to be overwhelmed by the weight of business as usual. Let us each work to make this year a turning point in our history by supporting the United Nations in its efforts to live up to its ideals and ambitions and by encouraging and supporting the member states and the institutions of civil society in their efforts for a new world.

We welcome our newsletter readers' input, suggestions, recommendations and submission proposals. Let us work together to build a culture of peace that stimulates transformation in all spheres of life, making our environment safe and pure; our places of work productive, enriching and profitable; our nations secure, efficient and proud; our societies engaged and friendly; and our families stable, loving and strong.

by Dr. Mark P. Barry

On September 6-8, 2000, 99 heads of state, three crown princes and 47 heads of government convened at the United Nations headquarters in New York for the Millennium Summit, the largest

conclusion. The document contains a statement of values, principles and objectives for the international agenda of the new century and also sets deadlines for many collective actions. In it, the leaders reaffirmed their faith in the U.N. and its charter as indispensable for a more peaceful, pros-

perous and just world. They acknowledged that the collective responsibility of governments is to uphold human dignity, equality and equity. The leaders declared that today's central challenge is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all, for at present, its benefits are not equally shared. The Declaration calls for global policies and measures appropriate to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition. Citing freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility as six values fundamental to international relations



World leaders attending the Millennium Summit

(United Nations photo by Terry Deglau/Eastman Kodak)

gathering of world leaders in history. 187 member states were represented in meetings and roundtable sessions that immediately preceded the opening of the 55th session of the General Assembly on September 11. The forum of world leaders was cochaired by H. E. Techeste Ahderom, President of Finland, and H. E. Sam Nujoma, President of Namibia. The leaders presented their views on the role of the United Nations in the 21st century and the main challenges facing the world's peoples.

The world leaders unanimously adopted the "United Nations Millennium Declaration" at the Summit's

perous and just world. They acknowledged that the collective responsibility of governments is to uphold human dignity, equality and equity.

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Citing freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility as six values fundamental to international relations

common environment," "human rights, democracy and good governance," "protecting the vulnerable," "meeting the special needs of Africa," and "strengthening the United Nations."

The Summit Declaration established the goal of halving the proportion of the world's population with incomes of less than one dollar a day (currently 20%) by 2015; equal access to primary education for all children; reducing maternal mortality by 75%; to begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases; and, achieving a significant im-

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by Dr. Mark P. Barry

Assembly 2000: Renewing the United Nations and Building a Culture of Peace” was held in New York at the United Nations Headquarters and Waldorf-Astoria Hotel from August 17-19, 2000. Sponsored by the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, the conference was attended by dignitaries from over 100 nations, including former heads of state and government, religious and parliamentary leaders, and academic, business and media leaders. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Makarim Wibisono, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, and was cosponsored by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Indonesia, Mongolia and Uganda.

Assembly 2000 met just before a momentous occasion in the history of the United Nations: the convening of the Millennium Summit of World Leaders and Millennium Assembly of the United Nations, preceded by the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders. In preparation for these gatherings, Secretary General Kofi Annan issued his millennium report, *We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century*. In it, he described the dream of a world free from want, fear, and able to inherit a sound and healthy environment. He emphasized that now is the opportunity to “reshape the United Nations so that it can make a real and measurable difference to people’s lives in the new century.” Prompted by the Secretary General’s visionary statement, and recognizing that this year is the International Year of the Culture of Peace, Assembly 2000 sought to convey to the world’s religious and political leaders substantial recommendations and conclusions as to how best to create a culture of peace.

Religious and political leaders as partners for peace

By far, the dominant theme at Assembly 2000 was that in the 21st century the religious and political spheres necessarily must work together to establish a culture of peace. As expressed by Ambassador Wibisono in opening the meeting, “the role of religion to promote peace and harmony cannot be overemphasized.... Only through the medium of religion will it be possible to achieve an end to bigotry and discrimination and ensure the effective exercise of human rights and fundamental freedom of all peoples.”



Nobel Laureate President Oscar Arias addresses the plenary session

He lauded the IIFWP’s consistent efforts to focus attention on the complementarity of values among all religions and to exhort world religious leaders to work with the United Nations to build a new world of peace and prosperity. He added that “this ecclesiastical dimension in shaping the role of international organizations will have a salutary impact in facing the multiple challenges confronting the community of nations.”

Former President of Zambia, H.E. Kenneth Kaunda, told Assembly 2000 that the problems most affecting his region of the world, sub-Saharan Africa,

such as poverty and disease — though manifested in social, economic, political and cultural spheres — are nonetheless rooted in values. As exemplified in the life work of IIFWP founder, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, emphasizing values gets to the core of problems, he said. This task is not the work of one single religion but the combined work of all mankind, the “entire spirituality of mankind working together.” “The process [of globalization] must be parallel with a universal value system that meets the hopes for happiness and fulfillment for all humanity,” Kaunda concluded.

Former Costa Rican President H.E. Rodrigo Carazo observed that religion and peace must march hand in hand. Religious faith demands individual respect for the values which sustain it, and the follower is morally committed to practice what he or she preaches. Carazo stated, “All spiritual values are perpetual and everlasting. The advent of the ‘planetary age’ calls for their strengthening so that, facing change in external material, social and political forms, the human being finds in God...the greatest inspiration for the whole fulfillment of the integral human responsibility, for the real construction of a culture of peace.”

Hon. Richard Thornburgh, a former U.N. Undersecretary General deeply involved in U.N. reform and renewal, also observed that involving people of faith and faith communities in efforts to create a true culture of peace goes to the source of much of the conflict and discontent in today’s world.

The most concrete exposition and proposals under this theme were offered by the Reverend Moon. He emphasized that it is critically important that religions dialogue with one another and learn to embrace each other. Yet, a hallmark of the modern age has been the wall of separation between the religious realm and secular political sphere, a condition that need not be accepted as a given. He urged

that international organizations supporting world peace reconsider their relationship with the great religious traditions of the world. He observed:

At their root, human problems are not entirely social or political, and so social and political approaches will always be of limited effectiveness.... [R]eligion lies at the heart of most national and cultural identities. In fact, religious faith and devotion have far greater importance in most people's hearts than do political loyalties.

Rev. Moon urged that today religion renew itself and manifest true leadership in the world; religious people should rise above "preoccupation with individual salvation and narrow denominational interests" which have prevented religious bodies from fully focusing on the goal of serving the world. Love and ideals must be put into practice for the sake of the world, he said.

He then put forward several specific proposals for consideration by the United Nations and affiliated NGOs:

1. He urged that an assembly of religious representatives be formed within the structure of the United Nations, a U.N. council consisting of respected spiritual leaders appointed by member states. The religious assembly would work hand in hand with the existing U.N. body, with the wisdom and vision of religion supplementing the skill and experience of political leaders. This U.N. council would especially advocate a universal, transnational ideal of peace, and its representatives would avoid promoting the narrow interests of a particular country. In this sense, these persons would be considered global ambassadors from the United Nations.

2. He proposed the creation of peace zones under U.N. jurisdiction along the borders of states in serious

conflict. He suggested that the demilitarized zone on the Korean peninsula be the first example, and he personally offered material support toward that end. Each peace zone would become a model of the U.N.'s highest aspirations, creating havens of reconciliation, peace, sustainability, and prosperity.

3. He called on the U.N. to sponsor a worldwide celebration day called "True Parents Day," set aside specifically to recognize and underscore the moral, social and global significance of marriage, parenthood and family as the foundation of a culture of peace.

In sum, Rev. Moon concluded that

we must...improve our systems and organizations so that the precious wisdom of religion, along with scholars, statesmen, and people of insight and knowledge, can be mobilized to solve the serious and urgent crises of the world. I believe solutions to world problems can come about

if we establish the proposed council composed of religious leaders in cooperation with the political leaders and diplomats of the current United Nations.

Conference participants would later endorse these proposals in a statement of affirmation released at the close of Assembly 2000.

Poverty, globalization and economic justice

The theme of poverty, globalization and economic justice also figured very prominently in Assembly 2000. Nobel Peace Laureate H.E. Oscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica, set the tone in the Opening Plenary session by explaining that small nations, which comprise so many of the world's poor countries, cannot produce everything they need; they must trade. Yet, the world's industrialized countries spend nearly \$400 billion a year in agri-

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Sir Edward Heath, President Oscar Arias, and Senator Robert Dole at plenary session

cultural subsidies to their own farmers, effectively preventing entry of agricultural products from poor countries. He said what the developing world needs from the developed world is “trade that is both free and responsible.... [I]t is in the best interests of North America and Europe to stimulate economic growth in the poor countries of Latin America, Asia

dies provided by the United States and European Union block the development of smaller nations. “This is an act of war, the way in which these subsidies are preventing our economy from developing,” he said. “This produces tremendous economic and social damage on the cultural and individual level.... [I]n the world’s new economy, we don’t

most people around the globe, liberating them from poverty, but protectionism in industrialized nations exacts a huge cost for developing states.

Dr. Gary Quinlivan, an expert on development economics, defended the much-maligned economic role of multinational corporations (MNCs) in channeling physical and financial capital to countries with capital shortages. He maintained that MNCs in fact reduce world poverty levels and, consistent with the United Nations mission, encourage nations to cooperate and seek peaceful solutions to internal and external problems.

The related issue of economic empowerment was also discussed at length at Assembly 2000. Dr. Norman Bailey, former senior director for international economic affairs to President Reagan, called for a “new emancipation” by which the United Nations can help free humankind from what he termed “wage slavery,” an unjust economic condition that, like slavery itself, became an accepted social relationship. He argued that state deprivation of the access to material resources is no less reprehensible than violation of civil liberties because citizens are deprived of the ability to exercise their capacity for self-fulfillment. It is incumbent upon government to ensure that monetary credit is widely available and accessible to transform intangible assets into tangible assets. Economic justice should become the goal and objective of all societies, Bailey said, and the U.N. and its specialized agencies should promote proven structures and policies, such as employee stock ownership plans and capital ownership financing corporations, to achieve this new emancipation.

Former representative of the District of Columbia to the U.S. House of Representatives, Rev. Dr. Walter Fauntroy, amplified Bailey’s thesis. He said the basic problem confronting the world is anxiety over a lack of adequate and secure income, which turns into a



Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, Dr. Neil Salonen, and President Kenneth Kaunda

and Africa.... Until poor countries can export their goods, they will continue exporting their people.”

Arias’s sentiments were echoed by fellow Costa Rican president, H.E. Rodrigo Carazo, who warned that the world is affected by an “unjust international division of labor that has produced a concentration of power in some nations, corporations and small groups which fervently defend their supremacy.” This domination often is of an economic or financial nature.

Former Uruguayan President, H.E. Luis Lacalle, spoke in blunt terms that the next threat to world peace is trade war. He asserted that domestic subsidi-

use conventional weapons, but incredible damage occurs which we can’t measure.” Lacalle argued that his country is wounded by an unjust economic system which blocks the sale of its products, and concluded that the poor cannot wait until the world creates a new financial architecture. “If we do not have real economic freedom, peace will lose its chance today.”

Supporting evidence was provided by economist Dr. Doug Bandow, who said the U.N. and other international organizations should encourage freer and more open markets wherever possible. He claimed that the advance of economic freedom will ultimately benefit

tendency to turn against one another. He cited three reasons for such anxiety in the U.S.: the flight of jobs to cheaper labor markets, the displacement of people by automation, and government downsizing yielding a smaller social safety net. Congressman Fauntroy argued that the solution is to enable citizens to become part-owners of the new technologies and companies that are displacing them, which he termed “capital homesteading.” Such a solution is particularly important given that by 2021, he said, 2% of the American people will be producing the durable goods that the remaining 98% consume. He said this emphasis on universal access to credit and capital ownership is the new economic paradigm for the 21st century.

Renewing the United Nations and the role of NGOs

The third major theme discussed at Assembly 2000 was the renewal of the U.N. itself as a viable institution to foster a culture of peace in the 21st century, as well as the role that other international and civil organizations can play.

The Hon. Richard Thornburgh primarily focused on management issues at the U.N., and in particular, assessed the state of U.N. administrative reform since the submission of the Thornburgh Report in 1993. Overall, he concluded, positive results have been obtained in a number of important areas including organizational restructuring, improved oversight services, and staff recruitment and training. However, other areas still leave much to be desired, he said, including the overall budgeting operation, the lack of genuine prioritization in program areas, and the lack of means to deal with substandard management performance. Nonetheless, Thornburgh concluded that opportunities to complete the reform effort are at a high level; conclusion of a U.S.-U.N. agreement on payment of regular budget dues will accelerate that process. He also con-

curred with the suggestion of holding a “Bretton Woods II” conference to review the functions of the international financial institutions created 56 years ago. Finally, he urged the U.N. to take a lead role in advocating for the half billion people in the world with physical, mental or sensory disabilities.

Former Belarus President H.E. Stanislav Shushkevich said that in the post-cold war era, the United Nations should rise to a new level; more than producing documents, it needs to provide practical steps for implementation. Moreover, he said, many U.N. resolu-

tion of civilization. He called for the right to one’s language and culture to be enshrined in international law.

Dr. Thomas Weiss of the City University of New York shared some of the findings of his extensive study of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He noted that civil organizations are in fact a centuries-old phenomenon, and yet their proliferation today does not necessarily mean greater effectiveness or acceptance. NGOs play two roles: of advocates and educators, and of administering operations or programs. However, about 98% of what NGOs do



Dr. David Randle speaks on ethics and the environment

tions are far narrower than they should be. As a case in point, he noted the Convention on the Rights of the Child does not affirm a child’s right to his or her national culture and language. Yet in his country, Belarussians, the national majority, face the threat of the eradication of their language and culture by a prevailing minority. Shushkevich asserted that the death of national languages and cultures is the precursor to the degra-

is on the operational side. Overall, Weiss said that if looking at a division of labor between the U.N. and NGOs, the U.N. is best at promoting ideas and devising norms and principles, while NGOs are best at taking limited resources and doing more with them. Increasingly, even the U.N., when it gets governmental funds for assistance, is subcontracting these services to non-
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governmental organizations. He made a persuasive case for consolidation of NGO services to avoid unnecessary duplication and for better accountability.

Dr. Wally N'Dow, Convening Chairman of the State of the World Forum 2000 and former special advisor to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Program, provided unique insight into the role of civil organizations. He observed that two paradigms vie for supremacy in today's world: 1) the human journey is a sacred enactment of a divine drama versus 2) the universal story is of political competition and the business opportunity. The tension between these two paradigms has come to the fore in this new century, he said. He stressed that fundamentally the U.N. is engaged in a struggle for inclusiveness of people everywhere. It is the only forum, for ex-



Gov. Richard Thornburgh

ample, where small, poor states can argue with large, rich ones — despite the tremendous difference in magnitude of power. NGOs and civil society organizations bring prestige and vitality to debates within the U.N. Their advocacy function is indispensable. Moreover, a new diplomacy is unfolding, promoted by many NGOs, which is transforming the U.N. — humanitarian action and intervention. N'Dow also stressed that a second globalization has emerged represented by civil organizations coming to grips with universal issues, acting transnationally and transforming them-

selves into global social movements.

Conflict resolution and the role of religion and ideology

The United Nations was created foremost to prevent conflict and maintain international security and peace. Naturally, a fourth theme extensively discussed at Assembly 2000 was about conflict resolution and the contribution to be made by religion and ideology.

H.E. Ambassador Jargalsaikhany Enkhsaikhan, Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the U.N., stressed the under-appreciated role of small states, who are vulnerable and easily become objects of instability, manipulation and violence, in international relations. He cited Mongolia's recent initiative, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly, of consensus principles and guidelines for conducting international negotiations. He urged that, in the future, broader use be made of small states in the peaceful settlement of disputes and in the creation of new international norms of conduct.

Discussing conflict prevention, Dr. Bruce Russett of Yale University appealed for a return to the principles originally articulated by Immanuel Kant, who more than 200 years ago clarified that there are three great forces for world peace: democratic government, economic interdependence, and international organizations. Studies of international behavior since the late 19th century clearly show that nonviolent means of conflict resolution have been the norm for those states adhering to these Kantian principles, while those that did not were more prone to interstate violence. He stressed that the U.N. is “not just a peacekeeper but also a peace-builder in facilitating the emergence of democracy, in encouraging trade and development, and in mediating conflicts and promoting basic human rights.” International institutions like the U.N. need to be enhanced, and

all states need to understand the need to act within a generally acceptable normative framework, he said.

Former U.S. senator and 1996 Republican presidential candidate, Hon. Robert Dole, particularly stressed the importance of the U.N. promoting the democratic values of freedom, human rights and the rule of law. He said the end of the cold war signaled the ascendancy of democracy, but the struggle for freedom is not over — as the Balkan conflicts amply demonstrate. He felt that the shared values enumerated in the Secretary General's *We the Peoples* document seem to be merely “watered-down versions of the core ideals of the United States and its democratic allies.” Senator Dole remarked that the words “freedom” and “democracy” are not mentioned in the report, nor are the “rule of law” and respect for political rights and civil liberties. He asked if “tolerance” specified in the report implied acceptance of tyranny and aggression. It was the values inherent in democracy, he claimed, that united the founders of the U.N. Those who cherish freedom must be strong and vigilant today; it is not enough for the U.N. to be “seized of a matter.” When its charter or conventions are violated, the U.N. must take sides. The senator concluded that the U.N. will only be effective and relevant to the extent it embraces the triumph of democracy.

U.N. Undersecretary General Yuli Vorontsov noted, based on his long diplomatic career in the USSR and Russia, that ideology causes, not resolves, conflicts. Ideology even can stand in the way of national interests. Equally so, he said, militant religious fanaticism fans the flames of crisis and prevents finding solutions. He concurred with Rev. Moon's sentiment that conflict resolution would greatly benefit if the world's religious leaders, whose voices tend to get drowned out by religious extremists, would meet more regularly to

properly influence international problems. Conflict avoidance and resolution also are not helped by fighting between and within religions. But religion must play a role in settling future international conflicts.

Dr. Douglas Johnston, a leading expert on religion and diplomacy, spoke of traditional diplomacy's neglect of religion which has left the West "unequipped to deal with religious differences or to combat demagogues who manipulate religion to their own purposes." Moreover, the notion of religious freedom in the U.S., with its rigorous separation of church and state, has effectively placed religion outside the bounds of critical analysis; religion is relegated to the realm of the highly personal, having no place in a professional context. Yet Johnston asserted that most foreign policy practitioners under-appreciate, if not ignore, religious contributions to peacemaking. He said that "until a spiritual component can be introduced into international politics that gets at the heart of forgiveness and reconciliation, history will be doomed to an endless cycle of returning violence for violence."

A cause of the minimization of religion in conflict analysis, according to Dr. Frank Kaufmann, executive director of the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace, has been the historical tendency to presume religion to be the home of intolerance, narrow-mindedness and eventual conflict. Religion has been tarred with the image that strong belief is a divisive force in human affairs. However, he said that religion can be seen as a friend of peace. Mediation, diplomacy and peace efforts suffer due to their failure to incorporate religion; peaceseekers cannot appreciate the full picture or comprehend the actual dynamics of a conflict — nor reflect adequately on their own presuppositions — absent an understanding of the spiritual dimension. But religions, as well, must take on the cause of peace-

making, Kaufmann noted. Religious organizations and experts should one day participate in high-level diplomacy and peace activity, but first they must establish and demonstrate an irreversible commitment to dialogue in permanent interreligious institutions.

The moral, social and global significance of the family

The breakdown of the family must be understood as one of the most critical problems any nation faces due to its far-reaching consequences. In turn, public policy should reflect society's inter-

tory, the family is absolutely at the core of promotion of a culture of peace. Younger members of society, raised in a family that teaches them the virtues of tolerance, harmony and understanding, will grow up with the right values that inculcate peace." Overall, he proposed a "grand alliance" for a culture of peace in which civil society plays an important and definite role.

Don Eberly, Chairman of the National Fatherhood Initiative, stressed that a society's capacity for self-mastery and citizenship ultimately is derived from the soundness of its families. Democracy requires individuals who pos-



Amb. Yuli Vorontsov and Arnaud de Borchgrave discuss a point

ests in the family and the recognition that strengthening the family is in its self-interest. Given that a culture of peace begins with and within the family, its moral, social and global significance was a fifth theme discussed at Assembly 2000.

H.E. Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the U.N., remarked: "As the oldest institution in human his-

sess the capacity for self-governance. The weaker the civil society, he said, the stronger the vertical assertion of the state; moreover, prosperity does not necessarily translate into a more civil and humane society. Thus, the maintenance of a democratic regime falls largely to families. With the erosion of a society's families, society itself experiences an accelerated fraying of the net of connec-

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tion between people at critical intersections. With this fraying, Eberly said, individuals lose the sense of membership in the larger community and ability to work toward common purposes which should be grounded in the family. American society, in particular, is experiencing a rupture of primary relationships within the family and especially of the connection of children to fathers. Democratic character flows from character-shaping institutions in society, of which the family is the most vital.

Maggie Gallagher, an expert on the institution of marriage, underscored that marriage is at the heart of the family.

H. E. Ambassador Semakula Kiwanuka, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the U.N., observed that the family as we know it today is at risk. There are forces which demand positive responses in order to preserve what is of value to humanity, and modernization sums up what these forces are. Despite its manifold benefits, modernization worldwide can have the effect of creating a systematic breakdown of family structures which leads to other social ills, he said. Religious life has an important role to play in preserving family structures. We must not forget that there is a link between single parenting and poverty.

husband and wife. It is only in the context of such families that the true parent model, true husband-wife model, and true children model can be established. True families are the foundation both for a world of peace and the prosperity of each individual country.

The environment in the age of globalization

Globalization's impact on the health of the planet constituted a sixth issue examined by Assembly 2000. Globalization has internationalized environment issues. Countries find themselves strongly divided over issues of economic growth versus environmental stewardship, over who is responsible for the environmental state of the world, and over how to address and apportion responsibility for these challenges.

Dr. Noel Brown, President of Friends of the U.N. and former Director of the United Nations Environment Program, said the issue of sustainable development implies how to successfully manage our technological civilization. It needs to be seen as a crisis of the whole. Thus, the central question is not why one should care but how we should care for the whole and how to insure that those values are shared and shaped by the whole. Among many diverse environmental issues, he noted the drain on the earth's biological system aggravated by the exploding growth in human consumption and highlighted by the explosion of global middle classes determined to emulate the lifestyle of the West. Brown asked, "Can the earth sustain it?" Moreover, he stressed that almost all projections suggest that the next major global crisis will be a water crisis. Nonetheless, he concluded that we can design the future we want which can be equitable, prosperous and sustainable.

Hilary French, Vice President for Research at the Worldwatch Institute,



Russian delegates discuss developing a culture of peace

Despite differences in marriage systems, the concept of marriage has fundamental similarities across cultures. Governments and civil society simply cannot take up the burden of responsibility of substituting for an absent father or a fragmented family by merely creating programs. The key to sustainable progress and growth in the face of modernization and consequent family fragmentation is to rebuild the family and strengthen marriage.

These speakers echoed the sentiments of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, wife of Rev. Moon and Co-Founder of the IIFWP. She considered the breakup of the family and the corruption of our youth to be one of the most serious problems facing the world today. She said in her address:

My focus is the movement to establish true families centered on the solid bond of true love between



A question from the audience

noted that globalization is a powerful driving force behind today's unprecedented biological implosion. An upsurge of trade and investment in natural resources sectors is threatening the health of the world's ecosystems. She said "Redirecting the global economy away from environmentally harmful activities and into more sustainable ones will require a multi-pronged strategy, starting with requiring international economic institutions to pay more heed to the environmental impact of their programs." She cited the World Trade Organization, World Bank and International Monetary Fund in particular. She urged that international environmental accords be as specific and enforceable as trade accords have become.

Rev. Dr. David Randle, an authority on the linkage between spiritual disciplines and environmental issues, noted that our present environmental crisis is a spiritual crisis. We have many economic and technological solutions available but not the ethical will to implement them. Randle suggested it will take a new style of leadership to facilitate the building of new organizational cultures and thus cultures of peace, justice and healing of the Earth.

Among the key principles of culture-based leadership he advocated were:

- Breakthrough leadership means to seek to unite the best people in their efforts to develop a new culture and seek out ways to support these initiatives. In contrast, survival leadership seeks to protect itself against opposition and thus has little energy left for creative initiatives.

- In the beginning of significant cultural change, usually no more than 2 to 10 percent of the constituents actively support the change. Yet, this small, engaged minority can create a revolution.

- People will perform at higher levels if leadership is performing at higher levels. Likewise when leadership is poor, average performance is likely to decrease as well.

He concluded that as the United Nations continues to renew itself and build cultures of peace, it would be wise to identify the strategic norms it wants to put in place. It takes a conscious choice to create these cultures, to develop new styles of leadership, and to

discard negative norms in favor of more cooperative styles.

Conclusion

The overarching theme of Assembly 2000 was "Renewing the United Nations and Building a Culture of Peace." It was examined from the perspective of six subthemes: religion and politics as partners for peace, the quest for economic justice, U.N. reform and renewal, conflict resolution and religion's role, the global importance of the family, and, globalization and sustainable development. Inspired by the Secretary General's *We the Peoples* millennial report, the ideas, conclusions and recommendations made by Assembly 2000's international delegates, as contained herein, were hoped to be considered of great value and utility by the United Nations community and the political and spiritual leaders who convened in September to embark on creating the culture of peace for this new century. ☺



Rev. Sun Myung Moon receives Universal Peace Award from President Kenneth Kaunda

IIFWP Sponsors 7th Friendship America Project in Guatemala

**By Rev. John Gehring
RYS Director**

The Religious Youth Service, a project of IIFWP, hosted their Seventh RYS-Friendship America Project (FAP) from June 30 - July 12. Eighty-five young adults from fifteen nations worked to widen roads and lay the foundation for a new school in Chinautla, Guatemala. These interfaith pioneers from the Muslim, Christian and Indigenous faith communities attended education programs and offered their labor and skills in efforts to substantially promote friendship and peace in the Americas.

Participants also had an opportunity to experience the culture of Guatemala at a concluding program in the Mayan community of Santiago Atitlan. Participants shared performances, gifts and friendship with hundreds of young students and community members. The volunteers efforts were designed to promote healing, trust and reconciliation for Santiago Atitlan is

the home of many families that lost relatives in the recent civil war.

Among those anxious to support the project's vision of peace were Guatemala's former President, H. E. Marco Vinicio Cerezo and the mayor of Chinautla, Hon. Pepe Paramo. Mayor Paramo was so inspired that he invited the RYS to his municipality and raised several thousand dollars to help support the school construction project.

Chinautla, a city of 200,000 bordering Guatemala City, is experiencing such dynamic growth that large portions of wooded areas in the mountains are rapidly being turned into populated communities. These communities are in need of adequate roads, schools and medical facilities. RYS worked with Mayor Paramo and the city council to help target an area where a new school is most urgently needed. RYS began construction on a school and widened the road to

allow access by school buses.

People from the local community joined the work as the road widened and the beginnings of the school began to rise from the foundation. Before the week of labor ended the community and all the RYS members could take pride in the progress they made.

After the work concluded in Chinautla, participants went to Santiago Atitlan where they visited local schools and distributed large amounts of clothing and school supplies.

Among those who participated were: Four members of the Presidential Youth Organization of Guatemala (Conjuve); three leaders sent by the Minister of Youth of the Dominican Republic; youth directors from several Latin American municipalities; youth selected from churches, high schools and universities in Guatemala and Honduras; and 36 participants from the United States of America. ☺

RYS Asian Friendship and Service Project in Ulaanbaatar

By Edwin Vanoverschelde

Mongolia, the land of steppes and hills of the legendary Genghis Khan, was the host for the 7th As Friends (Asian Friendship and Service Project) of the RYS (Religious Youth Service). This interreligious service and learning project for youth was held in the capital Ulaanbaatar from August 14th to August 24th.

There were 32 participants from Mongolia, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China and a variety of religious backgrounds, including Buddhist, Seventh Day Adventist, Mormon, Unificationist and others). Living, working and meditating together, participants were able to develop strong unity and close friendships.

RYS supported the construction of a two-story kindergarten for about 40

children in a poor, remote area of Ulaanbaatar. There had been no kindergarten in this small village. Children had to walk several kilometers or take the bus in order to reach the nearest school. Constructing this kindergarten nearby their homes will contribute to the safety of the children and will enable more children to attend school. The second floor of the small building will be used as a meeting room to provide educational programs for mothers and housewives of the local community. The RYS participants did light construction work with wood, cement and paint inside and around the building. They also built an outdoor toilet and made various toys for the children. The kindergarten, sponsored mainly by donors in Japan,

will be operated by the Women's Federation for World Peace of Mongolia.

During the first half of the day participants worked. After a lunch break they visited the most remarkable cultural and religious sites of the city. Monks and pastors of various monasteries and churches warmly welcomed the participants and gave a brief introduction to their traditions. The Khambo Lama of the biggest Mongolian monastery received the RYS participants in his office and supported the idea of our project. Speakers who addressed the group included an Indian U.N. official, who spoke about Hinduism, and the UNESCO director who spoke about the importance of education.

The educational program of the
(continued on page 13)

IRFF and RYS Sponsor 2nd “Africa Rising” Project in Uganda

**By Rev. John Gehring
RYS Director**

Uganda, which has been ripped both by civil war and misrule in past decades has begun to find a new political stability which has helped the nation make great strides economically and socially.

This stability and progress is threatened by terrorist activity in the northern region that borders Sudan. The International Relief and Friendship Foundation, a project of IIFWP, has initiated successful agricultural programs in the state of Lira, the scene of terrorist violence.

The IRFF program focuses on “returnees”, former rebels that have returned home and renounced violence. Over seventy “returnees” have dramatically increased their economic well-being through taking part in the IRFF program. IRFF taught them ways to enhance output through sustainable planting methods and use of higher grade seedlings.

This encouraged two hundred additional rebels to come out of hiding and become “returnees.” The former rebel leader is now a leader in the IRFF agricultural training program in the Lira district.

Based on the success of this program and the 1998 RYS project in Uganda, the RYS and the IRFF teamed up with Uganda’s National Environment Management Association (NEMA) to hold an interfaith peace service project in Lira from June 8-18, train-

ing sixty youth leaders from Lira and an additional twenty five representatives from twelve nations. This project became the second Africa Rising Project.

Under the guidance of Dr. Betty Okwir, the current Minister to the Vice President in Uganda, the Africa Rising program had substantial support from schools, religious institutions and local government. NEMA provided a team of professional agricultural trainers to teach youth leaders how to plant coffee and higher yield banana seedlings, which could double their family income.

Cannon Lawrence College, which hosted the event, had, one year before, been the scene of a tragic shoot-out between rebels and police in which a local policeman was killed. The school allowed participants to use the school’s gardens to practice the classroom teachings.

The key leadership of the state government attended the opening meeting on June 9th, and the event was covered on national radio and local newspapers. Minister Okwir visited regularly. She also hosted a special lunch at her home for international participants to demonstrate Ugandan hospitality.

The Lira youth leaders, half men and half women, were recommended by local colleges and service organizations for their excellent character and skills.

During our time together participants

from Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Guyana, and Europe shared and learned from each other through their talks, friendships, work and cultural sharings. The excitement of being together and doing something that would be beneficial to both one’s family and the community helped every person feel as though they had accomplished much.

Another highlight of the project came when Dr. Specioza Wandira Kabezwe, Vice President of Uganda, addressed RYS and other local youth at a special youth meeting challenging them to help create stability in their region by offering themselves in service.

Music, dance and messages of thanks are a rich part of African culture. On June 17, the final evening of the program, participants enjoyed a community gathering filled with the unique flavor of African hospitality. Seven local schools and colleges performed lively and heart-warming songs and dance, dignitaries offered congratulatory remarks, and local and RYS teams provided a variety of entertainment.

A graduation ceremony concluded the evening, marking the successful completion of the agricultural training. All participants received certificates from both the RYS and NEMA. 🌍

Ulaanbaatar (continued from page 12)

project was under the supervision of Dr. Ron Burr and Dr. Sherry Hartman-Burr, both professors at the University of Mississippi, and of Mrs. Fazida Razak, a Muslim journalist from Singapore. They led the staff and participant designed discussions and activities.

Those who took part in the program also had time to discover Mongolia’s cultural and natural beauty with a visit

to a Mongolian national park, where they rode horses and climbed in the local rockscapes. They gained a brief experience of the comfort of a Mongolian ger (tent) and enjoyed a taste of Mongolian traditional food — roasted sheep meat and airag (fermented horse milk).

The project was concluded with a day of reflection in nature. Participants spent several hours in silent medita-

tion on a mountain side. After meditating, they wrote down their reflections on how they could apply the RYS experiences in their daily lives as well as their determination to do so. When they finished, each participant folded his or her paper into a little boat, placed it in the water, and let the river carry it away as a symbolic offering of their gratitude and determination. 🌍

tices. Peace cannot be secured merely by law, peace agreements or peacekeeping forces. In order to establish world peace, there must be a new consciousness and a new vision for global culture.

The Opening Plenary for Assembly 2000 featured a number of world-renowned speakers, including Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Oscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica; Sir Edward Heath, former Prime Minister of England; Hon. Robert Dole, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader; H. E. Kenneth Kaunda, former President of Zambia; Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, Chairman of the IIFWP; Mr. Taj Hamad, Director of the Office of U.N. Relations for IIFWP; H. E. Amb. Semakula Kiwanuka, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations; H. E. Amb. Yuli Vorontsov, former Russian Ambassador to the United Nations and current Undersecretary General at the United Nations; Amb. Anawarul Chowdury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations.

A highlight of the Opening Plenary were the speeches by the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. After a fine introduction by President Kaunda, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon spoke briefly on the work of the FFWPU, the WFWP, the IRFF and the importance of women and family.

Rev. Moon's speech was the keynote of the session at the United Nations. In it, he articulated the vision of the IIFWP and proceeded to outline a series of very specific and concrete proposals for bringing peace to the world and for revitalizing the United Nations. These included proposals for: 1) establishment of a council or senate of religious leaders at the United Nations, with a member of this council appointed by each member state as its religious or spiritual representative; 2) the establishment of peace zones on the borders between states locked in conflict—Rev. Moon recommended that such a peace zone be established at the demilitarized

zone between South and North Korea; and, 3) the establishment of an international "True Parents Day" endorsed by the United Nations and celebrated each year.

The program sessions at Assembly 2000 centered on the following themes:

1. "Renewal of the United Nations: Opportunities, Obstacles and Options"; Speakers: Dr. Thomas Ward, University of Bridgeport, Hon. Richard Thornburgh, former U.N. Undersecretary General; Dr. Bruce Russett, Dean Acheson Chair of U.N. Studies at Yale.

2. "International Organizations and the United Nations"; Speakers: Dr. Gor-



Participant at display booth

don Anderson, PWPA, Dr. Douglas Bandow, CATO Institute, Dr. Thomas Weiss, City University of New York, Dr. Wally N'Dow, Convening Chair, State of the World Forum.

3. "The Moral, Social and Global Significance of the Family"; Speakers: Dr. Thomas Walsh, IIFWP, Mr. Don Eberly, National Fatherhood Initiative, Ms. Maggie Gallagher, columnist and author, H. E. Amb. Semakula Kiwanuka, Ugandan Ambassador to the United Nations.

4. "The United Nations and Freedom from Poverty"; Speakers: Mr. Antonio Betancourt, Summit Council for

World Peace, Dr. Norman Bailey, former international economic affairs advisor to President Reagan, Dr. Gary Quinlivan, Center for Economic and Policy Education, Rev. Dr. Walter Fauntroy, former U.S. Congressman.

5. "Ideology and Religion in Issues of Conflict Resolution"; Speakers: Dr. Cheryl Lau, Harvard School of Government, H. E. Amb. Yuli Vorontsov, U.N. Undersecretary General, Dr. Frank Kaufmann, Inter-religious International Federation for World Peace, Dr. Douglas Johnston, Center for Religion and Diplomacy.

6. "The Environment in the Age of Globalization: Partnerships for Sustainability"; Speakers: Dr. Noel Brown, Friends of the United Nations, Ms. Hilary French, Worldwatch Institute, Dr. David Randle, Wellness Health and Lifestyle Center.

On the evening of August 18, in the Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations, an Awards Banquet was held. At this time, the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations presented Dr. and Mrs. Moon with the first Universal Peace Award. Dr. Neil Salonen, Dr. Noel Brown and Dr. Nicholas Kittrie presented moving accounts of the accomplishments of the Rev. and Mrs. Moon. Joining Dr. Kittrie and Dr. Brown in the presentation of awards were President Kaunda, President Rodrigo Carazo of Costa Rica, Mrs. Mohini Giri, Dr. Cheryl Lau, and Hon. Betty Okwir of Uganda. Upon receiving his award, Rev. Moon spoke on the need to break down the barriers that divide peoples and nations.

Assembly 2000 officially closed at a luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria on August 19. Afterwards, IIFWP delegates met for a series of follow-up sessions to examine the founding vision and ideals of the IIFWP. Also, on the evening of August 19, the founders invited all the international participants to their home in Tarrytown, New York for a final banquet. ☺

provement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The document also calls for an enhanced program of debt relief for the heavily-indebted poor countries.

To strengthen the United Nations, Summit leaders resolved to reaffirm the central position of the United Nations General Assembly; intensify efforts for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council; further strengthen the Economic and Social Council and International Court of Justice; strengthen cooperation with national parliaments, international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization; and, to give opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society to contribute to the realization of U.N. goals and programs.

Finally, the Declaration requested the General Assembly to "review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue periodic reports for consideration by the General Assembly and as a basis for further action."

Observers agree that it is significant that leaders from the advanced industrialized countries and developing countries came together to discuss common values. However, the issue is whether the member states have the political will to implement the goals outlined in the Millennium Declaration. So far, the U.N. has not been able to serve as a unifying force because it has been buffeted by individual concerns of its member states, despite strong voices for U.N. reform. For member states to implement their rededication to the U.N., the enormous and onerous responsibilities mandate an integrated approach between the U.N., NGOs, and the broadest possible conception of civil society. In other words, only through an integrated involvement of the entire

spectrum of human society can the ideals enunciated at the Millennium Summit be achieved.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan, whose *We the Peoples* report issued earlier this year shaped the framework of the Summit's discussions, concluded the Millennium Summit by pledging his rededication to carry out the member states' mandate. He specifically noted that the first priority cited by the assembled world leaders is eradication of extreme poverty. As President Nujoma observed at the Summit conclusion, "The Declaration itself will not put bread on the tables, stop wars and erase poverty. We can therefore not afford to go home and continue business as usual. We have the mandate and responsibility to un-

dertake steps to help the people help themselves. We must act now by translating commitment into action. It is time to combine vision with increased resources for the United Nations."

Since the conclusion of the Millennium Summit, General Assembly debate has recalled the spirit of the Summit, saying that we need to build on the momentum and translate the Millennium Declaration into concrete action. Globalization has continued to be widely discussed there in terms of enabling it to benefit all. And, many speakers have emphasized the need to prevent conflicts before they erupt, to shift from the culture of reaction to the culture of prevention because conflicts go hand in hand with poverty and lack of human rights. ☉

Upcoming Events

IIFWP International Seminar

Renewing the Family and Building a Culture of Peace
October 14-17, 2000, Washington, DC

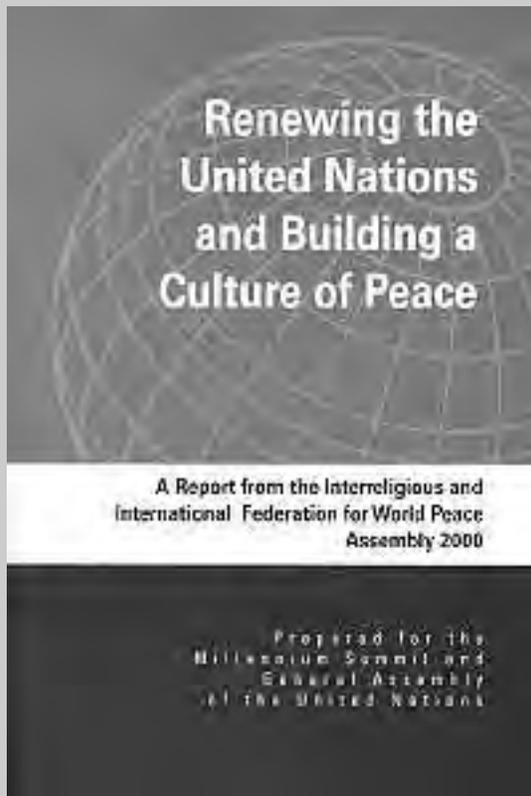
Two hundred international delegates from 70 nations will gather to reflect on the way in which the strengthening of families can contribute to better societies, better nations and world peace.

International Conference

The Millennium Summit Declaration: A Response from Civil Society

October 20-22, 2000, New York, NY

The IIFWP and the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO) will sponsor an international conference of representatives of nongovernmental organizations from around the world to reflect on the Millennium Declaration issued by the UN Millennium Summit held in New York in September. More than 500 NGO delegates will gather. Sessions will be held at the United Nations and the New York Hilton. Dr. Wally N'Dow, Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, and Amb. Makarim Wibisono are the Co-Chairs.



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