

PEACE CHILD'S PROGRESS..

AUTUMN 93

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Welcome to 'Peace Child Progress' which keeps Peace Child's friends updated and informed of what we have been up to and what we have planned. The past 12 months have seen a fury of activity in the Peace Child camp with a relocation of HQ, the preparation of the "Rescue Mission", Peace Child in Northern Ireland, Mexico and Buntingford, Hertfordshire. To catch up on developments read on.....

U.N. BACKING FOR BOOK

Peace Child International has received backing and funds from four UN agencies to produce the book, Rescue Mission: Planet Earth. (see page 4), a Childrens Version of Agenda 21. UNESCO, UNEP, UNICEF & UNDP with the support of the Foundation for Environmental awareness, in Holland, have pledged their support and



UNEP



undp



United Nations Children's Fund

are sponsoring the book which will be published on Earth Day April 22nd 1994. 27 young people aged from 10-21 came together from 21 countries to assemble and edit the book. The final 96 pages were arrived at after ploughing through thousands of texts, interviews and illustrations sent in from around the world.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

THE WHITE HOUSE

A new headquarters for Peace Child International has been found. The White House is a beautiful regency (1810) mansion deep in the Hertfordshire country side about 35 miles north of London. Building work is in full swing as the house and its barn complex is converted into the nerve centre for Peace Child. When complete, it will be a facility for young people to stay in touch by phone, fax and e-mail with all the world-changing events with which they are involved around the world. News letters, books and action programmes will come

tumbling out of the new White House giving its US and Russian namesakes a run for their money. The Centre will also house the incredible archive histo-

ry of Peace Child and the library of global information it has developed over the years.

Come work at the Whitehouse

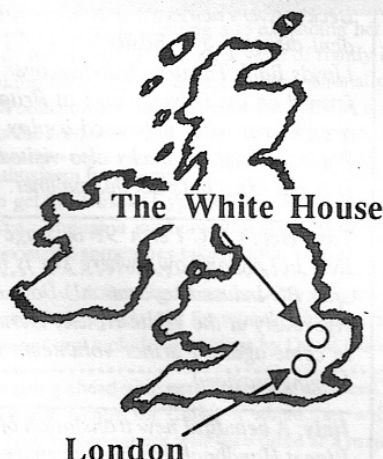
Each year, starting in April 1994, 20-30 students aged 16-25 will have the unique opportunity to come and work at the White House.

The only preconditions are:

1. Fluency in English and at least one other language;
2. A burning interest to learn about and serve our planet;
3. A talent to communicate through painting, writing or song.

Interested? Write for an

Internship Application today! Our new address is: The White House, Buntingford, Herts England SG9 9AH. Phone and Fax 0763 271459



INSIDE

That was the year that was!

A retrospective of the last twelve months and what Peace Child has been doing pages 2-3.

1994

Get your diary for Peace Child's 1994 agenda page 4.

Global Network News

Is the quarterly newsletter for groups organising international meetings of children. Find out how to get it page 2.

It's a small world

News from around the globe on Peace Child people. What are you doing now? page 2

Rescue Mission

PC's most exciting development to date. Editors on the run page 4.

THAT WAS THE

A NEW RESPECTABILITY FOR PEACECHILD?

Has Peace Child become a part of the establishment? There are worrying signs: four UN agencies (UNICEF, UNEP, UNDP and UNESCO) have sponsored the production of our Children's Edition of Agenda 21 and the UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has written the introduction to it. Award-winning children's publisher, Kingfisher Books, beat off several other interested publishers and won the contract to publish the book and we are engaged in active discussions with the Clinton Office of Environmental Policy to use it and our network in their Global Environmental Education Initiative.

As if that wasn't enough, Peace Child this year won two grants from the European Commission, both for the Ireland programme. One was from the Kaleidoscope programme for the arts, the other from the PETRA programme which gives funds for children from Central and Eastern Europe to take part in cultural and educational events. Finally, Peace Child has moved to an address which sounds more like the seat of superpower government than a home for a radical children's NGO.

respectability mean? - that Peace Child will drop its radical credentials. No! - none of that has changed. What has changed is change itself which now moves so fast it has become a blur. Child and adult, government and non-government, traditional and revolutionary have been wound together into a single muscle that has to gallop to stay in the same place, so fast is the ground moving beneath its feet.

Peace Child has a reputation for radical, fun ideas that are usually years ahead of their time. They have also made a point of doing what they say they will do. It has taken them 12 years but now the establishment has noticed Peace Child, we may be able to look forward to a calmer period of development ahead. But there is a danger that Peace Child will be lulled by this establishment support into a less radical mode. That would be deadly to its spirit, and there is one sure way to stop it happening: our British White House must be regularly stormed by young people from all over the world with a clear vision of how the world can be made better and the energy and commitment to work all the hours of the day and night to put those visions into action. *David Woolcombe*

CARAMBA!

MEXICO: In July, 3 carloads of kids from See Above Productions + Tess Bridgeman from Peace Child Santa Cruz, Deborah Tanguy from France and Erin Wood from UK travelled

down to Mexico to spend 4 weeks at an orphanage outside Tijuana. As well

as rehearsing a Peace Child show under the direction of Jackie

de Havilland, the kids helped with the cooking, the laundry and general maintenance of the place. They built a Tyre Wall. The orphans participated in the show which was half in English, half in Spanish. They gave three performances which were not without controversy: certain members of the evangelical orphanage staff felt the

message to be anti-Christian as the play did not state that Jesus Christ was and is the Peace Child. However all the kids loved it (along with most of the adults) - and a strong relationship was built up.

with 'See Above kids' travelling down there in the week before Thanks giving to bring food and other supplies.



If you are involved in any children's charity / action groups then you may be interested in Global Network News which provides information on all groups organising international meetings of children and youth. For details on how to receive and contribute to GNN write to Global Network News, The White House, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9AH, Tel. & Fax 44 (0)763 271459

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Layth and Hanna (PC Eastbourne & Jordan '92) were back in London this summer. Entirely by accident, they bumped into Rosey and members of the PC Ireland cast at Victoria Station. Fate seems to be pointing a powerful finger towards a major PC event in the Middle East next year.

Santa Cruz: Great news sheet from Diane Bridgeman as we go to press stressing how Peace Child chapters must reach out and work with other groups to enhance the strength of its message. The chorale continues to perform and Diane wisely believes that the group should not do too much, so that what they do they do well.

Becky: Every actresses' dream came true for Becky Collins, (student director, PC Eastbourne '92) when her group won the Lloyds Bank Theatre challenge over 400 other entries and performed on the Olivier Stage at Britain's National Theatre. Her group wrote and produced a play inspired by a painting of Toulouse Lautrec. Becky also visited Peace Child friends, Eva, Hili and Arnat in Israel this summer.

Tara Heath (PC Perth '91 & Stage Manager, Eastbourne '92) lives in London now, (where she is happily reunited with Adam after PC-induced separation!) Both + Mum have been painting vigorously at the White House. Though shattered, she promised to come again. Further volunteers welcome!! Full Board and lodging provided.

Italy: A beautiful new translation of the Children's State of the Planet Handbook has been prepared by the children of Milan and published by MACRO-cooperativa.

Holland: Katja van Osnabrugge who has produced a variety of Peace Child events in the last two years is now producing another. 'De Trein' (The train), in which the children take a train to world peace and reach their destination by singing instead of conferences and talking.

What are you up to? Write now, to the Whitehouse and let us know

YEAR THAT WAS

NORTHERN IRELAND CHILDREN CALL FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM

A Childrens hearing took place at the Londonderry/Derry City council when the cast of Peace Child Northern Ireland took their resolutions to the Mayor and other council members. The resolution called for a joint education policy (rather than separate Protestant and Catholic schools) an idea sourced by the group from their discussion. As a result the Council have agreed to work with the local youngsters in creating a questionnaire which will go out to all children in the area asking their views on the subject.

Peace Child traditionally brings together children from different cultures and the Londonderry/Derry show was no exception, involving Protestant and Catholic children from the surrounding area. However for this tour we looked for young people from other areas of conflict around the world. So on July 1st the international group from Israel, Jordan, Croatia, Kosova, Serbia, Greeks & Turks from Cyprus, Germany and the USA came together to put on Peace Child Northern Ireland.

Each child had their own stories to tell which were woven into the script. Nora spoke bitterly on the total lack of human

right for Albanians in Kosova, Julianne spoke of her personal experiences of racism in Berlin, Radoulla, a Greek Cypriot had never met a Turkish Cypriot before until she met Mutlu in Derry, who



lived barely a mile away from her in the Turkish part of Nicosia. Discussions were lively and intense. The Croatian boy amazed listeners when he said that he had "never encountered such hatred as he saw in Ireland"

Andy Farrell who had just directed a play at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh,

directed the production, Frank Buckley was the Musical Director, conducting a wonderful band of local musicians & Anita McGinley was the choreographer. The presentation, sponsored by the EEC, was a joint production between Peace Child International and the Playhouse. The Playhouse, a dynamic arts centre in the heart of the city offers classes in art, dancing, pottery, photography, clowning skills etc to both communities. Their small but effective theatre is a venue for many productions both local and from overseas. For the production a local artist worked with different schools to create huge banners which hung in the theatre to picture what a future world could look like. After the performance there was an Inter-Denominational Service in the Cathedral followed by a walk around the walls. Lady Mayhew (wife of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) attended one of the performances and was very moved.

Many thanks to everyone involved, especially Pauline Ross and all at the Playhouse and the wonderful homestay families for your work and hospitality.

Rosey Simonds

LOOKING AHEAD TO 94

Jerusalem: Yael Drouyanoff has been continuing and expanding her Arab/Israeli workshops throughout Israel. With the new Peace deal, she expects to expand them even further and, at last, after years of rightly insisting that the most important Peace Child work in the Middle East must be done locally, she is looking favorably on having an International programme in the summer of 1994. In the wake of that agreement, we are hurrying to realise David Woolcombe's dream of a production that starts in the Galilee then tours up to the Lebanon, across to Damascus, down to Amman then back across the Jordan river to a climactic performance in Jerusalem!! We'll be in touch as soon as we have firm news.

Cyprus: There is much enthusiasm for mounting a Peace Child international programme at the Ledra Palace Hotel on the Green Line in Cyprus. Meetings are continuing to get the Turkish Cypriot authorities to agree. We feel that a one-sided production, be it on the Greek or Turkish side, would be counter-productive. Though a joint production seems impossible, we have to remember that great Peace Child tradition: the difficult we do immediately; the impossible sometimes takes a little longer!

Disability: Continuing our link with the Playhouse in Derry, we are preparing a play that brings together disabled and able-bodied youngsters. The play will mark the opening of a special lift for wheelchair-users at the Playhouse. It will be based on Vic Finkelstein's moving and amusing story called 'The Revolutionary' and include new songs by David Gordon.

India: Stacey McEnnan is going ahead with her plans to do a Peace Child tour in Hyderabad, India in Summer 1994. The international cast will gather at John Ebenezer's World Centre for Children where they will rehearse an adaptation of Peace Child with children from different religions and casts within the city. Performances will take place at a major theatre and then on tour to small villages around Hyderabad, and possibly to Bangalore, Madras and the Taj Mahal in Agra.

White House: Renovations are expected to be complete and ready for interns to move in by April. The whole top floor is being converted to office space and we are planning an assault on the barns in February/March to convert them into student accommodation ready for the April launch of the Rescue Mission. Volunteers with building, carpentry or decoration skills would be most welcome!

For further information about any or all of these programmes, write to:

Rosey Simonds, Project Coordinator, Peace Child International, The White House, Buntingford, England, SG9 9AH.

RESCUE MISSION: PLANET EARTH

The big event of 1994 is likely to be the launch of Rescue Mission : Planet Earth, the Children's Edition of Agenda 21. Once the Book is out, Peace Child will be energetically promoting the Rescue Mission itself - an activity programme which encourages young people to implement the ideas of Agenda 21. The young staff of interns at the White House will produce newsletters in several languages to draw together news of different Rescue Mission projects from around the world, from Governments, schools and NGOs. Also, Peace Child will be promoting the children's own agenda for the 21st century which includes, importantly, peace-making and trust building between communities in conflict. We also hope to build a Children's Global Democracy and have one day, every year, when children present their concerns to governments, both local, national and international. Other key ideas include promoting local Agenda 21s for each community, encouraging school twinning and more active links between environment and development projects like Third World Shops.

editors on the run!

It's 2.00am on Sunday morning. José Luis from Santiago is hard at work on an illustration for a section called "Turning up the heat" - Mia's title for the chapter on over-consumption. Four others are figuring out a way to develop a world-wide children's lobbying system; Chammy from Bangkok is hand-lettering a card to thank one of the experts we interviewed. A Serb and a Croat kid are wrestling with a new chapter on militarism.

A few are sleeping, but with Zooropa blaring out at high volume and only four days left before final copy has to be delivered, they are probably dreaming text heads, style forms, box rules and logos.

This is the Editorial Meeting for the Children's Edition of Agenda 21, a project jointly sponsored by UNESCO, UNEP, UNICEF and UNDP with the Foundation for Environmental Awareness of the Netherlands. 27 young people (aged

10-21) from 21 countries to assemble and edit 96-pages from the thousands of chapter summaries, interviews and illustrations sent in from over 75 countries around the world. Competition to attend the meeting was intense: there were over 100 applications. Teachers wanted to come too but on this, the students were firm: this is a Children's Project. No teachers allowed!

The kids feel their total ownership of the book. A professional designer was hired but his outline for the book was transformed on the first day. The title suggested by the publisher's marketing department was likewise spurned. The publisher, award-winning chil-

dren's publisher, Kingfisher Books, now watches nervously as the young editor's attempt to do in two weeks what professional writers and designers usually take up to a year to complete.

For Peace Child people, this is stress as usual. We're used to putting together musicals in two weeks, and next year, we are planning to build our new centre in a month-long work camp! The editorial Meeting is the end of a process which started almost a year ago. Dr Noel Brown of UNEP proposed that a children's edition of Agenda 21 was necessary. "Who better to write it than children themselves?"

In a

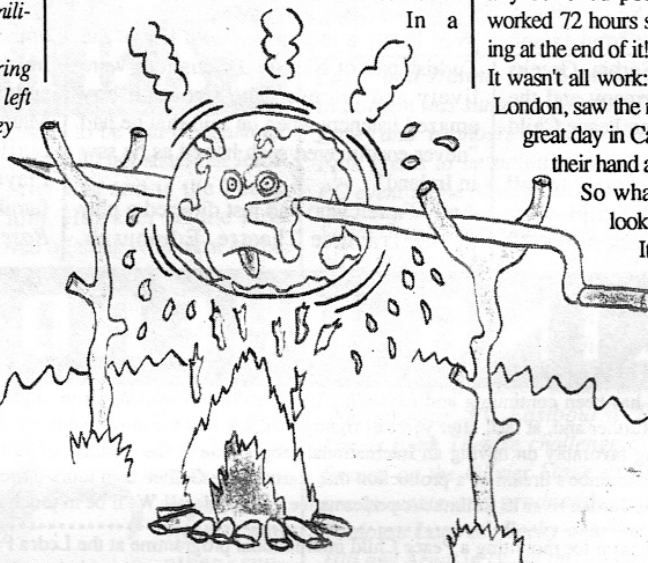
along with a "Question list" and other supporting material. The children then conducted interviews with key figures from the Rio Earth Summit - Maurice Strong, Nitin Desai, Tommy Koh etc. Statements were also received from personalities as various as Paul McCartney and Mikhail Gorbachev.

In July, five talented interns aged 17-22 met at the White House to prepare a first draft. This was completed hours before the editors arrived on 5th August. The group moved to an environmental teaching centre deep in the Chiltern Hills. The peace of this preservation area has inspired the kids to work harder than any believed possible - one Turkish girl worked 72 hours straight, and was still smiling at the end of it!

It wasn't all work: we took time off to go to London, saw the musical "CATS" and had a great day in Cambridge where some tried their hand at punting.

So what does the finished book look like? In a word - different.

It will be beautiful to look at with fascinating drawings and paintings from all over the world. It contains summaries of everything that Agenda 21 proposes, along with case studies



wonderful example of UN agency cooperation, the four agencies agreed to sponsor it together. Their only stipulation was that there should be equal numbers of children participating from the developing as from the developed world, a requirement richly achieved in the broad diversity of illustrations and opinions now contained in the final edition. In all other matters, the editorial decisions of the children were final.

The process worked like this: last February, parts of the original Agenda text were sent out to groups of children around the world for summary and analysis. Peace Child staff prepared a summary from the results of this

that illustrate what it means. Chiefly it will tell young people and schools what they can do to be a part of the Rescue Mission. For this project is much, much more than publishing a book. It's about launching a world wide Rescue Mission designed to mobilise kids throughout the world, in every school and club, to join in implementing the Agenda's goals - and to mobilise other sectors of society to work in partnership with them. Preview copies will be available from early November. The book will be in the shops from early April and the Rescue Mission itself will be launched on April 22nd 1994 - Earth Day!