

GLOBAL NETWORK NEWS

A quarterly newsletter for groups organizing international meetings of children and youth

Vol. 1 No.2

Summer 1993

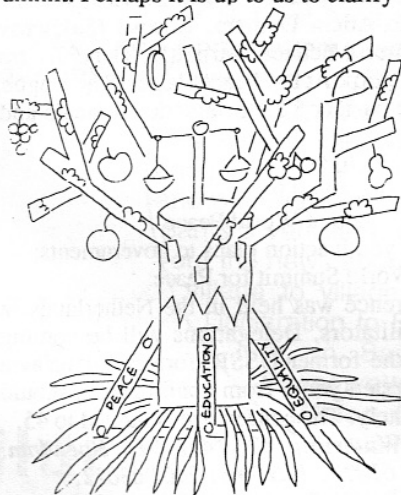
VIENNA WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

- a big step forward for Children's Access -

2 children's conferences gained most of the access they wanted to the Human Rights Conference. The Austrian Children's Summit was allowed to erect a Children's Tree of Human Rights in the foyer of the Conference Center and deliver a handsomely printed appeal for "Promises" to Conference Chairman, Ibrahim Fall on the opening day, June 14th. Two children from Coalition for Children of the Earth Conference spoke to the Plenary on the Children's Theme Day, Monday 21st June. A third child spoke behalf of the NGO committee on Children's Rights, calling for "urgent action" to give "children and young people a clear role in the mechanism of the Convention of the Rights of the Child."

Press reports of the World Conference on Human Rights were generally negative focussing on the failure to set up a High Commission for Human Rights and on the fact that the Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace prize winner, was barred from the Conference where Yasser Arafat, terrorist, was welcomed. But Fiona Blyth Kubota, our contact at the Geneva-based UN Center for Human Rights, said: "On the whole, Vienna was a success, particularly for Children's groups. It gave a green light to all the activities our network promotes. The Final Document, passed by consensus, contains a wide range of new ideas and we must now match these up with programs. We have until 1998, the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to get things moving."

The Document includes a section on Human Rights Education (HRE) which requires all states to "include HRE in the curricula of all learning institutions in formal and non-formal settings." A World Plan of Action for Education on Human Rights and Democracy is to be promoted and there was support for an idea for children to create their own *Children's Book of Human Rights*. It also reiterates the UNICEF principle of First Call for Children and calls on all governments to 'make national and international efforts to promote the survival, protection, development and participation of children...' The new word here is *Participation*. It is mandated by the Convention but nowhere is it clearly defined what participation means. The word was also included in the final documents of the Rio Earth Summit. Perhaps it is up to us to clarify what we think it means and to press our interpretation on governments.



Children's Tree of Human Rights

The Austrian Children's Summit, Muerzsteg June 6-13, went off flawlessly! The 3-day conference was the climax in a year long process of preparation and "pre-summits" held throughout Austria in which children discussed all the issues of their life that they wished to raise at the Summit. These were focussed into ten workshops. Questions and proposals were formulated for discussion with government ministers and on the final day.

The 11th Workshop was the International one on Human Rights. Organized jointly by Austrian Children's Summit, Voice of the Children and Peace Child International, it attempted to model the kind of cooperation talked about at the Haarzuilens Conference. On the whole, it worked!

Children from Austria, former Yugoslavia, Bolivia, Nigeria, Brazil, Hungary, Czech Republic and Germany met with a clear task - to prepare three things: The Children's Tree of Human Rights, a document and a performance piece. At the presentation on the Opening Day, 14th June, Ibrahim

Fall greeted all the children individually. Petrit from Kosova, Maria from Bolivia and Thomas from Nigeria presented the document reading two of the promises they wished their governments to keep. (The promises had been selected from those sent in from 30 countries.) Petrit said that the children were not only looking for governments to make promises. "We also must make promises: my friend Maté and I, we don't want to become soldiers but if we have to, we promise we shall never rape women, never shoot children or old people, never commit atrocities on innocent people."

Fall led the applause then responded: "This tree should become a symbol of all we are trying to achieve in the Conference. Its roots represent the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; its trunk and branches represent the themes we are pursuing and the fruits are the ones we all desire to see delivered." He asked for the tree to be moved inside to a place where conference delegates would see and appreciate its meaning every day as they entered the hall.

Contact: Dr Werner Greis, Austrian Children's Summit, Goethestr. 9, A-8010 Graz, Austria; +43 316 38 4452

Coalition Conference: This met for a week at the luxurious City Club hotel outside Vienna. Amid financial and logistical difficulties that would have defeated lesser mortals, the organizers arranged a series of workshops, briefings and cultural activities around the themes of the Conference. The children chose Rosa Anaya Perla from El Salvador and Sleepy Eye from the Tonawanda Indian Reservation in the USA to represent them on the Children's Day at the Plenary. Rosa held up a picture of her father and said: "This may just be a picture to you, but to me it is my reality. I appeal to the love and hope in your hearts that you not let any more children face the brutal reality that I have experienced." She then called on the plenary to observe a few moments of silence "for all those children who have died." For perhaps the first time in the whole conference, there was total silence in the Hall.

World Children's Day Foundation: Filiz Odabas Geldiay reports a most successful event on World Children's Day this year (April 28). The 100+ participants included kids from Romania and Fiji for the first time. Highlights included a video from the Austrian delegation showing what youth can do about the problem of immigrants and a US presentation showing former drug pushers supervising young high-risk kids working on homeless projects. Over 8 months, they had distributed 10,000 pieces of clothing and 520 meals.

The theme for World Children's Day '94 is "Plant the Future" - planting trees but also planting new values in communities. Filiz intends that children should become more active in pursuit of child rights issues.

Contact: Filiz Odabas-Geldiay, WCD Foundation, 4401-A Connecticut Ave. NW, #287, Washington DC 20008, USA. Fax: +1 202 966 7226

European Youth Parliament: Luxembourg session of EYP graduates gets under way in July with other sessions scheduled for Fontainebleau in September and Milan in the spring of 1994. A new departure is planned in March of 1994 with the first EYP session for University under-graduates. To be held in Oxford UK, it will follow the same format as the High School EYP but involve more detailed information gathering, and more time for the drafting of resolutions.

Contact: Bettina Carr-Allinson, EYP, 110A Banbury Road, Oxford UK, OX2 6JU; +44 865 311 946;

Natur Kindergipfel, Stuttgart, Germany Sept. 23-26: pre-summits are being held throughout Germany for what promises to be a spectacular conference. 600 kids expected incl. several from overseas.

Contact: Gerd Pfitzenmaier, Ringier Verlag, Gustav Heinemann Ring 212, D-8000 Munich 83, Germany; Phone +49 89 638 18 173; Fax: +49 89 638 18 111;

United Games will be organized in five centers this year from September 3-6. The town of Piran, Slovenia's "jewel on the Adriatic" is being added to Muerzsteg, Austria; Berlin, Germany; Pilzen, Czech Republic and Papa, Hungary. 1,000s of children will be involved. Report in next issue of GNN.

Contact: Dr Werner Greis, Austrian Children's Summit, Goethestr. 9, A-8010 Graz, Austria; +43 316 38 4452

Y-Net GLOCON '93 3rd Y-net conference to be held in a school near Stockholm, Sweden from 24-29 July, followed by a Model World Youth Parliament 29-31 July; a seminar on networking and cooperation will be held from 1-2 August. Cost \$175 - some financial aid available.

Y-net was founded in 1989 and has been organizing small international youth conferences, seminars and camps. Its purpose is to promote global communication and youth participation as a means for better conditions in our world. This conference is designed to address the challenge of building a global generation to find the conditions for peace and well-being based on communication and understanding across the globe. Organized for youth by youth, the coordinating committee includes youth from Sweden, Poland, Hawaii & former Yugoslavia.

Contact: Martin Hagwall, Y-net Coordinating Office, Linnegatan 21B, 41304 Göteborg, Sweden. +46 31 141410;

UNEP Global Youth Forum: May '93, Boulder Colorado, USA. Organizers claim a successful forum: the first lady of Honduras came along with 2,000+ students. Many great youth environmental initiatives from around the world were presented, but sadly no catalogue of them was made. "We do not have the staff to do it," explained a staff assistant. Plans are in progress to hold the '94 Forum in Japan. Word is that there will some significant changes in approach to ensure the GYF becomes the annual focalizing event to promote youth environmental action.

Contact: UNEP, 1 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA.

Leaders in Action Conference, May 7, Canada: Francis Li at age 17 started this. Now in its 6th year, this year's conference had discussions on issues chosen by youth on:

- Literacy (20% of Canadians are functionally illiterate);
- Youth-Police Relations;
- Violence against women youth;
- Inter-racial relations;
- Sex in the '90s - what really influences young people?
- Homeless Youth;
- Family relations;
- teenage pregnancy;

Finally - what is "Real Leadership"? A good model

Contact: Mario Ferri, Leaders in Action, 313 Pharmacy Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1L 3E7; 416 755 7521;

Kids Meeting Kids: First a correction: this group is not putting together a directory of Youth/Children Environmental Activists as mentioned in the last issue. They are working to get the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified and implemented by all countries, chiefly the USA. (KMK urges everyone to write to President Clinton urging him to ratify the Convention.) Once a year, they hold a conference. This year, about 250 kids from 100 countries met and reported on the situation for kids in their countries. From Brazil, Italy and Mexico, kids reported by "luma phone" - a kind of video phone. For more information on this group which is run by kids for kids, **Contact:** Herbert Williams, Youth Organizer, Box 8H, 380 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10025, USA. 212 662 2327;

UNOY: International Conference of Young Peace Builders from the Cutting Edge of Conflict. August 20-27. Organized in association with the Independent Peace Service, Russia. Guest speakers include Adem Demaci, Kosova (Sakharov Prize Winner); Brigadier Michael Harbottle, Generals for Peace and Rabbi Soetendorp. At the Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands. Registration fee: \$25 to include all meals and accommodation.

The Conference goals include

- to train young peace builders;
- to evaluate the "state of World Peace"
- to recommend youth action plans to governments;
- to convene a World Summit for Peace;

A preparatory conference was held in the Netherlands in early July to train facilitators. Delegations will be coming from conflict areas of the former USSR, former Yugoslavia and South Africa. Interested youth from conflict areas should contact UNOY immediately. The conference is limited to 45.

Contact: UNOY, Watersnip 62, 1452 VE Ilpendam, Netherlands. +31 2902 61877; Fax: +31 2902 63012.

PS. Note that the UNOY Conference planned for this summer in Lagos Nigeria has had to be postponed due to the recent political upheavals there. More news next issue.

A JOB FOR YOU!

Voice of the Children: Lillehammer invites you to GET INVOLVED!! All children's groups in this network are urged to send in their answers to the questions being discussed at this important pre-winter Olympic Children's Meeting:

- 1) What is your hope/vision for the future?
- 2) What do you see is the main obstacle to achieving this?
- 3) What possible solutions do you see?

Send your answers along with: The name of your country; its population; size; language; religion and average income; 57 national groups applied to participate. The final report will be distributed to this network and all who respond.

Contact: Kristin Eskeland, PO Box 8844, Youngstorget, N-0028 Oslo, Norway. Fax: +47 22-33-33-53;

Late News:

- Michael Jackson's *Heal the World* Foundation has World Congress for Children, Fall '93. We are researching this and will give news next issue.

Culture of Peace Festivals:

Greece, El
Salvador,
Grenada,
Jordan,



Zimbabwe, Cook Islands, Thailand:

Throughout the summer these Festivals will "launch an educational process that will allow children(aged 11-13) to undertake specific actions to promote a culture of peace in their countries." Kids from each festival will present their APPEALS to UNESCO's General Council in November.

Information: **Elizabeth**

Khawajke, UNESCO, 7 Place Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

+33

1 4568 1000; Fax:

+33 1 4567 1690;

ceremony were done by adult illustrators; all the presenters were adults; during a 1-hour presentation at UNESCO, the kids spoke for 8-minutes total and at the final ceremony, they didn't speak at all! The kids didn't get to sing the Peace Child song - it was done by a semi-professional children's choir. There was a minimum of contact between children from the different national groups: they sat and waved flags at each other. The kids didn't care! They were having the time of their lives! Fascinating! It reflected the Disney ethos of doing wonderful things

Coalition for Children of the Earth:

THE WORLD SUMMIT OF CHILDREN moves towards its climax in San Francisco in June when 126 children will gather for the Summit itself, June 17-27. Ellen Brogren had hoped for 5 preparatory meetings around the world when she started four years ago. To date, there have been twenty five! - and more meetings are expected to be held at the time of the conference via a special Internet link. Some have already generated positive action: the one in Sierra Leone was followed by an intensification of the Civil War and outbreaks of cholera and other diseases. UNDP lent the participants a vehicle at week-ends which allowed young people to "bang out the news about the Convention on the Rights of the Child from village to village." They hope to present their World Summit Declaration to Boutros-Ghali at the Charter Ceremony, June 26th, in San Francisco. **Contact: Ellen Brogren, Peaceways, 324 Catalpa Avenue, #318, San Mateo, Ca. 94401, USA. +1 415 340 8940; e-mail: jmisrack@igc.apc.org**

f o r

children, but a total absence of participation with them. This is the second summit; they have promised a third - with the participation of school classes of kids from 50 countries. You can get to participate by subscribing to the Disney Magazines(which reach 45 million kids a week!) entering the competition and trying to win.

Information:

Children's Summit, Disney Consumer Products, "L'Horizon", 10 Allée Bienvenue, 93885 Noisy-le-Grand, FRANCE; Phone: +33 1 49 31 1350; Fax: +33 1 49

31 1099;

2nd Austrian Children's Summit:

May 23-25; 300 kids gather for Summit with several ministers attending and considerable interest. Following Kindergipfel model, this summit is preceded by pre-Summits in key cities throughout Austria. Children's committee approves key decisions on structure. Note: Austria now has children's municipal councils in more than 100 towns and cities

Information:

Dr Werner Greis, United Games, Gosting-erstrasse 169, GRAZ, A-8051; +43 316 685 583; Fax: +43 316 685 5834

United Games:

1995 GAMES WILL TAKE PLACE 9-11 JUNE IN BERLIN, MURZSUSCHLAG, SUBOTICA, ISOLA, PLZEN, PAPA. SEVERAL HUNDRED KIDS AGED 10-15 WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DIFFERENT CITIES. WERNER GREIS REMAINS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION WITH VOICE OF THE CHILDREN PROVIDING THE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE UG CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENTS, AND PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL PROVIDING A MUSICAL PLAY. FOR 1996, UG IS PLANNING A COACH TOUR TO UNICEF COUNTRY OFFICES THROUGHOUT EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE, CARRYING A MUSICAL SHOW, INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL AND NATIONAL AGENDA 21s, AND HOW TO IMPLEMENT THEM, PLUS A MUSICAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF UNICEF'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE REGION. A MEETING IN BERLIN, 6-7 MAY BETWEEN PEACE CHILD, UG, VoC AND UNICEF DESIGNATED THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE AMBITIOUS PLAN.

INFORMATION: DR WERNER GREIS, UNITED GAMES, GOSTINGERSTRASSE 169, GRAZ, A-8051; +43 316 685

Children's Summit,

DISNEYLAND,PARIS, MAY 17-20:

Sponsored by EuroDisney, Air France, the European Union and UNESCO, this brought together some 700 kids from 26 European countries at a rumoured cost of \$26 million dollars.. They had a great time: a free trip to Disneyworld, workshops with some excellent eco-facilitators and an exciting presentation to UNESCO. In terms of kids participation, it was a joke! The Children's Summit Charter was written by Disney and UNESCO staff and delivered two days before the children arrived; the illustrations shown at the closing

583; FAX: + 43 316 685 583



YOUTH '95
17-27 JUNE, SAN
FRANCISCO STATE
UNIVERSITY:

a four day convocation! - A 12-day Activist adventure! This is another conference put together for young people by the World Federalist Movement and Global 2000 - the people who brought you the Bretton Woods 50th Anniversary Conference, and the UN Charter Review. Designed to strengthen partnerships between the UN and youth at local and global levels, the first four days has a series of workshops including a 5-sector Youth Commission on Global Governance, caucuses for Beijing Women's Conference and the "We the People" NGO conference, cultural activity and Disco 2000. 300 students expected. Registration \$125.

Information: Aaron Knight, World Federalists, 418 Seventh St. SE, Washington DC 20003. Phone: +1 202 546 3950; Fax: +1 202 546 3749

Children's World Peace Festival:

JUNE 24, 10.00-18.00; a project of Pathways to Peace in Sausalito, California in honour of children and the UN 50th Anniversary. "In this circle of peace, children from many countries will enjoy sharing their cultures through inter-active educational activities and exhibitions, music (the drum circle - the heartbeat of the Festival) - film, dance, comedy, sports, drama and dialogue." Information: Joanie Misrack, PO Box 1058, Larkspur, CA 94977; Phone: +1 415 461 7828; Fax: +1 415 461 7855;

UNITED
people's assembly

JUNE 21, SAN
FRANCISCO.
 Action Coalition for Global Change will gather delegates to consider a model for a

GENEVA Youth Forum:

30 June - 4th July 1995:
 Bringing together 200 youth (18-24) from all over the world to discuss key issues facing youth, and to make concrete recommendations for the UN of the Future. Stellar UN leaders including Sadako Ogata, Boutros Ghali, Nafis Sadik and others will be hosting plenaries. Applicants must be fluent in French or English, be actively involved in a youth organisation, and be willing and able to participate in Debates and panels. All fares and accommodation will be provided by the State of Geneva. Information: Forum des Jeunes, Departement de l'Interieur, 2 Rue Hotel de Ville, CP 3918, 1211 Geneva 3, Switzerland. Phone: +41 22 319 3531; Fax: +41 22 310 33 02;

permanent People's Assembly in the United Nations. Led by Robert Muller, this "Assembly of People's Dreams" is one of several NGO initiatives to "strengthen and democratise the UN". Registration: \$20.

Information: ACGC, 55 New Montgomery Street, #219, San Francisco, CA 94105, USA. Phone: +1 415 227 4878; Fax: +1 415 227 4878.



We the Peoples Forum:
SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE
21-24;

Subtitled, "The Role of Civil Society in the History and Future of the UN" this conference is organised from the main UN 50th Anniversary office in San Francisco and includes confirmed speakers like Boutros Ghali, James Speth, Maurice Strong, Nafis Sadik et al. Not a youth conference, but youth are invited. Products will include a Universal Declaration of Accountability for International Organisations, a Blueprint for Change - a work plan for expanding citizen participation in UN policy on sustainable development, and an Ecosoc critique. Registration \$250.

Information: We the Peoples, UN 50 Committee, 555 California Street, 28th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104.

MIND YOUR WORLD

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH EXCHANGE COUNCIL, JULY 7-9 1995, LITTLE CHALFONT, UK:

planned by a group of 10 young people age 16-22, this will draw together youth from UK organisations + Commonwealth kids who are in the UK on exchanges at that time to discuss environmental interests and strategies, with the goal of enhancing the quality of youth exchanges + identifying positive actions that participants can recommend to their groups back home.

Information: Vic Craggs, CEYC, 7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London SW4 7NQ. Phone: +44 171 498 6151; Fax: +44 171 720 5403;

UNEP

GLOBAL YOUTH
FORUM9-13 AUGUST, BERKELEY,
CALIFORNIA:

2000 participants will review youth involvement in environmental activities and stimulate youth leadership in the transformation to a sustainable future. Workshops and trainings will be given in a variety of skills and techniques to make sure that, when anyone out there wants to hear the 'Voice of the Children' that we have something to say. Cost \$250 incl.. meals and accomodation: some travel scholarships available: Information: Brock Dickinson, GYF, #590, DC-1 Building, United Nations, New York, NY 10017. Phone: +1 212 963 4931; FaX: +1 212 963 8193; OR Theodore Oben, IPA/UNEP, Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya; Phone: +254 2 623 262; Fax: +254 2 623 927; (an application form is included in this newsletter; please copy and pass around. Deadline for applications is indefinite, but try to get them in by July 1st)

WORLD YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
TRAINING SUMMITUN HEADQUARTERS, NEW
YORK, AUGUST 28 -
SEPTEMBER 1, 1995;Organised by the Canadian
Youth Satellite Committee
with support from the UN 50

Committee, the goals of this meeting are to bring together some 200 young leaders aged 21-30 to:

- Train them to be responsible agents of change
 - To increase awareness of rights and responsibilities of youth
 - To facilitate exchange of information and grow partnerships
- Workshops will train youth in coalition and partnership building, negotiation techniques, computer linkage, project implementation, Summit languages: English, French and Spanish. Outputs will include a youth development report, a status of youth Databank and a handbook called "Guidelines for Action".

Contact: Sujit Chowdury,
900-130 Slater, Ottawa,
Ontario H1P GE2: Phone: +1:
613 232 5751; Fax: +1 613
694 2948

German
Kindergipfel
(children's summit),

BERLIN 21-24 SEPTEMBER'95
Preparations are surging ahead for this bi-annual children's mega-summit. The theme for this one is "Children's Rights". Kigi have produced a magnificent 130 Handbook with children's and teacher's instructions contained in the same book. Filled with ideas, diagrams, work-sheets etc. Very thorough and - YES!! - it is now available in a superb English translation from:

Contact: Kristin Michna,
Kindergipfel Verein,
Breisacherstrasse 16,
81667 München,
Germany. Phone: +49 89
489 2606; Fax: +49 89
489 2504;

State of the World
Forum:SAN FRANCISCO,
SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 1

If you have \$5,000 to spare, you are welcome to attend this. Gorbachev is hosting it. Everyone from Margaret Thatcher, Julius Nyrere and George Bush are attending in a series of 20 round-tables designed to focus on "the fundamental challenges and opportunities as we enter the next phase of human development..." The intriguing thing for our readers is that, alongside Havel, Bill Gates, Benazir Bhutto etc., young people will be invited to sit in on each round-table, commenting on proceedings and answering questions for other youth around the world via Internet. these young people will be selected by an essay competition on "Global Priorities for the 21st Century."

Information: Gorbachev
Foundation, PO Box
29434, San Fransisco, Ca
94129; Phone: +1 415
771 4567; Fax: +1 415
771 443;

Lifelink
IDEAS

Lifelink, the International School-twinning group, is holding a Congress on School Twinning and Common Security in Sigtuna, Sweden, 31 July - 3 August. Invited are members of the Lifelink Network and Ministries of Education - a goal here is to get Ministries in a "continuous conference" to highlight and expand youth cooperation and school twinning. The next International Day of Environmental Action and Service (IDEAS) will be on October 1st: schools and Lifelink groups across the

world are planning Actions to mobilise their communities. 20 schools in 12 countries participated in the first day last year. This year, it is hoped many more, non-Lifelink schools, will participate: the logic behind it is - it may feel horrible to be up to your waist in a river, cleaning out old bicycles, but there is comfort in thinking that hundreds of other kids in different parts of the world are doing the same thing at the same time!

Information: Hans Levander, Lifelink Foundation, Uppsala Science Park-Glunten, S-751 83 Sweden. Phone/Fax: +46 18 504 344; IDEAS, Julian Cottendon, 127 Cherry Garden Lane, Newport CB11 3QW, UK; Phone: +44 1799 541 870

EUROPEAN



YOUTH PARLIAMENT

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

9-10 OCTOBER 1995.

This will be happening simultaneously in 7 countries. The idea is to get young people throughout the country to examine 4 main issues over the two days and to compare the results via an electronic link probably centred at the European Parliament building in Strasbourg. The four issues are:

- Local Agenda 21 - how involved are young people in these?
- Waste: schools to build an artistic sculpture from waste, to put it in the centre of the town and use it to attract citizens & inform them about how to reduce their garbage;
- Energy Consumption: Find out how much electricity/gas your school uses

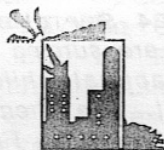
then figure out what can be done to reduce it. EYPE will total up the amount that can be saved and issue this as a challenge for next year;

• Pro-Environment School: Which school is the most eco-friendly in Europe? And which has the most ambitious plan to be pro-environment? A list of winners will be prepared and "best practice" advertised.

Information: European Coordinator, (David Santa), Oudegracht 42, NL-3511 AR Utrecht, Netherlands; Phone: +31 30 33 41 31; Fax: +31 30 34 39 86;

LEAVE IT TO US!

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE, EASTBOURNE, 23-26 OCTOBER 1994: They got their funding!! £3 million from British Airways! Designed for younger children aged 10-13, the whole programme will be launched on 30th May, along with applications etc. Backed by UNEP, we shall include application forms if they are ready in time for this mailing. If not, apply: Jackie Berry, International Childrens Conference Board, Town Hall, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4UG. +44 323 41000; Fax: +44 323 410322;



Youth for Habitat II

Known as the "City Summit" this will take place in Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996. It will form the climax of the Kids take lead in Local Agenda 21 Campaign. Global 2000 are putting together a Youth Caucus at Youth '95 to discuss which issues

should be raised.

Contact for youth: Maria Figueroa, #1952, DC-1 Building, United Nations, New York, NY 10017; Phone: +1 212 906 5708; Fax: +1 212 906 5776

WORLD PEN PALS

BY



VIDEO

Kids around the world unite to create their own Annual TV Special to report on the environment. In 1994, the Video Pen Pal club of New York gave video cameras to kids in 25 countries and asked them to write their own "Letters to Earth"

about the way they see the planet. The resulting show was screened in 86 countries around the world. The videos are great! - one about a pair of Australian kids saving a wombat is a scream. This year, they plan to give out another 25 cameras and do more shows. The idea is backed by UNEP and other UN agencies, and the star Hollywood director, Robert Altman is behind the venture.

Information: Dawn Salvatore, Folk Video Network, 15 Columbus Circle, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10023. PHONE: +1 212 373 7105; FAX: +1 212 373 7121;

WORLD CONFERENCE (contd.) Sleepy Eye repeated the feeling that was uppermost in the minds of all the children at both conferences: "We need to be recognised and heard. If the children can be united and given a voice within the United Nations, generation after generation, then there can be peace on earth. When the adults begin to act as children and love one another, then and only then will this world be exactly as our creator intended it to be."

Contact: Nina Lynn, President, Coalition for the Children of the Earth, PO Box 217, Newfane, VT 05345. 802 365 7616 Fax 802 365 7798

Children's Rights Project(CRP): Also at the Conference were Thomas Hammarberg and Marthe Santos of the Comm-

-ittee on the Rights of the Child. In a briefing, Mr Hammarberg urged children themselves to know their rights and alert the committee to instances where they were being violated. "Children are persons well able to speak for them-selves. Use us!" To prove the point, Hammarberg and Santos met with 10 children from CRP sponsored by the Association Francis Xavier Bagnoud. This international group has been working for four years to promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Hammarberg encouraged the children to pursue Children's Rights in whatever ways might be right for their communities and their cultures.

Contact: Miriam Lyons, Children's Rights Project, 129 Barrow Street, New York, NY 10014 USA; 212 924 4970.

New Futures, USA: David Pines sends news of the National Youth Power Cooperative. A second meeting of this group (which met first in Florida in January) is planned for August. 100 kids from 25 national youth organizations will come together to crystallise a common vision, put action steps in place, and get things moving. In total, these groups represent 20 million US youth aged 8-20 years.

Also, New Futures is planning youth celebrations from Coast-to-Coast as a model project for National Children's Day(Oct. 10th). Not international, Pines sees this as a way to raise funds and awareness of children's issues. [He is still trying to raise funds for the Americas follow up Conference to the Haarzuilens meeting, likely to be in 1994, now.]

Contact: David Pines, New Futures, 11426-28 Rockville Pike, #100, Rockville, MD 20852 USA. 301 468 9431; Fax: 301 468 9612.

Computer Networks: As promised, we have got ourselves officially on a computer network through the non-profit Association for Progressive Communications. Joanie Misrack writes:

John Zwerver and I met with Geoff Sears of APC chiefly to talk about networking for the 1995 events. Over 16,000 individuals and groups concerned with Human Rights, environment, peace & social justice issues are now linked by APC in 94 countries. Connections into the system are available in English, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and German. Organizations using APC include: Amnesty International, UNICEF, Mid East Children's Alliance, Greenpeace, European Youth Forest Action, UNEP Youth Program, SEAC, Canada World Youth, Friends of the Earth, Intl. Christian Youth Exchange etc. Average subscription costs US\$10 per month, plus connection fees that vary from \$3 to \$20 per hour depending on time of day and where you are.

Contact: In USA: Geoff Sears, IGC/PeaceNet & EcoNet, 18 de Boom Street, San Francisco CA 94107; Ph: 415 442 0220;

In S America: Carlos Afonso, AlterNex, IBASE, Rua Vicente de Souza 29, 22251-070 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. + 55 21 286 0348;

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Freizeit- und Erholungszentrum in der Wuhlheide

FEZ - International Children's Center will be set up at the FEZ in Köpenick, a leafy suburb on the Eastern side of Berlin. FEZ officials met with Werner Greis (Austrian Children's Summit) Gerd Pfitzenmaier & Kristin Michna (Nature Children's Summit), Kristin Eskeland (Voice of the Children) and David Woolcombe (Peace Child International) from 26-28 March in Kopenick to discuss plans. They concluded the following:

- FEZ will be a place where young people from all over the world can meet to express their ideas and visions;
- It will be a part of a worldwide network of children's initiatives including Voice of the Children, Peace Child, United Games, UNICEF & others;
- Gerd Pfitzenmaier & Kristin Michna of Ringier Verlag will prepare a proposal for its use by the end of the year;
- Children will be involved at all levels of the decision-making process;

The FEZ is Leisure and Recreation Center with a 200 acre park, 13,000 square meters of halls, workshops, seminar rooms; sports facilities include a vast swimming pool and sports hall. It was built as a pioneer palace in communist times. 2.5 million people visit it each year for 2,000 events, 140 work groups, 60 courses and 15 clubs.

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Many plans are in the air to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations. Amongst those that we have heard are:

- a World Summit of Children to be held in San Francisco. Avon Mattison of We the Peoples Initiative is coordinating this. A meeting of the Coordinating Team is to be held in early November '93 in San Francisco.
- a 24-hour Television event featuring children's project and children's hearings + rock concerts held on the decks of aircraft carriers moored in key harbours throughout the world.
- Global Alliance Youth Assembly to be organized by the UN of Youth Alliance, Netherlands;
- United Games: nothing definite yet, but coordinators of met in Plzen in late June and approved in principle the idea to explore activities to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations;

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PEACE CHILD NEWS

The White House opens!

With building work continuing, five students started to work in the new Peace Child International Center at the White House, near London. When complete (summer 1994?!) the center will accommodate up to 15 students. It's mission will be to empower youth through producing books, newsletters and programmes which alert them to global issues, human rights and issues of peace and environmental security.

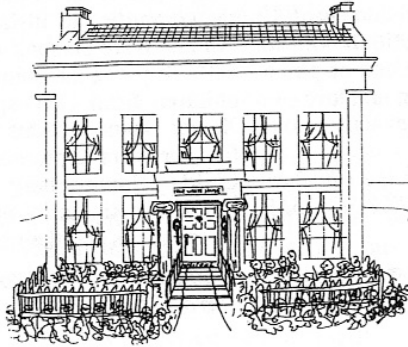
Agenda 21: The project currently being worked on is the Children's Edition of Agenda 21, the document signed at the Rio Earth Summit. The UN have requested that this be an "action handbook" to inspire young people to participate in the implementation of Agenda 21. The Book is to be published by Kingfisher Books on Earth Day 1994.

Campaign for "Day of Access"

With both Rio and the Human Rights Conference confirming children's right to participate, now is the time to press for Children's right to access - to meet the decision-makers who always have no time to meet children except for the rare photo-opportunity. The idea is for one day, every year, to be set for children to meet leaders at every level of society.

The idea for a Day of Access was first presented by Peace Child International to World Leaders attending the World Summit for Children in 1990; it was discussed at Haarzuilens and presented again by the Austrian Children's Summit. PCI plans to coordinate a campaign to have such a day instituted throughout the world.

Using that day as a hook, a democratic system to find out children's concerns and ideas would be instituted. David Lyons speaking for the NGO Committee on Children's Rights in Vienna echoed this idea:



Come work at the White House!

"Our recommendation is that a democratic system of children's organizations be established. Each community would elect a committee which would elect members of a municipal committee and so on up to an international scale. Children compose almost half our global population (yet) the majority of the present adult population find the concept of children having rights equal to their own incomprehensible..." In other words, children should be seen but not heard.

PCI is currently formulating plans for the campaign. Please send your thoughts and ideas: we see this as a Day that will belong to all of us, with different groups taking on the coordinating role each year. One idea is that the day should include a progress report governments' records on implementation of Agenda 21 and Human Rights Laws.

All ideas will be discussed and tested through 1994 with a view to a full-scale launch of the campaign in 1995.

Peace Child Ireland Programme

- got going July 1st with children from four of the world's major conflict areas (Ireland, ex-Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Cyprus) meeting to imagine a world in which their conflicts are resolved through children's participation.

The idea of a children and Presidents meeting is being explored. As in all PC programmes, the result will be presented in the form of a musical show, to be performed at the Derry Playhouse, July 23-27. A Study Guide based on the new script will be published in the autumn.

Balkan Youth Conference:

During the Austrian Children's Summit, 12 children from former Yugoslavia met. At the first meeting, they told their experiences of the war. It was a depressing, sombre meeting which none of them wanted to repeat. On the last night, PC president called them together to see if there was any way Peace Child could support them: though expected to meet for 20-minutes, the meeting went on for four hours, in English! - with an audience at the end of 20 people!

They spoke of the history (that dragon which devours us all) but overall, this second meeting was determinedly forward-looking. "We must find a way to develop a Balkan youth movement in all former republics," said Ivan from Belgrade. "Unless youth can learn to live together better than our parents, this war will continue for hundreds of years."

But how to stop the fighting? Maté from Zagreb suggested that, when each person got home, they go to their governments and say: "Look, you've been talking and fighting for two years and you've got nowhere. Why not let us try?"

In discussing the plan, it was clearly very similar to the idea of a Children and Presidents meeting developed in the Peace Child play. Thus plans are being made for a 2nd Peace Child Balkan Conference at the Appellohof in Muerzsteg with children and government officials to brainstorm how participation can maybe turn around the present desperate, hopeless situation. It could happen as early as December.

OTHER UK NEWS

- **UK Children's Summit, September 18th, '93, Manchester:** The British Government is organizing a Children's Summit! Each kid who wants to participate must recycle 20 cans to qualify and send in three ideas for environmental action projects! The goal is to produce a short list of projects which may be immediately implemented.
- **Global Forum Youth Summit, UK, June 94:** Continuing the momentum of Rio, Manchester City Council and other local councils are holding a Forum. The theme of Cities and Sustainable Development. A major component will be a Youth Forum. Plans currently in formulation.

FOR PEACE CHILD & UK INFORMATION + FURTHER COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER,
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