



Habitat

United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements
May 31 to June 11, 1976

Trudeau calls for a conspiracy of love to solve world ills

In his welcoming address to conference delegates, Prime Minister Trudeau called for a new dynamic of love in man's relationship with man.

"There is a new world in the making," he said, "and a spreading awareness of that fact." He told the inaugural plenary session, "no nation can afford to isolate itself in self-contemplation, clasping to its breast its possessions in denial to others."

"No longer is it possible, either morally or technically, not to be accountable," he added. "We have entered (as nations), willingly or otherwise, the era of a community of interest, vital to the survival of the species."

"Altruism is not the most highly developed of international phenomena," he added. "But it does exist, it is real, and it is making progress and growing."

Mr. Trudeau said mankind's future survival will require humans "not only to tolerate one another, but to love one another in a way which will require of us an unprecedented desire to change ourselves."

The Prime Minister's speech drew heavily upon the philosophy of a French Jesuit scholar and paleontologist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

While both terrifying and reassuring things have been predicted about the consequences of explosive population growth, Mr. Trudeau said he avoids either extreme and adopts a position similar to that of Teilhard — seeing a positive side in terms of human resources while acknowledging its dangers.

The psychological problems of over-population also cannot be ignored, he emphasized.

"The simple existence of every individual is submerged in the coexistence of all," he said. "Our neighbour, who remained at a respectable distance from us until the last century, has been brought much closer through population growth, and we cannot imagine how uncomfortably close he will come in the future."

In order to survive, he said, it is clear mankind will be forced to socialize more — and the Prime Minister quickly explained that by "socializing" he meant loving one another.

"We will thus have not only to tolerate one another, but to love one another in a way which will require of us an unprecedented desire to change ourselves."

Such a change will be more drastic than a major mutation of our species.

"The only type of love which would be effective in the tightly-packed world we already live in would be a passionate love," Mr. Trudeau said. "The fact that such a statement sounds slightly ridiculous is a measure of the extent of the change we must make if we are to save ourselves."

Again quoting Teilhard, Mr. Trudeau said a critical point in human evolution has been reached in which the only path open is to move toward this common passion, the "conspiracy of love."

"The conspiracy of men with men and the conspiracy of the universe with an ever more just humanity — in this lies the salvation of human settlements and the hope held forth by Habitat."



Post-Habitat targets announced for Canada

Habitat was a time of assessment and commitment for the federal government. Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson told a post-conference meeting of Canadian mayors.

He listed the following commitments to improve human settlements already made by Ottawa:

— To ensure the construction of one million new housing units in the years 1976 to 1979.

— To directly finance the annual construction of at least 40,000 new housing units for low end moderate-income people in the same period.

— To construct or rehabilitate 50,000 units for rural and native people between 1974 and 1982.

— To construct or rehabilitate 20,000 native dwellings in the period 1976 to 1981.

— To ensure that all settlements of significant size have an adequate level of sewage treatment by 1985.

— To have a reliable source of clean water in all communities by 1980.

— To utilize existing infrastructure in low-density areas to provide some medium density housing over the next five years.

Beyond these targets, the minister has proposed for discussion purposes the following additions:

— To rehabilitate 100,000 dwelling units by the end of 1985.

— To encourage over the next 15 years sensibly-designed "infill" housing for senior citizens and single persons in existing neighbourhoods.

— To increase our thermal efficiency of three million dwelling units by 1990.

— To achieve zero net energy growth in the residential sector by 1985.

— To achieve zero net energy growth in urban transport.

(See also article on page 4)

In this issue

Editorial: A good beginning	2
Post-Habitat institution awaits decision on site	2
Danson implores delegates to set extraneous issues aside	3
Mother Teresa given standing ovations by crowd of 19,000	3
Despite sharp debate, Habitat lays foundation for action	4
Canada's 72 delegates negotiate key issues	6
Many recommendations for national action have relevance in Canada	7
Many lessons to be learned from monitoring process	8
Festival success begs for a repeat	8
Action to ensure continued consultation with NGOs	9
Children's conference debates issues and builds its own Habitat village	10
Use of audio-visuals an unqualified success	11
UN AV library set up at UBC	11
Water Day Walk stresses universal need	12
Success greets Forum staff in influencing delegates	13
Round-up on Habitat Forum	14
Listening to the rest of the world	15
The behind-the-scenes story of conference arrangements	16
TV coverage provided by short-lived Habitat Station	18
Targets for world action set by Vancouver Symposium	19
Media play key role in impact of Conference	20

HABITAT BULLETIN is produced by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat. This final issue is intended to convey the substance and feeling of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which took place in Vancouver, B.C. from May 31 to June 11 of this year.

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ADDRESS all enquiries to the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0P6.

OTTAWA, AUGUST 1976
BULLETIN NO. 10

Post-Habitat institution awaits decision on site

One of the unresolved questions at Habitat was the proposed setting up of a post-Habitat institution to sit somewhere in the UN structure and to deal with human settlement problems on a global scale.

Proposals and sites were not lacking when the issue was discussed at Committee 1, which deliberated on programs for international co-operation. The committee recommended the establishment of a global intergovernmental body and a human settlements secretariat to carry on the work begun by the Conference. The entire matter has been referred to the UN General Assembly session which starts in September.

The African countries would like Nairobi to be the site of any post-Habitat organization. The South Americans and Mexico in particular favour the Mexican city of Guadala-

jara, while the developed nations, such as Canada favour New York.

At the same time, two established UN organizations which are already involved in human settlements have proposed to handle any such post-Habitat institution. They are the United Nations Environment Program headquartered in Nairobi and the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York.

Editorial: A good beginning

Habitat was the beginning of a global search for solutions to the problems of human settlements. It did not, of itself, solve the problems of human settlements. But it did start a process that will now continue with increased momentum at the United Nations and within countries around the world.

The political controversy at Habitat was to be expected. It was a United Nations Conference. Still, it is unfortunate that the Conference ended on the specific political note of Zionism that Canada and many nations had sought to avoid. Apart from the fact that Conferences like Habitat are not organized to deal with broad political issues that remain unresolved before the General Assembly and Security Council, this last minute political focus obscured the fact that Vancouver achieved most of the substantive objectives set for it by the General Assembly.

In the 64 recommendations adopted for national action, the Conference and the preparations for it were clearly successful. Now to be known as the Vancouver Plan of Action within the United Nations and beyond, these recommendations provide a clear set of guidelines for action by

governments to enable their peoples to develop more livable neighbourhoods in decent communities using fewer resources.

In the recommendations adopted for international cooperation, Habitat could appear at this stage to have been less than successful. But this is premature. The Conference did recommend the framework for a new global institution on human settlements "to serve as a focal point for human settlements action and coordination within the United Nations system". It is now up to the General Assembly to complete the details and establish the institution.

While Canada and a number of other countries could not support the Declaration as a whole, primarily because of one paragraph that appeared to link Zionism and racism, the bulk of the Declaration represents a commitment to urgent action on many fronts and carried the overwhelming support of the Conference.


The Conference prompted the establishment of an International NGO Committee for Human Settlements. It was responsible for the parallel Habitat Forum which served as a great event in itself and as a useful prod on the Conference. This Committee will now remain in existence as a central focus for continuing non-governmental activities in human settlements.

The success of Habitat cannot be evaluated for five or ten years. Only now are we beginning to reap the harvest planted at the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Four years ago, words such as environment and ecology were known only to a few specialists. Only a handful of nations had embryo environment programs. Today most countries have active and increasingly effective environment programs.

We can look forward to similar results from Habitat. Indeed, several countries used their preparatory work for Habitat to launch settlement programs and in the few weeks since Vancouver others have announced post-Habitat programs.

The ultimate success of Vancouver depends on what happens

beginning now — in the United Nations, but mostly within various governments over the next few years. Clearly, Habitat focused attention on a global issue that greatly needed exposure. It demonstrated that the doomsayers need not be right; that many solutions are in fact available. And it gave direction to governments on many of the things that urgently need to be done. It was a good beginning.


J.W. MacNeill
Commissioner-General
Canadian Habitat Secretariat

Danson implores delegates to set extraneous issues aside

Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson made the most emotional and impassioned speech of his political career as he urged delegates on the eve of the conference closure to put aside issues which had no place at Habitat and to concentrate on those which did.

He implored delegates meeting in plenary to "deal with the issues about which we are deeply concerned, so that we can go and deal with more of the issues that involve mankind."

Mr. Danson told the delegates to leave to the General Assembly and the Security Council those contentious issues which had no place at Habitat.

"For the sake of God, for the sake of our children and future generations, I beg you, and I don't beg easily, to stay with what this is all about. To do what we can do and not try to do what we cannot do," he said.

Mr. Danson's speech came just prior to a vote on a procedural tactic carried overwhelmingly by Third World countries with Canada and seven other nations opposing.

Earlier in his speech, Mr. Danson said he understood and was deeply concerned "about the issues that divide us. They are not within the competence, in my view, of this Conference."

He said he worried about the children in the Palestinian refugee camps and in the slums of Nairobi. Delegates, he said, could take decisions "which could have an immense effect on mankind in the years ahead." Instead they argued political issues which would be forgotten, to be replaced by new political issues.

"I remain concerned about my brothers and my sisters in every part of the world. I remain—~~even~~—more concerned about the babies that are coming in the years ahead," Mr. Danson said.

He reminded the delegates that prior to the Conference he had travelled to many countries and that they had talked together "about the babies, the squatter settlements and the filthy water we wanted to clear up."

Mother Teresa given standing ovations by crowd of 19,000

Mother Teresa of Calcutta echoed Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's call for the people of the world to love each other by translating it into everyday terms.

The Albanian-born nun who has spent 45 years in India, 25 of them among the poor and dying, told Habitat Forum that Canadians should lead lives of "understanding, love and poverty."

"Love with words is not enough. At the last judgment, God will judge us by our actions," she said. "The United Nations has taken up many resolutions and not fulfilled one."

"Jesus will say: When you saw the hungry poor, did you feed them? When you saw the naked and sick, did you clothe and heal them? When you saw the lonely, did you visit them?"

"Canadians should come to know their own poor," Mother Teresa added. "Lonely people in the West are the unknown poor. They are easily hurt. Emotional poverty is a great tragedy."

Throughout Mother Teresa's participation in Habitat Forum, and the Habitat Children's Conference, she continued to emphasize it is not enough to disinterestedly provide material needs for the oppressed. Instead, individuals must actually identify with them in their needs.

"We have gathered for one intention, to give bread to the hungry, build homes for the homeless, not

just in word," she said. "Let us love till it hurts. Let us give till it hurts. That is the real test of love. To be unwanted is great suffering and poverty."

The tired-looking nun, whose Order of the Sisters of Charity has 1,200 members and 150 religious brothers in 18 countries, was one of the popular heroines — with Barbara Ward — of Habitat Forum. On the opening night of the Conference, she addressed nearly 19,000 people in Vancouver's Pacific Coliseum at a meeting sponsored by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver, and received several standing ovations.

At the mass meeting she developed another of her favorite themes, that the materially rich have much to learn from the poor.

"In India a starved, naked woman who dies in my arms says thank you. In the West you die in luxury and argue with your Creator and ask why," she said.

"The handicapped are rich people. We need them as much as they need us. Together we are doing something beautiful for God."

"Christ is seen in the distressing disguise of the poor."



Vancouver Sun

Round-up on Habitat Forum

Habitat — was it a Conference like all other recent UN Conferences, dominated by sharp disagreements between developed and developing nations regarding redistribution of resources among and within nations?

Or was it a catalytic milieu, out of which emerged a workable program for international action and cooperation to facilitate the exchange of information, technology, expertise and resources needed to make programs for national action work?

The truth, according to post-Conference reflections by Conference President Barney Danson and Secretary-General Enrique Peñalosa, probably lies somewhere between those two political poles — and we won't know exactly where for some years.

"Some would think that Habitat was concentrated on the Middle East issues and the new International Economic Order," Mr. Danson told the annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities a week after the Conference closed.

"I must report that we did not solve all of the problems of the world. There is still no peace in the Middle East, and we could not do what the General Assembly and Security Council failed to do. We did no better on the New International Economic Order than did the UNCTAD Conference in Nairobi in May.

"What we did achieve is a statement on the urban and settlement scene which exists now and faces us in the next 25 to 30 years," he said. "We challenged ourselves and others to look squarely at the issues and for each nation as a sovereign state to start programs and set programs and priorities to deal with them with the... commitment they deserve."

Mr. Danson said the real success of Habitat will be the "way in which we put words and agreements into action." He said he was personally disappointed in the degree of politicization that intruded on the Conference, but said it was not unexpected.

"But if we look back to Stockholm, very few people, except a few UN specialists, can recall the dissent that was experienced there," he emphasized. "Who remembers who voted on what or who was absent?"

"We look back on Stockholm as the beginning of programs in all nations which are having immense and positive environmental impact — the springboard which has led to international agreements and action which is, thankfully, irreversible."

"It is my belief that, in the near future, we will all look back on Habitat for what it really was, a conference on human settlements," Mr. Danson said. "And action that has begun will transform the lives of millions on this earth and will spur us on to action which we must, indeed, take..."

What, specifically, happened between May 31 and June 11 in Vancouver? Representatives of 131 countries — observed by six national liberation movements, 160 Non-Governmental Organizations and a number of intergovernmental bodies — brought to fruit on two years of preparatory work and studies with the adoption of a Declaration of Principles and a series of recommendations to meet the urgent problems of housing shortages, contrasting crises of urban and rural communities, the proper use of land, access to essential services, and public involvement and participation in remedial action.

Declaration of Principles

The 55-paragraph "Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976" was submitted to the Conference after proposed revision by the Group of 77, a consortium of developing nations. It corresponds to the outline of a draft developed by the UN Habitat Secretariat prior to the Conference, following recommendations by the Preparatory Committee and subsequent consultations with governments, but contains a number of new provisions.

Among points in the preamble is a statement "that the circumstances of life for vast numbers of people in human settlements are unacceptable..." As factors aggravating the problem, the preamble singles out inequitable economic growth; social,

economic, ecological and environmental deterioration; a world population growth which is expected to double in the next 25 years; uncontrolled urbanization; rural backwardness and dispersion; and "involuntary migration, particularly politically, racially and economically motivated relocation and expulsion of people from their national homeland."

The declaration states that "the improvement of the quality of life of human beings is the first and most important objective of every human settlement policy."

Among the most controversial sections of the declaration is a paragraph which states that "it is... the duty of all people and governments to join the struggle against any form of colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, domination, apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination as referred to in resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations," adding "the establishment of settlements in territories occupied by force is illegal."

The 15 countries, including Canada, which voted against the declaration said their primary objection was the inclusion of this implicit endorsement of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) of November 1975, which characterized Zionism as a form of racism (see pages 6-7). Eighty-nine countries including most of the developing and communist nations voted for the declaration and 10 countries abstained. Those voting against were Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom and United States.

Among other general principles, the declaration says each state has the right to exercise full and permanent sovereignty over its wealth, natural resources and economic activities; to take the necessary steps to maintain under public control the use, possession, disposal and preservation of land; and to exercise effective control over foreign

investments, including transnational corporations operating within their borders.

The declaration also condemns pollution of the biosphere and the oceans, and stresses the urgency of implementing the New International Economic Order.

Recommendations for national action

The Conference also adopted a set of 64 recommendations for national action — most adopted by consensus and addressed directly to governments — suggesting concrete ways in which people might be assured the basic requirements of human habitation — shelter, clean water, sanitation and a decent physical environment plus the opportunity for cultural growth and the development of the individual.

The Plenary Session voted to add a paragraph proposed by Cuba to the preamble to the recommendations, which states in part that "settlement planning and implementation for the purpose of prolonging and consolidating occupation and subjugation in territories and lands acquired through coercion and intimidation must not be undertaken, and must be condemned as a violation of United Nations principles and the Universal Declaration of Rights."

The vote on this amendment was 77 in favor to 8 against, with 20 abstentions.

Other proposals

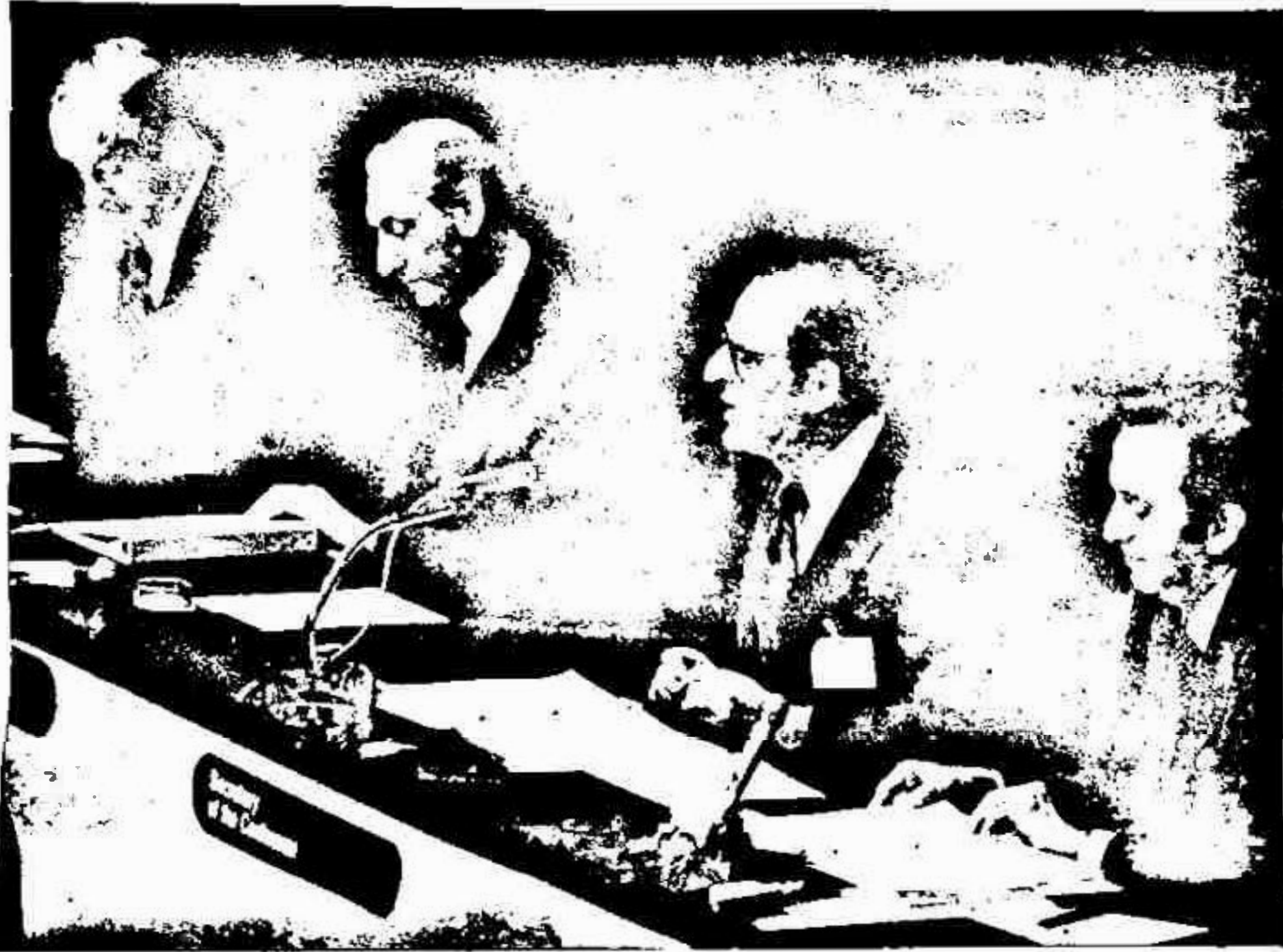
Another Conference resolution called for action to set up new United Nations machinery concerned exclusively with human settlements, including an intergovernmental body and a central secretariat whose job would be to help countries to better the lot of their citizens in urban and rural communities everywhere.

In other action, the Conference — Recommended unanimously that the General Assembly establish an audio-visual information centre on human settlements, to be located at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

— Urged all governments to support and fully participate in the United Nations Water Conference to be held next March at Mar del Plata, Argentina.

— Recommended that the General Assembly request the United Nations Secretary-General

Listening to the rest of the world



Key figures during the Habitat Conference: from l. to r., Enrique Peñalosa, Secretary General of Habitat; Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations; and The Honourable Barney Danson, President of the Conference and Canadian Minister responsible for Canadian preparations.

to submit a report on "the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories." (The report of Habitat is to be considered by the United Nations General Assembly when it meets in New York September-December, 1976.)

International Impact

In reflecting on Habitat, Mr. Peñalosa said the recommendations for national action were at the heart of the Conference and the degree to which countries implement their spirit and content will ultimately determine Habitat's success.

Key to those recommendations is the premise that redistribution of resources within nations is a priority.

"Very little is going to be achieved only with a redistribution of wealth among nations," he told a press conference. "In most of the countries there are enough resources to fulfill the minimum needs.

"The problem is that in most of the countries there are a minority over-using the resources available with a consequence that there are not resources left to provide the minimum needs of the majority.

"This is the case of most of the developing countries, where we have a dual society — a minority enjoying a European or North American style of life and a majority without anything."

Mr. Peñalosa said in some cases this dual system was imposed during colonial occupations and in other cases it was developed as a status symbol.

"There is no hope, and I want to be very clear about this, of providing your (western) style of life... to the rest of the world," he said. "That's out of any physical possibility because even here in Canada, the U.S. and Europe you are just in the end of this kind of style of life.

"Very soon, there are not going to be enough physical resources to keep it. Then we must develop a new style of life with the resources available by which we can provide the minimal needs to everybody."

In speaking of Habitat's role in these basic changes, Mr. Peñalosa told another meeting "This Conference plays a catalytic role in a new world attack on water problems, that alone would repay all our effort a hundred times over."

"If this Conference leads no more than 20 nations to implement new and progressive laws on land use, that alone will repay our entire effort," he said. "And these things will happen."

Relevance to Canada

For individual Canadians, what effects will Habitat have? The question of land was most significant, Mr. Danson says.

"Matters of land use, land tenure and land policy emerged as a critical matter which exposed our Canadian dilemma," he told the mayors' meeting. "Is land a commodity or a resource? I believe we are moving significantly to the view that it is a resource and should be treated as such within the context of our federal state and mixed economy.

"The argument (at the Conference) centred largely on excessive land profits and their recapture for the benefit of society when such profits are the result of public investment or decision," he said. "I am much more interested in the broader questions of the cost of serviced land to provide housing for Canadians — this and high interest rates are the two most important elements in housing costs today."

Mr. Danson said "new and improved methods of planning, zoning standards, approvals and taxation" are needed by all levels of government to lower the cost of serviced land. He said federal officials would soon arrange a meeting with provincial ministers to discuss a comprehensive approach to this critical issue.

Other matters were exposed at Habitat which are relevant to Canadians, Mr. Danson added.

"Largely as a result of Canadian action at the Conference, we set targets for potable water in every community in the world by 1990 and Canada set its own national goal at 1980. We forget that there are actually communities in Canada which do not have a reliable source of clean water.

"Because our problems are almost insignificant when related to (those of developing countries) and our resources so great, it gives us less excuse for our inadequacies and glaring neglect in the areas of our most deprived people and communities," he concluded.

Canada's 72 delegates negotiate key issues

The Canadian delegation to Habitat was the most politically representative and one of the largest Canada had ever sent to a United Nations Conference.

The 72 delegates represented Canadians from every level of society - the three government levels, the native peoples, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

The delegation was jointly headed by Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen. But it was led throughout the Conference by Justice Minister Ron Basford after Mr. Danson was elected President of the Conference and the departure of Mr. MacEachen.

The composition of the delegation ensured lively discussion within it on the many issues concerning all the various jurisdictions represented.

The delegation reconstituted itself into three groups, one for each of the three main Conference committees. Each delegation group, led by a federal or a provincial minister, usually met at least once a day to review the Canadian position in the light of discussions in the Conference Committees.

In addition, members from each delegation group met each evening with the Canadian NGOs to discuss the Canadian position and the progress of the conference.

Delegation officers and rapporteurs met each evening at delegation headquarters to report on events and to develop the agenda for the full meeting of the delegation the next morning. Summary reports were also prepared on what had taken place and was to happen, for distribution at the morning meeting.

At these meetings, the full delegation was briefed and held discussions on the various events taking place and their implications. The Canadian delegation was the only one which held daily press briefings throughout the conference for members of the media, both Canadian and foreign. These hour-long briefings were well attended, and proved quite popular as they were a main source of news about Canadian participation in the conference.

Prior to the conference, members of the Canadian Habitat Secretariat reviewed all the available capsules and films. Canadian delegates were then given a selected list of capsules to see which had a relevance to Canada.

Three seminars were also organized by the CHS to show films of other countries at which discussions were held between Canadian delegates and those from the countries concerned.

The discussion on international action was divided into consideration of the draft declaration of principles as an international policy statement, consideration of programs to be undertaken following Habitat, and discussion of possible changes to UN organizations dealing with settlements.

At the end of the first week, the draft declaration of the UN Habitat Secretariat was countered by a version produced by the Group of 77 which contained some difficult references to the Mid-East situation and some advanced positions on the new international economic order.

Subsequent negotiations failed to resolve the unacceptable provisions of the Group of 77 text or to permit inclusion of amendments proposed by members of other groups. The Group of 77 text was therefore the only one considered in plenary.

When attempts to obtain a paragraph by paragraph vote proved fruitless the document was voted on as a whole. The vote was

89 in favour with 15 against, including Canada, and 10 absentions.

"It is with deep regret and very deep sadness that my government has had to vote 'no' on the Declaration of Principles," Justice Minister Basford said. "The Declaration on the whole is acceptable, but Canada will not say that Zionism is racism and this position has been firmly and clearly stated before," he added.

The divisive political vote on the conference declaration provoked by the inclusion of a link between Zionism and racism should not be allowed to obscure the positive results of Habitat in terms of human settlements. While the declaration lacks the weight of consensus, it nevertheless is a document of considerable value.

The Conference and its preparations achieved the basic aims of focusing the nations' attention on problems of settlements and the quality of life of their peoples, and providing an exchange of information and an experience on solutions.

Very substantial results were achieved with the recommendations for national action and con-

siderable progress was made in sketching the future institutional involvement of the United Nations in settlements activities.

Issues in the national action area of most relevance to Canada were those dealing with land, indigenous people, status of women, sale water, nuclear energy and access to information. The land question was the subject of considerable discussion within the Canadian delegation, which participated fully in the extensive committee debates.

The Conference produced eight basic resolutions on land plus two political resolutions added by the plenary dealing with land in occupied territories and in Panama.

The basic resolution recognized that land was not an ordinary asset and its development required a large measure of public ownership or control, and that the public as a whole should share in any unearned increment of land values due to public decisions and investment.



Ron Basford, head of the Canadian delegation, consults with Quebec Municipal Affairs Minister Victor Goldbloom during the plenary session. In the background is BC Municipal Affairs Minister Hugh Curlls.

On Indigenous peoples, Canada proposed an addition to the declaration recognizing the special rights, needs and aspirations of this group but the amendment was unfortunately squeezed out with those of many others in the process leading to adoption of that document.

In committee discussions on national action, Canada succeeded in obtaining recognition of the need for special attention to land rights of indigenous people to preserve their cultural heritage. On the status of women, Canada supported an amendment seeking redefinition of legal ownership and usage of land including rights of women and disadvantaged groups.

Nuclear energy received considerable attention in discussions between the Canadian delegation, the NGOs and the media. Within the Conference the text which sought to limit nuclear technology was altered, mainly by developing countries, to one which spoke only

of rationalizing hazardous technologies in general.

The Canadian delegation sought to amend a recommendation establishing 1985 as the latest date to achieve safe drinking water for all nations. However, the final recommendation as adopted by the conference set a target of 1990 "if possible." It was the Canadian view that these words "if possible" weakened the force of the recommendation.

The delegation strongly supported recommendations which endorsed public participation as an indispensable element in human settlements. In this regard, the Canadian delegation intervened to support the need for a free flow of information in human settlement decision-making.

On the subject of settlements policy, Canada introduced greater

emphasis on resource and environmental policies as positive aspects of social and economic development and gained amendments to these ends.

In the area of institutions and management, Canada contributed its experience as a federal state and obtained some amendments to recommendations in this area which had been directed more at unitary states. Recommendations in the areas of policy and institutions gave solid support to inclusion of settlements as a unifying concept in national development planning.

A major Canadian initiative during the debate on international programs was an offer to establish a United Nations audiovisual library at the University of British Columbia. Canada's resolution on this drew many co-sponsors and unanimous support. An agreement to this effect was signed between the UN and the university on June 12 (See page 11).

In addition, Canada undertook to continue supporting the settlements program at the Asian Institute of Technology at Bangkok to train human settlements managers in that area and to look favourably on the establishment of similar programs in other regions.

While there was progress on the subject of UN post-Habitat institutional arrangements for settlements, there was no comprehensive resolution. Canada played an active negotiating role in the debate by convening several ad hoc groups of delegates from various countries to discuss the issue.

The debate revealed general agreement on the need for a new intergovernmental body, terms of reference for the organization and a need to regionalize operations.

Many recommendations for national action have relevance in Canada

Editor's Note: Among the Recommendations for National Action resulting from the Conference were many of direct relevance to Canada and to future government decisions. These are highlighted below.

- Establish national policy on human settlements, including distribution of population and related social and economic activities.

- Report publicly on a continuous evaluation of human settlements conditions.

- Planning for rural areas should focus on stimulating their economic and social conditions, and overcome disadvantages of scattered populations.

- In settlements, emphasis should be on renewal and rehabilitation, especially respecting the rights and aspirations of people living there, preserving the social and cultural values that exist.

- All levels of government should set up institutions to formulate and implement settlement policies and strategies at national, regional and local levels.

- The efficient use of energy should be given special consideration in the choice of designs and technologies for human settlements.

- In choosing development alternatives for shelter, infrastructure and services, special attention should be paid to the costs and benefits of future management, maintenance operations, and capital costs.

- A major part of housing policy efforts should include programs and instruments to help people to provide better quality housing for themselves, either individually or collectively.

- Safe water supply and hygienic waste disposal should receive priority, attempting to arrive at certain quality and quantity targets by a certain date. Also, targets should be considered at the UN Conference on Water in March 1978 at Mar del Plata, Argentina.

- Minimize the generation of wastes; turn waste into a resource.

- Land is a scarce resource; its management should be subject to public surveillance or control in the interest of the whole country.

- Change in use of land, especially from agricultural to urban, should be subject to public control and regulation.

- The unearned increment as a result of the rise in land values resulting from a change in use of land, and particularly from public investment or decision, must be subject to appropriate recapture by public bodies (the community).

- Public ownership should be used, where appropriate, to obtain areas for urban expansion, to bring into effect urban and rural land

changes, and to supply serviced land at price levels which permit socially acceptable types of development.

- Need for comprehensive information on land capability.

- Public participation should be considered as an indispensable element in human settlements — particularly in planning strategies, formulation, implementation and management. It should influence all levels of government.

- Public participation requires a free flow of information among all parties concerned — based on mutual understanding, trust and education.

- Public participation should have wide involvement, particularly including those who traditionally have not participated either in the planning or the decision-making processes.

Many lessons to be learned from monitoring process

The Habitat Bulletin provides a forum for comments by individuals and members of the NGO community. This time our contributor is Geoffrey Grenville Wood, Executive Director of the United Nations Association of Canada, Chairman of the NGO Participation Group, and member of the Canadian delegation at Habitat.

The Canadian NGO Participation Group set up a well organized and effective monitoring process during the Habitat Conference. Throughout the Conference the NGO monitors kept close tabs on the various positions, postures and non-positions taken in the Committees and at the Plenary by the Canadian delegation.

On a number of fronts these positions were the subject of critical analysis by those NGO representatives present. The major questions that aroused NGO concern were land speculation, the rights of indigenous people and the New International Economic Order. The question of nuclear energy and continued sales of CANDU reactors by Canada was a highly controversial issue as well and many NGOs pushed for Canada to agree to a moratorium on future sales

pending investigation into the safety of these reactors.

On the land speculation question, the Canadian delegation was proposing an amendment to the UN resolution which substantially watered down its intent and scope. It was only after this Canadian proposal had been aired and debated at one of the daily NGO/delegation meetings that opposition began to build. Eventually, after a great deal of debate within the Canadian delegation and with pressure coming from other countries at the Conference, Canada was able to support a fairly strongly worded resolution. In fact, Canada moved some amendments in the latter stages that helped strengthen and broaden further the final text.

The New International Economic Order issues brought out in the Group of 77 text on the Declaration of Principles caused the Canadian delegation great difficulties. NGOs on the monitoring programme focused on this question at a number of meetings but to no avail.

The Canadian position did not appear to budge as we were locked in to taking a joint approach with other rich countries — U.S., West Germany, U.K., France, etc. The international aspects were also emphasized when NGOs called for a Canadian dollar commitment to the clean water target for developing countries. The pressure built up and by the end of the Conference, Canada was able to announce that we already were spending \$70 million a year on water-related programmes through CIDA and that this amount could increase if developing countries requested more such programmes from CIDA.

One issue was not the subject of much controversy. Canadian NGOs called for the Canadian delegation to insert reference to the "special rights, needs and aspirations of indigenous people" in the Declaration of Principles. NGOs also called for emphasis to be placed on the rights of indigenous women. The delegation readily agreed but this Canadian amendment got lost in the shuffle when the Declaration of Principles became embroiled in controversy on the "Zionism is racism" issue.

The monitoring programme could therefore claim some successes, some failures and some inconclusive results. The daily meetings between delegates and NGOs were informative, friendly, controversial, strained, heated, amusing, frustrating and educational, at different times. NGO representatives on the delegation were often torn between being a part of the audience and asking for answers and explanations, in fact between acting naturally and normally, or sitting themselves and maintaining the facade of a "united" delegation position.

Many lessons could have been learned from this monitoring process. It is certain that both NGOs and official delegates gained a great deal from the programme. The problem now is to see whether these lessons have any effect on future relations between government and NGOs on human settlement and other issues.

This question will no doubt be answered in the coming months.

Festival success begs for a repeat

Vancouver may never be dull again after Festival Habitat, according to Ernie Fladell, its organizer and general ringmaster.

The Festival was such a cultural success that Fladell is already planning a similar series of events for next year. The atmosphere and enthusiasm generated among artists and audience alike was so positive, he said, "you almost wish you could bottle it."

A year and a half before, it was decided that Vancouver's role as host of the UN Habitat Conference should be the creation of a warm environment — culturally if not climatically.

Fladell, a social planner with the city, was called in as co-ordinator.

Working with municipal, provincial and independent funding, he came up with a five-part program representing what he felt were the most important aspects of the arts from across Canada.

Regional theatre from coast to coast was brought to the Vancouver East Cultural Centre and the David Y. H. Lui Theatre. Companies from Newfoundland, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia performed to generally good

audiences, with Codco from St. John's selling out every night.

However, la Compagnie des Deux Chaises from Montreal, with productions of *Les Hauts* and *Les Bas de la vie d'une visa*; Sarah Menard, received little support even from Vancouver's French-speaking community and played to "embarrassing" houses.

The Habitat Craft Festival, with artisans from across the country showing and selling their work, was located in the CP Rail Station and adjoining Granville Square. Rain during the first week quite dampened the outdoor section, which rotated about 500 street, experimental and developing

craftspeople; however, by the end of the UN Conference an estimated 75,000 people had attended the festival indoors and out.

The cost of Festival Habitat, including street banners and a billboard contest plus two publications dealing with Vancouver and Habitat, reached an estimated \$80,000. Near its close Fladell said he expected to break even or maybe even make a small profit to put toward a future festival.

Action to ensure continued consultation with NGOs

The Habitat conference is over, but the process of consultation between the federal government and Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will continue.

Before it wound up, Justice Minister Ron Basford, leader of the 72-member Canadian delegation to Habitat, announced that Minister of State for Urban Affairs Barney Danson will arrange a post-conference seminar with the NGOs and the Canadian National Committee for Habitat probably early this fall.

The NGOs consist of about 170 organizations — church, professional, commercial, labour and other special interest groups — which sent representatives to Vancouver, many of them as monitors of the official Canadian delegation's performance in the UN Conference sessions.

Mr. Basford said the NGOs probably also will be invited to participate in an international seminar on Energy for Human Settlements, organized by the Housing, Building and Planning Division of the Economic Commission of Europe (ECE), which Canada will host in Ottawa in October 1977.

Mr. Basford said the federal government will also encourage the NGOs to conduct their own post-conference activities on a national or regional basis.

In Good, president of the Community Planning Association of Canada, announced at one NGO session that her organization had already committed \$250,000 for general NGO follow-up activities.

At the final NGO meeting Bernard Daly, co-ordinator of the monitoring operation, said that the NGOs will produce their own Conference report, evaluating their role and effectiveness in the Habitat Conference and proposing follow-up action.

Despite the strong differences of views on some issues, Mr. Basford stressed, the official Canadian delegation and the NGOs had in fact reached substantial agreement "on a set of objectives for this country."

He cited specifically the NGO impact on the delegation's final position on Section D-3 of the Conference Recommendations for National Action, which relates to land speculation profits and to a section in the Declaration of Principles which recognizes indigenous people's rights

On the land issue, the UN Habitat Preparatory Committee had first proposed that the community must recapture the "plus value" of any land resulting from change in use or from public investment.

The Canadian delegation first proposed that this be amended to return only an "equitable portion" of such profits to the public because private initiative is still an important element in land development, as Mr. Basford explained at one of the daily press briefings.

But the NGOs, who met with the official delegation every night at St Andrew's Wesley Church, opposed this position and called for a strong Canadian stand on the issue.

A few days later, Mr. Basford disclosed that the delegation would endorse a new wording — then being discussed in Committee 3 — calling for a return to the community of a "major portion" of such unearned land increments.

But the NGOs were still unhappy — as were several national delegations in Committee 3 — and Canada finally agreed to the elimination of all references to any "portions" in the final text of the recommendation.

The next day, Mr. Basford and Senator Ray Perrault publicly acknowledged the NGO influence on the final Canadian position.

Said Senator Ray Perrault "This is the first time that the official Canadian delegation to any international conference has received a genuine input from the NGOs.

"They have affected the thinking of the Canadian delegation not only on this issue but also on the question of women's rights and native Indian rights, on nuclear energy and on housing."

There was never any hint of agreement, though, on the nuclear energy issue, with the NGOs firmly supporting the demand for a complete moratorium on all nuclear power development and a halt to all Canadian exports of CANDU reactors.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau had made it quite clear at a news

conference on the second day of Habitat that Canada would not be swayed from its present course. Nevertheless, the NGOs and members of the press continued to needle the Canadian delegation leaders on this issue.

On the other hand, the NGOs — but more particularly delegation adviser Gloria George, president of the Native Council of Canada — were successful in getting the delegation's support on the issue of special rights for indigenous people.

At Canada's behest, the UN Conference adopted this statement in the final Declaration of Principles: "Special rights, needs and aspirations of indigenous Peoples must receive full consideration, with particular attention to the equality of indigenous women."

While NGOs could claim credit for changing, or at least influencing, official delegation thinking on some issues, they did not get a delegation response to their eight-point manifesto — issued three days before the Conference ended.

Bernard Daly described it as "a chart for future action by all levels of government, and the NGOs as well."

At one point Mr. Basford had promised to address the NGOs at their final meeting June 10 to outline a delegation response to the manifesto, but then he cancelled out due to pressing last-minute negotiations on Conference issues.

Even before that, Mr. Daly had expressed misgivings to fellow NGOs "that public participation is invited, but NGO views are not sufficiently integrated into government decision-making."

Senator Perrault, speaking at another NGO session, strongly urged them "to keep on the heat and the pressure."

He repeatedly emphasized that the official Canadian delegation was the largest and most representative ever sent to an international conference and that it fully reflected "the Canadian reality" — the interests of federal, provincial and municipal governments as well as of the various political parties and regions.

He noted, for example, that on the issue of public control over land the provincial governments, rather than the federal government, hold the constitutional powers under British North America Act.

The federal government could only urge and advise provincial governments and municipalities on the question of returning unearned land increments to the community, the senator said, and the NGOs could not expect the federal government delegates to assume more power than they really possess.

At their final full session, the NGOs substantially agreed that, after all, they could not claim to truly represent the collective views of the membership of their individual organizations on such a wide range of issues as at Habitat.

However, Merk Dorfman of the NGO Participation Group noted that, in fact, more than 400 delegates from about 170 organizations had met in Ottawa for 2½ days last December to produce the 100-page NGO report for Habitat, which contained 88 specific recommendations.

Mr. Dorfman and Mr. Daly met each morning with NGO delegates to assign monitors to the five centres of Conference proceedings — the plenary session, the three committees and Habitat Forum.

In the evening the monitors returned to the church headquarters and reported their observations. During a one-hour discussion, the group determined its position on the day's issues in the Conference.

Promptly at 7:30 p.m. every night the official Canadian delegation arrived in the church to face NGO complaints and questions. Some sessions were attended by more than 300 people. Tempers flared on occasion — as could be expected.

As one Saskatchewan delegate observed at the final session: "We will always have conflict — and, after all, that's why we came here in the first place. But let's keep it balanced."

Said Mr. Dorfman: "Our participation was successful. We achieved what we set out to do — namely setup a mechanism whereby the NGOs could meet and exchange views with the official delegation instead of shouting in the wilderness."

Children's conference debates issues and builds its own Habitat village

The delegate from the United Kingdom had had enough decision-making for the day, so he climbed to the top rung of the monkey bars to get away from it all and absolutely refused to come down.

Taro C. Jay was a four-year-old participant of the Habitat conference for children and youth which was held from May 31 to June 10 in parallel with the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

The Children's Conference was divided into junior and senior sections, with each reviewing issues relevant to the Habitat theme. But while the 13 to 18-year-old seniors, meeting at the Lutheran Campus Centre at the University of B.C., were following the example of the UN Conference with plenary sessions, committees and subcommittees, the mostly eight-to-13-year-old Juniors were throwing protocol to the wind and getting down to the concrete business of building their own Habitat village.

The gymnasium of Vancouver's University Hill Elementary School was the site of the junior section. It was where everything from scrap cloth to disposable diapers was industriously hammered and glued together.

This cardboard village was all part of the children's definition of what Habitat meant to them. Although serious discussions and written reports were produced, they tended to be crayoned on walls rather than typed on paper.

Scrawled definitions under the banner "HABITAT IS..." ranged from "A place to form pressure groups" to something a little closer to home: "Habitat is a happy house."

It was important that the junior session be not just words but "doing". The village provided a chance for the children to work on something concrete; it also stood as proof that children do care about their future and, more importantly, that they are ready to do something about it — if only the adult world would stop and listen.

And that posed a problem. Although the results of the official UN Conference on Human Settlements will have a direct effect on the lives of our youngsters, law adults, let alone today's policy makers, stop to ask children what they feel about their own tomorrow.

When queried as to why they are rarely listened to, children were quick to respond:

"Adults don't think we're smart enough."

"They don't think our brains are big enough."

"They don't know how to listen to us."

But on June 10 these people who are going to be most affected by the results of Habitat finally got a few words in edgewise — and they were partially those of Chairman Mao Tse-lung.

Addressing Habitat Forum on behalf of the children's conference, teenager Alida Moonen summed

up with a quote from the Chinese leader: "Youth, the world is yours as well as ours, but in the last analysis it is yours... Our hope is placed in you."

The children called for definite government action on such problems as food, shelter, purification of water, health and energy. Representing the senior conference, Miss Moonen asked that children's ideas be heard and considered.

"What we ask is that you listen to us and recognize us as citizens of today, as well as citizens of tomorrow, and use our ability to the fullest".

Following this speech in the Forum Plenary Hall, the Junior conference presented a variety of skits, essays, poems and songs in a nearby room.

One joint proposal put forward by the children was to sink a number of Buckminster Fuller domes to the bottom of the ocean to create an underwater city. Water would be pumped out, air in, and everybody including family pets would live happily under the sea.

When visited one day a week before this, the Juniors were hard at it facing the problems of building their own habitat. Take, for example, nine-year-old Jerry Rozon, from Calgary. He named his structure Happy Habitat House but at one point it was looking rather sad.

Jerry was the foreman of a team of three pulling the roof on the house construction ground to a halt when it was discovered someone had neglected to put up one of the necessary four walls.

Being a responsible leader, Jerry jumped into the breach, standing on a chair to hold up the roof himself until the missing wall materialized.

But Jerry was not satisfied. The roof needed still more support. Half an hour later he had devised an elaborate web of string which tied the overwelght ceiling to bars on the gymnasium wall.

The resulting design would have been the envy of any engineer.

Jennifer Harris, aged 12 and a University Hill student, was busy converting blue disposable diapers into curtains. She explained that "ours is the most underdeveloped area but when we get our windows up we'll catch up to the rest of the gymnasium."

The representative from Edmonton, Richard Mullan, aged 7 3/4, was in charge of the construction of the "quiet corner" where delegates could relax.

Richard sectioned off his area with long benches and spread mats on the floor. As a finishing touch, he built a platform from which delegates could grab long ropes from the ceiling and catapult themselves over the gym floor.



Bruce Lyon

He had indeed thought of everything.

Taking time out, Richard explained his policies and was quick to come to the point: "Habitat means people helping everybody in the whole world. What we need are more houses and to sell them cheaper."

Some of the children found it hard to adjust to conference decision-making. But Unjoo Lee, aged 12 and from Korea, didn't have that problem. "I'm the one who bosses everyone around," she said. "It's great. I love the power". She was heading up a squad cutting out paper grass for one of the gardens.

Unjoo is not completely power-crazed, however. Says she: "If I try and help the world hard enough, I'll succeed like Mother Teresa".

Mother Teresa, the Catholic nun renowned for her missionary work in India, opened the children's conference. Many other important speakers also addressed the children, including British economist Barbara Ward and

inventor-philosopher Buckminster Fuller himself.

The idea of the children's conference was first proposed to the United Nations last August by Australian delegate Norman Fisher, who refers to children as "the only dreamers left in the world."

Under the watchful eye of Hanne Margstrand, the conference coordinator, the Save the Children Fund was able to raise the necessary funding in cooperation with six countries including Canada.

Norman Fisher's dreamers glued and stapled their future together. Some hung by their heels from the highest monkey bar, while others struggled to hold up a wall.

But they all built their habitat together. And that's what "Habitat" was all about, both for UN delegates and children alike.

Use of audio-visuals an unqualified success

Whatever the eventual impact of decisions made at Habitat, delegates and organizers agree that the innovative use of audio-visuals at the Conference was an unqualified success.

"There was a general feeling among delegates that we can't go back to the old way of doing things," said Malcolm Cobley, manager of audio-visual design.

"And yet we just scratched the surface of the way audio-visuals can be used at conferences of this sort," he added.

In all, some 230 audio-visual presentations were brought to Habitat by countries, liberation movements, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations and UN agencies. About 175 of these were available to delegates and media in Arabic, English, French, Russian or Spanish in full-length versions at the Project Presentation Centre (PPC) in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and to delegates, media and the public at the Playhouse Theatre and on the cable television Habitat station.

Operating from 8 a.m. to midnight from May 27 to the end of the Conference, the PPC averaged 200 requests a day for viewing.

Feedback from the delegates at the PPC was favorable, many saying the presentations were the best feature of the Conference.

Daily showings of the films at the Playhouse attracted audiences ranging from 60 to 100 per cent of the 650-seat capacity.

Capsule versions of the presentations also were available to the delegates in the Plenary and in Committees 2 and 3. At the Plenary, speakers asked for 80 capsules, in Committee 2 41 capsules were shown, and 37 were aired in Committee 3.

"Despite the fact that capsules were still just arriving in Vancouver in the second week of the Conference, audio-visual staff were able to fill about 80 per cent of all capsule screening requests" said

Gerry Graham, audio-visual co-ordinator.

The audio-visual conference reality was very close to what was originally conceived when Frank Mayrs, director of creative services, Patrick Reid, now head of Public Affairs in the External Affairs department, and Creighton Douglas, director-general of the host program, first sat down to talk about the shape of Habitat in the fall of 1973.

The idea of illustrating human settlements solutions through traditional three-dimensional displays was quickly discarded as requiring too much space and as highlighting the difference in capabilities between rich and developing countries to mount elaborate exhibitions.

Film was a natural alternative — not slick travelogues, but cinematic illustration of problems, showing and evaluating solutions which had been tried. For mechanical and practical reasons, a maximum time limit of 26 minutes was set for each film. To introduce people to the content of each film, the idea of the capsule on video-tape cassettes was conceived.

Other early decisions gave the go-ahead to a closed-circuit television system to let delegates and media know what was happening at other Conference sites, and to programming on existing cable networks to bring the Conference into the living rooms of British Columbians and hotel rooms of delegates.

Mr. Douglas' task became one which complemented his previous roles with Canadian participation in Expo 67 and Expo 70 — he was the intermediary between the creative people, who envisioned how the audio-visual program would work,

and the technical people, who had to find equipment and systems which would both work and do the job with a minimum of expense.

"If I have any specialty, it's that I bring creative people and software users together with practical technology," he said. "I'm not a gambler — I take proven hardware techniques and make them look new and different, with good odds they will work and that the total effect will be greater than the sum of the parts."

The engineering for the melding of hardware and software took more than two years, he said, and solutions were never simple because all guidelines and plans had to be constantly checked out with and approved by the UN.

"For example, allowing countries to send slide-tapes rather than films was a compromise with the UN, whose spokesmen were concerned that some countries might not be able to afford to send film," he said. This caused additional technical problems, but they were met.

Canada played a vital role in ensuring that developing countries had both the technical expertise and the money to produce their own films, although about 50 slide shows still were submitted.

The expertise was provided by a support unit from the National Film Board, co-ordinated by Jim Carney, which conducted regional seminars for producers and provided in-the-field liaison to local filmmakers and a post-production sub-unit in Nairobi for African and Asian producers.

The money came from the UN Environment Program (\$660,000) and from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which contributed \$645,000.

The deadline for delivering films to New York, in preparation for language versioning and transfer to cassette, was Dec. 31, 1975. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, few films arrived by that date. Some

arrived in January and February, but the real flood came in March and April — and May.

Having foreseen impending disaster by Jan. 1, CHS officials called on Gerry Graham to co-ordinate the cinematic Dunkirk, one day after he retired as director of planning and research for the National Film Board. Scratched prints, mismatched magnetic tracks and unique pulsing systems for slide presentations were more the rule than the exception, and the required number of release prints frequently did not arrive. All of which made versioning a bit of a nightmare.

"On May 30, about 35 per cent of all program elements were still in transit to Vancouver, and on June 8 and 7 we were still making copies of capsule prints," Graham said. "Some 20 cartons of film cans — with magnetic tapes mixed and not properly labelled — arrived June 5, and the Playhouse never had a day where its run was complete as listed in the pre-printed program."

Mr. Graham said that, despite the problems, the program ended up working very well technically.

"Trouble-shooting all the problems, we tended to have a distorted picture from the host side," he said. "But the user feedback was very good and I think the results of the user survey by the International Broadcast Institute should be very enlightening."

That it did work technically was no accident. As Mr. Douglas said, the technical planning was lengthy and involved and, Mr. Graham added, "we had the right people to push the right buttons — it couldn't have worked as an amateur operation."

UN AV library set up at UBC

One lasting result for Canada of the United Nations Habitat conference was acceptance of a joint offer by the Federal and British Columbia governments to finance the establishment of a UN audio-visual library at the University of British Columbia.

UBC announced just before the Habitat Conference that it was setting up a Centre for Human Settlements at the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre on campus. The Habitat audio-visual library, with the 230 films and slide shows (175 of them in five languages each) produced for the Conference plus up to 10,000 Habitat documents, will now be included in the Centre.

An interim agreement was signed June 12.

It was later reported by the Vancouver Sun that the cost of the UBC human settlements centre will be \$6 million, shared equally by

federal and provincial governments and spread over the five-year initial agreement between UBC and the UN.

The UBC Centre for Human Settlements will be under the direction of Dr. Peter Oberlander, one-time head of the UBC Department of Community and Regional Planning and a former Secretary of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. Dr. Oberlander was a member of the Canadian delegation to the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm and played an instrumental role in bringing its Habitat successor to Vancouver.

If the UN General Assembly approves the interim agreement, the audio-visual library will hold the copyrights of the films for five years and they will be available for loan to UN member nations.



Shown signing the agreement establishing the Centre for Human Settlements at the University of British Columbia are, from l. to r., Justice Minister Ron Bastford, UBC President Douglas T. Kenny, and Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson. In the background are BC Municipal Affairs Minister Hugh Curtis and UN Habitat Secretary General Enrique Peñalosa.

Water Day Walk stresses universal need

Pula!

Water is of such vital concern to the people of Botswana, living as they do on the very edge of Africa's Kalahari Desert, that the very word for water — pula — is also a national cheer equivalent to the Japanese Banzai! — Long life!

To raise your glass to "Pula!" is to toast with the very best of wishes.

To cheer a tribal chief or the national president is to yell "Pula!", for pula is the most important of God's gifts. Without pula there is nothing but wind-blown sand.

And it's not just that in two out of half a dozen rainy seasons there is in fact little or no rain in Botswana at all: even in wet summers rain usually cloud-bursts onto soil baked too hard under the relentless African sun to absorb it, and the torrents of run-off overflow normally dry river beds and cascade off to South Africa and the sea.

A typical mud-hut village is lucky to have one or maybe two boreholes, standpipes to which women trek many times a day to fetch all water needed for drinking, for cooking, for washing, for bathing.

It's true that in northern Botswana, beside the Okavango Swamps and long the Chobe River, there's plenty of water and even a fishing industry.

But it's far from safe. To drink this water or even to touch it means contracting bilharzia, the 'snail fever' endemic to all still or sluggish water in most of Africa.

Through water-born blood flukes, which cycle from snails to humans, passing right through the skin to attack the liver, bilharzia causes debilitation and shortened life-span. An outsider can go to hospital for a penicillin shot against this scourge of Africa, but no miracle drug can help indigenous peoples irrevocably exposed to its environment.

Safe water is the only answer.

That's why, on April 6, Samantha and Patrick Rendell, aged 9 and 6 years, joined the Habitat World Water Day Walk in Vancouver, and why they carried placards which were really colour photos showing African women trudging home from the borehole balancing heavy water pails on their heads.

Samantha said her family lived in Botswana for two years. Pointing to one of the photos, she explained: "That's ma with two of the girls we



The Water Day march, led by Margaret Trudeau, highlighted Conference concern with provision of safe water. From 1. to r., The Honourable Ron Basford, head of the Canadian delegation; Father George Muf'olo, member of the Kenyan delegation and chairman of Committee 1; Jim MacNeill, Commissioner-General of the Canadian Habitat Secretariat; Margaret Trudeau; and The Honourable Barney Danson, President of the Conference.

lived with for a while in the village of Mannkodi. They're carrying water on their heads and I went with them; it was a long way".

"When we went to Botswana it hadn't rained hardly at all for two years and Mannkodi was covered in deep sand." she went on.

"But they were lucky after that and there was lots of rain and when we went back in the fall the grass was up to my waist. You couldn't see the sand at all. The crops were so good they couldn't get them all harvested."

Pula!

Led by Margaret Trudeau, wife of the Prime Minister, and Habitat Committee 1 chairman George

Muhoho of Kenya, several hundred Water Day walkers carried symbolic water pails 1 1/2 miles from Spanish Banks to Habitat Forum at Jericho Beach. A multinational group of drummers set the pace for marchers including Vancouver Mayor Art Phillips; Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson, president of the Conference; Justice Minister Ron Basford, head of the Canadian delegation; Habitat Secretary-General Enrique Peñalosa; and Jim MacNeill, Commissioner-general of the Canadian Habitat Secretariat.

At the Forum, Mr. Peñalosa told the walkers and several thousand others that, "of all the injustices afflicting the world, there is none more flagrant than delivering free to the homes of the rich what the poor must buy by the bucketful from the back of a truck." The former Colombian agriculture minister said that, in the planning of our societies, we cannot forget how much we need water and how much

water we need, and how closely this resource is tied to our hopes for a better life, especially for the poor.

"With rising populations in the years to come we will need more water for the growing of food," he said. "We will need cleaner water to eliminate the worst causes of disease and infant mortality which, paradoxically, will be a major step to stabilizing population."

Anthropologist Margaret Mead elaborated: "The price of clean water means prevention of the deaths of many children and is a way of achieving a more balanced population."

Dr. Mead said that it would take about \$3 billion a year for the next

Success greets Forum staff in influencing delegates

decade to ensure clean water throughout the world.

Mr. Danson said many children in poorer countries are afflicted with disease from birth because the only water supply available is that which also is used for washing and defecating.

"We need to make our human settlements truly human, to make them a place where people can survive and survive in dignity," he said. "We need to provide goals and commitments to provide each village with clean, piped water."

Mrs. Trudeau emphasized to the water walkers that "we're all tired of words. What we want is commitment — action, not promises."

And Mr. Basford made that commitment for Canada. This country will clean up its own water supply by the end of the '70s and press for world water purity within a decade, he said.

"This is not an empty gesture," the leader of the Canadian delegation added. "There are people in our country who still don't have clean drinking water."

"We need commitments not only from the national government but also from the provincial and municipal governments to provide clean water in Canada by 1980 and in the world by 1986."

Appropriately, Committee 3 approved Habitat's first major document a couple of days later calling on governments to provide land, water and housing for their poorest citizens.

Then the Plenary Session also approved the recommendation on water supply that all governments strive to achieve "measurable qualitative and quantitative targets serving all the population," suggesting that programs be adopted "with realistic standards for quality and quantity to provide water for urban and rural areas by 1990, if possible."

The Habitat participants also urged all governments to support fully the United Nations Water Conference to be held next March at Mar del Plata in Argentina.

In other words, Habitat adopted the principle of world-wide clean water by the end of the next decade. Next year the details of how to do it may be worked out in Argentina.

The World Water Day walkers could certainly drink to that. Pull!

Graham Searle's name won't appear on any official United Nations document when Habitat resolutions make their way back to New York, nor will those of his cohorts. But as much as any others, these seven people helped bring the Forum and official conferences together.

Searle was a liaison official for ACSOH, the Association in Canada Serving Organizations for Human Settlements which organized Habitat Forum for the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Conference.

Just like the UN Conference, Habitat Forum at outlying Jericho Beach met, debated and presented resolutions. But as it had no statutory position of its own, the Forum's main purpose was to effect the policy makers at the governmental conference downtown.

Searle set out to make that possible.

In April, he arrived in Vancouver after a successful five-month, worldwide campaign to raise financial support for NGOs from the Third World to be represented at Habitat Forum. Hired initially by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat, he was able to collect \$80,000.

But with this assurance of a broad geographical representation at the Forum, Searle still had to make certain these people and their opinions could be heard.

The CHS had set up a conference room, appropriately named the NGO Lobby, in the central Georgia Hotel where UN delegates and NGO representatives alike could meet and swap ideas. There wasn't any staff, but within three days Graham Searle put together a full inter-conference liaison team.

Robin Fried was the first to sign up. She is director of urban planning programs at the University of British Columbia's Centre for Continuing Education. With her secretary from the Centre, Kay Pennant, Ms. Fried worked non-stop to furnish the Georgia Hotel with the necessary tools of communication.

Searle, from Britain himself, recruited two volunteers with whom he had worked when director of the

Friends of the Earth Society: Dick Jones, a London city planner, and Sue Clifford, a lecturer on rural planning at University College in London.

Two more Canadians completed the team: Gill Davidson, a graduate of the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, and Herb Barbolet, executive director of the Community Planning Association's B.C. division.

This team's most important and time-consuming duty was the conscientious daily monitoring of the UN Plenary Session and the three UN Committees, as well as the many events of Habitat Forum, 4½ miles away. Some attended the sessions in person while others watched on television monitors in the NGO Lobby.

At each day's end, some 120 pages of notes arrived on Searle's desk telling in detail what happened at the official Conference. Now the night's work was cut out for him, for by 9:30 the next morning he had to be prepared to address the Forum on exactly what the delegates downtown were up to.

He had just 15 minutes to tell all, a deadline he shrugged off by saying: "There is nothing that makes one more succinct than less time."

Indeed, after the hours of diplomatic debate and harangue it was a joy to listen to Searle state the blunt facts. "Committee 2 is in a right mess," he reported one day.

Speaking to 300 NGOs another morning about what country was likely to receive the coveted human settlements centre, he described himself as "a bookie giving odds on the new UN baby."

The Searle speaking style was informal, but his message clear.

However, the communication had to work both ways for there to be any point to Habitat Forum. Said Searle: "We had to realize first off that, other than the official address given by J.G. Van Putten (chairman of the International NGO Com-

mittee) on behalf of Habitat Forum to the UN Plenary Session, the main Conference had no time for the NGOs.

"The initiative rested with the people themselves. They had to stand up and make sure the delegates took notice of them."

More often than not, they stood up and came running to Searle for help getting in touch with the delegates.

Searle's answer was a lesson in basic politics: Phone them at their hotels. Demonstrate in the streets. Monitor the committees so you know what you're talking about. Above all, it came down to the same thing, that the NGOs must take the first step.

In an effort to further bridge the gap between concerned NGOs and the official delegates, Searle held a bull session daily at 7 p.m. when all were free from conference sessions. The press was invited as well.

Sparks often flew over such inflammable issues as nuclear power, but at least delegates and NGOs were talking together. The Searle theory was simple: "We could never get through to the delegates on the conference floor itself. It was up to us to buttonhole them on our own."

To coerce delegates into the NGO Lobby there were a variety of Searle strategies ranging from a polite invitation to discuss matters over a drink, to demonstrations, to a needling story in Jericho, the Habitat Forum newspaper.

The important thing was that it seemed to work. On the third day of the UN Conference, Papua New Guinea proposed to the committee considering conservation of energy that a commitment be made to renewable energy systems such as solar power, rather than potentially dangerous nuclear power.

This was the first time the nuclear question had been officially raised in the UN Conference and it resulted from the efforts of the Searle team in finding a delegation (Papua New Guinea) that would support the 300 people from 200 non-governmental organizations fighting so strongly on this issue.

Despite sharp debate, Habitat lays foundation for action



Featuring what may be the longest bar in the world, the Social Hell at Habitat Forum became a focal point for entertainment, discussion and general social activities.

Deciding the future of the seven-hectare Habitat Forum site at Jericho Beach may be as rocky and frustrating as the parallel conference's search for unanimity of purpose during its 16-day life, from May 27 to June 11.

From the day Forum opened, it was beset by cold and rainy weather, by a smaller registration of Non-Governmental Organizations than was expected, and by debates concerning Forum's purpose and its relationship to the official Conference downtown.

Jan Van Putten, the Dutch chairman of the NGOs, maintained throughout that politics should not be kept out of the Forum and, indeed, politics played a major role in the dispute over Forum's declaration to the official Conference, completed during the first week. That declaration elicited a "counter statement" from a number of U.S. groups, objecting to its political tone and stating that much of the declaration did not represent the NGO community.

The pressure generated by the counter statement led to a second draft of the Forum declaration late in the second week but, like

previous NGO conferences before it, Forum adjourned without philosophical solidarity.

The diverse and eclectic atmosphere prevailing at the Forum did not mean that the NGO Conference was not successful, however. The emphasis upon self-help and appropriate technology in Forum exhibits and debates had an effect upon the official Conference delegates, Forum officials said, and influenced the terminology of some Habitat recommendations, particularly those for national action.

Chuck Bayley, Forum's director of media facilities, said that although only 3,500 NGO delegates registered at Habitat Forum, "at least" 120,000 people passed through the Jericho site during its three-week life, and on weekend site tours before the Conference opened.

But perhaps the most interesting views of what happened at the Forum can be seen in "Listening to the Rest of the World", reprinted from the last issue of *Jericho*, the NGO daily newspaper, which follows.

Oh, yes, the future of the Forum site: It's undecided. Wary of expensive maintenance costs, the Vancouver Park Board — which controls the property and had planned to develop the waterfront land for park and recreational purposes —

has reactivated and expanded the Jericho Advisory Committee, and is planning to tear down the fences surrounding the site and get estimates of how much it would cost to renovate the plenary hall into a public meeting hall that complies with city bylaws.

While the park board favors green space but is yielding to public pressure to preserve some of the buildings, scores of others have tossed counter proposals up for discussion:

- The Forum staff wants a small sawmill on the site to custom-cut lumber at cost for use in regional district parks and playgrounds. The staff wanted other facilities open for concerts, plays and craft fairs, but lost its battle to keep all facilities — including the bar — temporarily open until September.

- A film-maker from India wants the buildings turned into movie studios.

- Members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra want the buildings used for the visual and performing arts.

- Track and field people want a place for training young athletes.

- The Bicycling Association of B.C. has called for cycling trails on the site — a proposal which a spokesperson said would accommodate everybody: "Children can do it, Indians can do it and women don't have to apologize for it."

- And the Musqueam Indian Band, whose ancestors originally occupied the land, say they want it back.



Hangar 3, one of six airforce buildings at Jericho Beach renovated for use during Habitat Forum.

On a personal level, Habitat Forum was a success. But as a learning experience and a global exchange of views, it left something to be desired. Those were the conclusions of about 20 Forum delegates who discussed their reactions to the Forum in a three hour late night session at the University of British Columbia.

Marjorie Staples of Alberta said that, three months before, she had not known anything about Habitat. But she had learned a lot about settlement problems, what NGOs are, and what they can do. "We've seen local initiative and global perspective. What's important now is what we do when we go home."

Ruth Allen of the Sierra Club, who is a California architect, said she had found a lot of reinforcement at the Forum for ideas she had been trying to put into practice. "For the past five years I have had the feeling that I have been working on projects which were irrelevant. I have been heartened and encouraged by what I have heard at the Forum."

Joan Coady of Ireland, representing the Associated Country-women of the World, said she had come to Habitat because she wanted to be part of a world conference discussing global problems. "I came to hear the rest of the world: I feel like a world citizen, and I think we behaved as a world family."

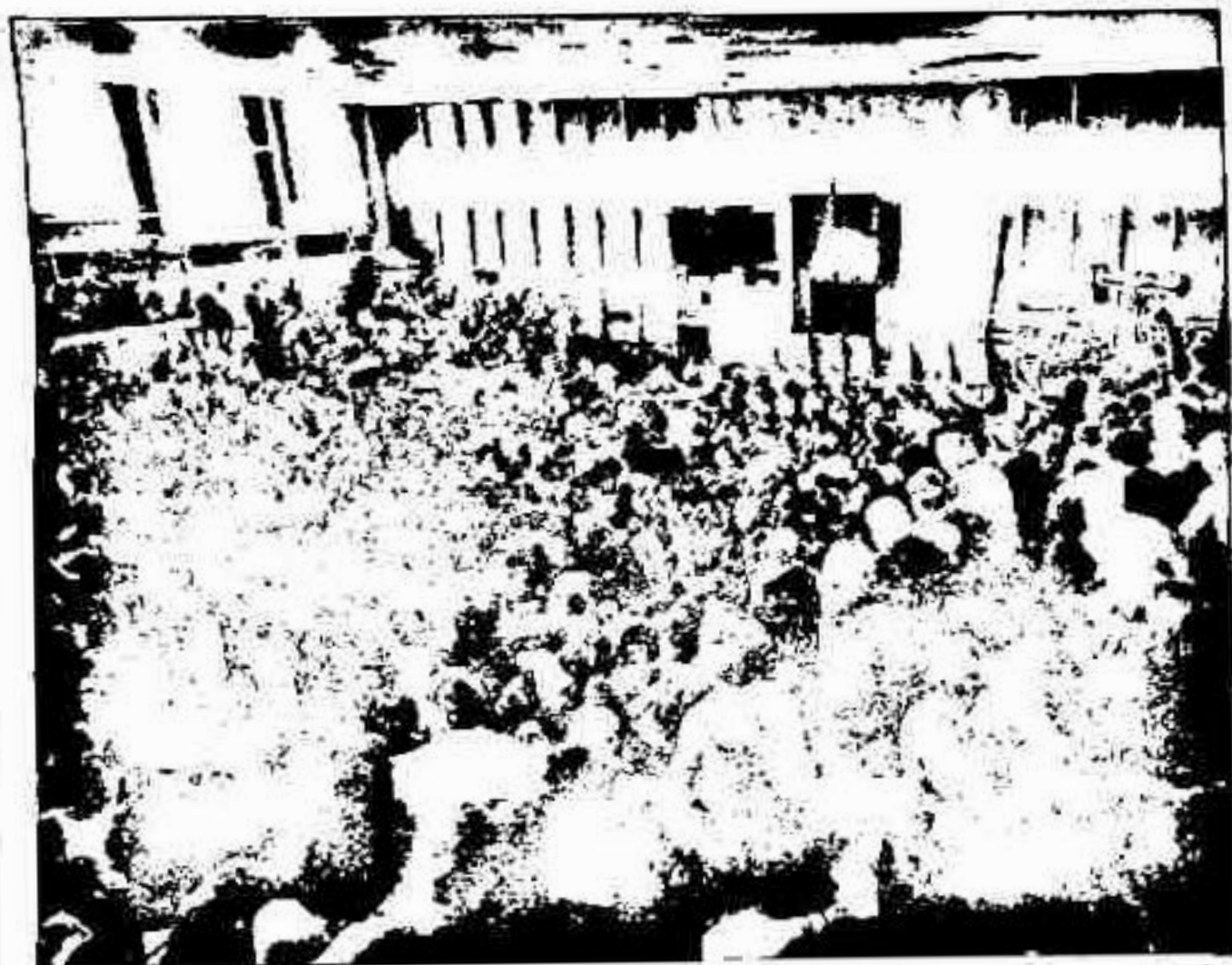
Wendy Bodman, of the South African Council for Conservation and Anti-pollution, said she was sent to make contact with other conservation organizations.

"My input to the main Conference was nil because South Africa is not an acceptable member of the UN. But I made contact with a number of conservation societies, and collected a lot of paper."

She said she had been impressed by the whole concept of participation. "I have come to believe that the lack of public participation is perhaps the main weakness of South African society."



World renowned anthropologist Margaret Mead spoke several times during the course of the Conference.



A large audience listens to a performance by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in Hangar 5, which also served as the plenary hall for the Forum.

The group unanimously regretted an underrepresentation of the Third World at Habitat. Penny Clarke, a family planning worker from London, said the money spent on the Forum site would have been better spent on travelling fellowships for people from Asia, Africa and Latin America. "UBC or Simon Fraser University could have accommodated the Forum. We needed the views of the Third World more than views of the mountains from the doors of Hangar 5."

But C. Capel-Boute of Belgium defended the site as a "working example of what a human settlement should be. It mixed work, art, leisure, in a single experience, instead of artificially separating them as our lives normally do."

Describing the hangars as "well ventilated," she observed that coughs and sneezes usually heard in air conditioning and artificial heating were conspicuously absent.

Dave Campbell of the Young Democrats of Washington State thought some of the Forum sessions should have been broadcast in the social centre. "If they had been, some of the people from Vancouver might have gone away — or got involved."

Forum translation facilities came in for heavy criticism from those whose first language was not English. John Sandelman of Washington, D.C., who is fluent in several languages, commented: "None of the translations in French

and Spanish have been correct.

They have been misleading, or frequently wrong."

Ms. Capel-Boute said that, after trying to listen to the translations, she decided to depend on her own knowledge of Spanish and English.

Kelkkik Katera of Finland praised the film programme for helping to bridge the language gap. "But the Forum facilities were technically poor compared with those at the official conference," she added.

Bjorn Roe, a Norwegian architect who came to learn more about his particular field, said he had discovered little that was new. "The information qualitatively was not on a very high level, but the Forum was a positive social experience."

The behind-the-scenes story of conference arrangements

The care and nurturing of 2,800 delegates, 270 United Nations staff and 1,618 accredited media representatives required complex planning by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat's conference services and installations directorates — complete with test runs of detailed scenarios and last-minute revisions.

For Herb Graves and Mike Levy, director and deputy director of conference services, the planning began in July, 1975, when the first projections for security, medical, printing and accommodation needs were made. More detailed accommodations and accreditation planning, including host/hostess needs, got under way in December and mid-January as more staff were hired.

RCMP and city police consultants began taking a fulltime interest in Conference preparations by late March, just as the massive job of interviewing and hiring members of the hosting corps was being completed.

In all, some 250 blue-suited hosts and hostesses — acting as messengers, information aides, documentation clerks, guides and media assistants — worked during the basic three-week Conference period. And some 150 private security personnel and another 15 to 20 RCMP and city police members worked to keep Conference sites calm and relaxed over three shifts a day.

Additionally, about 200 regular and reserve military personnel staffed 130 cars and trucks in the Conference transportation system, making key deliveries and chauffeuring delegates as an augmentation to the Conference bus system, provided in cooperation with B.C. Hydro. The military drivers came from Canadian Forces bases throughout western Canada, from Comox, B.C. to Shiloh, Manitoba.

Medical stations at all Conference sites and at the Operations Centre were used frequently, Mr. Graves said, and several serious cases — mostly involving cardiac problems — were treated.

Conference registration and accreditation went more smoothly than expected, Mr. Graves added. Heaviest dates were during the Preparatory Committee and Pre-Conference consultations, May 25

and 26, and during the weekend immediately preceding the Conference opening, May 29-31.

But there were problems involving accommodation, he said. Pre-registration and accommodation requests came in much more slowly than anyone anticipated — "We didn't get one particular country's accommodation request until June 15!" — and Vancouver hotels demanded guarantees for rooms which had been booked.

The Secretariat's final hotel bills have not yet been tallied, but they are expected to be in excess of \$200,000, largely because most of the guarantees were made at hotels nearest to Conference sites.

"Early accommodation requests stated delegates wanted to stay at these hotels," Mr. Graves said. "But

once they got here and examined the prices and their per diems, many transferred to less expensive hotels."

The large-scale transfers likely would not have happened, he added, if the expected number of NGO delegates had arrived to attend Habitat Forum.

"We were nearly right on with our estimate of 2,800 delegates," he said. "But the Forum people had estimated 10,000 delegates — which dramatically affected our booking plans — and only about 3,500 showed.

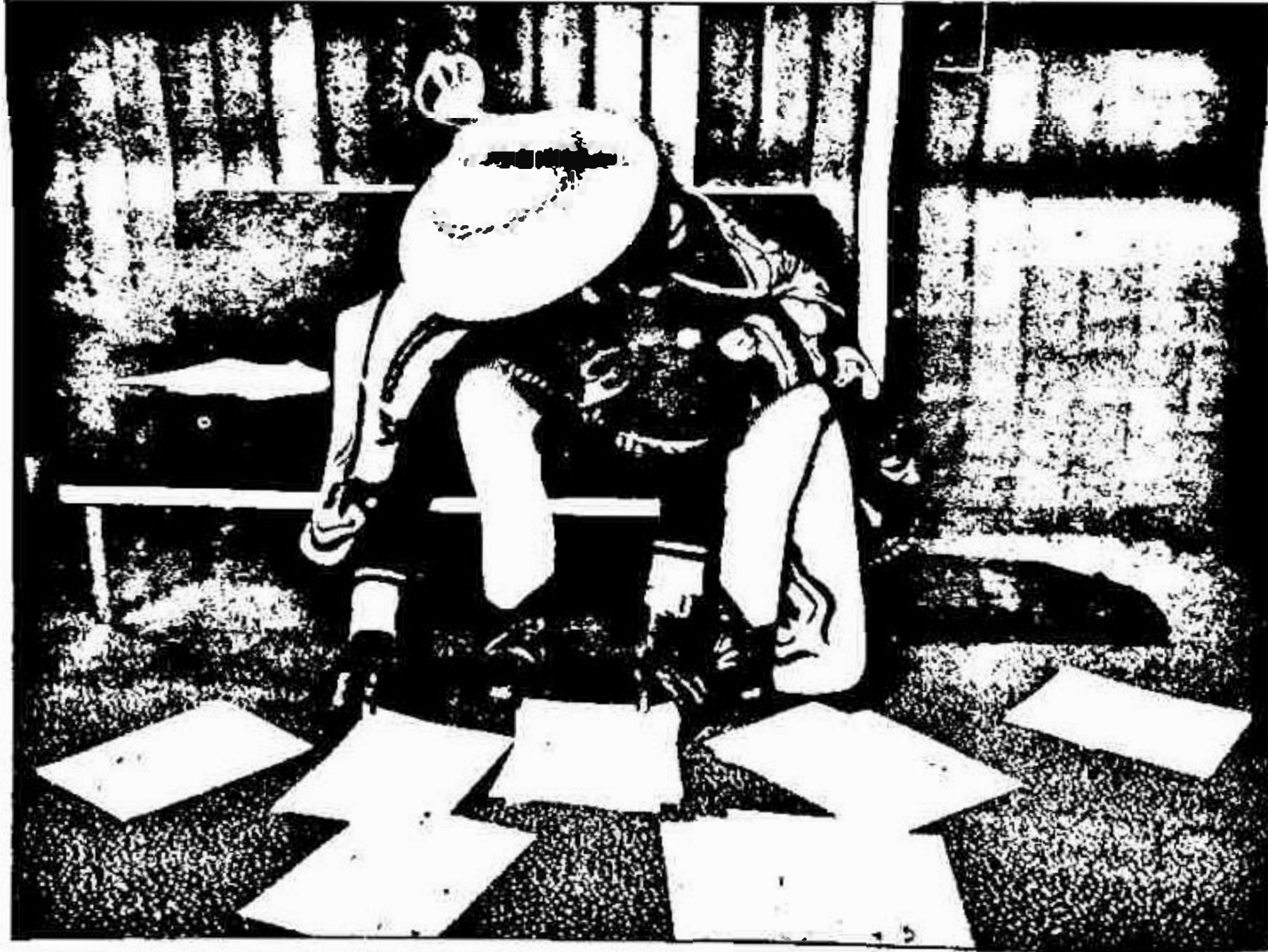
"If they had come, they would have filled the outlying hotels and the delegates would have stayed put."

One delegation, he noted, moved five times during the Conference, and another walked straight through the lobby of the hotel for which they had pre-registered — and disappeared out the back door.

Other problems experienced by conference services were minimal or expected, Mr. Graves said, except for changes in documentation distribution and printing needs requested by the UN Habitat Secretariat.

The UN staff had projected they would print about two million sheets of Conference documentation in the Operations Centre print shop during the Conference period. In fact, more than that number were printed before the Conference opened and a total of ten million sheets went through the print shop.

Similarly, the UN staff had re-



A Conference delegate pauses to sort through his papers.

quested only small space in the west end of Habitat Pavilion for distribution of unofficial documentation — primarily the books and gifts brought by delegations for other delegations.

The inadequacy of this arrangement became obvious the first day of the Conference, Mr. Graves said. Three rooms were opened in the Hotel Vancouver, more space was added at the Operations Centre, the NGO documentation was moved to the YWCA and some individual countries — like Sweden — opened their own centres in the Four Seasons Hotel.

For Claude Servant, director of infrastructure/installations, Habitat began in the spring of 1974 — the beginning of several months of studying sites throughout the Vancouver area to determine exactly where the Conference should be held.

By early 1975, the decision had been made to utilize several downtown locations — the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, the Hotel Vancouver, the Hyatt Regency, and the still-under-construction Holiday Inn Vancouver City Centre.

Because the sites were booked by other hotel clients until just hours or days before the Conference opened, 1975 and early 1976 were spent in elaborate engineering and scheduling planning. The interiors of Conference rooms, audio-visual display areas and all ancillary services areas had to be prefabricated as much as possible, always remembering that they had to be put together in a minimum amount of time.

The Hotel Vancouver presented the greatest challenge, Mr. Servant said. Two conference rooms, documentation and office areas — including more than 500 large pieces of furniture, about 1,000 chairs, and miles of telephone and television cables — on several floors had to be assembled in 24 hours.

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, site of the Plenary session, had to be put together in 36 hours. This site was the most difficult technologically, Mr. Servant said, because of the use of the prototype Eldophor rear-projection screen on stage. But technical staff were able



The Plenary Hall for the official Conference was situated in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in downtown Vancouver.

to install and test the screen prior to the last-minute push.

"The biggest problem at the QE was not putting it together, but taking it apart," he added. "After the close of the Plenary, we had only 12 hours to disassemble it and clear the theatre so a rock band could set up for a concert the following evening."

The removal operation had a Keystone-cops-hustle air because so much equipment was involved — some 11 tons on stage alone. Included in the exodus were the Eldophor screen, the podium, simultaneous interpretation booths, desks, information counters,

documentation centres, camera platforms, additional television lighting, the delegates' desks, and all the equipment and furniture in the UN executive and conference services staff offices.

At the Hyatt Regency, the installations workers, contracted from private companies, had two days to put together the Conference room and ancillary areas, and four days to install the Project Presentation Centre. The seven days' lead-time at the Holiday Inn made the pace there seem almost leisurely by comparison, Mr. Servant said.

All sites except the QE were cleared within 48 hours of the close of Conference operations at that venue.

All the work went according to plan, Mr. Servant said.

"There were a number of last-minute changes, and we were able to accommodate them, but it caused some headaches."

"The site managers — Steve Turner, Eric Isaac, Don Rowe, Cathy Alkenbrack, Eileen Truscott, Leah Errington and Robin Corner — did a tremendous job, and really enabled it to happen," he added.

TV coverage provided by short-lived Habitat Station

Scene:

Art Hives, grey hair glistening blonde under the harsh studio lights at Habitat Station in the Hotel Vancouver, straightens the knot on his tie for the fourth time in four minutes, and authoritatively announces under his breath: "Cuba today introduced an amendment in Committee 2 that threatens a major schism between the developing world and the countries of the West at the plenary session of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements."

A voice from behind a camera says, "Five minutes, Art," and he replies again, even more authoritatively: "Cuba today introduced..."

Scene:

Master control, a room across the hall from the studio, a row of intense, quiet people face a bank of 15 television sets, some showing what is currently on Channel 10, two showing Art Hives straightening his tie in black and white and one in colour.

Centre man in the row of people is Rob Riskin, director, the only one who speaks in the room. On his left is his script assistant who does all the timing for the news broadcast Rob is about to tape. On his right are a switcher and an audio operator and behind him a telecine operator.

Rob's voice says: "Roll and record, up with the tape. Stand by studio. One minute to the floor."

A whirr of film is followed by a voice announcing: "Man, shelter and the global search for solutions. This is Habitat, Vancouver, 1976."

Rob's voice overrides it again saying, "Up and cue Art" and the graphics appear on one screen, the slides which are behind him on another, while Art Hives is on another screen saying: "Cuba today introduced..."

Another news broadcast is underway, to appear on film at 7 p.m. in living rooms across the lower mainland and in the hotel rooms of the delegates.

These scenes were replayed each day, twice a day, with Pamela Martin doing the Morning Briefing at 8 a.m. (repeated at 9 a.m.) and Art Hives in the evening.

Habitat Station was a television network created for a single purpose and with a limited life.

It existed only from May 31 to June 11 to broadcast the Habitat Conference, then it disbanded.

But it took months of work to get the station to the point where it could put on a professional newscast twice a day.



The pace slows temporarily in the Master Control room of Habitat Station as staff prepare for the evening news broadcast.

Almost the entire graduating class of the British Columbia Institute of Technology in broadcast communications was hired to be the technical crew.

"They were first-rate," Program Director Joe Wiesenfeld said, "but they were handicapped by lack of familiarity with the equipment. The equipment wasn't fully operational until the day they went on the air so they weren't able to practice for two weeks first as had been planned."

Three months before the first broadcast, Mr. Wiesenfeld had to get 200 maps made up, obtain slides ("We had the biggest slide library of anyone who had anything to do with Habitat"), prepare animated film clips (station identifiers) which were all variations on the logo theme, work out with Malcolm Cobby, manager of audio-visual services, exactly what

the station would carry, hire staff, assign functions.

"We never had a news story we couldn't illustrate," Mr. Wiesenfeld said, they were so well prepared.

Habitat Station's basic intention was to provide a wider access to the Conference for the B.C. community and also to try to improve communications for the delegates and media at Habitat itself, said Mr. Wiesenfeld.

Audio-visual presentations, prepared for the Conference by participating countries to show human settlements problems and their solutions, were shown from 7 to 10 a.m. and from 9 p.m. until midnight each weekday.

There was also a more extensive showing of films during the June 5-6 weekend, the mid-point of the Conference.

Live coverage of the sessions was shown from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and from 3 until 6 p.m. each weekday. Of the Plenary Session and three committees, one was televised live, with videotapes of other selected sessions shown later.

There was originally to be a mid-day newscast at 1:15 as well but it was dropped at the start of the Conference. On the other hand, French newscasts were added.

Information supervisor Jack Wolf said French-speaking delegates from Africa and Asia especially were upset at not being able to get international news in Vancouver — and surprised, since they'd been told Canada was a bilingual country.

As a service to them, the Canadian Habitat Secretariat arranged with the CBC to broadcast on Habitat Station the main evening newscast from Radio-Canada in Montreal. It was aired at 11 each evening and repeated at 7 a.m. the next day.

This was the first time a CBC program had ever appeared on a community cable channel.

Targets for world action set by Vancouver Symposium

Mr. Wiesentfeld said live programs originated from Habitat Forum more often than was originally anticipated. A regular part of the programming was a half-hour magazine-format show from the Forum at 7:15 each evening, produced by Forum site producer Al Clapp.

Another face which became familiar to viewers was that of Pat Carney, Assistant Director General of Information for the Canadian Habitat Secretariat, who was the host of Habitat Worldview, the showing of audio-visual presentations.

Behind the scenes on the news broadcasts were Mr. Wiesentfeld and Grant Elliot, who wrote the news broadcasts on two shifts. They didn't have a news staff or direct access to a news staff so had to get news items from the United Nations Office of Public Information, Habitat Forum spokesmen, a Canadian Habitat Secretariat newsgathering team and the U.N. Habitat Secretariat.

Habitat Station used cable for distribution, arranging with all the cable companies in the B.C. Lower Mainland and a couple on Vancouver Island to supply all programming to them for the 12 days from May 31 to June 11.

"Essentially we created a Channel 10 network," Mr. Wiesentfeld said.

The idea of the television network originated because all the equipment was being installed anyway to supply other requirements and make a videotape record of the Conference. This turned out to be one of the biggest problems Habitat Station had to face.

Master Control was designed to meet too many needs and Habitat Station had to share the same facilities with other functions such as capsule playback to committee rooms and closed circuit routing of video feeds (each committee room was able to see what was going on at other committee rooms and the Forum).

On top of everything, delegates would bring in films to be translated onto video-tape — usually in a great rush.

"The basic use of the equipment was to archivally record everything that happened," Mr. Wiesentfeld said. "This was the first conference to use audio-visual equipment in an innovative way." (Over his shoulder director Rob Riskin says, "Peñaposa next on telecine", while Mr. Wiesentfeld whispers, "He's a great director. He never makes a mistake." Then "Take 2, cue Art. And go to black.")

Editor's Note: Just prior to the official opening of Habitat 24 experts in various disciplines met in a Vancouver hotel room to explore the basic problems affecting human settlements and human survival. Among those participating were Barbara Ward, Margaret Mead, Buckminster Fuller, French geographer and writer Jean Gottman, Argentinian architect Jorge Hardy and Maurice Strong, former head of the United Nations Environment Program and president of Petro Canada.

On May 30 this Symposium issued a Declaration and on June 7 released a summary of the Declaration and comments on some of the early reactions to it. Below are extracts from this summary, which we believe cover the main points made by the Symposium at Habitat.

...The participants in the Vancouver Symposium would like to underline once more their conviction... that all particular and temporary political issues should give place to resolute and concerted action to turn the world's settlements from areas of potential breakdown, violence and despair and give them instead the promise of becoming truly human communities.

To achieve this over-riding objective, certain priorities must be set...

(1) Clean water should be provided to all people in all settlements by a specific date, say 1990, and budgetary allocations fixed at this Conference to make the objective attainable.

(2) The control of land use must be the responsibility of the community and planning must extend to the whole of the national territory.

(3) The unearned increment created by changes in the value of land must be secured to the community.

(4) Energy for all settlements must be secured but the variety of possible sources of energy and the vast potential of less wasteful use give humanity time not to be stampeded into a premature nuclear option. Every aid must be

given to the energy-poor countries in developing environmentally acceptable alternative sources of energy. Meanwhile, a moratorium on nuclear power generation should be put into effect to give more time for a full and rational assessment of the possible problems posed by the generation of nuclear power and the management of nuclear wastes.

(5) Settlements must be built, maintained and renewed in ways which end the present completely unacceptable distortions in the distribution of income, opportunities and amenities between the rich and the poor both at the global level and within each country.

(6) Settlement planning must be based upon a full understanding and research of the environmental endowment of countries, regions and the whole planet.

(7) Citizens must be permitted to participate in the decisions which mould their communities before directions are fixed and policies set fast in steel and concrete.

(8) All international agencies, public and private, active in the area of human settlements, must as a first priority work with local citizen bodies, academic institutions and research groups in order to ensure that the wealth and variety of values, cultures and traditions in human society are preserved in the world's settlements...

Effective action in human settlements requires the realization of earlier governmental resolutions taken in such areas as:

- the monitoring and preservation of the life support systems of the biosphere — air, soil, fish, fresh water and the oceans (Stockholm 1972);

- the provision of adequate nutrition, maternal and child care, and family planning services available to couples and individuals to secure the survival of children and a consequent reduction in family size (Bucharest 1974);

- the creation of emergency food stocks, the building of a world grain reserve system and a large increase in investment in Third World agriculture (Rome 1974);

- the participation of women in every stage of the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of the development process at all levels of society, global, national and local (Mexico City 1974)...

Settlements can become "lead sectors" in the healthy maintenance of an economy or in its necessary growth. The resources and labour of all kinds required for this overriding priority are available. But it can be impeded by lack of political will. It can be blocked by methods of development which put "growth first and redistribution later" and leave society with vested interests, private and public, which become impassable obstacles to social equality and full participation. To put an end to the profound inequities in income distribution and in citizen participation in all societies, developed and developing alike, is the fundamental purpose of making humane and decent settlements the central organizing principle of society and of the economy...

- The reinforcement of intermediate cities and rural settlements to create systems which strengthen agriculture and lessen the pressure on the biggest cities.

- The creation of better-balanced communities in which the mix of different social groups, occupations, housing and amenities ends all forms of social segregation.

- In developing societies, the encouragement in migrant communities of the full range of "self-help", by means of security of tenure and assistance with essential services.

- The introduction of conserving and recycling services.

- The reorganization of national, regional and local government to respond to the new emphasis on human settlements.

- A commitment on the part of the international community to make the basic services in human settlements a first call on capital assistance.

- A new direction in research and academic institutions to give the problems of settlements the attention and the data-base they require.

- A pledge taken here at Habitat to set in motion the cooperative process of settlement development and improvement.

Media play key role in impact of conference

"It was the smoothest-running information show I have ever witnessed."

That was how William C. Powell, Director of the United Nations Office of Public Information, assessed the media services provided by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat.

Mr. Powell is a veteran of the 1972 Stockholm UN Conference on the Human Environment, the UN Atomic Energy Conference in Geneva in 1973 and the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest.

He came to Vancouver with a 45-member UN staff to produce daily Conference agendas and summaries of proceedings in print, audio and video, in English, French and Arabic. CHS assisted by providing eight French-speaking reporters and editors.

In terms of news coverage, Mr. Powell said, Habitat was certainly the biggest-ever UN meeting outside New York. At the final count, 1,618 persons were accredited as journalists.

About half of these were Canadian, with the Vancouver media of course leading the pack. The Vancouver Sun and Province took the precaution of accrediting their entire newsrooms right up to the top editors and even publishers — a total of 128 persons.

Many others with green ID tags, CHS staff said, had rather tenuous media connections. Some were delegates' spouses who came along by getting accreditation through their hometown newspapers and such. Some were lobbyists from federal and provincial governments. Others were propagandists with cause publications, inclined to give long statements of their own at press conferences rather than stick to asking questions.

The United States accounted for 267 media accreditations, the Finland for 16, but the Soviet Union only two — Vladimir Matyash of Tass and Alexander Palladin of the Novosti Press Agency.

Most of the 102 accredited Mexican journalists actually left Vancouver soon after President Luis Echeverria addressed the Conference opening day.

Still, a count of media representatives gives some indication of how other nations rated the impor-



Over 1600 journalists from all over the world covered the 12-day Conference.

tance of Habitat. Britain, for example, had 33 journalists at the Conference while France and Italy accredited only eight each. West Germany had 14 and Japan 22.

Of the East Bloc countries, Hungary sent one, and Yugoslavia seven.

Of the Third World nations, India sent three media representatives and Ghana, Uganda, Zaire and Ivory Coast one each. Tiny Gabon dispatched four.

Nineteen international news agencies and major newspapers were provided with their own office space on the second floor of the Habitat Media Centre, while other journalists could pound out their stories on no less than 270 typewriters on the main floor and in the four media sub-centres at major Conference sites around town.

They could file their reports by telex or cable by using one of 28 special telephone booths inside the media room. Their stories off their chests, journalists could relax and chat with colleagues over a drink at a small stand-up bar in the same area.

When they weren't attending press conferences or Plenary or Committee sessions, journalists could also view more than 230 audio-visual presentations — full-length or three-minute capsules — that delegations had brought to Vancouver. The capsules, as well as Conference proceedings, could be viewed on several large television-projection screens in the Media Centre.

During the two weeks in Vancouver there were more than 50 press conferences related to Habitat (not counting those at Habitat Forum where media facilities were much more limited)

with 33 of them in the Media Centre briefing room on the ground floor of the Habitat Operations Centre.

When Habitat opened May 31, Minister of State for Urban Affairs Barney Danson told reporters immediately after his election as Conference President: "The success of Habitat will depend to a large extent on the press — on the cooperation you will give us in raising public awareness of human settlements issues."

Considering the large media accreditation and the millions of words disseminated throughout the world during the two brief weeks in Vancouver, the press indeed played an important role in Habitat.