



Habitat World

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World Experts View Issues Facing Habitat

Symposium Held at Dubrovnik

A major goal of Habitat will be to foster the acceptance of human settlement theory and practice as an important interdisciplinary science of the future. At a four-day symposium last month, 30 of the world's leading architects, planners, environmentalists and experts in related fields undertook the work of laying a philosophical basis for that science.

The meeting, held in the Inter-University Centre of the beautiful historic city of Dubrovnik, on the Dalmatian coast of Yugoslavia, was organized by the Habitat secretariat as part of its conference preparatory programme.

In a very real sense, the Dubrovnik symposium parallels the meeting of the experts at Founex, Switzerland, which was held prior to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1971. As with Founex, the individual and collective wisdom of the Dubrovnik participants are expected to provide guidance to the Habitat secretariat in evolving a philosophical framework for the preparatory process and the conference itself.

The report of the symposium is to be tabled at the regional preparatory conferences this month and next in Teheran, Cairo, Caracas and Geneva, and is considered likely to have great influence on the draft Declaration of Principles on human settlement policy which the secretariat will submit to the main conference at Vancouver.

30 Special Reports are Commissioned

In preparation for Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the conference secretariat has commissioned, or gained the promise to prepare, more than 30 special studies on specific aspects of human settlement affairs. These reports are all expected to be received by the end of June and many have already been submitted.

This is only a part of the total contribution to the global analysis that will be part of the preparations for Habitat. The views of governments, of agencies and departments of the United Nations, of non-governmental organizations and of private individuals are coming to the Habitat secretariat in ever-increasing amounts. Without question, this conference is attracting the attention of the entire world.

The views of recognized experts, however, are particularly important. Although "human settlements" can be considered a new science, there are men and women in all parts of the world who have spent their lives in studying the problems in part or in total. The Habitat conference naturally will draw on their views and experience. Many of the expert reports will be tabled at the pertinent regional preparatory conferences this month, and all will have an impact on the preparation of the final documentation for Vancouver.

You can't have a world conference without first getting the views of the experts, and no world conference ever had more issues facing it than will Habitat. The secretariat of Habitat is now seeking this expert opinion both individually and collectively.

UNEP Votes \$1.5 Million More for Audio-visual Programme

At its recent meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme agreed by consensus to grant an additional \$1.5 million to the Habitat secretariat for the funding of country support for the conference audio-visual programme. A plea for the funds was made by Habitat secretary-general Enrique Penalosa in order to ensure "the widest possible national and regional participation in this aspect of the conference."

In a progress report to the Governing Council Penalosa offered his personal assurances that the conference would meet all the goals and objectives given to it by the Conference on the Human Environment and by the General Assembly. He also predicted that in terms of participation it would be the largest conference ever held under United Nations auspices "1974", he said, "can be termed the year of organization; 1975 must be the year of action for the preparatory process."

Concerning support of the audio-visual programme, Penalosa told the Governing Council that the conference secretariat "is increasingly aware that many countries would not be able to take advantage of this opportunity without direct financial support", and urgently urged that his request be given favorable consideration.

Agreement of the Council came after a debate on the progress report from the secretary-general with most delegates agreeing with the position of Kenya whose delegate insisted that since the money requested was to be used for financial aid and back-up services for developing countries in order that they would be able to meet the 31 December, 1975 deadline for presentation of films to the secretariat, the request should be approved.

The representative of Sweden, on behalf of the delegations of the Scandinavian group, added that "it is essential that all countries be given an opportunity to present national contributions in the most efficient way."

Previously UNEP had voted \$1.8 million for the technical organization of the programme and promotional activities. This second allocation completes the original \$3 million funding envisioned for the audio-visual programme.

We Cannot Go On As We Are Today



The following excerpts are taken from a recent address given in Lima, Peru, to the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial and Development Organization by the Secretary-General of Habitat. They vividly point up some of the far-reaching changes the world is currently experiencing, and the problems associated with them which have led to Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

"The world is changing in more ways and more rapidly than ever before in history. In this century, we are witnessing the end of the first stage of industrialization and the last stage of colonial empire and hegemony. At the same time,

we are experiencing an astonishing and little understood change in the structure of the human settlements. From an almost entirely rural planet at the beginning of this century we are going to end it with a planet urbanized to a large extent. Due to the increase in world population between now and the end of this century, we must construct more human settlements, that is to say villages, towns, cities and metropolises, than the number now in existence, with all the accompanying consequences in the economic, political and social life of all the peoples.

"These historic changes could and should be the basis for a new era of hope and progress."

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Human Settlements Theme of World Environment Day

World Environment Day — June 5 — is focussing on human settlements as its central theme. Ceremonies at UN Headquarters, at UN Environment Program headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and around the world are marking the event. Public forums, radio and TV programs, special newspaper and magazine features will stress that the care and feeding of "Only One Earth" is the responsibility of every nation and everybody.

Choosing human settlements as the theme for World Environment Day — 1975-1976 — is recognition that the human environment for the majority of the world's citizens is in towns and cities. Towns and cities are, of course, the largest contributors to the degradation of the natural environment through pollution. Maurice Strong, Executive Director

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We Cannot Go On As We Are Today

"Despite all the progress of which the world can boast in the past century, despite the miracles of sciences and the marvels of the industrial and technological revolutions, despite the immense amounts of capital invested and effort expended, the lot in life of the majority of mankind is worse than ever. More of our species are poor, hungry, illiterate and without adequate shelter than ever before. We seem to have fulfilled the foreboding of the 19th Century prophets who warned that industry might flourish and man decay. "We also know that we have not seen the final dimensions of our problems. The population of the world is to double again in the next 30 years, demanding more than twice the present supply of food, housing, jobs and all earthly goods. At the same time, the most spectacular migration in the history of mankind from rural areas, mostly in the hope of finding work in industry, is causing an urban explosion whose final ramifications are completely unpredictable."

"In large part because of the model of the more advanced countries, most of our peoples and leaders have looked to industry as the main solution to the problems of poverty and backwardness, as the instrument which would enable us to satisfy popular needs and desires. Although it is a hard and even bitter thing to challenge a dream, it is our duty to recognize that this promise is not being fulfilled."

"What we have actually achieved is an unjust dual society in which a small elite attains this advanced lifestyle, while the great majority of our peoples — and therefore of the population of the world — are hopelessly trapped in conditions of existence which deny hope and mock the concept of individual dignity."

"The poor of the world will never achieve the levels of extravagant consumption now enjoyed by a very few, and it is increasingly doubtful if such patterns can be maintained by any society."

of the United Nations Environment Program, points out that the world population is on its way to doubling by the year 2000 and that the large scale transition from rural to urban societies in the same time span will see an increase of two billion in the number of city dwellers, of which 1.5 billion will be in the developing countries.

"These huge increases in urban human settlements have vast national and global repercussions, and would require major policy decisions and massive investment programs merely to maintain the present unacceptable levels of life, let alone improve them," Strong said.

How to grapple with these staggering problems is the reason for holding Habitat: UN Conference on Human Settlements.

"Impossible aspirations can only condemn us to anger and frustration. But neither are we doomed to a life of second class citizenship in the family of man. We know now that the model of development which has been imposed upon us over the past centuries, either by force or unquestioned example, is not the way of the future either for us or for them. We know that the rich countries are faced with mounting problems of social, economic and environmental deterioration that go far beyond current cyclical disruptions.

"Let me cite just two examples: "In the industrialized world over the past 25 years, industrial production has increased by more than 300%. This is, or is supposed to be, a fantastic source of new wealth. But is the quality of life for the citizens of those countries three times better? On the contrary it is thought to be worse. In the developed world over a single decade the consumption of energy, which is mostly the burning of non-renewable resources supplied by us, has more than doubled. But are the citizens of those countries twice as happy or content? The answer is no.

"Those points are relevant to my remarks only insofar as they are able to release the rest of the world from the myth of foreign superiority. For if there are no workable models, then our own leaders and planners can be free to invent solutions which are more clearly based on national and cultural needs and capabilities."

"A question that is paramount in any re-evaluation of industrialization concerns not the rate of production but what is produced. And here again we must re-study the model offered to us by the most advanced industrial countries, and our success in copying them.

"Under the industrial systems of these countries, production is beneficial in itself, and is absolutely essential to the working of the system. It is understood by them that social mobility and wages will be sufficient to foster universal well-being, with every man receiving a reasonable share of the fruits of society."

"In developing societies, the system is failing totally to meet that objective. Industrial employment is only a very small part of the labor force, while the fruits of industrial production are reaching no more than a fraction of our peoples.

"This inability of the system to reach out to the majority of the peoples already is the cause of frustration and revolutionary ferment which seem destined to worsen as our populations spiral. The political response to these circumstances is almost universally the same — a call for fairer distribution as a basic requirement for a more just and democratic society.

"But I would ask the question: distribution of what? "Let me give you an example of what I mean that you will quickly see approaches absurdity."

"If one were to project that the ratio of automobiles to population which now exists in the United States were true to the entire world, total vehicle registration would be approximately 1,000 million cars. Obviously, there is no way that the world's raw materials or the natural environment could sustain such a situation."

"Yet in most developing countries the thrust of industrial development is to copy and even match the standards of the rich. Using capital earned by the sale of our agricultural and mineral wealth, we build industries which produce products beyond the buying power of our own population. To achieve economies of scale without internal markets we attempt to export, which in turn demands greater and more expensive technological know-how.

"The issue is social as well as economic. How can we justify huge investments of national wealth in industries which do not create commensurate employment and which produce goods which the majority of our peoples cannot afford to buy?"

"There is enough land, water and material to support the people on earth today and for all time. The masses of our people are not asking for luxury but minimum standards. They want food, shelter, and clothing. They want jobs to earn these basic requirements and to give purpose to their lives. They want public services for health, education and a reasonable environment. They want a little left over for color and individuality. And they want societies which put these things above extravagant consumption and waste.

"These things can be had — and indeed have been had in the past — without the technology of the so-called post-industrial society. But "If the goal of society is to achieve basic social needs, this will depend on a political commitment.

If the goal of society is to achieve minimum standards for all people, the problem of technology falls into a different perspective and the issue of fair distribution disappears. Public debate then revolves around methods and systems. The first priorities of industry will then be to supply the technology and plant to make these basic products available at

the lowest possible cost and employing the maximum amount of labor without excessive centralization."

"In the patterns of urbanization, as in industrialization, we are again caught by the false model of the more advanced countries... Consciously or unconsciously, we have accepted that their urban experience would be duplicated by us as an inevitable consequence of the industrialization process. But once again, theory has not worked out in practice."

"In Europe and North America, urbanization was accomplished by an absolute decline in rural population, while urban pressures were ameliorated by the continued high level of mortality, emigration abroad or into empty lands, and the great new demand for industrial employment."

"Despite some differences by region, this pattern is not reoccurring in the developing world. Our cities are growing very rapidly and completely without regards to the needs of industrial labor. The cities are here before the factories, while the nature of industry itself has changed to a form which greatly reduces the need for human labor. Meanwhile, in most of the developing countries rural population continues to grow.

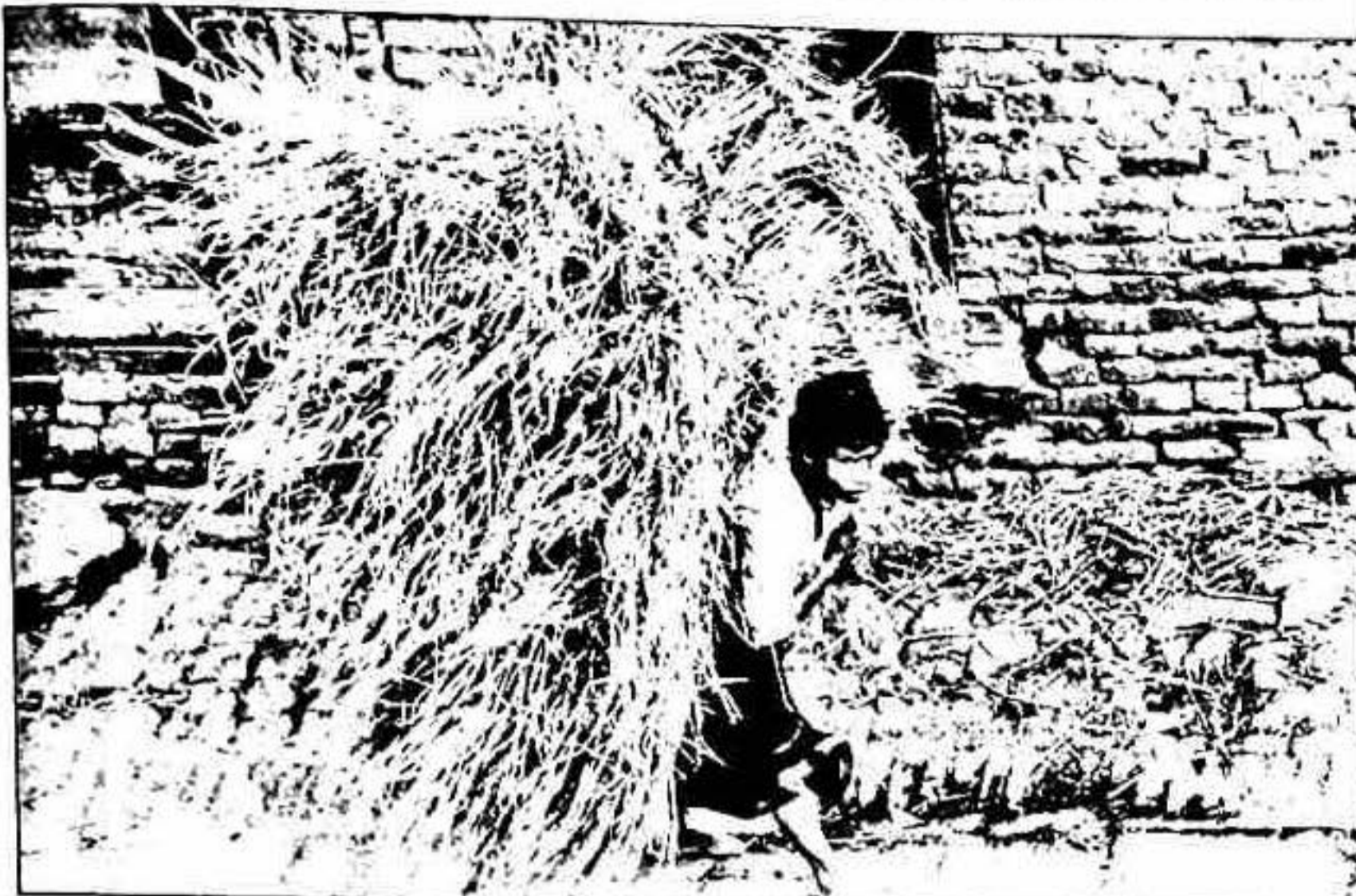
"Urban solutions in the developing world will call for a completely different relationship between rural areas for which there is no model in the industrialized world today."

"The more one looks at the Habitat Conference, the clearer it becomes that this is an opportunity to re-evaluate every element of our economic and social organization, and especially to go beyond the macro-economic aspects to review the basic unfulfilled needs and desires of the masses of humanity."

"We are not helpless. Far from reaching the end of our inventiveness, we could now be on the threshold of new renaissance."

"Answers won't come easily... But there is one factor that can steel our resolve. We cannot go on as we are today."

Women and Habitat



In many of the underdeveloped countries women, in addition to the role of motherhood, do much of the heavy manual labor. Only in a very few countries have women entered the planning profession. Shown: woman planner in Singapore

"What we are seeing are man-built environments. And I stress the word 'MAN-built' — women haven't had any say in what's been done at all. Men have put up a lot of mirror-built structures, and they never stopped to consider that half of the world's population isn't left handed," famed anthropologist Dr. Margaret Mead told delegates to the 1975 Joint Conference of the Community Planning Association of Canada and the American Society of Planning Officials who met in Vancouver last month.

As the United Nations, through the Conference on Human Settlements, assess the impacts of soaring population, industrialization, the rapid change from a rural to an urban society with all the attendant stresses on the environment, on the fabric of societies and economic systems, every effort is being made to bring women into the planning process of the Conference which has as its ultimate stratagem "A Better Way to Live". "We are doing our best to see that women and women as professionals are represented in Habitat," reports Secretary-General Enrique Peñalosa. "But unfortunately, except in a few countries, women have not yet made their way in any large numbers into male-dominated fields of architecture and city planning. We hope the Habitat Conference will encourage more women to take an active role in the building science of human settlements. Where and how people live, how conditions can be made better is, after all, the reason for the UN Conference on Human Settlements. Women should have an equal, if not major role, in helping to change the present unsatisfactory patterns and in helping to solve the staggering problems facing us all," continued Peñalosa. In a letter to governments, Peñalosa specifically asked that women be included in the delegations to Vancouver.

To make sure that the viewpoints of women, along with their particular expertise, are represented in the Habitat planning process, Ms. Mary Kolensteiner, Director of the Institute of Philippines Culture, will be on hand in Teheran from June 14 to 19 when the regional economic commission for Asia and the Pacific Area meets to further discuss the plans for Habitat. Ms. Gloria Knight, of the Urban Development Corporation of Jamaica, will comment and offer critiques at the meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America in Caracas from June 21 to 26.

Elsewhere in the preparatory process world-renowned economist Lady Jackson (Barbara Ward) is authoring an overview of the problems in human settlements in a forthcoming book.

A similar book on the human environment which she coauthored with René Dubos was a major contribution to the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972.

One can be sure, too, that Margaret Mead, a familiar figure with her walking stick at the Stockholm conference, will be on hand in Vancouver to see to it that women's interests are represented at Habitat Forum, a parallel conference of non-governmental organizations

which will take place at the same time as the official conference and will make its impact upon the delegates.

Rosalind W. Harris, President of the Non-Governmental Organizations, will chair the Habitat Forum Committee on which Mrs. Christina Nsekela from Tanzania is also serving. The greatest burden in seeing that women's viewpoints are made known to the official delegates at Vancouver will undoubtedly fall on the NGO community, whereby women in many countries and capacities are organized in cohesive groups.

This participatory role of women in Habitat is far from ideal but the problem is not being overlooked. Ms. Heivi Sipilä, secretary-general of International Women's Year, rightfully contends that the giving of roles and opportunities to women, in addition to motherhood, is a prerequisite to the solution of many of the world's problems, including and especially those of human settlements. A priority of International Women's Year is to ensure the full integration of women into the total development effort.

Despite rather dismal statistics showing the number of women engaged in the development process, the number of women entering the planning profession has increased in recent years. And in some coun-

tries, Greece for example, close to half of all architectural students are now women. About 40% of the urban planning students at Columbia University, in New York, are now women. Etalve Carter, Associate Dean of Columbia's School of Architecture, states: "Women have a very appropriate orientation to planning as being socially oriented and interested to meet social needs as opposed to technological ends." Jackle Leavitt, a PhD student in urban planning, hopes to initiate a seminar on "Women in Planning" to explore ways in which planning can emancipate rather than incarcerate women.

The study of human settlements is an important interdisciplinary science of the future. It deals with the *total relationship* of every element that makes up the total picture of how and where we live.

"I heartily support the goals of the Conference on International Women's Year and strongly urge that women take an active role in the Habitat Conference. Women statistically comprise half the world's population. We need their thinking and active support in reaching our goals. It is incumbent upon women to speak up," Peñalosa said.

Habitat Featured at Annual Meetings and World Congresses of NGO

The 22nd World Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities, meeting in Teheran, Iran, in April, was addressed by Habitat Secretary-General Enrique Peñalosa who told the congress that "Integrated economic and financial planning, areas formerly left to a spontaneous process or the unrestricted decisions of private capital must be implemented lest the warnings of the 19th century prophets that industry might flourish but man decay be fulfilled..." To increase awareness among local authorities who must grapple with the problems of human settlements on a day-to-day basis IULA has published a 122 page report on "New Patterns of Urbanization" to which more than 30 nations contributed country reports.

The Secretary-General of IULA, J.G. van Putten, is also chairman of the NGO Committee for Habitat which is charged with the planning of the program of non-governmental organizations, to be called Habitat Forum, to be held in Vancouver.

The International Assembly of NGO's meeting last month in Nairobi, Kenya, was timed to coincide with the third annual meeting of the Governing Council of the UN Environment Program. Some 40 NGO representatives joined in a discussion of Habitat in a meeting of the working group on Human Settlements, chaired by Kazimir Killen, of the World Peace Council, in Helsinki, Finland. Among specific recommendations made to the Environmental Liaison Board was the institution of programs to aid NGO representatives from developing countries to go to Vancouver. It was further suggested during the meeting that any demonstration projects or other contributions to the Vancouver conference by NGOs should concentrate on actual experiences which could be evaluated, and that there should be greater attention paid to rural settlements than was apparent in early documentation.

In May, the world congress of the International Union of Architects was held in Madrid, and was addressed by Duccio Turin, Deputy Secretary General of Habitat, who called upon the architects assembled to play a greater role in the design and planning of human settlements. An international symposium of three IUA working groups has worked out details for a special Habitat-oriented publication on "Contemporary Housing". (For more information write to A. Rotchegov, 3 rue Chichousséva, Moscow, K.1, USSR).

In April the Joint Planning Conference of the Community Planning Association of Canada and the American Society of Planning Officials was held in Vancouver. The theme of the conference, held in Canada once every ten years, was "Sharing Space: From Neighborhood to Continent". Some 3000 planners attended. The program covered Habitat in detail and enthusiasm for the UN conference was so high that Canadian staff people upped their estimates of how many NGO's could be expected at Vancouver. "Every one of the 3000 planners here is a good prospect to come," said one observer. But the planners, rather than encouraging all the members to go back to Vancouver or organizing some special display or activity for the UN conference, decided it would be more useful to have a small group of experts monitor the UN conference. For planners who do want to come and see for themselves a "Planner's Guide to North America" will be prepared by the North American regional section of the International Federation of Housing and Planning. This group got together at the April conference to prepare a statement for submission to the Habitat secretariat which is now being redrafted and will be circulated to the participating organizations.

A popular rendez-vous during the planners conference was a display area on Habitat created by architecture and planning students from the University of British Columbia. The display provided a preview of what some of the "alternatives" at Habitat are likely to be — a slide show of life in a Chinese commune, a nostalgic display of the "Spirit of Stockholm, a 'rap centre' of funky furniture.

Some NGO plans for the Habitat Conference.

A week-long seminar of 50 to 100 people of the International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres. For details write: Mr. Jean M. Taylor-Soular, Secretary-General, Mallebaan 45, Utrecht, Netherlands.

Technical meeting of the International Association for Bridge and Structure Engineering during Habitat Conference. For details: Dr. William Henderson, 48 India Street, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH3 6HD.

One-day seminar of International Union of Forestry Research Organizations to look into "the establishment of research programs to enhance the management of trees and other vegetation near human settlements". For details: John W. Andersen, Professor of Urban Forestry, University of Toronto, 203 College Street, Toronto, Canada M5S 1A1.

One-week conference of Environmental Design Research Association during week immediately preceding Habitat Conference. More than 1000 will attend. For details: Professor R. Seaton, Department of Environmental Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada V6T 1Y2.

Seminar for 90 participants in Social Worker Education and Human Settlements during second week of Habitat Conference. Write: Professor R.B. Splane, School of Social Work, University of British Colum-

bia, Vancouver Canada V6T 1Y2.

* Symposium "To Shelter Humanity", Nov. 10-11, 1975. Sponsored by International Development Conference and American University, Washington, D.C. For leaders in fields of housing, environment and community development. Write Prof. Darrell Randall, American University, Washington D.C. 20016

* World Congress On Space Enclosures, July 4-9, 1976, Montreal, Canada. For scholars and practitioners of various disciplines to discuss design, construction and performance of space enclosures. Contact Dr. F. Fazio, WCOSE — 76, Systems Building Centre, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8.

NB. Meeting rooms and living accommodations will be very hard to find for independent groups during the first two weeks of June 1976, but there is still space before and after the two-week period of the UN conference. Habitat Forum is expected to start on or about May 27, 1976. Groups interested in holding their own meetings are urged to write ACSOH (Association In Canada Serving Organization for Human Settlements) without delay. Address: P.O. Box 48260 Bentall Centre, Vancouver, Canada.

Statement of Secretary General Waldhelm to the Regional Preparatory Conferences

I would like to express my appreciation to all the participants of the regional preparatory conferences for Habitat for the interest and support of their governments. The degree of success of any intergovernmental conference held under the auspices of the United Nations is always a consequence of the seriousness and determination of the preparatory process, nationally and regionally, on the part of governments and the organs of the international community.

At Vancouver, in June of 1976, we will be coming together to study and seek solutions for basic problems of a global nature. As a result of population growth and migration into the cities, the social fabric of every country will face unprecedented strains in the years ahead, in both urban and rural areas. Within, and among, nations, we must find new ways to meet these challenges. In this effort, every nation can learn — and every nation can teach.

We believe that Habitat can bring a message of hope to the world. The complex issues and the answers which we endeavour to find are of direct interest to many millions. We can and must find better ways to organize our human settlements. In your meeting, I wish you every success.



Film Workshops Held for Habitat Audio-visual Programme

Film producers from developing countries met in Mexico City, Addis Ababa and Bangkok last month to lay the groundwork for national participation in the audio-visual programme of Habitat.

Some 20 film producers attended each of the three regional workshops organized by the United Nations. A team of international experts, headed by Andreas Fugelsang, senior Habitat information officer, presented a concentrated, practical guide to film and slide production. But the emphasis was on active participation of the film producers who were nominated by their Governments to attend.

Participants were introduced to the substantive issues likely to be discussed at Vancouver and learned how the issues relate to the audio-visual presentations. Technical specifications and methodology of presentation were demonstrated. But more importantly, participants divided into small groups and prepared, in collaboration with the Habitat technical team, scripts or storylines and a production plan for each country's presentation.

To date 125 film and slide presentations have been proposed for Habitat, ranging from agrovilles in Brazil to new traffic systems in Japan. The audio-visual programme is designed to be a global learning experience but it is also a great challenge. For the first time an audio-visual programme will play a major role in an international conference. As such it is a technical and organizational enterprise of great magnitude and will make new and special demands on those who are involved.

To facilitate the production of national audio-visual presentations in the field, a group of six audio-visual experts has been assembled to aid those countries requesting additional help. The group is made up of nationals from Sweden, Yugoslavia, United States, Rhodesia, Senegal and Argentina.

Enrique Peñalosa, secretary-general of the conference, recently said: "We must prove at Habitat that solutions exist. The real problems of mankind are not scarcity of resources but of organization and political will. The film and slide presentations must prove what can be done to improve conditions of life for all people."