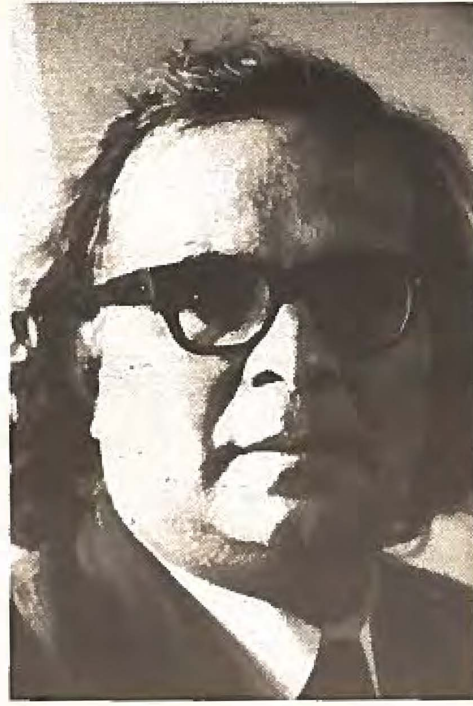


CHARLES S. ASCHER, from New York, says the Forum has done two things for him — build up lines of communication and focus attention on the very serious issues of Human Settlements. He represents the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, the International Union of Local Authorities, the International Federation for Housing and Planning, the Eastern Regional Organisation for Public Administration, the Inter-American Planning Society and the International Centre for Local Credit. "One of the sad things about Forum has been those who came here with simplistic solutions to the world's problems. Follow me and we'll solve everything. It takes a long time to change people's habits. I'm sorry too, Habitat has been treated as another meeting on women, another meeting on armaments. The U.N. has other organs for this. We should have stuck to Habitat where there are problems enough. Penalosa's assessment was very fair when he said 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."



HAZEL JOHNS is from Burma. She works for a number of ecumenical groups involved with development including the United Church Board for World Ministries, Heffer Project International, Technoserve, Meals for Millions and Codel. "I think the whole Forum has been a marvellous educational experience. It shows one the diversity of the problems and issues. But if I wasn't involved in this kind of work I would throw my hands up and say it's impossible as there's so much to absorb. I would have been helped more if I had really realized what the Forum was going to be about. It was basically an educational process. I came here with the idea we'd be more involved with the conference and not merely be stepchildren."



DR. SUDHENDU MUKHERJEE came to Habitat armed with his 200-page report on the 10,000 pavement dwellers who live on the streets of Calcutta. He's deputy director of planning for the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority and says he came to Habitat looking for solutions and ideas "to improve me and sustain my energy to continue the work. I learned many things and talked to many people. It was in the workshops that NGOs got down to details. There was too much philosophy in the plenary sessions. There were many idealised approaches from NGOs representing small groups. Henceforward NGOs should be truly representative of national groups. Not much will have been achieved at Habitat unless the follow-up is there. The U.N. is failing in its objective of stopping war and preserving peace. At the least it should do some practical things, like Human Settlements, and set target dates for project completion."



M.K. SEN (Malaysia): "The main value of the Conference lay in the opportunity it gave representatives of one country to compare their problems and experience with those of others; to see where they were similar and in which ways they differed. Many recommendations put forward are not ideal solutions for Malaysia, but Habitat will set the pace for planning at all levels throughout the Third World where population growth is far outrunning the capacity to build houses. The Forum has been an extremely lively area of debate and although its proposals may not have an immediate impact on decision-making, the discussions will be of at least as much use in the long run as those in the main conference."

Some delegates say it's a success — maybe

THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS conference is drawing to an end and most delegates of the 131 participating countries seem to agree the talks have achieved some degree of success. A few have written it off as a complete and utter failure.

Today is the last scheduled day of the conference, though it is very likely to continue at least into tomorrow. Yesterday the scheduled plenary meeting was postponed till late evening. Speculation about the cause of delay varied from "delay in translating documents" to "obviously political", as far as delegates' comments went. Clearly the latter was nearer the mark than the former.

There were at least three identifiable causes of contention, all related. Two of them were amendments by developing countries — Panama on its own, and 20 Middle Eastern and African countries together — on the report tabled Wednesday by Committee III. This committee was given three sections of the Recommendations for National Action as its brief. They were: shelter, infrastructure and services; land; and public participation. It submitted a total of 31 recommendations of which all but one were accepted by plenary.

The problematical one was on Land Resource Management, which contained three paragraphs and five sub-paragraphs. Panama and the 20-country group each tabled an additional paragraph. They read as follows:-

● Panama: — "Land is a natural resource fundamental to the economic, social and political development of peoples and likely before governments must maintain full substitutional framework and exercise complete mended that at globe, such land with a view to this should involve development of human governmental bodies. This is not the whole of the the pale spirit of Vancouver is to have a substance, the work of the Human Settlements body must be wisely and deliberately farmed out (together with all the help that can be given) to sub-national groups currently involved in the improvement of settlements. It is they who know the jobs. It is they who know how to get it done. The time for recruitment begins as the time for reports is over.

policies that violate these principles must be condemned."

The third sticking point, also an addition, was moved by Cuba and was to be inserted in the recommendations of Committee II in the section dealing with Settlement Planning. It too dealt with the issue of land under the control of "another power" and, where the first two were clearly aimed at the US and Israel respectively, could be applied to either, or indeed some other country.

It was during the long hours while the heads of delegations were in closed meetings, trying to sort out the three thorny issues, that other delegates found time to discuss the achievements of the past days. They all prefaced their remarks with the familiar proviso that talks are not yet over and spectacular success was still possible.

Few delegates were prepared to say anything if they or their countries were to be identified. Only one (Tunisia), of four who said the talks were nothing short of abject failure, was prepared to even mention his delegation.

Thirty seven delegates from nearly as many national delegations, and a small number non-government groups given special representation at the talks, agreed the conference was at least a qualified success. One, from a southeast Asian country, who insisted he was speaking for himself and therefore could not allow his country to be named, said it was "an unqualified success."

He added, however, there was probably too much concentration on the cities and too little with "our type of country and the rural environment." He would have preferred, he said, "if the talks had been more technical automobiles," he said, "because we can movement began in the '60s. He explained and fall of the automobile, just like the west. Empire."

recommendations for national action, in particular, were not specific but offered many choices. This was a good thing. He did not accept the view that urban problems had overshadowed the discussion almost to the exclusion of the rural, a view which has been much aired. Devahastin thought the two subjects had been given "pretty equally balanced" consideration.

Antonio Izquiero, a Colombian Member of Parliament, said everybody had learned from the experience of others and from seeing films and capsules about solving problems in other lands. In particular, they had learned about land reform and urban development. He said there certainly was, a bias at the Vancouver talks in favour of the urban over the rural sector, but he did not think it mattered too much because many countries, like Colombia, already knew the countryside must be uplifted if chaos is to be averted.

Most Third World delegates, however, said they were disappointed their serious approach to human settlements as part of the New International Economic Order only received "lip service" from most of the rich countries. Many delegates said the rich had been acting like aristocrats at the same table with landless peasants.

Ibrahim Mohamed Ali of the Non-Government Organisation of African Trade Unions (OATU) said: "They have been talking two languages. Even the ordinary citizens of the rich and poor countries think differently. One thinks of these second car and second house, the other about basic things like food, water and some kind of shelter. We should be prepared to suffer. If we do we can make the rich suffer too. Persuasion has failed so let us all suffer and learn. After all, in our countries, we will only be extending the degree of suffering a little. Let us see how the rich take it."

But he did grant, as did the others, the conference has been worthwhile — if for different reasons, for different people. The have become clearer.

COMMITTEE 2

ALTHOUGH the great majority of speakers at the plenary stressed the need of greater priority for rural development, the draft Recommendations for National Action prepared by the Habitat Secretariat show an overwhelming urban bias.

The numerous amendments to the draft were prompted by a variety of concerns, from the special procedures of federal states and questions of megalopolis in heavily industrialized countries, to problems of basic health services in developing countries. There was therefore no opportunity to remedy adequately the emphasis on urban planning in the original draft or to consider in detail the fundamental reasons for rural-urban migration in developing countries. In fact, much of the debate was disjointed.

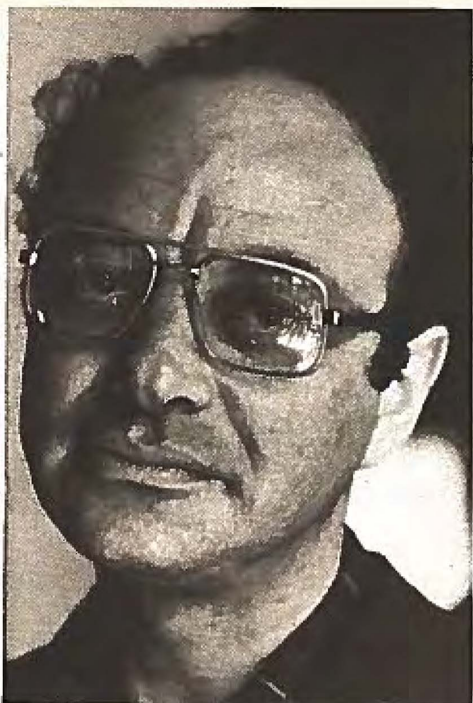
Certain trends that did emerge in the amendment prove, however, there is now greater stress — in theory if not so far in practice — on public participation in settlements planning. The massive slum clearance and urban renewal schemes that have gutted the heart of many European cities are recognized as costly disasters. The whole question of population planning — both distribution and net growth — has been given prominence. The problems of the poor, the disadvantaged and women are given lip service, although no steps are envisaged to eliminate widespread discrimination suffered by these groups.

The debates in the technical committees have been detailed, largely excluding the controversial issues of the Middle East and the new economic order which have plagued Committee 1. The introduction of film capsules have been of major interest, and Committee 2 is recommending this to any future conference.

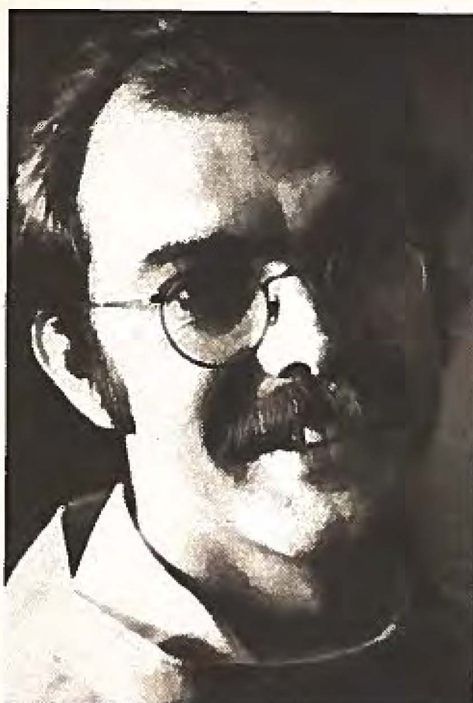
OOPS, poor George! The Chairman of Committee 1, Father George Muhoho, absentmindedly left his briefcase near a door on the second floor of the Holiday Inn yesterday. Security found it and judged it sufficiently suspicious for them to clear the whole floor and further delay the deliberations of hard-pressed Committee 1. Muhoho apologised to delegates for the inconvenience he had caused but had extracted a promise from security men not to divulge the contents of his briefcase. Was it sandwiches George?



HELENE BEYELER, from Switzerland is with the Fourth World Movement, the group that's promoting the rights of poor and underprivileged persons in both developed and developing nations. One thing she's gained from Habitat is an invitation from Mexico to attend the opening next December, of a new university devoted to research on development. "Habitat was a chance for us to meet people near to us in our struggle, with whom we could meet on a universal basis. We were never working before now with developing countries. There is a hard-core poverty group in every country, even in Switzerland, and we're concerned with them as they are the mirror of justice in the society. Now is the time where we can share our experiences in Switzerland and hopefully influence the developing countries so they do not forget this hard core poverty group.



E.L. BERG (Netherlands): "Habitat is very important; it is the first time that these issues have been discussed on a world scale and it may be decades before such a wide field is covered again. Tension between people's expectations and the scale of the problems is growing and solutions are lagging far behind. It is essential to reach a consensus and too much time and energy is spent on extraneous political issues (like the position of Israel) which have no direct bearing on the conference."



GRAHAM SEARLE, of Earth Resources Research Ltd., has made himself invaluable to many NGOs for his morning and evening briefing sessions on conference activities. "Forum has exhausted me. In many ways it's been too big. It gives the impression of being a bit chaotic with 40 things happening at one time. Habitat Forum has been successful for the very few, those like Self Help Housing who've been getting on with the job in workshop sessions. For many it's been very interesting, but the people you don't see are those getting on with the work. It's the old argument of empty vessels making the most noise. The conference document on international cooperation promises a formalisation of NGOs at the inter-governmental level. At the national and regional level, NGOs should use existing organisations and not create another bureaucracy. If there's a spirit of Vancouver it really should be the mobilization of the thousands of self contained groups to get on with the work, while the governments get the tools so they can get on with it."



JAMES BARBER

WE'RE ALL THE THIRD WORLD

"If you leave it to them they will crochet the world the color of gooseshit." Jacques Brel was not an engineer, not a planner, certainly not a bureaucrat. He was of the sub-species poet, a little man with a guitar and a collection of songs, a seriously concerned man who had the courage to leave his family business (appropriately enough the manufacture of little boxes and become an active humanist.

At first he used to play in small cafes, for nothing, for half a dozen people. And slowly the rest of Paris discovered that the sad songs of the poor were a luxury they could afford, that songs of love, of political involvement, anti-killing songs, songs begging for a little human dignity — these were a cheap way of paying dues, of compensating yourself for the little nagging guilt that sits on your shoulder at the morning mirror and says "what are you going to do about it?"

The rest of the world discovered the same thing. The theatre (and it is invariable the well-heeled of the world who can afford theatre tickets) is an easier penance than any god ever exacted. And it is more distant from a theatre seat. You don't have to touch the poor, nor smell them. You don't have to actually suffer the exploitation, experience injustice, death, crucifixion, rape, torture or even love. You can watch it, and smile afterwards at supper, have another drink, convince yourself that things are not so bad as they seem, that tomorrow will be another day, that you yourself will always have your youth and your teeth, a chequebook and the problem of left-overs.

So Jacques Brel became internationally famous. Ten years ago, while the innocent of the developed countries were buying guitars and singing "We Shall Overcome" (and, for that matter, actually believing it) the more sophisticated were tittering at Brel's famous line. The newspapers wouldn't print it, because the colour of gooseshit might offend the rose-coloured sensibilities of THEM, the people with the crochet hooks.

THEY are going home, the conference is over, \$30 m. has been spent, there is a little hope, the first billion has been pledged for the agricultural fund and Barbara Ward is optimistic. But she says there is no problem facing the human race which can be solved without people first talking about it.

But if there is one thing obvious from this Habitat conference, it is that THEY are not the people, not the anonymous majority, not the faint-voiced impotents whose paper flags fly so brightly and so short. THEY are not the thinkers, not the visionaries, nor the dreamers of dreams for the brave new world THEY so regularly tell us is just around the corner.

THEY, when offered passion, counter with patience. THEY quote books of etiquette instead of letters of commitment. THEY dilute energy with procedural quibbles, THEY reluctantly in the strange affected dignity of Victorian heroines, eternally virgin — shuffle papers instead of priorities.

THEY cannot move, because the system must be maintained, and the system is profit, not the profit of the people which counts itself in the coinage of dignity, but the bottom line balance sheet profit of a few individuals, or worse, the anonymous, impersonal "we-are-not-responsible" profits of the multi-national.

Poets alone cannot save the world. Neither can THEY. Were the world to receive a message tomorrow from outer space, a declaration of war. THEY would immediately organise, THEY would come together, THEY would have money, resources, time and energy to allow us to fight. And keep THEM secure.

WE are all the Third World. What Habitat failed to do was adequately identify THEY as the enemy.

MACHINES BRING A WHOLE CULTURE WITH THEM

DEVELOPMENT has bi-passed eighty percent of the people in the Third World, and inappropriate technology is largely to blame, according to George McRobie of the Intermediate Technology Development Unit in Britain.

He told the Forum yesterday that if a technology can be widely reproduced from a country's own resources, it is appropriate. If

it can't, it dooms the country to dependence on technology imported from the developed world.

McRobie said developing countries need a technology which is designed not to be labour saving but capital saving. He said there were three ways to design appropriate technology: upgrade traditional methods and make them more productive; scale

down large and complex machines, stripping them of their labour saving content, or inventing afresh. He noted simple technology is not primitive and requires high levels of engineering skills.

As Hassan Fathy said, "we need to provide technology for people outside the money economy. They need to run their labour into something useful."

The official conference, he said, had talked about squeezing technology out of the multi-national corporations. But McRobie warned that technology is not culture free, and the complex machinery of the developed world comes equipped with own ethos.

Ray Wijewardena of the Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria, described how appropriate technology is increasing food production in tropical climates and relieving the drugery of conventional farming.

With the population growing at more than two percent a year, food production needs to increase at least three percent a year. He said obstacles to increased productivity included the cycle of heavy rainfall and drought each year, poor water-holding qualities of tropical soil, erosion associated with conventional ploughing, weeds, and loss of fertility requiring fallow periods.

Wijewardena said farmers using his technology had gone back to the Roman system of only harvesting the grain. The stocks were left in the field as organic matter to build up the soil.

Justin Samersekera of Siranka blames colonial regimes for destroying indigenous technology. He said that while the British ruled Ceylon, bricks were actually being imported from England. The cities in many developing countries still look to the former colonial powers for guidance, and imitated the technology of the west.

Bill Ellis, an American physicist who coordinated the appropriate technology workshops at the Forum, said in fact that twenty eight sessions had concentrated on appropriate technologies for the developed world, which also needed a new approach leading to low-cost, self-reliant living.

Self-help housing 'is not just something for the poor'

"SELF-HELP is not building your own home, it's not housing for the poor, it's housing for everybody in all contexts," John Turner told a Forum wrap-up on self-help housing yesterday.

"Self-help housing means the control people have over their own lives by doing things for themselves and controlling the organisations which supply them with the necessities of life."

The English architect and planner said this is particularly applicable to the richer countries. "Here there are serious signs of structural decay that threatens services."

Turner said the premise of self-help housing's nine-day symposium is that systems don't work. "The real issue is the incompetence of central organisations to supply housing needs. It is a key political issue — can we organise a planet by centralising technologies into pyramidal structures? The answer is no, we can't."

Increasing centralisation is incapable of supplying housing basics to all but a few and at a very great cost, Turner said. "We must find alternatives for the rich who are locked into technological systems which are inefficient." We must look for ways to organise this planet in non-exploitative ways."

Turner said the self-help concept was not anti-government or anti-large companies. "Local control depends on government legislation, planning and administration. There is no local control unless there is access to basic resources with which to

build, and for that you need government. The principle of local control is central legislation and planning."

He said the groups was trying to change the role of government because "private organisations are not capable of finding satisfactory housing that people can afford."

"The governments tend to neglect the central issue of making land and finances available. It will take government action to take the land out of the speculator's market."

"The government must support local control. Government policies must change from substitution for what local control can do — and essentially stifling local control — to policies of support."

Bruce Fairbairn, of Vancouver, told the audience the symposium has decided to form regional centres for the exchange of information. The first centre will be in Vancouver and he hoped a newsletter would be sent out within the next month.

Fairbairn said the network was dedicated to decentralisation of authority, a redistribution of wealth and proper use of available materials. He said the nine-day symposium had concluded with basic statements on what self-determination means, and how to achieve control of land and finance.

"Housing must be considered a symptom of the political and economic imbalance existing between nations. As an integral part of this system, housing action can change that balance."

Fairbairn said more information was available from Box 4134, Vancouver.

WHO'S really interested in Habitat? Sally Swing Shelley, liaison officer between the UN Information Centre and the Forum, told the NGO briefing yesterday morning that 116 governments had registered at Habitat, and 160 non-governmental organisations.

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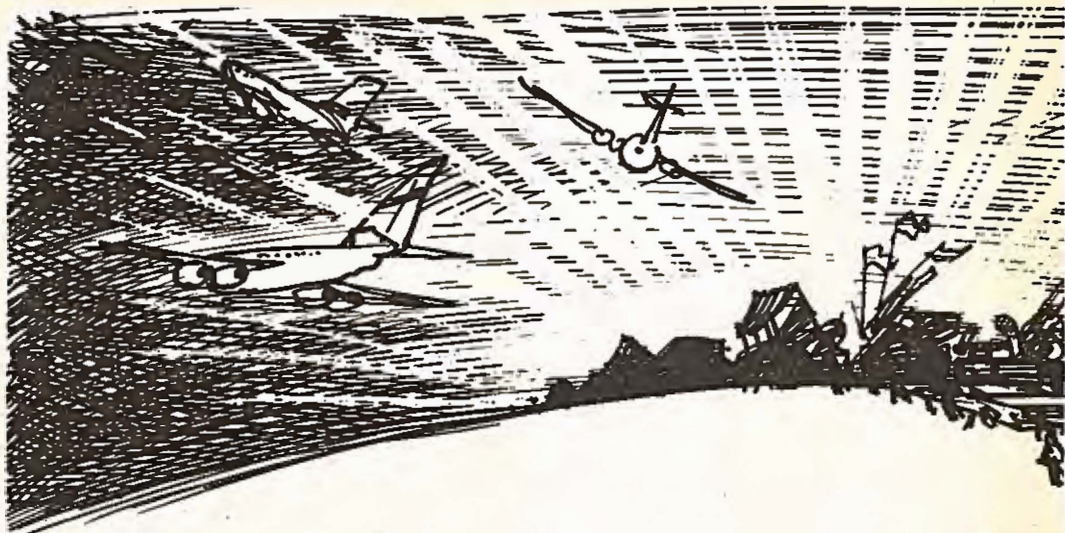
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WILL HABITAT EVER BE GIVEN A HOME?

THE Habitat Conference will break today without agreement on the one substantive question before it for the last two weeks: what institutional memorial will it leave behind and what mechanism will be proposed to the General Assembly, either to improve or replace the present set of world arrangements to help governments adopt the conference lessons?

The Group of 77 is divided over the location of bricks and mortar as to whether or not the focal point of a decentralised human settlements institution should stay an integral part of the environment, or whether, (because enough governments want the prestige and pickings of a new centre), it will be sundered geographically from UNEP, probably to fall under the empire of its architects and developers.

The WEO group (West European and Other — the Other being the rest of the rich West) are with the exception of France and Canada apparently thumbs down on the cohesive environmental approach. Dominated as their delegations are by the ministries and interests of housing and urban development, they favour (if they favour anything), a new human settlements institution which would either override or replace the UN's feeble but self-aggrandising office of Housing, Building and Planning.

A Swedish minister summed it up after the Water Walk when he asked, "What has water got to do with human settlements?"

It's the old story of divide and ruin. The case for keeping a close link between the UN Environment Programme and settlements is not the case for an environmental empire building on the basis of centralisation. Everyone in Committee 1 is agreed the new or improved organ must be decentralised. But where should its coordination centre be?

The answer is it doesn't really matter at this stage. What is critical is the institution be governed by the same national departments who speak for the environment as a whole in UN councils — that is, in the UN Environment Program Governing Council.

It could be located Nairobi, Teheran, Mexico City or Timbuktu. The connection with UNEP's so far rather inept secretariat in Nairobi need not be geographical. But it's answerability to the same set of governmental departments is crucial.

Blame is being liberally sprinkled for this sorry state of indecision: on western countries for a generally shrugging and non-committal attitude to the institutional agenda item during the conference; on the Third World bloc for its concern with preserving the appearance of verbal solidarity without getting down to serious bargaining over a stand; and on the Habitat Secretariat for failing to give a firm lead during the Conference.

The UN Secretariat's passivity over a home for Habitat is inevitably being contrasted with the positive lead taken by Maurice Strong and his team over what institutional arrangements were to follow the Stockholm Human Environment Conference.

The UN document on the Habitat institutional question was hurriedly put together this spring — under considerable pressure from Canadians who were worried the issue was being ducked. The resulting "two approach" line of the UN documen-

tion, basically the environmental give-Habitat-to UNEP line and the alternative view of the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, that Habitat is still just housing, city planning and urban infrastructure development, did little to help. The Habitat secretariat hoped the balance of governmental opinion would emerge early and sharply enough to get down to details. This hope has not materialised.

Could a clear position have been produced in Vancouver for endorsement in the fall by the UN General Assembly? Perhaps, if Conference Secretary Enrique Penalosa had really pitched in, as Maurice Strong did at Stockholm arranging breakfast meetings with key delegates, constantly cross checking and manoeuvring with a definite objective in mind. Instead, Penalosa chose to be publically visible, attending the Forum and the cocktail party round. Now, unless a last minute miracle is pulled off, the original draft proposal will go to the Assembly with a mound of resolutions, amendments and reservations filed by various countries.

If this occurs, it will be seen by many as a major failure of organization and will in a conference more than usually reluctant to get beyond vague rhetoric.

Canada perhaps had a chance yesterday to use its voice and financial muscle as host to coax a decision between the architectural and the environmental interests. But Canada's own slight leaning to the environmental view has been offset by the preponderance of housing and urban development department officials among the delegations. It's as if the Stockholm Conference did not happen.

Here the Habitat Secretariat cannot be blamed, for it had no say on the critical matter of which officials from which departments were sent to Vancouver.

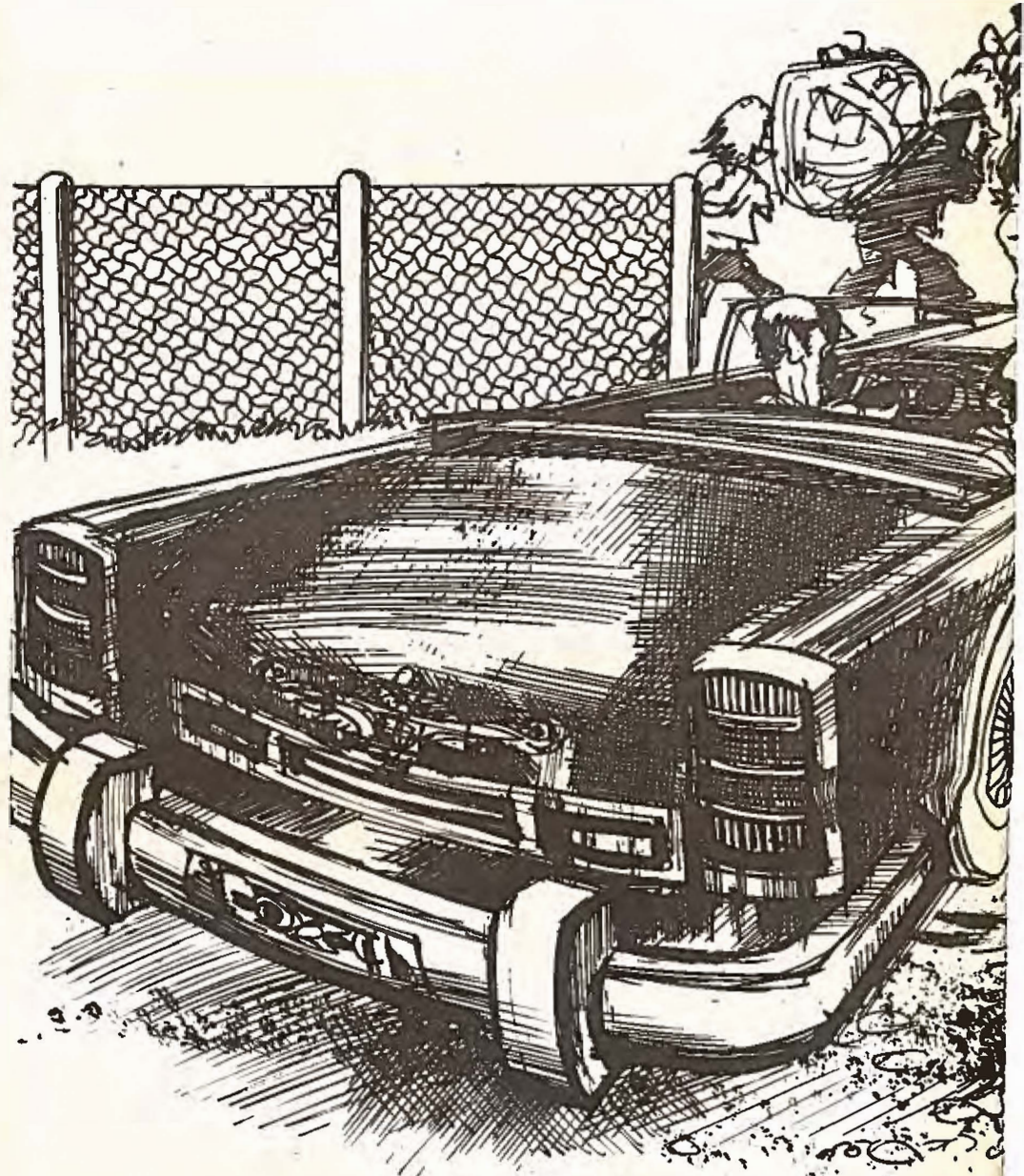
What seems essential now is that after the Habitat discussion has ground to a halt in the lethargy of too many events, too many late night sessions and too much audio-visual over-communications, that a small group of respected people put together a document that takes into account the resolutions and reservations expressed in Committee 1. The group should do in checking out with governments a consensus so a position can be arrived at between now and the opening of the General Assembly in September.

Who better to do this than members of the UN's group of 25, who, far more than the housing and development experts, understand the workings, politics and needs of the UN system?

The Group of 25's well-received 1975 report on re-structuring the UN is languishing for want of intergovernmental attention. Perhaps handing the group the task of offering a single concrete proposal for finding Habitat a home may bring the issues and proposals already laid before governments back into focus.

Ironically, such a procedure would follow one of the group's report recommendations on UN reform try to solve ongoing multilateral problems in small, ongoing consultative groups. Why not give the ideas a try here and now?

Canada could take a badly needed lead in proposing something along these lines before the Conference closes.



Lots of words great deal

WORDS cost money, runs the old adage, and the Habitat marathon appears from rough *Jericho* calculations to be going to hit the \$42m mark. And from the present state of play, there appears to be no clear idea that the problems of human settlements will bring forth contributions for their solution totalling even a fraction of that amount. Here's the *Jericho* breakdown.

The United Nations has contributed \$2.78m covering the period 1974 - 1976 for the preparatory meetings and for costs of the UN Secretariat running Habitat. UNEP has chipped in \$3m for the audio visual programme. Hosts Canada reckon they will finally have spent over \$18m, more than two-thirds on the setting up of the Conference and less than one third on the participation of their own delegation.

There are 4,500 delegates and observers here for the conference, 1,600 journalists registered and an estimated 3,500 visitors at

the Forum. Assuming they stayed on average 12 days at say a cost of \$50 a day — too high for some who attended the Forum but low for what the rich Arab delegates are paying — that totals a further \$5.76m. But all but 100 had to get here by air from the far flung corners of the earth. Estimating average travel cost at \$500 per head means another \$4.75m.

But we must remember that the 13 countries represented had preliminary meetings in their own countries. About 10 countries produced reports on their own findings and came armed with glossy publicity handouts for distribution here. Say at least another million overall.

There were three important regional meetings before Habitat in Caracas, Cairo and Teheran, with about 100 delegates attending each time. Apart from the cost to host countries, there was travel and living costs for the delegates. *Jericho* feels \$1.5m would be a reasonable estimate.

Backchat



ords and a of money

Other UN agencies produced reports on human settlements problems specifically related to their particular fields which probably cost a further half a million. In addition the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided help to countries on their audio visual productions, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) provided film stock, processing and dubbing facilities. These combined could add a further \$3m. And what is going to happen to all that film? Well, the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the BC government are prepared to contribute a sum which will be matched by the Federal government. Cost? Around \$3.5m.

Then there are some small charges such as the \$70,000 the BC government gave to Forum. We cannot convert the number of free man-hours put into Forum into cash! And then there was the \$350,000 children's

project outside the court in central Vancouver. We are sure we have missed something.

Okay, so what has been contributed for solving the problems which have been endlessly discussed at the Forum, in the committees, at the Plenary, over bars and in hotel suites? The Philippines said they would give a million before they arrived and Madame Marcos confirmed this. Pakistan has said it will throw \$5,000 into the pot, and Jamaica and Kenya are prepared to weigh in with token payments. The only industrialized nation that has even breathed a word about money has been Holland though Canada seems prepared to support some NGO involved project on the problems of cities. Let's be generous and say \$2m. has been mentioned. We leave *Jericho* readers to make the comparison between a POSSIBLE \$2m for projects and an ACTUAL expenditure of around \$42m on the discussions.

Sir:
A LOT of conference delegates and other interesting people will be leaving Vancouver today, with their national reports and other valuable documents still not put into circulation. The distribution centre in Hotel Vancouver has received, for instance, only about one-third of all the national reports that were prepared for Habitat. This is a pity, since these documents clearly contain very worthwhile material for everyone, from architects to writers, who want to go in some depth into the problems faced and work done in particular countries.

One such group of writers has been at Habitat for the Community Planning Association of Canada. They are working on a set of comprehensive (but readable!) books on settlements issues and case-studies, to be published under contract with the Canadian International Development Agency. Given the difficulties of gathering some of the material, they think they have done quite well — but they still need more written material and graphics. (Two rarities that have eluded them are the national reports from Nigeria and Tanzania, but who else has seen them?)

So this is an appeal, as you pack your suitcases and find them overweight, to take out that report or paper you brought all the way from your home country, and send it to this CPAC team. The rearguard of the team, Naomi Duguid, will be at Gage Residence East 15 D until Sunday evening. Otherwise send what you think would be useful to the team coordinator, Bernard Wood in Ottawa at CPAC, 425 Gloucester Street, Ottawa. Thank you very much.

Clyde Sanger

Sir,
Jericho No 2 presented an article on Sao Paulo by Geoffrey Lean. As I am the president of the Metropolitan Planning Enterprise (which is the technical and executive unit of the Metropolitan Planning and Administration System), I would like to bring you additional information.

Sao Paulo is really rich in the sense of being the country's most important production area, but the official funds are insufficient to meet all the region's pressing necessities. This is so true that the mayor of the capital city, Mr. Olavo Setubal, has just proposed legislation to introduce the idea of "created land". This means that the owner of an urban property can only build an area equivalent to the land area he already owns. To build more than that area he must pay the municipality for the extra space he will use. This kind of law has recently been introduced in France and Italy.

The metropolitan area, however, does not consist only of the capital city, but it includes 36 other municipalities very different from one another. The per capita income, for instance, varies from US \$2,400 to \$140. To lessen the differences and to integrate the services, the Federal Government officially instituted in 1973 the metropolitan area with advisory and deliberative boards, an office for metropolitan affairs, a technical and executive unit and a funding unit.

A federal Act determined the services that are considered of metropolitan concern: integrated planning, land use, transport and transportation networks, sanitation particularly water supply, sewers and garbage removal, distribution of piped fuel gas.

Since Brazil is a very large country whose regions differ greatly, the Second National Development Plan identified certain metropolitan areas as regional metropolises and others — Sao Paulo and Rio — as national metropolises. These will be submitted to policies restricting and controlling their growth.

At the same time, the medium sized cities (population 50,000 - 150,000) will have their growth dynamized as a strategic instrument for the reduction of the Greater Sao Paulo's growth rate.

In 1975, an Act of the National Government created the CNPU (National Committee for Urban Policy and Metropolitan Areas), whose function it is to establish the national policies for urban development. This committee is now preparing a land use law, whose objective is the better control of the land division in the suburbs, protecting the water sources and the rural areas.

The Sao Paulo Planning and Administration System is currently working on providing a better water supply for 90 per cent of the population, a sewer system for 70 per cent of the population, and a mass transportation integrated system consisting of subways, electric buses, and suburban railroads.

The Province's Government has also intensified the housing programme providing the poor population with 19 different alternatives for acquiring a house: self construction, group construction, lots with basic services, etc.

Eurico Azevedo

Sir,
Despite my plea for a more comprehensive assessment of Man and the Natural Environment (Forum programme of 31 May), you've let Taghi Farvar get away with his one-sided comment on the malaria eradication programme: "Pesticides had only succeeded in polluting the human environment" (no. 2, p. 2). I want to repeat that this is the sort of statement which will not help us to solve the world's problems. Let us please have all the facts.

One fact is that since malaria eradication was conceived in the late 1940s, tens, maybe hundreds, of millions of lives have been saved and much human misery has been prevented. There has been no single casualty due to DDT-poisoning among the thousands of spraymen who handled the stuff in all these years. Of course, malaria eradication is a conceptual failure which, in its original form, should be phased out to give way to more effective forms of health promotion, including better housing and drinking water. But that is a different way of putting things.

Dr. R. Slooff
Netherlands.

What more could the films do?

ONE senior USA diplomat summed up an extreme but prevalent criticism of the Habitat films when he said that they were "clumsy travelogues", useless in discussion and a waste of money.

Other people argue that the films — in conjunction, perhaps, with an effective Forum — have the potential to shake diplomats, politicians and professional observers and consultants out of their complacency and laziness.

It's not too difficult to see that both are right.

A well-made film does have the potential to shock people. Several so-so films have the same cumulative effect. See the dozen films on self-help without a break and the sight of whole villages turning out to do something for the good of the community is overwhelming, turning that bland, ugly hyphenated word into an idea that is energetic and significant.

Or see a dozen lines of women carrying buckets of water up a rocky hillside (an altogether more impressive sight than Barney Danson and Margaret Trudeau deciding whether or not to carry their buckets on their heads, or even whether to carry them at all). The demand for clean, wholesome water is immediately seen to be the kind of basic demand that needs no further argument. A simple response, but appropriate. One feels that diplomat must be wrong.

But who has seen so many films? Different people have adopted different tactics. Some have chosen a dozen "interesting" countries. Some have looked at the Secretariat's catalogue and picked out a dozen "interesting" films. Some delegations have set up a rota system so that each film has been seen (in theory) by at least one person in the group. Some people have

In camera

watched capsules while others have watched the full-length films. The average seems to have been about a dozen films per person.

The US diplomat who attacked the films for being clumsy travelogues had seen about six capsules and about six full-length films. He had seen the capsules in the Plenary or in committee and the full-length films in the Hyatt Regency's viewing rooms (except for one which he had seen in his hotel on Channel 10). The capsules had not been a success. Most of the pictures had flickered badly, or the sound had failed, and in half of them the audience had seen only "pretty pictures". The films had been better, but he had found it tiring to watch more than two at a time.

Why have some people been shocked and stirred into action while others have been bored? The reason (apart from people's individual attitudes) lies somewhere between the Secretariat's apparent puzzlement about the nature of audiovisual material and how it could contribute to a global, intergovernmental conference and, second, its inexperience in handling film and the resulting technical and management hassles that have dogged the fortnight.

The technical problems are too familiar to anyone who has tried to see a full-length film or capsule. The amateur screenings during the first two days of the Plenary; the failure to provide monitors for the President for the Conference or the speaker's lectern so that neither could see what was on the

screen; the failure to provide a return video link between the Plenary and the control room so that the engineers could see what was happening; the failure to dub each sound-track at the same sound level so that the TV sets had to be re-adjusted for each film and the Hyatt Regency viewing rooms had to be re-designed after the Conference had started; the failure to put a roof on the viewing rooms so that one room's sound-track was often drowned by the neighbouring films or by delegates arguing about a film or the best place to have lunch.

The full list is long. During the fortnight, film-makers have despaired of politicians and politicians have despaired of film-makers.

Someone should have asked — what can films do? Well, like books faces and sex they can do almost anything. But they can do three things really well. They can reveal and provoke; they can catch people's attention and raise their consciousness. Second, they can entertain. Third, they can instruct; but only in a package with written support material and in the context of a planned course.

The Secretariat's "Guidelines for Audio-Visual Presentations" hoped that the

Habitat films would do the first and third. Particularly the third.

We know that a few individual films, or several films seen together, have caught people's attention and shocked them into awareness. It's disappointing but not surprising that most of the people who have let themselves go in this way have not been the official delegates but rather observers, journalists, forum participants and film-makers.

The Secretariat's second objective has been reached much less often. Instructional films need to be supported by words, statistics, diagrams. The 'Guidelines' suggested "documentary support such as small pictures, charts, diagrams and manuals". The countries that have provided this kind of support can be counted on one finger — although two might be more appropriate.

The tragedy of global conferences is that politicians prefer to spend hours arguing that the word, "people" should be replaced by the word "persons" (as happened in Committee 1) instead of letting themselves be reminded about the basic facts of life for the people or persons that are supposed to be helping.

'APPROPRIATE IS BEAUTIFUL'

CARLOS SANTOS spent the first week at Habitat at the official Conference, getting depressed as he watched the government films about solutions to housing problems.

"All progress from the government films was capital intensive and energy intensive," he said. "But what people were doing at the Forum was the opposite. I gave up looking at films and came down here to learn."

He said in an interview yesterday he learned the most from the Appropriate Technology group, which has sponsored daily workshops and staffed an information booth in Hangar 8.

"Appropriate technology is almost unknown in Nicaragua," Santos said. He is a consulting engineer and designer with a

firm that builds houses and industrial buildings and financed his own trip to Vancouver.

"I came to find out what was suitable for Nicaragua. Appropriate technology is needed in Nicaragua for housing. There are a lot of squatter settlements. There are no jobs because the amount of capital, but poor countries and governments don't have capital."

Santos has coined his own slogan: "Appropriate is beautiful. In Nicaragua, people tend to drop their own culture and adopt the culture and technology of rich countries. This movement is saying the reverse, that bamboo is beautiful in the tropics because it is appropriate for housing."

Women make impression

THE second NGO statement submitted to the official Conference yesterday urged that special emphasis be put on the active role of women at all levels of positive participation, that governments be pushed to take a braver stand on nuclear energy.

As a result of the overnight redrafting the statement reinforced concerns about the use of nuclear energy. "Nuclear technologies for power and weapons cannot be separated as sources of serious danger to life on earth. It is therefore imperative to eliminate nuclear technologies and weapons."

Major amendments to the final draft statement came in the section on international cooperation where the draft had only supported the initiative of creating a coordinating body, the final statement said that specific responsibility for promoting

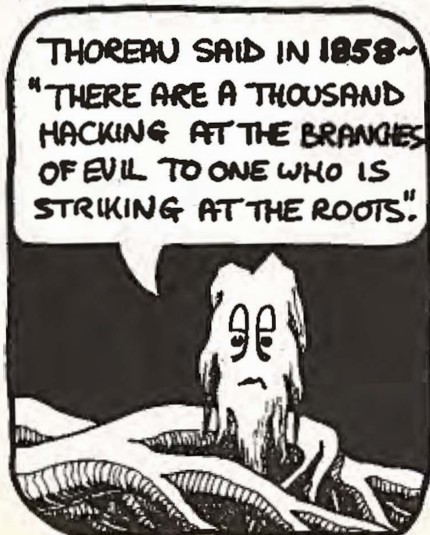
the principles and action programme adopted by Habitat should be given to a specific agency within the United Nations. Its directing council should be composed of government and appropriate international non-governmental organisations representatives. The statement further said that each member state should allocate responsibility for coordinating national Habitat programme to a specified government agency, and require that agency to establish a working relationship with non-governmental organisations.

The other major amendment to the final statement gave education a prominent place among the issues first, singled out for attention.

NGOs who want to continue the debate can do so this morning at 1015 in the Forum plenary hall.



Brother Blue, the resident storyteller at Habitat Forum



WATER

Vital Resource for Life



'If the earth were the size of an egg,
all the water and all the oceans, streams and glaciers
would be but a single drop on that egg's shell'

Jacques-Yves Cousteau



Listening to the rest of the world

ON a personal level the 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 UBC on Wednesday.

Marjorie Staples, of Alberta, said that three months ago 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 and an architect from California, said she had found a lot of reinforcement at the Forum for ideas she had been trying to put into

Gremlin

WELL, like Caesar we came and we saw. We debated and exhibited. But did we conquer?

Probably not. The people at the Forum were — as has been normal since Stockholm — theoretically involved in a process of participation. We were there giving (and were there to give) the impression of people's involvement in the heady, heavy discussions of the conference downtown. Voluntarily and without orchestration various groups made the effort to get to the Committees in the plush hotels of new Vancouver. They lobbied delegates, bearded them up in their upholstered dens, attempted to persuade and to cajole. Bigger groups of ordinary unaccredited people tried, as usual, to persuade the governments of the world that there are, underlying the issues articulated by the rather turgid documents of the conference, important themes, ideas, and ideals. How then did they fare — that low priced rag-bag of opinions?

It was put forcibly and well by "unofficial" men and women that the spread of nuclear power posed to the first, second, third, and whatever other worlds, a threat which placed the whole future of all settlements policies at risk. It was argued that in the absence of a realistic and sensible attitude adopted by governments to nuclear power proliferation, any form of words would be insufficient to counter what was considered by the lobbyists to be a recipe for disaster.

Now all of this sounds dramatic — and dramatic it is. What is being said is that in no governmental forum have these problems been addressed. There, the opponents of nuclear power proliferation (who argue even more strongly within their own countries) are correct. Where ever the dangers of civil and military nuclear power are raised, delegates attest that they are not raised in the right place. In truth, on this question, governments behave in a way which is certainly irresponsible and which is likely to be catastrophic. Nuclear power is not — or should not — be a political football to be kicked into touch at every opportunity. Are our government representatives and even the United Nations abrogating responsibility and almost accidentally opting for war-war? rather than jaw-jaw?

On water, people outside the UN Conference have attempted to insist upon target dates for the provision of clean water and on budgetary allocations (always problematical) to be set to achieve this goal. They have thus far failed. The target dates read "1990 if possible" and there is no specific allocation of funds. In fairness it must be pointed out that no one knows or is prepared to know where any money for the Human Settlements program will come from. It is hardly surprising that allocation of non-existent extra funds could not be set.

This brings us to the final curtain that is likely to be rung down on the new institutional framework. So far, it is recommended that at global and regional levels, this should involve voluntary and non-governmental bodies. This is not enough. If the pale spirit of Vancouver is to have any substance, the work of the Human Settlements body must be wisely and deliberately farmed out (together with all the help that can be given) to sub-national groups currently involved in the improvement of settlements. It is they who know the jobs. It is they who know how to get it done. The time for recruitment begins as the time for reports is over.

Habitat

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 Countrywomen 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 had been sent to make contact with other conservation organisations.

"My input to the main Conference has been nil because South Africa is not an acceptable member of the U.N. But I have 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."

The group unanimously regretted the under-representation 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."

C. Capel-Boute, of Belgium, defended the site as a "working example of what a human settlement should be. It mixed work, art and 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.

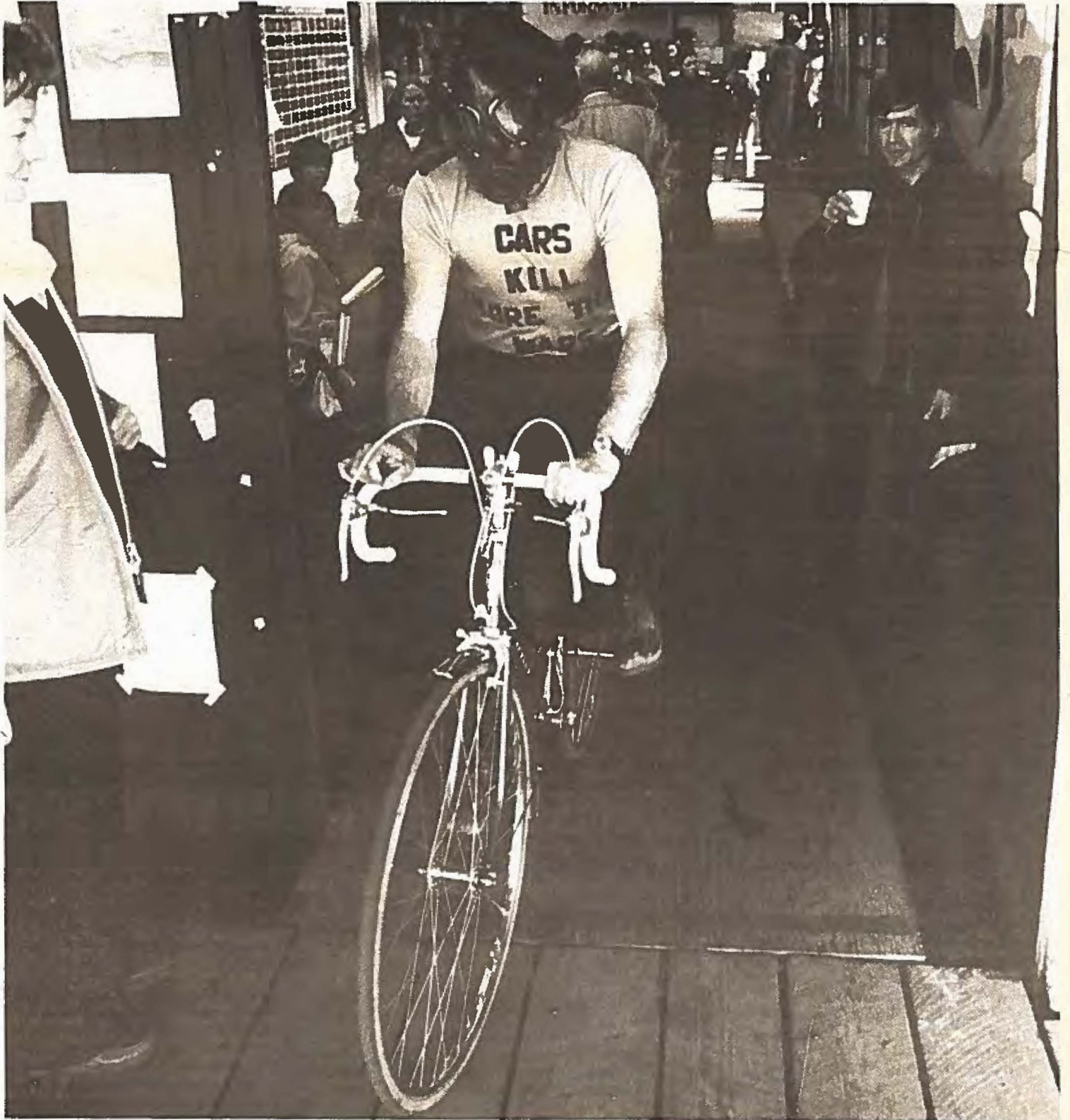
Dave Campbell, of the Young

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, said: "None of the translations in French and Spanish have been correct. They have been misleading, or frequently wrong."

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

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."



ROBERT SILVERMAN pedaled into Hangar 6 yesterday on his ecological solution to save the cities — a bicycle.

"The bike is an oasis in a desert of automobiles," he said. "The anti-car movement began in the United States, where the car began. We're seeing the rise and fall of the automobile, just like the rise and fall of the Third Reich and the Roman Empire."

Silverman, who is from Montreal, said he represented Le Monde de Bicyclette and five other international bicycle groups. His information seminar was in conjunction with a workshop Bicycle Transit System Planning presented by John Troja.

Silverman said Montreal celebrated International Bicycle Day last week and banned cars from part of the city. "There

were 7,000 bicycles," he said. "You could hear a pindrop after they passed."

Dressed in a blue sweater with the slogan, "Committee for Zero Automobile Growth," emblazoned on the back, Silverman donned the gas mask he always wears in traffic and rode out of the hangar. "I'm not wearing my glasses," he told Jericho's photographer, Mark Edwards. "Which way is the door?"