

Jericho

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In a message to this final issue of "Jericho", Enrique Penalosa, Secretary-General of Habitat, said:

"Habitat should not be viewed as an isolated, two-week event in Vancouver. The conference marks the turning-point in human settlements and the evolution from the preparatory process to the implementation of concrete proposals for improving human settlements around the world.

"Habitat was convened by the General Assembly in order to focus international attention on the importance and urgency of human settlement problems today. The fact that 134 countries participated in the conference at the ministerial level indicates the height of awareness which was achieved. Through an innovative audio-visual programme the realities of remote villages were experienced in the conference meetings.

"The political controversy which arose at Habitat was not exceptional.

"The fundamental achievement of the conference lies in the recommendations for national action, which will become known as the Vancouver Plan of Action. These concrete, precise objectives for improving human settlements were adopted by consensus. Habitat differs from other United Nations conferences in that international action was not as crucial.

"The success of the conference cannot be evaluated for five or ten years, when the decisions made and action taken in the individual countries can be measured. I am convinced that much will happen in human settlements as a consequence of the conference, although such action may not be credited to Habitat. Vancouver has created a precedent in human settlements, just as Stockholm did in the environment, and I am very optimistic."

Habitat has its 'Plan of Action'

NOW that the dust has cleared, the one positive achievement to have emerged from Habitat is the set of 64 recommendations for national action which were approved mainly by consensus. According to the Conferences secretariat these are to be known, within the United Nations and beyond, as the Vancouver Plan of Action.

Though these recommendations are in no way binding, and contain as many loopholes as commitments, they do serve to give respectability to ideas which were previously regarded as dangerously radical and provide ready made ammunition for local pressure groups.

The same cannot be said for the Declaration of Principles, which despite its generally acceptable tone was voted against by 15 countries with 10 more abstaining.

The declaration, drawn up by the group of 77 (now 113) developing countries, was unacceptable to the host country, Canada. It was also voted against by Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, Holland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States. The 10 abstainers included Sweden and Japan with 89 countries voting in favour, including the Vatican.

Most of those who found the declaration unacceptable jibbed at one particular paragraph condemning all forms of racial discrimination, to which Cuba had moved the addition of the words "as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations". These words clearly referred to a resolution of last November in which the UN General Assembly equated racism and Zionism.

The general view by those who voted against was given by Canada's Justice Minister Ron Basford, who said: "Canada cannot accept the view that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination. Canada has always resisted attempts to link these two concepts. With very deep regret and very deep sadness Canada has to vote 'no'. Let us not forget that this declaration contains excellent articles that will enable many

members to reach their goals for better human settlements."

However true this last hope may be, the fact remains that the Habitat debate became bogged down in a political squabble over attitudes to Israel, which reflected wider political differences. The hoped for commitment to a common attack on settlement problems was missing from this debate.

For the future, the Conference failed to agree on the exact nature of future institutional arrangements, but did call for the creation of an "inter-governmental body for human settlements", composed of not more than 58 States.

This should have a secretariat "to serve as a focal point for human settlements action and co-ordination within the United Nations system" taking in the posts and budgetary resources of the UN Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, the section of UNEP directly concerned with human settlements "with the exception of the posts required by UNEP to exercise its responsibilities for the environmental aspects and consequences of human settlements planning", the UN Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and selected posts from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The exact nature of the new institution, and its location, was left for decision by the General Assembly in its September-December meeting. The UN Secretary General was asked to report on potential costs of the various organizational arrangements which had been proposed.

It was also agreed:

- to convene regional UN meetings, if possible before September, to establish guidelines for regional coordination of action on settlement problems.

- to set up an audio-visual information centre on human settlements at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

- to urge all governments to support and fully participate in the UN Water Conference next March in Argentina.

NGOs MUST KEEP UP PRESSURE

THE NGO Committee for Habitat will remain in existence as a central focus for continuing non-government activities until an NGO liaison centre for human settlements has been set up.

News of this temporary bridging arrangement was given to "Jericho" by J.G. van Putten, chairman of the committee, who stressed that the most important document decided upon by Habitat is the Recommendations for National Action.

"It should be realised that there is no other way by which governments can be forced to implement these recommendations than under the pressure of public opinion", he said. This was a major task for non-government organizations who are urged to make the writing of yearly "Habitat Implementation Reports" part of their programme of activity.

Van Putten drew attention to the Conference recommendation, in the document on Programmes for International Co-operation, that "at the global as well as the regional level, cooperation should be sought with universities, research and scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations, voluntary groups, etc., in order to make full use of their knowledge and experience in the field of human settlements. At the intergovernmental level this co-operation should be formalized. At the secretarial level it should be realized by the establishment of appropriate working relations".

He said NGOs should be on their guard to see that this article, which offers possibilities for more open and intensive cooperation is not weakened when the Conference recommendations are discussed by ECOSOC in July and approved by the General Assembly in the Autumn.

Just how NGOs could best organize themselves to relate to whatever human settlements agency emerges within the UN system, will depend to some extent on what sort of agency is created. But van Putten says it should not be difficult to agree on the following policy lines:

- A more open and less formal relation between NGOs and the Habitat agency than under present ECOSOC rules.

- Duplication of coalitions and NGO coordinating and liaison bodies should be avoided.

- A standing liaison office for all NGOs should be created, as broadly sponsored and managed as possible.

Ideas and suggestions are invited by the Chairman of the Committee, 45 Wassenaarseweg, The Hague-2018, Netherlands.

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JERICHO'S FATE IN THE AIR

VANCOUVER contractor, Franz Stanzl, is dismantling the papier-mâché Habitat pavilion in the centre of the city. Jim McIntyre, Executive Coordinator of ACSOH, is running the clean up crew at the Forum, now strangely bare of speakers. Dr Hugh Keenleyside, Associate Commissioner General of Habitat is looking forward to his fishing vacation.

With Habitat but a week gone, Vancouver was back to normal, and those connected with the conference are returning to their normal occupations. Decisions still have to be made, but no-one is in any rush; as one organizer puts it: "We are all a bit ragged at the moment. We are enjoying the rest."

The future of Jericho is still up in the air. Now that the people's voice has died down, and with it the multifarious ideas for use of the Forum site, the city's Parks Board, who owns the site and makes the ultimate decision, has stepped in.

The Parks Board is not in any hurry, referring the future of Jericho to an expanded committee. But the Board is quoting city bye laws to the effect that if the hangars are to be used as public assembly places, considerable improvement has

to be done. Hangars 5 and 7, the plenary hall and the social centre, have been proposed for public meeting places, but the Parks Board says up to \$1 million may have to be spent on each to upgrade them to meet city standards.

Meanwhile the city of Vancouver has offered to sell three parcels of land adjoining the site and to donate the money to development of the site.

The army of workers at the Forum has been reduced to a squad of 20, who are looking after clean up and security at the site. Al Clapp has long since resigned as Forum producer.

At the ACSOH offices, Paul Coombs seems the busiest member as he looks for ways to meet the budget deficit which is presently in excess of \$100,000. ACSOH president Terry Tanner has returned to his full-time job as an architect and ACSOH director Mike Harcourt has returned to his duties as a city alderman and local lawyer.

As well as turning over the Forum site to the Parks Board, ACSOH is collecting the video tapes, audio visual materials and documents relating to forum activities. It is negotiating storage of these with the newly created centre for human settlements at the University of British Columbia, the

designated centre for official conference audio visual materials.

ACSOH has a third responsibility - continuing the dialogue on human settlements. "We have not really worked this out yet with much clarity", Harcourt says. "We'll sit down and tackle it this fall." Harcourt says that all NGO activity is being centred through J.G. van Putten in Holland.

The Habitat secretariat, like ACSOH, is winding down and picking up the pieces. Keenleyside says its main activity is to prepare a brief to present to the United Nations this fall.

As for the city of Vancouver, Habitat is for the time being out of mind and out of sight.

A mild editorial in the morning newspaper points out that while Canada's Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, spoke of the power of love at Habitat, Canada since 1963 has sold arms and defence equipment to 73 nations at the rate of up to \$441 million per year.

Letters to the editors in the local media are still slightly cynical about the effects of the conference.

But perhaps Vancouver, like conference delegates and NGOs, is waiting - waiting to see whether the words of both the conference and the forum are to be translated into action.

Jericho

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The right road

A UN conference, like politics, is the art of the possible. Which is why the Mayor of Auckland, who writes on this page, was destined to be disappointed at the outcome of Habitat. The waste of resources on arms spending is shocking and shameful, but it was hardly to be expected that disarmament would figure large in the official proceedings at Vancouver. It was achievement enough that 134 countries had come together to look at their development problems from a new perspective, people centred, embracing all that is involved in human settlements and focusing on national responsibilities and policies. Inevitably the Conference was also, as President Echeverria of Mexico said, "part of the great theme of our times, the division of the world into a bloc of abundance and an enormous archipelago of poverty." And it was partly because of this that the jockeying of international power groups led to the final confusion of the split vote over the Declaration of Principles.

Concentration on what Barbara Ward calls "the real problems" of our times still does not come naturally to many governments. Some delegates were quick to cite the "fairground atmosphere" at Vancouver to excuse their own lack of interest. Other world leaders show only too clearly in their preoccupation with strategies of power and short-term, self-interest that they have still to learn the lessons of planetary interdependence which has been preached at every great world gathering since Stockholm. For the real problems will not go away. The longer they are ignored the more insistent they will become. At their root is poverty and a population growing at an astonishing and unprecedented rate. Governments in much of the world stand helpless before massive migrations to, and natural growth in cities, while pressures on neglected rural areas mount. In this situation

some delegates came to Habitat to learn. Others seemed more concerned to defend their achievements.

To one commentator, the fruits of Habitat were "one meaningless Declaration of Principles; one non-decision on the post-conference machinery; and one set of recommendations for national action which while they do theoretically give governments a range of choices, also give them at least as many loopholes through which to slip out of their apparent commitments." That, not untypical verdict, is a sad commentary on the failure of Habitat to electrify the media with the hoped for "spirit of Vancouver." It is an accurate, but incomplete, judgement. It was recognized throughout the preparatory stages that the Recommendations for National Action were the key to the Conference. The fact that a consensus was reached in this area - including important principles on spatial strategy planning, the returning of added value on development land to the community, rural land reform, self help and participation, and a 15-year target for the supply of clean water to urban and rural communities - is the really useful achievement of Habitat. At the same time governments and pressure groups should look hard at the unanimous findings of the World Employment Conference which put a much needed emphasis on the need for a switch in investment to meet basic needs, particularly in rural areas.

It remains for the United Nations to work out the simplest and most effective international institutions arrangements, which will encourage and draw upon all those organizations and individuals who can contribute to solving the problems that Habitat has helped to highlight. The world has plenty of signposts for governments to follow. They must now be prodded into taking the right road.

Barbara answers

WE'RE SENSE

AT the close of Habitat, "Jericho" spoke to Barbara Ward about the Conference and put to her some of the criticisms levelled at this mammoth talk-in. What, she was asked first, had all the talk achieved?

There are a lot of people who say that talking about the major issues of human survival is all very well, but if you can think of any human problem that has been solved without people talking about it first, I can't think of one.

The very important thing about Habitat is the people have been talking about the real problems not the phoney ones, not all the day-to-day political nuances but how does man live on his planet when population is about to double, when the strain on resources is going up, when energy is scarce and food is known to be an ever-receding possibility for something like a third of the human race and when the water is so filthy that at least a third of the human race has got dysentery. If those aren't the real problems I don't know what problems are.

The second point is that we have now had a series of meetings on global problems but that does not mean that we don't need a series upon the specific follow-up of every one of them. In other words I would like to see a review about every five years on what has been done about food, about water, shelter and energy.

Let's talk about the needs of the human race in terms of what governments have done about them: "What is your balance sheet, what is your report to the planetary society on your responsibility to make it work". I would like to see, for example, a settlements conference that gives a report on land tenure, upon security of tenure for the poor, on self-help housing, water supply and sanitation and upon conserving measures. Governments would answer the question: what have you done? Nothing could be of more value.

The third thing I would say, and this is particularly true of non-governmental organizations, is: can we not make sure that we begin to act round problems rather than around how we're organized.

Non-governmental organizations have got great freedom of action in various parts of the world getting together on water, getting together on conservation, getting together on the basic right to shelter. Saying to their governments give us a budget, give us a balance sheet, give us a report. Have you put the needs of human beings first in your planning because if you have not, why not?

And then I think we could be effective as groups because we would be working for common objectives, we would not be working for the sake of appearing or talking, we would be working because we want to get something done.

Jericho: In fact most of the Conference appeared to be nit picking about the word clauses, without much actual exchange of experience.

Barbara Ward: For you to make this angel's judgement about the whole process would need to have listened in every corner every meeting room, every lunch and every loo if you like. In other words how do we get that there has been no exchange. After all always say about the United Nations that most important work is done in the corridors enormous number of people came together had time to exchange experience. On the certain rules of procedure go ahead, but it always true in parliaments. The best work is in committee and even better work is done at the bar.

Because we have not seen the delegates making intimate and detailed exchanges in the committee assemblies why should we assume that there been no exchange. It probably has. For heaven sake if you had asked me two years ago at the World Food Conference exactly the same criticism could have been made. But they were not making speeches and changing commas. They were also talking to each other and it has had a quite substantial result.

Jericho: Inevitably in a Conference as broad as this it is difficult to focus as specifically about particular issues as the Rome conference did on housing. Does it achieve anything just to generalize on lines that poverty is a bad thing?

Barbara Ward: No, no. I don't agree a Agreement on such matters as getting unemployment increment on land coming back to the community is an absolutely radical and revolutionary conclusion. It is certainly as revolutionary as the decision of monitoring the environment which came out of Stockholm. And the water resolution, by God it is something we can work on.

I think you had to discuss things in broad terms to show people that Habitat was not just about housing and building and planning.

Jericho: It could be argued that the most important thing which should have come out of the conference was to say we need a new emphasis on rural agriculture and rural investment. But this did not come through in the documents.

Do not undervalue the



Habitat's "blinkered concentration" on urban problems neglected the future of children such as these in a Ghana village school.

AMONG the many dismissive verdicts on Habitat, one positive assessment stands out. This comes from Jon Tinker, environment correspondent of the British magazine New Scientist and Director of Earthscan. He writes:

THE western press has pictured Habitat as a promising meeting rudely shattered by Third World intransigence. I believe this assessment to be inaccurate, a depressing reaction to the failure of the Euro-American bloc to get its own way for once. The media's gloomy image partly reflects its own lack of interest: neither of the two big US TV networks was represented in Vancouver, nor were any newspapers from France, West Germany, Italy or Switzerland.

Confrontation there undeniably was. The Group of 77 used its overall majority to force through a Declaration of Principles denouncing "any form of colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, domination, apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination condemned by the General Assembly of the UN". Since the General Assembly had recently resolved that Zionism was racialism, the West considered this a direct and unacceptable attack on Israel.

This was certainly confrontation, but it was not entirely of the 77's making. The USA had itself proposed that a vote be taken on the whole declaration, instead of finding a procedure whereby each clause could be considered alone. That would have allowed Israel's friends to have voted against one out of a total of 69 clauses, and then to have joined with the majority in accepting the whole declaration by acclamation - or at worst by abstaining on it.

Nor was confrontation unexpected. President Luis Echeverria of Mexico spelled out the danger in an opening speech of a world divided between poverty and abundance. And the Palestine issue was not irrelevant to Habitat, whose debate on deliberate planning of human settlements hardly exclude Israel's use of such a policy to strengthen its hold on the West Bank.

I believe the Group of 77's stand to have been ill-advised, but their passionate concern for the dispossessed Palestinian nation is by no means ignoble. It springs from a sense of justice and human dignity which derives directly from the West's own political tradition.

Vancouver's confrontation was unsurprisingly for another reason: Habitat was the first international gathering since the Group of 77 became a coherent and disciplined bloc. In years in which the UN has been dominated by the American and the Soviet camps, the Third World nations found this new power exhilarating.

Although UN conferences of this type traditionally operated by consensus, there is a reason why they always should. Most democratic institutions include majority voting among procedures, so such a novelty can hardly be said to have sabotaged Habitat.

In one sense, Habitat was a success before 134 nations even assembled in Vancouver. The preparatory process had forced their governments, most of them for the first time, to face themselves how their own cities and towns got into such a mess. It was a new experience for most nations to consider as an integrated

Backchat

rs the conference critics

ALKING T LAST



Sir,

Well the "stuffed shirts" have done it again! As an exercise in restrained, polite and very decorous manipulating of a "patch and repair" programme to ameliorate some of the problems of the third world, it has been undoubtedly a great success.

But as for the major issues, the imminent danger of nuclear war that could destroy all life on earth, the continued arms race, the population explosion, provision of reasonable minimum living conditions for everyone, disarmament, provision of material, financial and technological aid to backward countries and other major issues, nothing has been, or will be, done about them.

Whilst delegations to the official Conference wasted time on hair-splitting definitions, polemical sophistry and other diversionary tactics, nothing of any value has been done to relieve the problems and tensions that could result in cataclysmic world disruption or a third world war.

Sure, at conferences such as these, it is essential to have rules and minimum standards of conduct. But when formalities and "procedures" are used to brush off NGO's wishing to raise vital issues, and prevent them coming before (much less being debated by) the Conference then it can be only concluded that in this regard the Conference has been a flop.

Now the delegates are going home. They can safely report to their governments that they can comfortably go on as before. Nothing will be altered. The people of the world will go on suffering, in the lesser developed countries; and the people in the richer countries will continue to concentrate on sport, making money, and materialistic pleasures.

In the meantime the larger (and some of the lesser) powers will continue to stockpile armaments for the coming war they know is inevitable. The population will increase, the rich will get richer, whilst the poor get poorer.

It would have been too optimistic to have hoped that the conferences would have produced effective recommendations for a genuine disarmament conference and plans to ensure that everyone would, within a reasonable time, be assured of a satisfactory minimum standard of living. But until that has been accomplished, the world will continue on its messy plunge to disaster.

Sir Dove-Myer Robinson,
Mayor of Auckland

Barbara Ward: One of the things I noticed in all the discussions, particularly informal discussions, was a quite new emphasis on the fact that too much power and too much political "umph" was in the big cities.

The concept of getting a settlement pattern that gets agricultural production moving has been a very strong undercurrent of this Conference, and water is one of the ways of picking it up. Of course the absence of the Chinese has meant that one of the greatest exponents of this was not present to put its case.

Jericho: Jorge Hardoy made the point that building is in the hands of big business and politicians and that they were benefiting from the system. Is it realistic to think that there is going to be some great change in priorities and in will?

Barbara Ward: More and more governments are going to see that if they don't make some of these changes they are going to be blown up. This is the law of history.

If you go on as you are now with a doubling of the world's population, at least half of that in rural areas; if you go on trying to run them as private feudal estates boys you're in exactly the same condition as the Russian aristocrats in 1918. My impression is that the feeling that the choices are radical is much stronger now than it was in the past.

Jericho: What action would you like to see in the wake of Habitat?

Barbara Ward: There are three levels of follow-up. The first is to sort out the question of the kind of small, dynamic centre or secretariat for settlements inside the international system which can help to stimulate regional and local action.

The second is to make sure that this body makes full use of local resources - institutions, research teams, experts, organized professions. And the third need is for action at the national level to fulfil such critical undertakings as land use planning, a better urban balance, securing unearned increment for the community.

If governments make no sign of turning these undertakings into practice, citizen bodies should demand an immediate report on "the state of our settlements" with target dates and funds for reform.

e vision of Vancouver

the many and diverse aspects of national and local policy which affect Human Settlements: Housing, Water Supply, Transport, Health, Schooling, Tax Laws and Power Supply. Just as the 1972 Stockholm conference marked a watershed in the way we look at the environment, so Vancouver has marked a new stage in our rapidly-evolving attitude to the places where people live.

Like all UN meetings, Habitat has had its failings. The level of representation was disappointing: President Echeverria of Mexico and Premier Trudeau of Canada were the only two heads of Government who came. And the empty seat of People's China, the country which perhaps alone in the world has demonstrated that Human Settlements problems are not insoluble, represents a major failure of UN diplomacy.

China's non-appearance is one reason for Habitat's blinkered concentration on urban problems: little more than lip-service has been paid to the million rural villages of the developing world, where, as Argentinian Architect Jorge Hardoy phrased it, "the poverty is almost animal." Not only did the Conference ignore the living conditions of Third World peasants, it apparently forgot that cities depend on their rural hinterland for the fuel they burn, the water they drink, the food they eat and the very air they breathe.

Another issue neglected by the UN conference - though it was highlighted at the unofficial forum which took place in some converted seaplane hangers just across the bay from the downtown skyscrapers - is that of nuclear power. Barbara

Ward described the nuclear option as "the most fateful decision confronting Human Settlements", and called for a moratorium on atomic power and the investigation of self-renewing alternatives such as solar, wind and water power. But the developed countries are already committed to nuclear technology; and the delegates of the developing nations in Vancouver - with the single exception of Papua, New Guinea - refused to condemn a technology which Margaret Mead said the rich world had "found too dangerous and uneconomic".

But in the hectic horse-trading which marked the last few days of the conference it was easy to forget Vancouver's achievements. As a senior Western European delegate said to me: "It is remarkable how far and how fast Governments have moved".

Four points are particularly important. First, and perhaps most fundamental, was a clear statement that "it is the duty of governments to prepare spatial strategy plans". It is not so long since respectable opinion in Britain considered all planning to be worse than godless communism; many countries still do.

Second, and even harder for dogmatically capitalist countries like the US or Brazil to swallow, was a clause urging that "the use and tenure of land should be subject to public control", calling for "appropriate ... agrarian reforms", and asserting bluntly that "the increase in value of land as a result of public decision and investment should be recaptured for the benefit of society as a whole".

Third was a remarkable set of resolutions supporting self-help and public participation: planning "must be designed to allow for maximum public participation", which "is becoming an indispensable element of a truly democratic process". That idea could have literally revolutionary effects in many countries.

Fourth was Habitat's endorsement of the target for clean water in every urban and rural settlement by 1990. To the half of mankind without easy access to a tap guaranteed not to pass on dysentery, this is a 15-year target worth aiming for.

Of course, it can easily be argued that Vancouver's agreement on such major issues has little if any real meaning. The Declaration on Human Rights, for example, is not observed exactly scrupulously by the Soviet Union or Chile, by Spain or Uganda, by Indonesia or South Africa. However, these and other countries have all found it necessary to defend their conduct against the yardsticks laid down by the human rights charter. And even in the devalued currency of diplomats, few countries sign pledges without some thought for the morrow.

Vancouver will at least put these points on the national agenda. And although such discussion may remain concealed within the bureaucracy, its effects are bound to be felt eventually. A senior European official told me that he had learned a great deal from his formal and informal contacts at Habitat, and expected its effects to diffuse throughout his own administrative machine within a few years. The same is true to a far

greater extent in developing countries, where the political process moves faster and governing élites are more closely knit.

Concepts which were unheard of outside the environment movement before Stockholm in 1972 are now openly accepted in scores of capitals. Indeed, the very word Stockholm has become historical shorthand for a period when man looked at what he was doing to his planet, and stood back appalled. Stockholm, though, represented a relatively dispassionate concern, an alarm at the chemistry of the atmosphere and the depletion of the whales, a love of nature rather than a love of man. Vancouver's call has been more anthropocentric, a cry for empathy among humankind. It is an expansion of the theme Indira Gandhi spoke of in Stockholm, when she charged that poverty was the worst form of pollution. Pierre Trudeau got it exactly right when he asked Habitat for "a conspiracy of love" - Teilhard de Chardin's conspiracy of men with men and of humanity with the universe.

I am not decrying the anger which men feel at the wanton destruction of wildlife, the rape of a rainforest for a few paltry tons of timber, the savage gouging of fields and hills for the metals buried beneath, the careless fouling of the air or the pollution of a rushing stream. But the failure of the world community to feed, shelter, clothe, heal and educate all its members is to most people a far greater outrage.

In that respect, Vancouver marked an important advance on Stockholm's case for the conservation of nature.

Plan puts focus on control over land

THE small print of the recommendations for national action, agreed in Vancouver, contains a number of significant statements on "spatial strategy plans", public control over the "use and tenure of land", self help, public participation and water.

The 80 pages of recommendations are divided into six sections, the first of which deals with settlement policies. The central point of this section is that "all countries should establish as a matter of urgency a national policy on human settlements embodying the distribution of population and related economic and social activities".

If carried through, this clause could mark a new starting point for some countries in looking at the needs of their people and their strategies for investment.

The section calls for a permanent national review body, a periodic report on past achievements and future goals, and independent monitoring and evaluation of programmes, projects and institutions.

In the second section dealing with settlement planning countries are called on to prepare "a comprehensive national ecological and demographic inventory to guide long-range settlement planning" a recommendation which could give an impetus to census-taking in several countries.

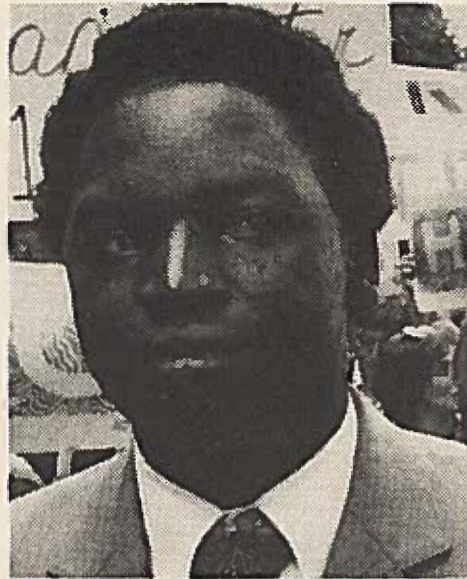
In a recommendation which could have an impact on the treatment of "slum" or squatter settlements, nations are called on to "respect the rights and aspirations of inhabitants, especially the least advantaged, and preserve the cultural and social values embodied in the existing fabric".

Under the heading of shelter, infrastructure and services the importance of support for this "informal sector" and the use of local materials is underlined, particularly in a recommendation that action should be taken to ensure "security of land tenure for unplanned settlements" though this is hedged about with the additional phrase: "where appropriate or if necessary providing for relocation and resettlement with opportunity for employment".

Countries are called on to "reduce dependence on foreign technologies, resources and materials" to emphasize "the use of renewable over non-renewable energy resources".

National housing policies "must aim at providing adequate shelter and services to the lower income groups, distributing available resources on the basis of greatest needs". Low-interest loans, rent subsidies and low cost rentals near job opportunities are suggested as ways of achieving this.

Turning to infrastructure, the most far reaching recommendation concerns water. This urges that



George Muhoho, Chairman of Committee 1, told "Jericho" on June 6: "national recommendations are all important."

"safe water supply and hygienic waste disposal should receive priority with a view to achieving measurable qualitative and quantitative targets serving all the population by a certain date". Targets for each country should be prepared for consideration at next year's water conference.

More specifically, countries should take "urgent action" to "adopt programmes with realistic standards for quality and quantity to provide water for urban and rural areas by 1990, if possible".

Turning again to "spontaneous settlements" governments are urged to concentrate on the provision of services and the reorganization of such settlements in ways that encourage community initiative.

In one of the few references to rural areas, the document points out that rural populations are often at a disadvantage, and that the provision of services in rural areas will help reduce migration to the cities.

The main recommendation is that "Governments should develop new criteria for integrated rural planning to enable the greatest possible number of scattered and dispersed rural settlements to derive benefit from basic services".

In a surprisingly strong section on land there is a clear statement that "public ownership or effective control of land in the public interest is the single most important means of improving the capacity of human settlements to absorb changes

and movements in population... and achieving a more equitable distribution of the benefits of development".

Noting the danger of speculation and urban encroachment another recommendation states that "change in the use of land, especially from agricultural to urban, should be subject to public control and regulation".

Public ownership should be used to implement land reform, to supply serviced land "at price levels which can secure socially acceptable patterns of development". At the same time "past patterns of ownership rights should be transformed to match the changing needs of society".

Turning to the thorny issue of the unearned increase in land values, which had much exercised Habitat Forum, governments agreed that "the unearned increment resulting from the rise in land values resulting from change in the use of land, from public investment or decision, or due to the general growth of the community, must be subject to appropriate recapture by public bodies (the community), unless the situation calls for other additional measures such as new patterns of ownership, the general acquisition of land by public bodies".

This is followed by a strongly worded section on public participation which should be "an indispensable element" in "planning strategies, formulation, implementation and management" and "a human right, a political duty and an instrument essential for national development".

Finally, in a section on institutions and management, there is a call for settlement institutions which have a distinct identity as well as leadership capacity and executive responsibility for settlement programmes.

Archives on tape

OVER 220 hours of video and audio tapes, in addition to a great many papers, have been collected in the Forum archives. Negotiations have begun about transcription and publication. Information may be obtained by writing to ACSOH, P.O. Box 48360, Bentall Centre, Vancouver, B.C.

NGO text available

THE final, and revised text of the second NGO statement, is available from the Chairman of the NGO Committee for Habitat, at 45 Wassenaarweg, The Hague-2018, Netherlands. As reported in Jericho No 10, it strengthens the original statement presented to the Plenary on 2 June, particularly in the areas of participation, education, land, water, energy and international co-operation.

DANSON SAD ABOUT THE 15 WORDS

BARNEY DANSON, Habitat conference president, keeps a brave face about the Habitat resolutions although the embarrassment of Canada, the host nation, voting against the declaration of principles obviously irks him.

When "Jericho" caught up with him last week he was touring the slums of Vancouver's east end in his position as Canada's Urban Affairs Minister.

He spoke of "sorrow" and "disappointment" at the conference's inability to reach a consensus decision. Then his frustration at the political aspects of the conference began to show through.

"Fifteen words would have changed the whole thing", he told "Jericho". "Without those 15 words we would have had virtually a consensus decision."

The 15 words, of course, were those tacked on to the end of the clause in the Declaration of Principles referring to the anti-zoosism vote taken in the United Nations last November.

Danson decried this political side to Habitat and said he hoped Habitat would prove successful in exposing "the futility in straying too far from the agenda items at specialized United Nations conferences".

Danson told "Jericho" that after the two gruelling weeks of the conference it was too early to make any objective analysis of its results.

Like Enrique Penalosa, conference secretary-general, Danson said Habitat was only the beginning of work on human settlements and that he was optimistic of its eventual results.

"We did not solve the problems of the world but we did achieve a statement on the urban and settlement scene which faces us over the next 25 to 30 years. The real success of Habitat will be the way in which we put words and agreements into action."

"When you look back at the conference on the environment at Stockholm, who remembers now who was arguing with whom and over what issues? But Stockholm proved to be a bench mark for a tremendous amount of action on the environment as Vancouver will be for human settlements."

And as Danson left to continue his investigation of his own Habitat, Vancouver's east end, he parted with encouraging words.

"When you separate the wheat from the chaff you will find we accomplished a great deal at Habitat."

Focus on China

CHINA was the missing voice at Habitat, but any readers interested in obtaining an up-to-date, illustrated picture of how China is dealing with problems of health, education, rural and urban settlement planning, the role of women and birth planning should read the latest issue of *People* magazine, now available in English, French and Spanish from IPPF, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

The China and Habitat Report issues of *People* will be sent free on receipt of an annual subscription of \$15 for 1977.

Capsules galore

DESPITE a shaky start, 80 delegations illustrated their speeches at the Habitat plenary debate with capsule versions of films on human settlements. Forty-one capsules were shown in Committee II and 37 in Committee III.

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