

# Jericho

THE HABITAT NEWSPAPER NO. 6

7 JUNE 1976

## MOVE BY DEVELOPING NATIONS

# The 77 weigh in

THE DEBATE is hotting up. The Group of 77 (now 113) developing countries is finalising an alternative to most of the Habitat secretariat's prepared documents. Late last night it was reported ready for translation. If so it will be presented to Committee One some time today. A "77" spokesman did say, however, that the group will be "working on it tonight and maybe even tomorrow" and that it may be presented direct to the Plenary tomorrow.

The "draft" on Sunday night contained a preamble, 10 general principles and 27 guidelines for action. Among the principles, Item 14 read:-

"Every state has the sovereign right to rule and exercise effective control over foreign investments, particularly the transnational corporations within its national jurisdiction, which affect directly or indirectly the human settlements programme."

The introduction of trans-or multinational companies may be new but not entirely illogical, developing countries' delegates point out. The Vancouver principles were formulated before the recent UNCTAD talks in Nairobi, at a time when the industrialised market economy countries were not prepared to listen to any arguments restricting the freedom of the big corporations. In Nairobi they did talk and did also agree to future discussions on the basis that the corporations should observe a code of conduct, even though the code might be entirely voluntary.

Another item among the principles in the Third World's alternative document reads:-

"The highest priority should be placed on the rehabilitation of expelled homeless people who have been displaced by natural and man-made catastrophe, and especially by the act of foreign aggression. In the latter

case the international community should exert strong pressure on parties involved, to allow the return of displaced persons to their homes and to give them the right to possess and enjoy their properties and belongings without interference."

The "guidelines for action" include specific items against social and racial discrimination. One refers to the "detrimental effects of transposing standards and criteria that can only be adopted by minorities and could heighten inequalities, the misuse of resources, and the social, cultural and ecological deterioration of the Third World."

The guidelines also include firm statements on land. "The use and tenure of land should be subject to public control through appropriate measures and legislation", and "the value added to land by public decision and investment should be recaptured for the benefit of society as a whole."

"Historical settlements, monuments and other items of national heritage, including religious heritage, should be safeguarded against any acts . . . by the occupying power."

The nuclear issue is played down. UN sources suggest this reflects the positions of India, which already has the technology, and countries like Brazil, Argentina and South Korea, which are on the threshold of acquiring nuclear power. It also, they suggest, shows the Francophone countries following a French line and possibly a general sympathy for the host country, Canada.

Much of the Third World's alternatives are not far from, though often stronger than, the recommendations painstakingly documented by the Habitat after extensive consultations with all UN member coun-

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Barney Danson, right, with symbolic bucket, and Margaret Trudeau, below, on yesterday's walk for World Water Day. Report Page 3.



## BIGGER SAY FOR THE NGOs?

PROSPECTS for NGOs to be fully involved in the Habitat follow-up were given a boost over the weekend, after a group of NGOs delivered a strong statement to Committee 1 on Friday.

The NGOs statement declared that NGOs in addition to providing "the essential channel for advocacy of citizens' needs", could make a valuable contribution to the programme development of whatever institution is recommended by Habitat. This view won immediate support from the Netherlands, which has been pressing for a greater NGO say since the beginning of the conference.

In consultation with other delegations, both the Netherlands and the USA have prepared draft recommendations for the programmes for international co-operation and the proposed human settlements in-

stitution. Both drafts contained clauses that appeared to support the NGO group's position.

The drafts are expected to be discussed by Committee 1, together with a draft by the Group of 77 countries. After two days of listening to statements of national positions on what should be the nature and location of new institutional arrangements for human settlements, the committee will now concentrate on thrashing out a set of recommendations.

Already there appears to be consensus on a number of matters of principle. First, that national action is the corner-stone of human settlements development, and that international programmes should support national action. Second, that international action should be concentrated at the regional level. Third, that a new agency is

not needed but consolidation of current activities within a single body is. Fourth, that education and training are important functions for any new or reorganised institution.

However, the committee is sharply divided over whether human settlements is a development or an environment issue and over the location of any new institution.

With the exception of France, the Federal Republic of Germany and New Zealand, who expressed either neutrality or indifference on the controversy, and of Japan and Portugal who supported the UN Environment Programme in Nairobi, the Western European and other countries declared themselves for a New York location. They were joined by the USSR, (Continued on next page)

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THE People and Planners Workshop have asked the Forum and the Conference to guarantee all citizens the right of access to all information relating to planning and development of human settlements.

The group also decided that people had the right to know the full implication of planning decisions.

# This week could heat up

COMMITTEE 3

## BIGGER VOICE

(Continued from previous page)

Poland, Mongolia, Iran, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Tanzania and Zambia. Most of the other delegations appear to prefer Nairobi or to be uncertain.

At least some delegations confirm the NGO group's view that the issue of the institution's location is secondary to the questions of what it should do and how it should do it.

The group, made up of NGOs with observer status at the conference, includes the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the Environment Liaison Centre, the Union of International Associations, the Sierra Club, the International Institute of Environment and Development, the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, the Institute of Ecology, the International Union of Architects, the International Federation of Landscape Architects, the YWCA, and the Population Institute.

The group asked that "the active participation in programme development of such NGOs be written into the terms of reference of whatever institutional arrangements are adopted".

Another point, which could well win approval in Committee 1, is that "regional offices of the UN human settlements institution should draw on existing institutions with competence in human settlements and related fields in the regions concerned" and support them financially.

## THE 77

(Continued from previous page)

tries, including those of the 77 group. UN officials and delegations from other countries felt unable to comment on the Third World proposals until they had had an opportunity to study them. Group of 77 delegations say, speaking as individuals, that the general feeling is that a comprehensive alternative package is more likely to win acceptance by the Conference than, as one of them put it, "mucking about with every proposal in the book."

Non-77 delegations do feel, however, that the alternative is an unnecessary manoeuvre left far too late. It was quite possible, they say, for all those of the 77's proposals which have any hope of succeeding to have been incorporated by way of amendments and additions.

LAND, not surprisingly, dominated the first five days in Committee 3. Everybody agreed, many of them at unnecessary length, that land was crucial to the whole subject of settlements. Other sections of the committee's brief — Shelter, Infrastructure and Services, and Public Participation — were clearly cast in secondary roles.

Who should own the land? The classic question, when focussed on settlements, saw nearly all delegations huddled in the middle between public and private ownership. Nobody wanted either to the exclusion of the other. Sweden argued that if land was not subject to public control it would be difficult, if not impossible, to use it in the public interest. India pointed out that land meant a whole lot of things including flora, fauna and forests. In India, 14 per cent of the world's population had to live on 2 per cent of its land area. Limited resources had to be put to a variety of uses. Inadequate, scientific planning usually led to disaster.

Canada agreed with the principle of public control of "an equitable part" but argued that public ownership was not the only way. France said its attitudes were government by Roman law. The citizen had proprietary rights over his land. Private ownership should not be questioned. This, however, did not prevent some control, presumably taking from patricians to share among the plebs, if it was in the public good.

This section was discussed under seven sub-sections with numerous and continuous overlaps. There were also a number of "fringe" interventions of more than passing value. Panama pointed out that the principle obstacle, in its efforts to manage its land resource, was not so much the nature of ownership but the US presence in the Canal Zone and its influence generally.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, the African National Congress and others stressed the need to remove foreign controls (which included the white-only South African Government) which undermined or at least impeded the proper use of national resources for the benefit of local populations.

Some countries, notably Fiji and Lesotho, emphatically rejected some of the prepared recommendations of the secretariat which urged greater public control of land. Fiji said the pattern should be determined by the long-term interest of the whole community and that its own age-old system of communal ownership should not be broken up willy nilly. Lesotho emphasised that its society had evolved to point far in advance of the recommendations. Its land was already the property of all its people. Even government had no automatic right to property.

The PLO asked what had happened to the human settlements report on the Palestinians — which should have been presented to Habitat in accordance with Recommendation 3376 of the UN General Assembly. It could not be done, the PLO was told, because the secretariat and the Economic Commission for Western Asia had decided there was no money to spare. This cavalier treatment did not satisfy the Palestinian representatives, but no national delegation protested.

Earlier in the week there was a long and sometimes lively discussion on squatter slums in cities, though they were not always described as such. Whatever the terminology, the subject was the poor newcomers in urban areas whose presence was clearly discomforting to everybody including themselves. What could be done about them? Their very existence implied that nobody knew the answer. So the next question was: "What should?"

Nothing specific emerged, but there was universal agreement that something had better be done quickly. In the broadest general sense, the argument varied between resettling or absorbing them. What seemed clear was that governments are now prepared at least to go on record that these urban slum-dwellers are also people and have rights to basic necessities just like everybody else.

It was for the most part an orderly debate which went through the recommendations and made what is called "progress". A number of additions and amendments were made, a special Friends-of-the-Committee group was set up to shuffle and re-deal them and, in the last hours of Friday, Committee III began examining these nuts-and-bolts changes.

## CONFERENCE PROFILE

GEORGE MUHOHO was out at Spanish Banks yesterday — Walking for Clean Water for All. For the Chairman of Committee 1 it was a welcome break after a week in which he has rarely escaped from meetings. But it was not a new experience, for as Director of Kenya's National Environment Secretariat, he is an old hand at water walks and recently raised quite a sum in a 24-kilometre march. He even collected sponsors for his Vancouver walk before leaving home.

Muhoho stumbled into Habitat by chance. He was invited to a preparatory meeting after a visit to Kenya by Enrique Penalosa, was elected chairman and has attended every meeting since, including the regional conferences.

Now as chairman of the committee which is deciding not only on the Declaration of Principles, but the future institutional arrangements, he finds himself very much in the hot seat. He fills it with ease and ability.

Muhoho is impressed by the "exceptionally smooth day-to-day running of the Conference" but not entirely happy that his committee should be getting all the attention. He feels strongly that the Recommendations for National Action are the most important aspects of the Conference and he had expected that they would get all the prominence.

"We had put the emphasis on the exchange of national experiences and this is the important thing," he says. "Governments cannot ignore the focus on human settlements from now on. It



is a revolution and like any revolution it takes a long time. But a process of thought has begun. It can't be ignored any more."

He is confident that the Declaration will be hammered out, as "a philosophy of national action" despite all the difficult issues which were necessarily involved.

On future institutional arrangements he retains chairman's reticence. The question to be decided, he said, is whether human settlement issues are development issues or environment issues. The answer will decide what governing body will give any new institution a political mandate.

# OK — BUT SCHEDULE IS TIGHT

## COMMITTEE 2

COMMITTEE 2 has met regularly since Tuesday, with the exception of Friday morning, and finished work for the week early Saturday afternoon. The drafting group has been the focus of many of the detailed disputes meeting until 0400 on Saturday and resuming again at 1000.

Consideration of the drafts in general debate proceeded more or less on schedule, considering amendments to the Recommendations for National Action (A-CONF. 70-5), Sections A, B and F. These deal with settlement policies and strategies; settlement planning; and institutions and management.

Initial debate on all recommendations before the Committee was concluded on Thursday morning. At this point the debate started to fall behind schedule. By the end of Saturday's session the committee had adopted the seven items in Section A (settlement policies and strategies). It resumes at ten this morning to adopt Section B. Tuesday morning is devoted to adoption of recommendations under Section F, and the afternoon is for adoption of introductions or preambles.

Amendments to the draft of Section A as prepared by the Secretariat include many relatively minor or drafting points, but also some substantial modifications. There is a general tendency to expand the context of settlement planning: for example, amended Recommendation A.1 (a) sees human settlements as being profoundly affected by "the level of economic development." Another recommendation in A.2 (c) advocates and integrated human settlement policy "concurrently with policies relating to other aspects of social and economic development."

An amendment calling on settlement policies to "consider the situation of refugees, displaced persons and migrants" (Recommendation A.1 (c) was withdrawn by the sponsors. It is understood that amendments on this issue will be offered in the final Plenary session, for the reports of all the committees.

An amendment accepted by the Com-

mittee for A.1 called for "focus on the central role of human resources as an agent for development." This is echoed by an addition to Recommendation A.6 calling for particular attention to be given to "encouraging self help, self reliance and the organisation of inter-regional solidarity." Another amendment, to Recommendation A.5, calls for "active co-operation and participation of all sectors of the population" in settlement development strategies.

Two of the amendments adopted call for special attention to the least advantaged. An addition to Recommendation A.3 states that a national human settlements policy should "be led by public sector actions, and aim at the welfare of the people, with priority to the most deprived."

A.4, dealing with more equitable distribution, has also been amended to include "measure to improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups which have special needs and handicapped — such as children, the elderly and the disabled. Such measures include provision of basic social services, adequate shelter and social and physical access to facilities." Another amendment to the same Recommendation, on distributing the benefits of development among regions, advocates "making such benefits and public services equally accessible to all groups."

Considerable discussion focussed on population policies. The original draft prepared by the Secretariat made no mention of policies on population growth, as distinct from distribution. An amendment was submitted by Colombia, Egypt, Iran, the Philippines and Venezuela, using the standard formula as adopted at the Bucharest Conference on Population, namely that "all couples and individuals have the basic human right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so, taking into account the needs of their living and future

children and their responsibilities towards the community." This was orally amended by the Committee to refer only to the Plan of Action of the Bucharest Conference. The representative of France was opposed to references to the "number" of children, while Iran and Colombia saw population, together with natural resources, as key issues for Habitat. Several delegations, including Algeria, India and Senegal, felt that the reference should be included in the preamble. As at the Mexico Conference on Women, it is increasingly the developing countries that are insisting on mention of national policies on population growth.

Another major item of discussion was over a mention in Recommendation A.2 of human settlements policies being "considered in all efforts to implement the New International Economic Order." The provision was finally retained, following a discussion along fairly predictable lines which the Committee agreed should be fully reflected in its report to the Plenary.

Another lengthy debate on Saturday morning was over a provision in Recommendation A.6 relating to the development of new sources of finance. The Rapporteur was authorised to work out a revision of the provision, after the American representative had complained that he had better things to do over the weekend than discuss drafting points.

Following the submission of an amendment by the United States, the Committee adopted a new provision in Recommendation A.2 that an integrated human settlement policy should "take into account the changing roles and responsibilities of women and the impact of developments and programmes on women, both as participants and beneficiaries."

The drafting committee has been meeting over the weekend to put together the various amendments submitted for Sections B and F of the Recommendations for National Action. Large numbers of such amendments have been offered, and Committee 2 is likely to be working overtime in order to meet its present schedule.

# Any more flutes?

THE MAN stands in the middle of a rock concert and plays a six-inch wooden flute. He passionately believes in what he is doing, he may be doing it remarkably well. But nobody can hear him.

Week Two of Habitat, and the banners are so many. Sometimes I think the only hope is that Barbara Ward will, by sheer dogged determination, outlast all the other voices, and when the speakers are turned off her voice may still be fluting on. "Go home," she says, "and sink your teeth into the leg of your local politician. Don't let go. Stay with it until he does something". It is so obvious, and so simple. But the banners are so many. She wants clean water, the Japanese want a recognition of Minimata disease, Margaret Mead wants an end to nuclear power and from then on you

can get into solar energy, acknowledgement of the handicapped, and any human concern you care to think of.

Nobody can hear you. Frustration is the name of the game. The politicians love it. Diffuse, and confuse. "Get yourselves organised, present your briefs through the proper channels, and we will attempt to do something about them".

There must be a lot of use who still believe in harps. The giant lottery, win now or in the hereafter, is just trust. Just wait. Have faith. And the diplomats, the professional word-smiths, the people charged with going back to their homes and native lands with the spirit of Habitat neatly packaged in mutually acceptable, inoffensive, neat and tidy praseology,

are as busy with international protocol as the NGOs are with their fancy footwork, each of them trying to get closer to the front. Disraeli said there are only two nations in the world, the rich and the poor. Habitat, the whole Habitat, the Forum and official Conference, are proving that.

It is not a question of material poverty, we are concerned with poverty of spirit, with the establishment of human dignity. There is not one Habitat concern which, at bottom, is not aware of what we are talking about, whether it is the dignity of being free of dysentery, the dignity of having a reasonable place of shelter, or the dignity of being allowed to control the amount of pollution which we are forced to breathe or otherwise ingest. There is a considerable dignity in not being treated as a figure in a statement of

JAMES BARBER



Gross National Product, as a number on a page. But there is nowhere visible, in this Conference, an appreciation of this basic issue. Habitat is a game, played according to the old rules, when papers like the *Diplomatic Times* meant something in terms of World Politics.

Di Lampedusa said in *The Leopard*: "If things are to stay as they are, then a lot of things must change". After a week of Habitat, there is no sign of any change, no sign of any country willing and ready to publicly state that it will not only endorse, but actually contribute to, any resolution of the conference.

Is Habitat as cruel a joke as it appears to be? Is somebody quietly distributing more and more flutes?

# VIPs go big on ideals not water



Folding chairs in front of a tepee provided a good setting during the weekend at the Forum.

THE water walk from Spanish banks to the Forum site yesterday was essentially what Margaret Trudeau said it would be before the procession set off — symbolic.

Walking with Mrs. Trudeau at the head of the procession was George Muhoho of Kenya, Chairman of Committee 1, representing the people for whom clean water is more than a symbol. He said that clean water for the developing world was "his dream," and added that a similar walk for water was held yesterday in Kenya.

A few people carried buckets on the short journey, which took about half an hour, less time than many African women spend carrying a full day's supply of water for their families. Most of the buckets in evidence were ten-quart plastic mop buckets, a far cry from the five-gallon surplus jerry cans favoured by Third World women who have to carry water every day of their lives. Most of the buckets contained only a few inches of water.

Mrs. Trudeau, wearing a variation on a Boy Scout uniform and earth shoes, carried a small poster and a tiny doll from Afghanistan dressed to demonstrate how burdens can be carried on the human back.

Jim McNeill, Commissioner-General of the Conference, carried a bucket with the statutory few inches of water. After carrying it by the handle for a while he shifted it to his head. "I understand now why they carry it his way," he said.

When the procession came to a halt outside Hangar 6, Margaret Mead spoke from the outside stage about the connection between clean water and a balanced population.

She warned that unless NGOs talked seriously to government delegations, the Conference would probably set a date for cleaning up the world's water, but make no provision for the money to do it.

Canada's Minister of Justice, Ron Basford, who is leader of the Canadian delegation, said Canada was committed to providing clean water by 1980 for everyone in the country. His delegation would suggest to the Conference that the world target date be 1986.

Conference President Barney Danson

said human settlements cannot be human without the vital resource of clean water. Calling the day a symbolic one, he said symbolism was significant only if it implied a commitment to future action.

Margaret Trudeau said that after a week at the Forum she believed the two most important issues were nuclear energy and clean water.

At the end of the rally, NGO Committee Chairman J.G. van Putten put a resolution to the meeting which was adopted by acclamation. It called on the Conference to guarantee that all people would have clean water by 1990, and to accept the financial responsibility for providing it at the estimated cost of \$3,000m a year for 10 years.

## 'This is not good enough'

THE Third World group, meeting daily in Hangar 6, is worried about the emphasis the Forum and the Conference are placing on solutions to the problems of human settlements.

"The recommendations make no sense unless they are put in the framework of the causes," a spokesman told *Jericho*. The group thinks fundamental issues, such as a structure of international relations based on the dependence of the developing world on the developed, are being ignored.

"No one is really looking at the power relations between groups, or the role of the multinational corporations. We talk about pollution — it's the multinational corporations which are causing the pollution — and nobody is saying so."

The power structure within individual countries is another basic cause of problems, according to the group. "How can you expect to implement a programme of radical solutions in a dictatorship? The suggestion of popular participation has no significance in a country like Chile, for instance. We have to start with the structural problems, then go on to the practical solutions."

In its deliberations, the group is moving toward a statement which will incorporate three objectives: to create a world consciousness of what they consider the real causes of human settlement problems; to unify the position of Third World delegates on the causes, and to propose concrete solutions to the problems.

Their second objective is being hampered by what they consider inadequate facilities at the Forum. "Because of the language barrier, there is minimal contact between Latin American, African and Asian delegates to the Forum. Few of the Latin Americans speak English, so we can't really hold a discussion in which everybody can participate. We are managing to keep in contact, but with great difficulty."

## LOBBYISTS GETTING HOLD

THE second week of the Conference should see a solid contribution from the NGOs who are beginning to find each other and the issues they want the Conference to address.

After an initial setback in Committee 3, the anti-nuclear coalition will make a new attempt to persuade the Conference to support a moratorium on the development of nuclear technology.

Isabel McWhirter, of the Environment Liaison Centre in Nairobi, said the nuclear lobby would not try to work through African countries, and that the African National Congress had been approached to help lobby.

After a meeting yesterday, Frene Ginwala, speaking for the South African ANC, said the organisation was very anxious to introduce the issue of transfer of nuclear technology to South Africa, which was a threat both to the environment and the survival of Africa.

Robert Allen of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) invited NGOs without consultative status to speak through the IUCN on the issue of the new international institution which will probably be created by the Conference.

His group and about eight others had decided after monitoring the Conference for a few days that the most important issue would be the shape of the new Habitat institution. "So we decided to concentrate on that, since it is the body we will be dealing with. It will embrace all our interests and affect how we deal with the existing international agencies."

So far, nuclear technology, the new institution and clean water seem to be the three issues which have rallied active lobbyists of NGOs.

# Jericho

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## Where are we going?

"WHEN I came to Habitat I thought I knew what it was all about, now I find that I have no idea." The statement from a highly experienced journalist, deeply involved in the conference preparations, reflects the bewilderment which many must be feeling in Vancouver this morning. The confusion was largely predictable. The subject matter is so broad that experts in one field find it difficult to talk to experts in another. And if this is not a technical conference but a political one, how do generalisations about policy encompass the problems of Birmingham and Bombay, or rural development in India and Idaho? Even those most involved in the Conference preparations find themselves astonished at the way committees have romped through the mass of recommendations with barely a hiccup and none of the earnest exchange of experience they anticipated. The Plenary has sounded, and looked, more like a tourist convention than a debate on how the world is to solve its desperately urgent problems.

Jericho Beach, too, has its surrealistic moments. Some joker might have thought up the idea of holding a conference on the end of the world in the middle of Coney Island, but even he would have hesitated before creating a fun fair especially for the job. For

one reason and another, the essential facilities of phones, translations, documents and transport have caused endless frustration despite a great deal of hard work. This has been partly responsible for the lack of impact on proceedings downtown. More important, perhaps, has been a lack of understanding about how UN conferences work. One or two old hands have played a skilful game in the lobbies, but there is really no use launching amendments out of the blue on committees and expecting dramatic results.

It is wrong to despair. From this low point of Habitat there is still time for the issues to become clear. A great deal of thinking has been done, not only last week but in the past three years. The message which must come out of Vancouver is of real importance in setting governments along new paths and priorities in providing water, in the use of land, in planning for population growth, in redressing obscene distortions of income, in respecting the environment and in public participation. All words it is true, but once written down and agreed upon they add another element to the framework of Stockholm, Bucharest, Rome and Mexico City which shows the way through the crises that are upon us. The signpost can be ignored, but at least it will be there.

## Backchat

Sir, Jericho is showing apparent bias in reporting and interpreting the issues of concern to the developed as opposed to the developing countries. In particular the emphasis in your report on the NGO declaration on nuclear energy and armaments does not reflect the major points of the document.

For those interested in the developing world the concern is predominantly with the need to change national and international socio-economic structures which impede progress towards relieving the abject poverty in which a large part of the world's population lives.

Luis Porter (Mexico),  
Gerson Gomes (Brazil),  
Allan Lavell (England) and  
40 others.

The text of the NGO declaration  
appears on page 6. - Editor

Sir, We find it quite ironic that there is nowhere on the Forum site where you can obtain a drink of water or milk.

Brian Baker, Gael Dinnie,  
Canada.

Sir, Why shouldn't Mother Teresa speak of lepers to people in wheel chairs or who carry white canes (James Barber, Jericho No. 3). To do so when necessary, simply and without embarrassment, indicates complete integration with them which I'm sure would not be hurtful. After all these people only have more visible handicaps than we do! Had Mr Barber been at the Coliseum last Monday, I think he would have perceived the appreciation of Mother Teresa's work to Habitat. Its essence was that neglect and loneliness and lack of dignity are not the prerogative of Calcutta — they exist everywhere. We cannot really love our neighbour in Calcutta, or wherever, and at the same time ignore our neighbour in the next apartment, whose name it is no longer safe to list in the lobby by the phones.

Freda Combe  
Vancouver.

Sir, I, like many others, am grumbling about communications and poor pipelines to the Conference, however I must congratulate the UN Office of Public Information for its excellent 09.00 briefing. The sun has now started to shine and maybe the cold will go! Hooray for a happy Forum.

Bert Colman,  
Australia

Sir, Buckminster Fuller is right in implying that a political structure (even one as enormous and well intentioned as the United Nations) for all its rhetoric cannot ensure the survival of the human species. I support his pragmatism and admire his optimism, but I am not sure why he feels so confident about the human species' chances of success.

By contrast, Mother Teresa clearly demonstrates the love and compassion that springs from a deep understanding of the significance of being a creature of a personal, loving creator — not a by-product of change.

Gordon Chutter  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir, Spontaneous applause has broken out each time a speaker at the Forum has called for a cessation of the arms race or for a moratorium on the building and sale of nuclear power plants. Signatures are needed on the petitions you can find in the Peace Action League booth in Hangar 8.

M. Thomson,  
Voice of Women and  
Peace Action League.

Sir, The statement credited to Jai Rattan Bihalla, of India, President of the International Union of Architects, that West Africa does not have a single school of architecture, and that practising architects are foreigners (Jericho No 5), is incorrect.

Nigeria alone has three schools of architecture, one of which has been producing architects for 15 years. Ghana also has one. Here in Vancouver the Nigerian Architect Registration Council is represented by a 15-man team of Nigerian architects.

Dr Niola O Adeniyi,  
Nigeria.

Sir, It may be my imagination or bad memory, but Duccio Turin's face (Jericho 4) looks enormously like Jorge Hardoy's (Jericho 5).

Ian David  
Oxford, England.

The faces are different, but the likeness is, indeed, noticeable. - Editor

Sir, The most vital message to come out of Habitat has not been the demands of the women "rightists" or the angry outcry against military spending and nuclear energy plants. Nor has it been the insistent calls for protective environmental and land policies — though I happen to support all these things.

Instead, glowing in the beauty of its truth and simplicity, it has been the message of love given us by Mother Teresa, that love should not "just be put into words", but into "living action" as well.

Flora M. Coan  
Washington, D.C.



The Great Clapped-out Audio-vis

## Will the world

By ROBERT ALLEN

SCARCELY audible above the clash of diplomatic spades digging delegations into entrenched positions on which of the existing bodies, if any, should get its hands on a new one, is discussion of a much more crucial issue: what should the functions and form of any new institution be?

The main objective of the new institution is to help nations place greater emphasis on human settlements as both the focus and the means of development. The institution's functions, of course, will be less comprehensive. By definition, the Habitat recommendations for national action can be implemented only by national governments, but to do so many governments will need financial and technical assistance. The job of the new institution will be the provision of this help.

Assistance is likely to be limited to a few areas: policy formulation; improvement of legal, fiscal and institutional arrangements; education and training; research; information and exchange; settlement design and construction. Assistance in these areas will be provided through programmes that will probably be organised along the six divisions of the national programmes: settlement policies and strategies; settlement planning; shelter, infrastructure and services; land; public participation; and institutions and management.

There is no point in going into either the areas or the programmes, since the Conference is unlikely to consider them in any detail. However, it is worth glancing at policy formulation, to give an indication of what should be major difference between existing UN bodies and any new human settlements organisation. With the exception of UNEP and UNICEF, United Nations agencies are sectoral — that is, their activities are restricted to a limited set of related problems, concentrating effort along a fairly narrow base.

By contrast, human settlements policies should be comprehensive and unifying. Individual policies on industrial development, the environment, food production, public health, and so on, should be brought together by them under one habitat policy roof, so to speak. This is easier said than done. Relatively few governments are experienced in integrated policy formulation, and all can improve on what they are doing. An international institution capable of bringing together expertise on a wide range of topics and of building verbal as well as mathematical models would be very useful.

However, although a global conceptual approach is essential, a global focus of action could be counter-productive. Policies and strategies should take account of social, political, economic and ecological characteristics that often will be peculiar to a single nation and generally will be held in common only by nations within rather small regional groupings. So it is generally recognised that the main focus of international co-operation should be at the regional level.

At least eight regional offices (under regional intergovernmental committees) will be needed if regional differences are to be reflected adequately. These offices could help translate broad policies devised by a central unit into the more explicit formulations appropriate to the special conditions of their regions. They could bring together the various institutions concerned with human settlements and the many factors that impinge on them, including regional development banks and other local



# Remember, it's people we are talking about

The speed with which population growth is going to set down another world on top of the existing one lies at the heart of the Habitat debate. Here Fred Sai urges the Conference to remember that settlements are for people.

IT SHOULD not be forgotten that the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements is part of a whole series of recent UN conferences devoted to a major world concern. The Bucharest World Population Conference, the World Food Conference in Rome and the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico all agreed that the human being himself is a major resource and that human development in dignity and with hope should be a major theme in all socio-economic development planning.

While these conferences recognised that population control or limitation is not a panacea or a substitute for other developmental activities, they nonetheless admitted that population regulatory activities should be part and parcel of comprehensive socio-economic development plans.

In their final plans and resolutions Bucharest, Rome and Mexico, all gave population and family planning activities a legitimacy which the Habitat Conference should recognise and respect. It would be wrong for a Conference on Human Settlements to make it appear as if the supply of settlements is the only issue to which mankind must address itself at this time.

However important the planning and provision of settlements are they will be worthless without supporting services for health, education, recreation and op-

portunities for leisure, basic freedoms including freedom from poverty, as well as freedom from unbridled fertility. Planned population growth should be one of the major themes of any human settlement policy, not merely distribution of the population.

In many of the industrialised countries, urban population growth is being accompanied by depletion of the countryside i.e. a rural population reduction. In many developing countries, while urban population growth is explosive the countryside is also growing in total quantitative terms at rates unprecedented in history. Programmes for deceleration of population growth are therefore a sensible contributor to the planning of the demand side of any rational settlements policy.

If we were to consider the problem of human settlements today as a major and pressing challenge to mankind without taking into account population we shall be doing ourselves gross injustice if we were blind to the fact that the structures of much of the world's populations today have a built-in momentum for such rapid increases if unanticipated and corrected or seriously planned for will make all of this conferences goodwill and rhetoric an exercise in futility.

Programmes to provide such populations with a bright future should have as a component programmes which make them change this fertility aspirations too. Family planning has to be part of any comprehensive health and social services programmes for human settlements. The ability of individuals and couples to plan and space their children ensures good health and freedom to contribute and participate in individual and community development activities. Children are an asset to a community in so far as they are healthy and can be brought up to be full participants in further development.

The problems facing women in urban areas, especially those of migrant women in towns are immense. With little knowledge, little skills and lack of an understanding of the options that are available for control of their own fertility these new townswomen are forced to take the most menial of jobs. Unwanted pregnancy and illegal abortions are common among them. Many are the bearers of illegitimate children, and all too quickly the hope of a bright beginning in the city turns to despair.

In Mexico and at this Conference, the problems of women's participation in development has rightly loomed large. The heavy biological load that women carry as bearers of the future generation ought to be lightened by making it possible for them to plan the extent of this burden. The full participation of women in work away from the home would need the creation of work facilities that enable women to combine their roles as mothers with that of members of the work force.

It is futile for any planner to consider these without ensuring that birth spacing information and services are part and parcel of the total plan. A woman's ability to control her fertility has a two-way relationship with her status in life and hope for long term and continuing self realisation.

Habitat has talked about day care centres, facilities for children and schools for the education of an increasing number of children. These are all issues that are interwoven with the whole question of family planning and population growth. Habitat should be bold enough to re-emphasise the need for population regulation as a sovereign national responsibility and family planning activities as a basic human right which could make a contribution to the overall purposes of Habitat.

Fred Sai is Assistant Secretary General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

ial Sit-down Talk-in Freak Show

## plum really be h eating?

sources of funds. They could identify gaps that need plugging and opportunities that require an urgent response, and they could monitor progress.

Above all, perhaps, they could help strengthen existing governmental and non-governmental institutions within their regions, both by providing financial support and management advice and by drawing on and coordinating their scientific and professional services.

At the centre of these regional offices, there should be a small unit largely dedicated to: devising broad policies; financial management; organizing a global network of consultants; developing an information system, including monitoring and evaluation of developments in human settlements; and devising and promoting research, training and public awareness strategies.

The accent, then, should be on cost-effectiveness and organisational muscle — on not merely combining in a single institution the UN's scattered human settlements activities but also on making the best use of organisations outside the UN system.

This is not to suggest that combining the UN's existing activities is unnecessary. On the contrary, if this is not done the recommendations emerging from Habitat are unlikely to get very far. At present, the three UN bodies most heavily involved in human settlements, are the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning (CHBP) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ESA); the United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP) and its UN Habitat

and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF); and the Transportation and Urban Projects Department of the World Bank.

Both ESA and UNEP have proposed ways of combining their efforts within a single institution. The ESA proposal is that the international human settlements programme be consolidated, naturally enough, within ESA, in New York. The CHBP would be beefed up with extra expertise to become the UN's office of human settlements, and the UNHHSF would become its financial arm. The Economic and Social Council would act as the office's governing body, possibly assisted by a human settlements board composed of representatives of governments, specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions. The regional economic commissions would be strengthened to operate the office's programmes.

The UNEP proposal, of course, is that the international programme come under UNEP. The governing body would be UNEP's Governing Council, whose annual session would deal alternately with human settlements issues and questions primarily relating to the natural environment. UNEP would expand the human settlements section of its Division of Economic and Social Programmes to form a department of human settlements programmes. This department would consist of the Office of the Executive Director of UNEP, a policy planning unit, and UNHHSF — all in Nairobi — together with an operational arm, embracing the present CHBP, which could be in either Nairobi or New York.

There are variations on these proposals, notably that contained in Addendum 1 to "Programmes for International Co-operation" (A-Conf 70-6), which seems broadly to plump for the ESA proposal with one or two significant modifications, such as a greater number of regional offices. However, much of the toing and froing in Committee 1 has been devoted to the respective merits of the ESA and UNEP positions. Putting it crudely, the argument has been stated partly in terms of cost-effectiveness, but largely in terms of whether human settlements is an environment or a development problem. This argument gets nowhere, because it is both. Development and environment are inseparable.

At the weekend, the line-up of delegates who had spoken in Committee 1 appeared to be two in favour of New York for every one who favoured Nairobi, with a fourth who either expressed no opinion or thought the question was premature. Indeed it is. No final decision can be made in advance of the report to the General Assembly later this year of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations system.

What about money? The documents before Committee 1 state that some \$220m is needed over five years if the human settlements programme is to be effective. No delegation has seriously disputed this figure — but no delegation has made any promises that bring this target within easy reach.

This is not surprising. There is little point in stumping up money for what is still an unknown quantity. Today, Committee 1 will have before it at least two and possibly three conference room papers presenting recommendations on the functions and form of a new or improved institution. When the differing positions expressed in these papers have been resolved, then governments can start talking cash.

# NGO Declaration: complete text

As a record of Habitat, "Jericho" will publish the full text of selected documents arising from the conference. Here we print, in full, the statement by participants in Habitat Forum presented to the plenary session of the Conference on Wednesday 2 June. This has since formed the basis of a number of suggested draft amendments to the Recommendations for National Action and Programmes for International Co-operation.

## Introduction

The objectives of the Human Settlements Conference will only be fulfilled if it addresses itself to the fundamental causes of the most serious of the human settlements problems.

Without an adequate and historical analysis of man's habitat, and without a proper explanation of the existing barriers which prevent the implementation of effective policies for improving that habitat, we cannot expect to offer a proposal with positive results. We believe that an effective improvement of human settlements conditions implies a change in national and international socio-economic structures.

## NOTICE BOARD

THE AD HOC Committee of the International Women's Decade of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations will present a statement to the general Habitat conference tomorrow afternoon. The statement has been signed by 39 organisations concerned with the problems of women's participation in relation to Human Settlements

A workshop is being organised to discuss the development of city man, homo metropolis. For more information, contact Daniel Gilbertson at Gage Hall, University of B.C., 228-5481

The Canadian Radical Planner's Network will meet today at 19:30 in Gage Hall residence at the University of B.C. The group is preparing a statement to the Canadian federal and provincial governments regarding citizen participation and planning from the participants in Habitat.

A workshop session on criteria for converting urban spaces for use by pedestrians will be held today in Hangar 6, Room H, from 12:15 to 14:15. The session will be hosted by Dr. Ronald Wiedenhoef.

Andres Alarcon-Segovia and Alberto Robora Togno will present a seminar on Latin American housing problems today at 16:50 in Hangar 6, Room H.

The library in Hangar 8 has a specimen copy of a book on the qualitative norms to which all persons are entitled at the level of the dwelling, the cluster, the neighborhood and the community - The Habitat Bill of Rights

A meeting of all women in the media covering Habitat will be held tomorrow in the Press Briefing Room at the Begg Building at 10:00, immediately after the morning briefing. Coverage of the Conference will be discussed.

The World YWVA invites YWCA members attending Habitat to a reception-discussion at the YWCA, 500 Burrard, tomorrow 17:30. Persons planning to attend are asked to call Mis Leith at 683-2531

A meeting will be held 9 June in Theatre B of Hangar 3 to discuss the Bakavi Resolution, which is concerned about developing an ecologically sound way of supporting human life

There will be an all-day agricultural tour tomorrow as part of the Habitat mobile workshop. It leaves the Forum at 09:00 and tours agricultural areas between Seattle and Vancouver. Contact Lynn Knudsen, 669-2862.

A GROUP called the Planners Network, working out of San Francisco, says planners must work to correct social injustice. A news release from the group after a Habitat meeting says planners must act to eliminate elite control and inequality in housing, transport, land use and general distribution of resources and wealth.

THE EARTH SOCIETY has proposed that individuals, communities and governments join in a seven-year Earth Care campaign, to "persuade each individual to act as a trustee of the part of Earth where he or she dwells."

COMBINED space ventures by the United States and the USSR could replace the arms race. Dr. Charles C. Price, former President of the American Chemical Society, has proposed. Dr. Price says the two countries should seek an agreement to reduce military budgets by five per cent over the next few years and devote the savings to cooperative space programs.

THE BASIS of the problems suffered by many people in the world is spiritual, not physical, because every living being is a spiritual spark covered by a material embodiment. Revatinanden Swami of Hare Krishna Movement said on Saturday. He said true fulfillment of the self can only be achieved by yoga or linking up with the Supreme self

AN Environment Forum working on water resources and solid waste management has produced a position paper containing 18 resolutions they would like to see contained in the Forum Declaration of Principles. Harold Leich, group chairman, said none of the resolutions were used by the NGO Drafting Committee. Leich said the situation is a

## The Problem of Habitat

1. One can only understand man's habitat - i.e., the biophysical, socio-economic and political expression of man's social activities by first understanding the way in which that habitat is produced and used.

In general, man's habitat is, in different countries, an expression of society's economic structure, of the power relationships amongst social groups, and of the structure of the state. More specifically, type and level of industrialization, the relations between rural and urban areas, the dominant form of ownership and the distribution of income. Each of these factors is, in its turn, conditioned by the place of each country in the world system of domination and dependency.

2. Partial explanations which fail to consider the problem in its historic perspective, run the risk of overemphasising ecology, urbanistic developments or catastrophic predictions about overpopulation.

3. Even if one accepts that in all countries in the world human settlements are in a precarious condition, and that poverty and social exclusion exist everywhere, it is in the underdeveloped countries that their situation is most dramatic because of the sheer dimensions of the problem. In these countries the so-called "deprived areas" are not the exception but frequently the rule. According to World Bank statistics, more than 900m have to survive on an annual income of less than \$75.

In these countries the basic resources necessary for the creation of settlements are often controlled by monopolies. Moreover, the absence of sufficient job opportunities and the concentration of income in the hands of a few as a result of the prevailing organization of the production, makes that no attention is given to the housing, infra-structure and social service needs of the vast majority of the population both in urban and rural areas.

4. It is important to realize that the forms of urbanisation in these countries are not the result of an incidental process but rather the logical products of the prevailing social

system which, in a large number of countries, benefits small minorities to the detriment of the majority of the population.

5. The type of tenure of land is one of the most important factors that determine the characteristics of each habitat. We strongly support the Recommendation for National Action in your document No. 5 which states that "Land, because of its unique nature and the crucial role it plays in human settlements, cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressure and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principal instrument for the accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice."

Furthermore, the private sector is motivated by an exclusive concern for profit which does not often coincide with social requirements. Equally, the interest of governmental groups which in some countries make common cause with the private sector use the benefits of settlements and in this way, make enormous profits. In doing so they deprive the majority of the population from essential goods and services.

6. These factors present such obstacles, especially in underdeveloped countries, that the right to a habitat, and notably the right to produce and utilise it in accordance with their particular interests and needs, has become a farce for most people. For this reason they, and especially the newcomers among them, are forced to set up their own settlements which are considered illegal. Thus they suffer not only from a substandard habitat but are also subjected to repressive action. Governmental policies tend to institutionalise such unjust situations.

7. Under such circumstances the notion of participation is often abused in order to disguise the real causes of the problem, and to permit the maintenance of low income levels and to load the settler with many non remunerative tasks.

8. We propose a new style of development that:

1. provides for new forms for the allocation of resources to society.
2. allows for a redistribution of income and wealth.
3. guarantees everyone the right to work.
4. promotes a shift from private to public consumption of goods and services.
5. directs the activity of governments towards satisfying the needs of the majority of the population.
6. stimulates the active participation of the population in decision making.

These proposals require the establishment of a new pattern of international economic relations and a confirmation of the principle that nations control their own resources.

## Recommendation For Action

9. All governments should establish at all levels of decision-making a framework wherein people and communities can make the maximum number of decisions for themselves and be given the means to implement them. The opinion of the elderly, the handicapped, the poor, the newcomers, must be obtained and acted upon, particularly with regard to social services, employment opportunities, building design, transportation policies and the provision of utilities.

10. We consider it fundamental, however, to propose a policy which goes much further and is radically different from the general notion of participation.

This new policy should promote the control by those concerned of the elements of the production process (land, technology, material, professional services, etc.) by the creation of autonomous mechanisms for social participation, possessing sufficient powers to fulfill their tasks.

In this context we should like to associate us with another recommendation of document 5 which states that, "By definition, popular participation cannot be planned or ordered from above; it can only be encouraged, in particular by removing political or institutional obstacles standing in its way." Among these obstacles we should like to draw special attention to the lack of access to information and the absence or one-sidedness of education.

The concept that the mass of the population have the right to control the production as well as the use of their habitat must also be one of the guidelines directing future international technical and financial co-operation.

11. Security of land tenure, building materials and credit facilities are the instruments by which governments can help people to build their own settlements. Specific goals should be set for the improvement of basic services and these should include the following:

- Provision of clean water for everyone.
- Provision of an adequate system for human and solid waste disposal incorporating concepts of recycling and energy conserving technologies; and
- Provision of appropriate forms of transport to enable all segments of the population to have inexpensive, safe and easy access. Priority should be given to public transport.

Furthermore:

- Those technologies should be applied which are in the social interest of the users and in accordance with the specific and ecological requirements of their location.
- Indiscriminate transfer of knowledge, experiences, and resources based on exogenous interests should be avoided.
- Land use and ownership policies should guarantee public control of land in the public interest. Owners of land shall not profit from an increase in the price of land that results from public investment in the infrastructure.
- There should be imposed a global moratorium on the construction of nuclear power plants and those presently operative should be phased out. Research into alternative sources of energy like solar and wind power should be intensified.

• Governments should implement the World Population plan adopted by the World Population Conference.

• No real improvements of human settlements around the world will take place without the mobilisation of the necessary political will and governments, especially those of the richer countries should be prepared to finance the programs for achieving the goals of Habitat. As a first step towards the goal of total disarmament which will make human settlements much safer places to live in, it is proposed that:

- 10 per cent of all appropriations presently allocated to military purposes by member nations (approximately \$300,000m) be transferred annually to a fund for improving human settlements and the quality of life for the poorest of the earth's inhabitants.
- The Recommendations for National Action are perhaps the most important document of this Conference. As a modest step towards ensuring the implementation of the recommendations, we propose that governments be requested to submit biannual progress reports to the United Nations.

• Finally, we request the governments, when they decide on the organizational structure, which within the United Nations will be responsible for human settlement issues, to make appropriate arrangements for the involvement of non-governmental organizations both in the planning and implementation stages of its programmes.



## THE WORLD ON OUR CONSCIENCE

"Bricks are Better than Straw", by Tore J. Brevik (Norway), which received an honourable mention in the competition "A Better Way to Live", organised in connection with Habitat.

"preview of next year's UN water conference in Argentina."

THERE can be no general housing policy that would apply from one country to another, even if the countries were in the same region, a seminar on self-help housing was told Friday. But there are still some significant areas where co-operative information exchange could be feasible.

SELF-HELP community development in rural areas was the subject of a workshop last Thursday by Daphne Anstey, a panelist from Associated Country Women of the World. Anstey said the group's main drive was towards education programs to ensure the full integration of women into the community.

POPULATION was linked with economic growth at a Friday Forum presentation by Professor A. Kapusinski, a representative of the United States Coalition for Life. Kapusinski concluded that population control policies to improve economic welfare may be counter-productive and more study of this relationship is needed.

THE Town and Country Planning Association of the UK say they are deeply concerned at the lack of progress being made in Committee One over the Forum declaration of principles. A group news release says there is considerable support for the principles by many NGO groups, and has drawn up five principles for human settlement which is would like to have presented to the conference.

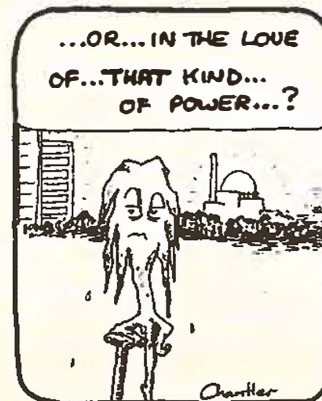
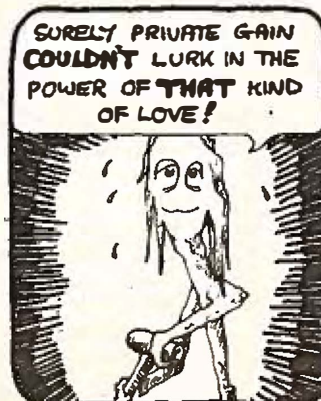
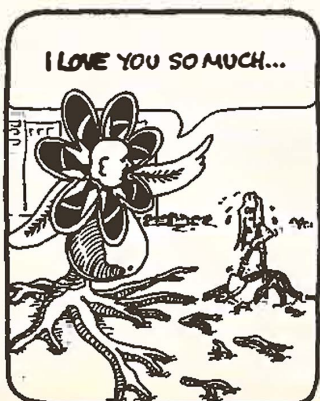
THE Hyogo International Conference, IFHP 1976, has drawn up five declarations dealing with human settlements which were considered at a Forum session on citizens' participation in the formulation of goals for the environment of human settlements.

Earthlabs, a type of research centre designed to form semi-self-sufficient communities, were explained to a Forum audience Saturday by Dr. Genevieve Marcus and Robert Lee Smith of Experimental Cities. Dr. Marcus said the Earthlabs will test and demonstrate innovative social and environmental structures with the intention of providing positive guidelines for future human settlements.

THE Building Owners and Managers Association International, a spokesman group for the high-rise and commercial office building industry, has released a plan designed to give individuals the information needed to make responsible decisions on human settlements. More information is available from Randall Zisler at the Hotel Vancouver, Room 1023.

THE International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has released a position paper on human settlements, urging international institutions and governments to give greater priority to the developing of better living conditions. The group also urges greater financial resources for the newly-established UN Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so "it can give substantial assistance to the efforts of developing countries."

THE Australian official delegation presented a seminar Friday on remote communities. The group showed a film, Living Way out.







## BATTLE HYMN OF HABITAT

(To the tune of "John Brown's Body")

We are nations come together  
For a common purpose stand,  
And to weld a bright tomorrow  
For a better use of land.  
Let the plans that we have gathered  
Bear the fruits of purpose clear  
That our problems will be met.

We are standing on the threshold  
(Of a door that must not close.  
We are challenging all peoples  
To awake from their repose.  
We have come from many countries  
And the sun will never set  
On the aims that we hold dear.

What we see from any land  
We must learn to understand.

(Chorus)

There are hopes that we must cherish,  
There is work that we can share;  
And our dreams will never perish  
If we learn to do and dare.  
May the hand we clasp in friendship  
Be the hand that points the way  
To the distant goal we seek.

L. M. Kenworthy.

(Chorus)

We are building for tomorrow;  
We will work to banish sorrow.  
We must guide the host that follow  
On the road to victory.

(Chorus)  
It is not alone the brothers  
In the lands from far away  
Who must live to bear the burden  
Of mistakes we make today.  
What we hear in any language.

# Solar energy at the Forum

THE SUN smiled over Habitat Forum at the weekend, and the Forum smiled back. Crowds of people milled through the hangars and exhibits and then stomped their feet in time to the Bluegrass music at the fiddlers' festival outside Hangar 7.

There were queues at the food and the lemonade stands, and the bars did good business, so much so that it had to be closed early Friday evening as Al Clapp, Forum site producer, once again reminded everyone that the Forum was about human settlements, not drinking.

The sun, R. Buckminster Fuller told a huge lunchtime crowd on Saturday, "is a good sign for us" and the crowd took him at his word, forgetting somewhat the problems of the future for the pleasures of the present. But the serious side of Habitat wasn't forgotten. Hangar 3 was packed as early as 09.00 on Saturday, as people waited for Fuller's scheduled talk on "Visions of the Future — Getting it Done".

For 90 minutes, they listened to Dr. Genevieve Marcus and Dr. Bob Smith of Earthlab, talking about the Experimental City, a project to form a complete semi-autonomous community. Then they were told that Fuller would be speaking at the outdoor stage outside Hangar 5, and while some grumbled at having to move, the

## Habitat

frowns soon turned to smiles as Fuller charmed his audience.

The nuclear group, which had put out a four-page newspaper in Jericho's absence, dominated the serious side of the day with a series of workshops.

Dave Barrett, the former Premier of British Columbia, fresh from his re-election to the provincial legislature last week told the crowd that nuclear policies would only be changed if people got involved in politics.

"I'm never embarrassed to talk about politics," said Barrett and the predominantly local crowd chuckled to hear "little fat ol' Dave" tell them the obvious.

Robin Thompson's afternoon session on City Planning in China drew a packed audience in Hangar 3, as did many of the

smaller workshop sessions ranging in content from the Krishna Consciousness presentation of Practical Spiritual Communities Around the World to the workshop on Children and Human Settlements. But the lighter side of the Forum drew equal crowds — the dancers and singers from Croatia pleasing the shirt-sleeved audience with their colourful presentations.

THE CASE of the disappearing delegates has made routine contacts into a nightmare. The reason, according to the Habitat Secretariat, is that the big hotels where delegates were placed by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat have all introduced summer rates, a month in advance of the usual time. With the unexpected premium to pay, many delegates and Habitat officials have moved out of the hotels and effectively disappeared, although they are believed to be somewhere in Vancouver. The only way to contact them seems to be to leave messages at the Pavilion, tel: 689-6200.

## Gremlin

NOT all the lobbying at the Conference is aimed at delegates. Representatives of the Environment Liaison Board, which runs the Nairobi-based Environment Liaison Centre, have been spending quite a bit of time attempting to persuade the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to join in the work of the ELB. If the IUCN joins, it would be quite a coup since everyone knows that the IUCN, working on the principle "never mind the quality feel the width", has by far the longest name of all environmental groups and would look good on the letterhead.

But there is a problem here in that representatives of IUCN have been spending quite a bit of time attempting to persuade the ELB. So complex is the whole issue that representatives of both IUCN and ELB were last night urgently trying to contact the Italian delegation in the hope that Garibaldi was still in their list.

INDIA was a late entry in the Mental Olympics of Committee 3 on Friday. Discussing the question of nuclear power limitation, the Indian delegate, who all week has astounded his colleagues with his mastery of the irrelevant, explained that nuclear power is like Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Nuclear power limitation is evidently no more than a "buzz word" (although it is three) enjoying a passing popularity like transcendental meditation. Important conferences like this one should not fall prey to the anti-nuclear lobby and pick on poor old nuclear power, which isn't harming anyone.

Popular stuff, all this, among delegates who are determined to say nothing which might lack unanimous support. And fitting, too, that it came from a country which is doing its best to show how atoms for peace can quite easily be turned into "peaceful explosions".

AFTER a day and night struggle with alternative technology Rajeev Sethi has his colourful "person-powered dialogue" ready for twice-daily workshop sessions. Don't miss this story of an Indian village in the IPPF exhibition area in Hangar 6, at 1400 and 2000.

## Beware the power of nature — Osorio

In Vancouver, just three weeks before Habitat began, a seismic tremor was felt which was recorded at 5.3 on the Richter Scale. The earthquake level is six-plus. The Nicaraguan City of Managua suffered three such shocks — of forces between 6.3 and 6.5 on the Richter Scale — within 24 hours just before Christmas 1972.

The compact centre of Managua crumbled. Over 90 per cent was destroyed and most of the buildings which remained standing have since been razed because of structural weakening. More than 10,000 people were killed and 20,000 wounded. But it need not have been as bad.

Managua is the only city in the world now being rebuilt from scratch. The man behind the operation is Ivan Osorio, Vice-Minister of Urban Planning and a trained architect who was born and reared in the city.

The nub of Osorio's message to Habitat, and what he is trying to put into practice in the rebuilding of his birthplace, is that natural disasters cannot be averted, but the consequences can be minimised. "Be aware of nature's power," says Osorio. "We are not prophets of doom. What we are saying is what every Boy Scout and Girl Guide knows. The important thing is to be prepared." Managua was destroyed by nature. It is being rebuilt with the utmost respect for nature's power.

Ivan Osorio points out that technological sophistication has multiplied the problems of modern cities. Today, quite apart from the towering masses of steel and concrete, it is necessary to protect the infrastructure — water, power, sewerage — and a whole standard of living. In crowded urban areas more lives are at stake — and more investment. "We are not pioneers any more," says Osorio, "if power is cut off in Vancouver a lot of people are going to freeze."

So how do we prepare? What lessons did Managua teach? What are the planners at the Vancouver talks expected to do?

"First, be conscious of the possibility that nature might be unfriendly," says Ivan Osorio. New settlements must be planned with this prospect in mind. Established

cities should re-examine themselves and invest in restructuring.

Most cities might do well to invest in a geological study of their respective sites. In Managua they spent 14 months doing just that, before rebuilding was started.

They found three rifts running more or less parallel, north to south.

For example, each building in the new Managua will stand free, with space between it and its neighbour. In the old city they were attached. When the tremors began they swayed — at different rates and degrees, usually depending on height — and contributed to the damage.

There may not be any structures higher than four storeys in the new Managua. When the earthquake came, escalators and elevators buckled and jammed.

In tomorrow's Managua the fire stations will be dispersed. There will be many small ones, set far apart and away from the rifts. In "yesterday's" city, the fire-fighting resources were concentrated in large stations. About 90 per cent were lost.

In the new Managua, unlike in the old, the water mains across the rifts will be made of flexible material. There will be open spaces skirting the weak areas and others within running distance of the residential areas.

The plan of the new Managua shows the most critical buildings like hospitals, schools, power stations and sewerage deployed in the least vulnerable areas, while warehouses and the like given sites closer to the rift.

"In all this", says Vice-Minister Ivan Osorio, "there must be simple lessons. The Habitat Conference should pay due attention to planning and re-planning of new and established human settlements, with possible natural disasters in mind.

Four years before Ivan Osorio was born, in 1935, an earthquake struck Managua and 2,000 of the then population of 30,000-plus were killed. Nearly 40 years and no rethinking later there were more than 30,000 casualties. It could, Osorio wants the Conference to understand, happen anywhere at any time.

## KEEPING THE SUNNY SIDE UP

IN A well-received message of hope, R. Buckminster Fuller told an overflowing, outdoor crowd at Habitat Forum that it was "highly feasible" for the world within 10 years "to take care of all humanity with a higher standard of living than we've ever known before.

Fuller said the evidence was "incontrovertible" that using proven technology, humanity could enjoy "a higher energy income" than that presently enjoyed by the United States. Such abundance need not deplete fossil fuel reserves, because it could come from the energy forces of the sun and the wind.

He said 100m square miles of the earth's surface was always in the sun, a potentially huge source of energy. Additionally, the shaded side of the planet was building up winds which had sufficient energy to move "the waves and the oceans . . .

"One minute of one hurricane creates greater energies than all the bombs stockpiled by the Russians and the Americans," he said. However these energies had not yet been exploited "because you can't make money out of it. You can't put a meter on it."

In a wide-ranging, philosophical talk, Fuller said the human mind was able to discover and employ scientific principles so that we could now "dive deeper than the whales and fly faster than the birds." And technology was able to "continually do more with less of the world's resources".

He said human beings were on earth for their mind and not their muscle. However man's muscle had predominated with the growth of military might and politics because those in power were frightened that there were insufficient resources to go around. "Being born helpless and ignorant and assuming there is not enough to go around, human beings have been able to rationalize selfishness."

Fuller said he had chosen a "career in artifacts" in the late 1920s so that "I might then prove we have enough and make politics obsolete and war obsolete." Habitat was taking place "in an incredible revolution" when there were already sufficient resources and technological knowhow to take care of the needs of everybody.

## Habitat protest — in Manila

TRAFFIC was banned in the core area of Vancouver and about 135 other world cities on Saturday as part of World Environment Day.

In Manila, police arrested 2,000 slum dwellers and religious leaders who held a demonstration timed to coincide with the Habitat Conference. Imelda Marcos, governor of metropolitan Manila, and wife of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, is due in Vancouver today to address the Plenary. She has just accompanied her husband on an official visit to the Soviet Union. Demonstrations were banned in Manila under martial law proclaimed by Marcos in 1972.

Religious leaders in Manila had attempted to distribute a pamphlet that was highly critical of a settlement programme for 500 squatter families on 15 acres of reclaimed land in Manila Bay.

Building Human Community will be the subject of a special session tomorrow at the Queen Anne Room in the Hotel Georgia between 13.00 and 15.30 (with Margaret Mead.) There will also be regular sessions from today until Wednesday at 09.30 in the Gage Residence lobby at the University of B.C. The sessions are sponsored by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, Save the Children Alliance, Community Development Foundation and World Education. There will also be a special presentation to the children's conference today at U.B.C. (12.30).