

# Jericho

THE HABITAT NEWSPAPER NO. 8

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## THE SOUND AND THE FURY

SOUND advice for conference delegates whose ears may be ringing with rhetoric after the week of speeches: rest your ears if you want to preserve your hearing. Hildegard Westerkamp, of World Soundscape Project, told a Forum session that for every minute of exposure to noise ears should be rested for two — otherwise there is risk of hearing loss.

She said the main problem of noise pollution is that ears adapt to higher and higher levels of noise, but the adaptation is in fact hearing loss. Present acceptable levels of noise are based on the amount of noise people already conditioned can tolerate.

The city soundscape is now loud enough for experts to worry that on present trends urban deafness will be a major hazard of city life within 30 years.

NGO delegates who have tried to speak to the main Conference would have appreciated Miss Westerkamp's idea of acoustical existence: "We only exist acoustically in a quiet environment. We don't exist acoustically in a noisy environment such as heavy traffic. We have to hear who we are and what we are doing."

# Canada backs move on new UN body

A COMMONWEALTH initiative, to which Canada has contributed extensively in both money and expertise, may lead to the establishment of a new type of co-ordinating body within the United Nations system.

It will be a double-headed creature — governmental and non-governmental at the same time — and will include the whole field of human ecology, of which human settlements are a part, as its responsibility. The Habitat Conference is expected to

breathe life into it within the next few days.

After several "workshops" attended by nearly 20 countries, and a series of meetings of a drafting committee at which Commonwealth and some non-Commonwealth countries were present, a statement and set of recommendations was produced yesterday, which will be tabled before the Habitat Plenary today.

It was all done under the banner of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council,

but, as the CHEC's dynamic Secretary-General Zena Daysh, says: "It is really a very international effort with Sweden and Argentina playing prominent parts." Looked at another way, the international effort has become accepted as a CHEC initiative even among non-Commonwealth countries. Or as Zena Daysh puts it: "We have let the Commonwealth loose on the world."

The preamble to the statement says: "The initiatives taken at Habitat will be vital to the future of the world. If they are not to be lost in confusion, it is essential that the principles of human ecology, and their application, should become the responsibility of a specific existing or new agency within the United Nations.

"For the same reason, Habitat principles should become the responsibility of specific government and non-government organisations within each member state . . ."

The recommendations include giving "specific responsibility for the promotion of the principles and action programmes" to a "specific agency within the UN whose directing council should be comprised of government and appropriate non-government organisations' representatives".

This agency should "be required to establish as soon as practicable a structure for a working relationship between itself and non-government organisations dealing with human ecology."

The implication is that apart from the agency, a new dimension should be added to the UN framework where governments operate at their level and non-government organisations pretend to have a voice of their own. Mrs. Daysh sees the new body operating nationally, regionally and through some central secretariat, perhaps at the UN in New York or even the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

It will be an official body of the United Nations, with rights and duties on a par with national delegations. Its administrators, or executives, will have the muscle of governments behind them, but will operate as non-governmental people.



This treatment of Jericho is not recommended: someone may steal your valuable copy.

## P.N.G. IS VOICE OF N-LOBBY

THE lonely figure of Papua New Guinea stood before the sparsely-attended Plenary yesterday afternoon at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in an attempt to get home its message that nuclear technology in any form was just too dangerous for man at the present level of understanding. Delegates dozed, scratched themselves or read through their prepared speeches for when their turn came around. The cameras flickered around the hall trying to find alternative focuses of interest and alighted on a couple in blue, obviously oblivious of the importance of the plea.

Paul Japhlon, the leader of the Papua

New Guinea delegation, laboured on before his disinterested audience. "We in the South Pacific are of the view that nuclear energy in any form will have no part in our future. We do not believe that it can be proven to be safe." Few of the Group of 77 developing nations, of which Papua New Guinea is the newest member, were there to listen.

"We strongly urge countries to invest the same kind of funds into energy sources such as solar, wind and water power over the next decade that they have done on nuclear energy in the last," Japhlon said. The words would have found favour with the

NGO anti-nuclear lobby which was active during the day in a last-ditch struggle to get a nuclear moratorium included in the final document. Their NGO statement was read to Committee 3 and Chairman Diego Arria promised to include it in his Committee's presentation to the Plenary.

NGO Coordinator for the anti-nuclear lobby, Dalton McCarthy, read the statement which stressed like Papua's Japhlon, that emphasis should be put on renewable energy sources, and demanded a

(Continued on next page)

## INSIDE

Page 2: James Barbar; Committee reports  
Page 3: Jack Munday at the Forum.  
Centre Pages: Women and development; Slowing the drift from the villages; Editorial; Backchat  
Page 6: Doubts over UBC plan for films; Noticeboard  
Page 7: Today's Programmes  
Back Page: Gremlin; Habichat.

# Divine desperation

IT'S HARD to slip into town un-noticed when you have a long white beard. But there He was down at Habitat Forum, sitting on a log, eating a souvlaki, and cold, like the rest of us.

"Are you enjoying Habitat?"

"That's a silly question. They used to ask my son . . ."

"Is it that bad?"

"Bad? Listen, if it wasn't bad do you think I'd be here. There's a great concert tonight up on Cloud Nine . . ."

"The Grateful Dead?"

"Very funny. You journalists are all alike. I don't know why I made you in the first place. And this Habitat . . . I must have been out of my mind."

"What's the trouble?"

"Okay. I invent the telephone, right? It just got too much, all that praying, I couldn't handle it, it was okay when there was just a few hundred but now it's millions. I couldn't hear myself speak. But nobody uses it. Even me, I try to call the Vatican and the operator says it's an unlisted number. And he never calls me. Then television. I thought that was a really good idea. Everybody could get to see, you know. But I can't get on. And I thought it would save a lot of travelling around, cut down on gas — you know, good conservation. And just look at them, all those first-class tickets and \$30 on a downtown conference, they all come here just like they used to, and now they

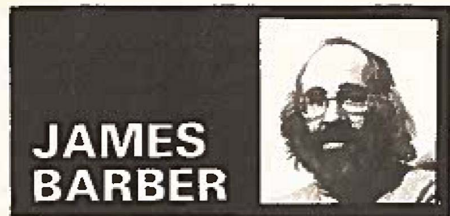
won't even let me see what they're doing in the committees. They just black it out. About 2,000 years wasted. And I haven't got all that time. I'm an old man. I'm tired."

"But don't you know what's going on?"

"I used to. But now it's all Concorde and SST's and a lot of new-fangled stuff. Like atoms — what do you call them — 'nuclear'? They shipped in a whole new crew of script-writers. I don't know any more."

"But you're God. Can't you just say something?"

"Have you ever tried to talk to a politician? They even look at you cross-eyed. I mean, it's all so simple. Clean water and stop killing one another. They teach that to all their kids — don't



JAMES BARBER

pee in the bath and don't keep hitting your sister, right?"

"Can't you call a meeting?"

"What do you think Habitat is? And I'll tell you, never again. If you guys won't get after these politicians then I'm not going to help you any more."

"Are you totally negative about it?"

"No. No. I wouldn't say that. This is a good souvlaki."

"That's all?"

"Yeah. Yeah. No, wait, there is something you can tell me. Yeah . . . what time does the bar close tonight?"

## PNG is voice of N-lobby

(Continued from previous page)

moratorium on the export of nuclear technology.

"If we are to develop the ethical and political will to work for change in our human settlements, we must have a discussion of the energy scenario," he said. "We propose there be a serious discussion on our amendment in the Plenary session." A debate on the nuclear issue was "an opportunity to show whether or not this conference is, even in the smallest way, responsible to the Habitat Forum NGOs."

The NGOs found they came in for quite a lot of criticism from the anti-nuclear lobby at the Forum yesterday afternoon when they met to discuss the second NGO statement to the Conference. The floor felt that merely urging governments to accept "their nuclear responsibilities" was not enough. So, by consensus, the proposal for a nuclear moratorium was restored. The meeting also expressed regret that the official Conference had not seriously debated the whole energy issue, and called for total disarmament.

But the nuclear question wasn't the only area of criticism from the floor. Several delegates expressed surprise that there was no mention of housing or shelter in the document "when four million in India need houses this year."

A proposal from the floor called for recognition of housing as a pressing need; for support for the principle of low-cost, low energy construction, and condemnation of policies which remove settlers without providing adequate alternative housing, jobs or transport.

Education was considered a significant omission, and several proposals were put forward, including one urging universities accepting students from abroad to provide them with an education which would be relevant to the countries in which they would live and work.

At one point, chairman J.G. van Putten came under fire for not putting proposed amendments to a vote. Aiming for consensus, he accepted contributions from the floor, noting those which drew support in the form of applause.

Speakers worried that the applause meter might not register heavily enough in their favour asked that they be allowed to submit written statements at the end of the session. Van Putten agreed it would be possible to have a record of all the additional contributions, even though it was not possible to include them all in the final statement which had to be a reasonable length as "it was very difficult to get time to speak at the Conference."

The draft — which was still under discussion late yesterday — called on the official Conference to support agrarian reform where necessary, and integrate land reform into global development plans.

Land should be regulated and controlled in the public interest, and the plus value resulting from change in land use of public investment should be recaptured by the community. Multinational corporations which have obtained much of the best agricultural land in developing countries should be governed by internationally agreed rules.

The sharply criticised section on women noted that women in many countries are exploited and suffer social exclusion, which will only improve if women join the struggle for a better quality of life and social change.

## STILL SLOW GOING BEHIND DOORS

COMMITTEE I continued to work in separate working groups yesterday on the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of International Cooperation. Both working groups made slow and tortuous progress and scheduled meetings until 1200 midnight. Both sessions were closed all day.

After intense debate in working group I on the Group of 77 draft Declaration of Principles, it was agreed that future discussion and negotiation should concentrate on 13 of the 50-plus sections. The most controversial sections include reference to racism, the new international economic order, and "acts of aggression" involving "expelled or homeless people."

The group called on all countries to "fully cooperate" in the rehabilitation of such people.

At 1730 the working groups adjourned so that the Group of 77 and other blocks could meet in private session. During the break, delegates of both of the Group of 77 and western countries seemed adamant about sticking to their previous positions. The west's main argument was that human settlement should not be understood and solved in a political context, but in a technical context. However, the west has not put forward any positive thinking for such a context. It seemed likely last night that the contents of the final report would not be influenced by different views on the relationship between political and technical aspects of settlements but by a straight-forward political confrontation.

On the programme of International Cooperation working group II concentrated

## Ahead of schedule

COMMITTEE 2 continued its rapid adoption of recommendations yesterday morning by completing the final section, on institutions and management. The Committee was meeting last night, ahead of schedule, to consider introductory material to the recommendations and its final report to the Conference.

Recommendation F1 calls for institutions to have "a distinct identity relation to the priority assigned to human settlements in development plans." In addition "institutions for human settlements should be co-ordinated with those responsible for national, economic and social development and environmental trends and policies and inter-related on a multi-disciplinary basis." (F2)

F3 and F4 modify the approach by recommending that "institutions dealing with human settlements should adapt to changing circumstances," and that short-term solutions should not be allowed to outlive their original purpose.

Public participation is stressed in section F5, which suggests that it be achieved by decentralisation of administration and management, consultation with similar bodies and dialogue among the elected officials, administrative bodies and professionals.

This recommendation was adopted as orally amended after the Netherlands, supported by Canada, Australia and Uganda, opposed the original reference to

### COMMITTEE 1

on the draft resolution proposed by the core drafting group on the basis of drafts by France, Gabon, Italy, the Netherlands, Swaziland, Sweden and the USA.

The core group's recommendations that a 58-member, intergovernmental body, with responsibility for the UN Habitat and Human Settlement Foundation, should be set up and report to the General Assembly through ECOSOC, was favourably received. But it could not reach agreement on most of the other related matters. The responsibilities of the new, all-important secretariat were largely agreed but not its formulation. However, the Secretariat does seem likely to comprise the "past and budgetary resources" (the draft acknowledges the need for clarification) of the Center for Housing, Building, and Planning of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; part of UNEP's division of Economic and Social Affairs."

But several crucial questions are unresolved. UNEP still retains responsibilities "for the environmental aspects and consequences of human settlements planning," while the new secretariat has to "co-ordinate human settlements activities within the UN system."

Several delegates argued for strong regional bias and for NGOs to be formally incorporated in this regional structure. One dissenter was Iran who asked for an ad hoc UN committee to review current UN activities in human settlement and recommend future action.

### COMMITTEE 2

"public participation in decision making at all levels."

Management of settlements, recommendation aspects, is aimed at preventing "speculation on people's basic need and aspirations." Special emphasis is placed in F7, on the development of scarce human resources by training and research.

The demands of national settlements planning are to be met (F8) by "separate financial institutions and adequate means." A further recommendation on reaching the people (F9) calls for the streamlining of institutions and procedures "to ensure that intended beneficiaries receive the largest possible share of resources and benefits." It emphasises public accountability and direct contact with citizens.

In addition to section F, a new recommendation was adopted as B15 on mobile groups, which stressed provision of adequate services for nomads.

COMMITTEE 3, given the job of tackling Recommendations for Government Action on shelter, infrastructure and services; land and public participation; became the first committee to finish its chores. Yesterday the last amendments and additions were worked into its final report by its drafting committee. The report should be approved today.

## Conference 'gag' claim

JEAN TAYLOR is one Forum delegate who doubts that the official conference is prepared to pay even lip service to the idea of popular participation. Ms. Taylor, secretary general of the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, tried to present to Committees 2 and 3 a report of a conference her organisation held specifically to discuss participation in local development, as proposed by the preparatory committee of Habitat.

When she tried to report the proceedings of her conference to Committee 2, she was allowed only to put a mimeographed copy on each delegate's chair. Then "I was introduced to Committee 3 by the chairman, who asked if the delegates would like to hear my report. But there was no reaction, so I asked whether the silence meant yes or no. There was still no answer."

She returned to the Forum yesterday to ask that the next NGO statement to the Conference include sharp words about lack of opportunity for NGOs to speak to the official delegates.

## New women's corps

THE Women's Decade Health Committee announced yesterday it has formed an International Preventive Medicine Corps to provide employment skills for women.

Bettina Corke, a founder of WDHC, said the Corps' priority would be to raise the economic status of women and promote opportunities at policy and managerial levels. The WDHC is associated with the American Health Foundation, a non-profit organization which works with government and non-government agencies.

A committee news release says the Corps was founded "to implement the goals of International Women's Year and the Habitat goal to improve the quality of life."

## Grass-root problems

THE PROBLEMS of organising planning at the grass-roots level were examined yesterday in a Forum seminar chaired by R. J. Harvey of England.

Harvey said there was a growing philosophy that voluntary community groups are as important as organised government groups and deserve financial support and access to information. He said people were not being served by the politicians they elect if the politicians employ development plans that separate them from the people.

## Elderly seminar

THERE IS a need for planning by and for the elderly in human settlements, a Forum seminar sponsored by the International Senior Citizens Association decided yesterday.

The group wants the UN to increase its present resources and activities on behalf of the elderly, and to devise programmes of income maintenance and health geared to senior citizens. They also want methods whereby the elderly can contribute directly to national and local policies affecting human settlements.

# This isn't a bourgeois preserve says Jack



AT 85 years old, Dudley C. Carter is the dean of local artists whose work is being exhibited at Habitat Forum. Carter is a wood sculptor, and his Indian carvings, made out of driftwood from the sea shore, are exhibited outside Hangar 7.

The third son of a pioneer family, Carter is a whiteman who grew up on the northern B.C. coast among the Haida Indians. He was educated at Indian schools. "As a boy I used to watch the Haidas carve their canoes and totem poles," he says. "I've always been fascinated by it."

Early this century Carter was a forest engineer. Then came the depression "when there wasn't any forest industry." He took to carving and it didn't take him long to become a success. In 1939 he was commissioned to do a wood sculpture for the San Francisco World's Fair. His carving, the Goddess of the Forest, was carved out of redwood — a piece 36 feet high and seven feet in diameter, weighing over 30 tons.

Since the thirties, he has worked up and down the Pacific coast and his work has been exhibited in art museums, parks and private residences from California to British Columbia. He presently lives in Bellevue, Washington. His book, *Axe Hewn Sculptures from the Big Trees of the West*, is one of the few written on Indian wood carving.

He's a little hard of hearing these days, but age otherwise seems not to have affected him. And while the crowds at the Forum mill from one hangar to the other, Carter goes on doing what he's done for the past 45 years, carving beauty out of abandoned pieces of timber.

## Ah, Footinmouth...

THE OFFICIAL conference report for circulation to the inner circle is not being read as widely as it might be. Two days ago Ambassador Footinmouth put in an appearance in the report. Speaking on behalf of the delegation of Upper Ruritania, Footinmouth told the Plenary session that he neither knew nor cared what a human settlement was.

It remains a mystery how this act of sabotage could have occurred. The archives reveal that Footinmouth made similar appearances in the official reports of the conferences at Bucharest, Stockholm and Rome. At Vancouver a world record was set when only three recipients of the official report noticed his appearance.

The editor-in-chief of the official summary is Robert Rhodes James, who was also at Bucharest, Stockholm and Rome. He leaves the United Nations at the end of this month.

## THINKING SPLITS ON LAND

A SIGNIFICANT split in thinking between developed and developing world on land policies emerged during the second day of debate at the Forum on land use policies for human settlements.

Donald Hagman, Professor of Law at the University of California, who has been working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development proposed the recapture of "windfalls" as an alternative to public ownership. He defined "windfall" as any increase in the value of property, minus increases due to general inflation or the efforts and expenditure of the owner.

As the increase in value is often the result of community action, the community is justified in recouping the proceeds of its investment. He cited the example of an individual whose property increases in value because the community has zoned the surrounding area for purpose which automatically increase the value of privately owned land.

Charles Correa, Bombay architect and planning consultant, said the recapture of windfall profits was no substitute for public ownership of land in the Third World. Such a system was open to corruption: the amount of the windfall could be underestimated by official assessors and taxes could be evaded. He added that private ownership created a vested interest in planning, and government officials often came under pressure from big landlords to adopt schemes which would benefit the private investor. In the fast growing cities of the Third World, public ownership of land was imperative because governments had to plan on a vast scale, and because there was no profit in housing the poor.

Roy Archer, an Australian urban economist, expressed reservations about both positions, and described an alternative form of development: land building or consolidation. Local authorities assemble land into a single holding, subdivide it, and provide services. Some of the sites, increased in value, are returned to their original owners. The government retains others, to recover its outlay on services. Archer described the system as "politically, financially, and administratively feasible."

Jorge Hardoy, Head Researcher at the

INTERNATIONAL labour has a decisive role to play in fashioning the future. If people do not quickly develop a genuine concern for nature, if the prodigious waste of the throw away society continues, then we cannot confidently say there will be much of a future beyond the twenty-first century.

Jack Munday, who delivered the lunchtime lecture at the Forum yesterday, said:

"Labour unions must play a part in bringing mankind in harmony with nature." Munday, an Australian trade unionist, is former president of the Building Labourers Federation and the man behind the "Green Ban" movement which is now growing internationally.

He has been talking with Canadian, Japanese and other national trade union people at Habitat and the immediate result looks like an international organisation of workers to stop uranium mining and the production and use of nuclear power.

"The environment is not the preserve of the middle class," Munday says. "That is one of two popular myths. The other is that concern for the environment adds up to increasing unemployment. It is not only the right of workers but their responsibility to make sure that all labour is used in a manner that is socially beneficial."

What, he was asked by a Middle Eastern journalist, can be done to stop Australian and other developed countries' consultants and companies building Sydney Opera Houses all over the Third World and "selling us the rubbish you clearly do not want?"

Munday replied: "International co-operation between labour unions. Better communications and co-ordinated action. Unions should be on call to stop the transfer of pollution and wasteful technology by withholding their labour."

Although Munday and his Building Labourers Federation were undoubtedly the

chief instruments of the Green Ban fight in Australia, the movement was a spontaneous social phenomenon.

That was nearly five years ago. Kelly's Bush is still open land. The action was roundly condemned by the State Government and organised commerce generally. But there followed an avalanche of requests to Munday and the unions for more Green Bans as "holding operations" to prevent development without public consultation and consent. To date nearly 50 bans have been applied.

Jack Munday is anxious not to convey the idea that the movement is a negative one in the sense that it sets out merely to stop development. It is even more, he says, than giving the public time to consider the implications of development projects. In essence it is a build-up of awareness.

## Saving soil -and land

SOIL DEPLETION and the preservation of prime agricultural land from urbanisation were the topics of two Forum workshops yesterday.

Professor Egbert de Vries, of the Agricultural Consulting Bureau for the Tropics, said the most pressing rural problem was the depletion of land through erosion and improper management. He said the secret of land rejuvenation was to accelerate the natural biological process by judicious preservation of water and topsoil material, and by simultaneous rotation and intercropping with specific crops.

De Vries suggested people could be brought back to abandoned lands by allotting each settler a small plot. Every 100 settlements would form a co-operative, which would be headed by someone with agricultural experience. Crops would be attuned to local needs and circumstances. "Experience in many tropical countries shows that about twice as much land is wasted and made unproductive through erosion and depletion than becomes productive for non-irrigated cropping," he told a seminar on Natural Resources Management.

John Zierold, of the Sierra Club, said the United States annually turns 2.4m acres of prime farm land into urban developments. He said this forces farmers to put poorer soil into production. More mechanisation and fertiliser must be used to match the yields from prime land.

## CONFERENCE PROFILE

"FRIENDS, we are so democratic that we even allow interventions inspired by the CIA." Jack Munday's appearance last week as Chairman ("they used the silly word presider for that") of the Vancouver Lecture Series certainly won the approval of his audience.

He came down from his father's farm up in Australia's Queensland when he was 21, to play Rugby League football in Sydney. "I had but a few years' primary school," he remembers, "so I hardly could do anything else than become a house builder."

Since then, Jack has gone up the hard way. In 1972, he was the Sydney Secretary of the Australian Builders Labour Federation. A group of women from Hunters Hill, a rather fashionable part of Sydney, came to him to ask for help. They had tried all official ways to prevent the development of the last small piece of wild nature in their neighbourhood and had not succeeded. Then Jack invented the "green band," to use "the missile of the labour force" for environmental causes.

The workers withheld their labour and the last green part of Hundreds Hill stayed green. Since then about 42 green bands have been imposed, holding back development plans to a total of some Aus \$3,000 m.

Two years ago Jack had to leave office after six years, according to his union's rules. Now he travels a lot,



trying to convince other unions that they should broaden their fields of interest. Yesterday he addressed the Forum on the international role of unions.

"They can have an international vision. They are the ones who are able to combat the multinational corporations whose activities are detrimental for the third world countries, where they suck away resources. The unions should be convinced about the necessity to get involved in more than the economic aspects of life. Democracy is not only a ballot vote, it is intervention at all time."

# Where are all the dreams?

Dear Folks,

Sorry and all that, but the opportunity to hear and talk to Jane Jacobs and Marshall McLuhan — via radio hotline from Toronto — has been sadly and badly missed.

They wanted to talk about the motor car in the city and the destruction it brings; they wanted to relate transportation planning to the needs of people; they wanted to talk their own special brand of city talk with you and the world press.

They wanted to tell you about the transportation disaster that has hit Toronto; they wanted to tell you of the about-face done by Ontario's Premier Davis; they wanted to tell you about the fact that the Spadina Expressway (which was stopped in 1971) is now started again, together with two other planned inner city expressways. But they couldn't.

CBC in Toronto had readily agreed to provide the hotline facilities, but its man in Vancouver abandoned the project; a number of people at the Forum tried to help us get it going, but to no avail. The more effort we put into it in Vancouver, the more impossible it became.

Sorry again, folks. Say a prayer for Toronto tonight. We did have a dream going for us in 1971; we did think we were the only city in the world that had led the way, that had dared to do it; we did think we were abandoning the automobile in favour of public transit; we did think we had a decent chance of survival in the 21st century.

So much for dreams, and Habitat Forum. I'm going home. See you in front of the bulldozers?

Allan Powell,  
Co-Chairman, Citizens'  
Transportation  
Coalition, Toronto



Sir,

The intriguing "informal sector" was recently discussed at the Conference and it became clear that, although the term is familiar to many, there is widespread confusion as to its meaning.

The term was developed by the ILO following its comprehensive employment mission to Kenya. It is now realised that the informal sector is playing an important and productive role in the urban economy of developing countries both in terms of employment and income. The sector, therefore, should not be neglected or hampered by governments but promoted, the more so since it is clear that in many countries the growth of wage-earning employment is not going to keep pace with the growing urban labour force.

The informal sector comprises those activities that are concentrated in the "unorganised" and unenumerated sector of the urban economy. It consists of people without wage-employment in the modern sector. It consists not only of a variety of low status fringe activities but also of small-scale non-wage activities undertaken by the self employed and family workers. It consists of shopkeepers, petty-traders, carpenters, bricklayers, tailors etc., all outside the salaried sector. Since incomes are often low, a convenient way to define the informal sector would be in terms of employment of the urban poor.

However this does not mean that it is only to be found in slum and squatter areas, and certainly not that the informal construction sector should not be capable of constructing houses in planned development schemes. The informal sector should equally be part of the economic infrastructure of low and middle income settlement areas. The informal sector has a productive role to play and governments in planning for housing should be aware of this.

Kees Tuinenburg, ILO

A workshop on Home Metropolis — the Urban Ethology of City Man will take place on Thursday, 10 June at 1700 in Hangar 6, Room J. Anyone interested in further details should contact Daniel Gilbertson, 689-6275.

# Jericho

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18

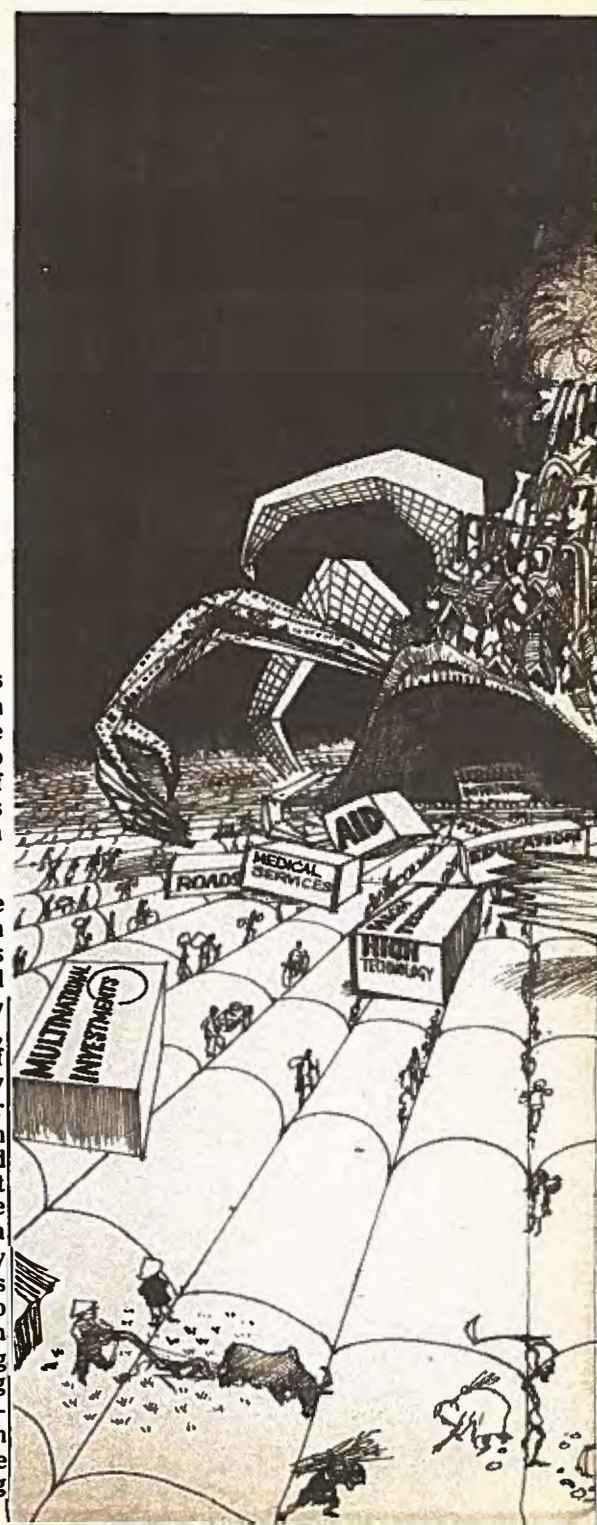
## Prang for posterity

THE theory behind the production of 240 films illustrating human settlements throughout the world is at first sight impressive. How much more impact would films have than pages of dull mimeographed text on the minds of weary delegates? How valuable it will be in 50 years' time to have this unique pageant of Habitat 1976? How astonishing will our world appear in all its variety of human settlements to the viewers of 2026? How useful will this resource be for documentary film producers, instructional film makers and all those requiring help in publicising settlement problems? Surely it is worth spending \$3m on 240 such films when one Hollywood movie can cost as much?

Unfortunately the theory doesn't hold water. Of the capsules, the less said the better; they have done little more than add to the mountain of soft and hardware which has now piled up in the Habitat Secretariat. Instead of 240 neat cans of films, the UN finds itself with nearly 1,000 bits and pieces of film, sound track, scripts, capsules and cassettes. Of the films, a few have proved very good, but most are mere travelogues which no customer will want to use. Planning schools will find them too bland and frankly out of date in their approach and attitude. Documentary film producers will find almost all the film of too poor a quality. Instructional film makers may find some use for them, but this will require a very

active and effective service to be set up. It is quite clear that the University of British Columbia does not have the means, the expertise and the marketing ability to do this job. As for posterity there is plenty of other excellent material to record our times for those hopefully alive 50 or 100 years from now.

In short it looks very much as if the Habitat audio-visual experiment is in danger of turning into a disaster. If one adds in the government spending to the initial \$3m UNEP grant and the \$3½m now suggested to set up and operate the archive, the total comes to well over \$10m — a lot of money to throw away on a lot of largely unwanted and unusable film. Peter Oberlander's Centre for the Study of Human Settlements no doubt sees the proposed archive as a valuable feather in its cap. But having stored the film safely, it would be best if the National Film Board, which has a high reputation, should be given every encouragement to think in practical terms of how the available money can be spent to build a live facility onto the best of the film created for Habitat. There is scope for using some of the stock shot material, and adding to it a valuable exchange of human settlements film. But without such professionalism there is really very little point in storing this frankly unpromising material.



## PLANNING THAT HOLDS WOMEN BACK

Are development programmes unfair to women? Here Barbara Rogers gives her views.

HARSH words have been said by many women in the media, the Habitat Secretariat and some delegations about the exclusion of women's concerns from the Habitat Conference. However, their complaints have been largely unheard and unreported. One reason is that the overwhelming majority of participants in Habitat, and particularly at the senior levels, are men. Few of them have even thought about the implications for future programmes and policies of the failure to involve women.

The problem is essentially the same throughout the world: the exclusion of women from economic and political power, and their relegation to traditional roles. Almost everywhere, there is open or subtle discrimination against women and girls in education and employment. Their low status is linked with low self-esteem, and women often cling to their limited roles because they are unprepared for wider responsibilities.

### Women and human settlements

Human settlements planning can have a major impact on the status of women, often depriving them of their livelihood and reducing whole families to starvation. At fault are the largely Western assumptions of planning "experts", which can have grave consequences in developing countries. This is particularly true of low-cost housing or sites-and-services projects, where a "package" of technical, legal and economic advice is handed over to local officials and often used as the blueprint, regardless of local traditions and social patterns.

Western-type zoning is often introduced to eliminate commercial activity from newly planned areas. This means that the women, who tend to make up the overwhelming majority of the settlements' daytime population, are prevented from earning in cash or kind to support their families, or are forced to do so surreptitiously and illegally. Left to themselves,

they provide a wide variety of services for the local community, which is essential if money earned in outside employment is to remain in the settlement rather than be recaptured by the elitist "modern" sector.

In many traditional societies — unlike the Western stereotype — the women are responsible not only for bearing and rearing children, but also for their support. This means that if they are deprived of their basis for self-support, the whole family may starve. Urbanisation is also associated with rapid family break-up (partly because planners assume a Western-style nuclear family, which is not the pattern in traditional cultures). This is also conducive to the disappearance of fathers, leaving families with no basis of support. With the widespread phenomenon of migrant labour in developing countries, it is estimated that between a quarter and a third of all households worldwide are headed by women.

This has implications for the legal structure of settlements planning. In most World Bank and other UN agency projects, it is the adult males who are given legal title to the land. This means that women cannot use their participation in the programme as collateral for credit with which to start small businesses; they have no security in the event of the man leaving or dying; and they are therefore unable to help pay the rent or loans. This is a significant factor in the failure of many sites-and-services programmes.

Discrimination against women in the provision of building materials, training and credit also contributes to the inadequate success record of many settlement projects. In most developing countries, the women are exclusively responsible for key elements of house construction. When they are excluded from the training and other programmes which are an integral part of

settlements projects, construction can be held up or may not even take place. Since the provision of sites is generally contingent on a house being built within a certain time, many families lose their right to the site as a result.

The settlement planners who have done so much damage to families in developing countries can hardly claim to have a good record with regard to their own habitats. There are very few women urban planners, architects and related professionals. Yet it is the women who use the settlements most intensively. Policies favouring suburban development, for example, have been very bad for women who are isolated and out of reach of training and employment opportunities. Amenities do not necessarily meet their changing needs when they are in employment. Symptomatic of the problem are the backward policies of most industrialised countries with regard to provision of adequate child-care facilities in housing and working areas.

### Women in development

The implications of omitting women from the planning process are so vast that they can only be briefly mentioned here. Major areas of international concern such as population growth, food production, excessive rural-urban migration and mass illiteracy are insoluble as long as women are discriminated against, by the United Nations and its agencies as well as by individual governments.

For example, it is becoming clear that the number of children in a family is closely correlated with the status and education of the mother, and hardly related at all to that of the father. The educational level reached by children is also closely correlated with that of the mother, and not to that of the father. Since the overwhelming majority of illiterates are women, it is clear that until a major effort at educating them is made, the

# How drift from the countryside can be slowed

MANY experts say that it is crying in the wind to attempt to slow down the flood of people from rural to urban areas; that all attempts in the past to limit city growth have failed and that there are tremendous incentives at work — both push and pull — forcing people into the cities. Chief among these factors is the sheer growth of population creating a situation in which small landholdings cannot support additional population. But there are two things which can be done to improve the situation of people in the rural areas: let farm prices find a higher level — something closer to their natural level — and put more investment resources into agriculture.

The vast majority of poor people in developing countries are helped when food prices rise. It is a myth that the poor in poor countries are harmed by food price rises, because most of them grow food either as farmers or as farm workers.

It has been shown time and time again, in the Punjab, Taiwan, parts of the Philippines and Northern Mexico for example, that if more resources are put into agriculture, farm output grows at very rapid rates. But if one looks at the distribution of capital investment and of total capital stock in developing countries, one finds typically that something between 20 and 30 per cent of it — usually nearer 20 per cent, is committed to the farm sector (including irrigation, forestry and fisheries) supporting some 70 per cent of the population.

While that is not necessarily unwise by definition, it is when one looks at the contribution of any new investment to extra output. One finds in country after country the extra output associated with a unit of extra investment is between two and a half to three times as high in the agricultural sector as it is for the rest of the economy.

Comparing the agricultural sector with heavy urban industry and heavy construction, the difference in efficiency between agricultural and non-agricultural investment is greater — between two and three to one — in spite of all the measures which governments take to skew prices in favour of the non-farm sector of the economy. If distortions in prices were corrected; if subsidies and protection accorded to the industrial sector were removed, the disparity would be even larger, in the order of four to one.

The countryside is deprived of more than just investable resources. A child from an Indian town or city is 8.5 times more likely to go to university than a village child. Luck in having an urban birthplace determines a child's chances in life. Apart from equity, such a system is inefficient, since it means that university places are being used to train less able urban children rather than more able rural children, purely by accident of birth.

The same applies to medical care. Town dwellers have three to four times the chance of getting decent medical care as do villagers. This means the less urgent medical needs of the city take priority over the more urgent medical needs of the village, and quite apart from equity again, that is inefficient. The misallocation of resources is extremely damaging to economic growth because scarce resources — doctors, teachers, and investable resources — are used with a low rate of return in the towns rather than with a high rate of return in the country.

Urban bias can achieve much. It can construct roads and steel mills and other large capital intensive, energy intensive projects. But it is a very expensive business. A country needs either a lot of aid or a lot of domestic savings effort, and the combination can produce rapid progress. Historically, however, that process tends to run out of steam in 15 to 20 years. In the meantime, agriculture — especially small farm agriculture — is neglected. Small farmers suffer particularly because the large farmers provide the surpluses for the

Today is Rural Development Day at Habitat Forum. And not before time. It is true that the Vancouver Symposium Declaration, published yesterday, mentioned "the particular need in many countries to redress the neglect of rural areas and to stimulate agricultural production and employment". But the theme is not one that anybody seems to want to talk about.

Yet as Chandra Soysa, Director of the Marga Institute in Sri Lanka, will make clear at the Forum today, the global habitat consists of 916m households, of which 561m are rural. No fewer than 410m are in developing countries.

It is part of the urban bias in the

cities, and are of more interest to the urban elite.

This neglect ultimately has a bad effect on the industrial process. With a certain amount of industrial growth, wages rise, as does demand for skilled and semi-skilled labour. Demands for wage increases are more effective. Those wages are then used mainly to buy extra food, but the farm sector cannot supply extra food except at rapidly rising prices because the resources to expand production are not there. This situation breeds inflation and import crises. The whole economy then has to be put into reverse.

The arguments against urban bias are not arguments against industrialization. They are arguments for efficient industrialization, and the evidence shows no country can have long-term industrial efficiency unless something is done not just for the elite agricultural sector which produces for the city, but for mass agriculture — small farm agriculture.

The neglect of agriculture has been immense because resources have been deliberately diverted from the farm sector, and deliberate changes in the incentive structure have discouraged public and private investors from putting money into agriculture. So there are enormous opportunities for raising the rate of growth of agricultural production in almost every country in the developing world at a steady 4.5, 5 or 5.5 per cent a year for the next 25 or 30 years, everywhere except a few drought-ridden countries.

Recall that 20 per cent of investment now typically supports the agricultural sector, with 70 per cent of the population. If investment is raised to 30 per cent, and the balance shifted away from the big farmers towards small producers, then the rate of growth in food production could be raised from the current trend of 2.75, 3 or 3.25 per cent a year which has prevailed for the past 25 years, to 4.5, 5 or 5.5 per cent — probably more.

The problem is how to reverse the bias now favouring capital intensive urban development. Is it realistic to think that governments faced with enormous numbers of people living in urban shanty towns right on the doorstep, so to speak, will use available resources to help the invisible rural population rather than to provide services and work for those people who are so pressing and so visible?

The answer is that the rural population will have to learn to become more visible. The most important single factor in achieving an efficient, equitable world development situation in the next 10 or 15 years is political organization of the rural poor. Chairman Mao is absolutely right about that. Take for example, the Indian state of Kerala where the poor have been politically organized for a hundred years. They have obtained land reform and major reallocations of resources away from the cities in Kerala towards the rural sector. This can be done and there are success stories around the world. Cuba and Tanzania are familiar cases, but it has also taken place elsewhere along the political spectrum — in Taiwan for example.

The international community can help

developing world that most of the delegates, both to the Conference and Forum, are from cities and aware of urban problems. The same is true of most of the Symposium members.

But as Professor Michael Lipton makes clear in the article below, the development of the rural economy is a highly efficient way of lessening the pressure on the cities.

The two million villages of the world do, after all, comprise the most common form of human settlement. Any declaration from Habitat which neglects the need for active, efficient and healthy villages, is neglecting more than half the world.

as well. Almost all the leading aid organizations, and many countries, starting with Sweden, the Netherlands, Canada and now the United Kingdom are trying to give aid to the rural sector. While this is desirable on grounds of equity and efficiency, it also requires a change of approach and a change almost of life-style by aid giving agencies, which they have not yet realized.

It is perfectly possible to run aid programmes for capital intensive urban development, monitoring them by looking at the plans, talking to the managers, travelling by jet and staying in air conditioned hotels. This is not possible if one wants to deliver aid to the rural poor or even if one wants to get domestic investment into the rural areas.

One has to monitor projects in the rural sector, understand how rural communities work, particularly how resources which go into villages either drift back to town, or into the hands of the better off within the village.

One has to look at techniques and technologies which are efficient in terms of rate of return over cost, and which are useful to the rural poor, but not terribly useful to the rural rich. Installation and management of these techniques must be monitored in the field, and that is not the sort of thing that aid agencies, or often central government ministries of agriculture are presently set up to do. It can be done, but it demands much more than throwing one's hands in the air, and saying the rural sector is a good thing.

This article is taken from *People* magazine, published by IPPF and available free at the information centre at Hangar 6 while copies last. Michael Lipton's book *Why poor people stay poor: Urban bias in World Development* will be published in the autumn by Temple Smith, London.

## A question of security

TWO Jericho reporters were refused admission to the area where Committee 2 was meeting yesterday in the Vancouver Hotel by vigilant security men. Though both were officially accredited by the Canadian organisers, and bore their green-striped labels prominently, these were not acceptable to security personnel and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Jericho commends and fully supports this thoroughness and sympathises with security people at the Vancouver Hotel who got a little egg on their face when a local newspaper switched tags and gave them to non-accredited people in order to prove a rather obvious point — that a determined person could breach security. But Jericho staff are prepared to cooperate if it minimises by the merest fraction of one degree a tragedy at this conference. Nonetheless, one Jericho reporter, having obtained his ordinary press card with his picture on it, walked into the committee session without hindrance and unchallenged an hour later.

# IS

em will be self-perpetuating. The low of women also frustrates efforts to population growth.

ood production in many areas of the oping world is the responsibility of n, yet they are exclu ed from projects ovide training, credit, marketing ies and other services. Where there is eform, the women often lose all their onal rights to the use of land. They are with a series of disincentives to cing food.

his is closely linked with excessive urban migration, the basic problem by the Habitat Conference. Many are seriously unbalanced, with those ica tending to have many more men women, and in Latin America times having the reverse. mination against urban women in yment, even where they are highly ied, means that new families are into the cities, creating enormous s on existing services.

iscrimination against women in pment has meant a relative fall in status in relation to that of men, ring women of traditional authority onomic potential and creating a drag whole development process. This can make development projects counter-ctive: for example, a settlement t for urban migrants that fails to le for the traditional activities of n, and fails to teach them new skills, esult in a catastrophic fall in the rd of living of the whole family.

ie issue of discrimination has not been d at Habitat. Concerns voiced at the o Conference on Women are being under the rug, and settlement policies eing perpetuated on the present inatory basis with no regard for the uences. The discrimination issue has ackled at some time. But Habitat, on and his World" is not going to be the ence to do it.

ra Rogers is currently working as a tant on women in development for the l Nations Development Programme.

# Doubts on UBC plan for films

THE Canadian draft resolution to give all the Habitat films to the University of British Columbia as part of the University's Centre for Human Settlements seems likely to be accepted by the Conference, but not before being strongly criticised by several delegates, professional film-makers and others.

UBC has offered to provide "for a period of up to five years, all of the necessary services and facilities for the storage, maintenance, distribution and augmentation of the audio-visual materials prepared for Habitat".

Criticism has centered on UBC's relative inexperience in dealing with audio-visual materials, particularly on the scale that is called for. It has been suggested that UBC imagined the 240 Habitat presentations meant 240 reels of film, and may not have realised the complexity of audio-visual material, the number of separate items that make up six-language film presentations, the number of different formats, and so on. UBC, however, does have a small medical audio-visual unit.

Hugh Curtis, B.C. Minister of Municipal Affairs, who introduced Canada's draft resolution last Friday, did not manage to assuage these fears at a press conference. He said that neither UBC nor the Canadian delegation had done research into how the material might be used in the future, or who might use it. He also said they had not yet worked out principles for adding new material.

The key figure in the UBC proposal seems to be Dr. Peter Oberlander, Professor of Regional Planning at UBC. The Canadian Secretariat describes him as the man who is "making all the running". Oberlander has been involved in Habitat for a long time. He took part in the Canadian preparations for the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Environment, and it is believed he was instrumental in persuading the UN to select Vancouver as the site for Habitat. During the Conference he has been prominent as the Chairman of Canada's Habitat observer team (half the members, selected by Oberlander, also work at UBC).

Peter Oberlander has long wanted UBC to have a special centre for the study of human settlements. UBC inaugurated such a centre on 29 May, a few days before Habitat opened. Douglas Kenny, UBC President, said the centre was a "means of furthering the objectives of Habitat and to disseminate information and documentation on human settlements". The success of the Centre is likely to be greatly helped by the

## In camera

presence of the "official" Habitat film library.

The Canadian — UBC idea of storing all the Habitat audio-visual material at UBC has been discussed at several preparatory meetings. At a meeting starting on 30 March, the Governing Council of UNEP gave the plan official recognition and asked the Habitat Conference to "look favourably" on it.

Over the past few days, Canada's draft has been co-sponsored by 25 countries, with two minor changes. At the request of Australia and others, the new draft notes "the possibility of regional audio-visual centres associated with regional arrangements for training, education, research and information exchange". Sources in the Canadian Secretariat suggest such centres might be set up in Australia, Mexico, Kenya and Thailand. The new draft also omits Canada's original reference to an "overall global information programme".

Experts from the Canadian National Film Board and the B.C. Department of Education's Media Centre (which are considerably more experienced in these matters than UBC) met Oberlander on Tuesday. They discussed the running a film archive of 8,000 — 10,000 pieces of slides, tapes, films, scripts and so on. On the agenda of the meeting, which was also attended by representatives of the UN and the Habitat Secretariat, were questions of house-room, cataloguing, copyright and distribution.

The Woodward Building, where UBC wants to keep the material, is simply not big enough. UBC will have to build a special building with the right temperature and humidity, and complex electronic and film viewing and editing facilities.

UBC also has to cope with copyright problems. The original agreement between the Secretariat and national governments does not extend beyond the last day of the Conference, 11 June. During the Conference, therefore, the Secretariat has to try to negotiate new agreements with each country. So far, less than half the countries have signed.

According to a Canadian delegate who is involved in the UBC proposal, several countries, such as the USA and Saudi



Colombian cameraman at work on UN film in Bogota

Arabia, have put restrictions on the use of their material. It is possible that UBC will be able to store all the films but that it will find it difficult to lend them out.

But there is uncertainty among delegates and professional film-makers about who will actually want to use the Habitat material. Several broadcasters have said few of the films are good enough for broadcasting. The most likely use seems to be in instructional films aimed at the Third World.

It might seem to an impartial observer that UBC is not the best place to put the Habitat audio-visual material, but the Canadian resolution is almost certain to be accepted. No other likely contender has made alternative suggestions. Cost is one drawback: it has been estimated at 3.5 m for the first five years.

The Canadians expect the resolution to be accepted by Committee 1 and sent, unchanged, to the Plenary on Thursday. The result will be a film library that will undoubtedly be a status symbol for the new UBC centre on human settlements. Its use as an information resource — or, in the words of the March issue of the Secretariat's issue of Audio-Visual, "an active film library contributing to the ongoing process of improving the quality of life for all the world's people" — is more arguable.

It may work within Vancouver. There are possibilities that local citizen groups and churches will be given easy access to the material. Its operation on a world-wide scale is open to doubt. But, as one member of the Canadian delegation has said: "If UBC is prepared to try, it should get all the help it needs".

## NOTICE BOARD

**Planning aid:**  
About 200 persons attended a lunchtime, outdoor discussion yesterday at the Forum on planning aid. Planning aid, developed during the last three years in Britain, is designed to help groups learn how to do without experts so they can cut out professional monopolies. The group gives free advice and information to community groups to help them conduct environmental campaigns.

**Lamu:**  
Richard Hughes presented an audio-visual display on Lamu, a pre-industrial urban community on the coast of Kenya, yesterday at the Forum. Lamu was developed over the century into a low-rise, high-density pedestrian settlement. Hughes is an architect and vice-chairman of the Environment Liason Board.

**Jericho:**  
The city of Oxford in England invited Habitat delegates to visit their Jericho on the way home. The city describes Jericho as an example of housing rehabilitation — about a half-mile away from Oxford University. The gradual renewal has retained an existing stable community and saved a number of small businesses.

**FACE:**  
Folk Arts for Communication and Education (FACE) has sponsored a stamp exhibition of theatre and folklore arts at International House, the University of British Columbia. The 3,000-stamp collection belongs to Dr. Guillermo Chamorro of Lima, Peru.

**Sunburst:**  
Brotherhood of the Sun, a slide presentation on new age communities, will be shown today at 1000 in the Jericho Gym and tomorrow at 2030 in the Win Valleys Dome.

**Third World:**  
Delegates and observers from Latin America, Africa and Asia are invited to meet daily to share their views and experience in a Third World seminar in Hangar 5 Room A.

**Children in human settlements:**  
Every nation should have a policy on children that addresses itself to their total needs, was one of the conclusions of a three-day Forum workshop on Children in Human Settlements. The group says every child has a right to clean air and water and adequate nutrition. They also recommended several educational reforms and that participation in the community include children.

**Land:**  
A Habitat resolution advocating greater government control of land as a remedy for the residential construction problem has been called a policy that would go against Canadian values by Howard Ross of Calgary, president of the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada. Ross said the policy would create a governmental monopoly in land development.

## Now read on

Human Settlements is the topic of the two latest issues of Futures Conditional now on display at the Forum Library and the Friends of the Earth booth. The publication is a new kind of information service which provides current views on topics relevant to the quality of life in communities. The articles are short and separately bound, making them easy to use, to share, or to duplicate for discussion or classroom purposes. Each issue contains a listing of additional resources and opportunities for involvement to help readers get involved in that topic.

Northwest Regional Foundation, the publishers of Futures Conditional, also provides other information services. It tries to put together packages that can be easily used by ordinary people in their own communities. NRF would like to hear what's working well where you live, and what you need more information about. Contact NancyBell Coe or Roseanne Nolan at the Riviera Motel, 1431 Robson, Rm. 502 (685-1301), or write to Box 5296, Spokane, Wa. 99205, USA.

## 'Give slum dwellers a say in planning'

GOVERNMENTS, UN organisations and professional planners must solicit the active participation of the slum dwellers themselves in slum redevelopment plans, Jessica Fernandez-White told the Forum Plenary session yesterday discussing Community Action for a Better Habitat.

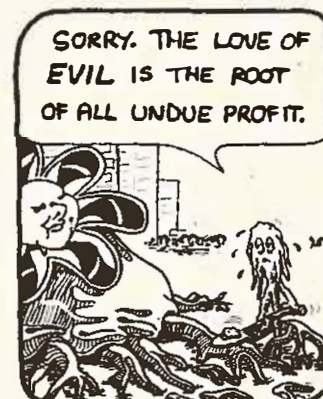
In an impassioned speech, Mrs. Fernandez-White outlined the plight and struggle of the Tondo squatter in Manila. The Tondo is one of the largest slum areas in Asia, some 195,000 people occupying a small section of Manila Bay. (Two thousand Tondo residents were arrested in Manila last Saturday for demonstrating about their plight. The protest was also made to Mrs. Imelda Marcos, wife of the Philippine president, when she addressed the Habitat Plenary in Vancouver on Monday.)

Mrs. Fernandez-White said various Tondo self-help organisations grew up because "they became convinced the government placed economic gains above the needs of the population." However, she said the government had been reluctant to recognize either the organisations or their ideas for bettering their own conditions.

She said Tondo leaders had been arrested, and the slum dwellers had often had to fight to prevent their ejection by both government and international agencies who wanted to redevelop the area for other than habitation purposes.

She criticised the recent UN Human Settlements Design Contest, held in Vancouver last February, for redesigning the Tondo area, because active Tondo participation was denied, "How can anyone who did not experience poverty design for it?" she said. "This is why people's participation, as defined by experts, is rhetoric."

She said it was imperative that governments and redevelopment experts stop treating slum dwellers "as children or objects we can put on our professional procurements".





# Cities: 'rotten' views versus real people

NOW THAT the news is out that the Canadian Government is likely to sponsor Barbara Ward's International Institute for Environment and Development to undertake a nationally-based study on why the cores of cities so often go rotten Gremlin herewith chips in his unasked-for twocentworth.

IIED is an organisation which is based in London and which undertakes valuable work in the field of environmental research. London is a city, the East End which has suffered from blight, from senseless clearance programmes, from heartless



relocation of families in high-rise buildings, and from the disruption of what was once the most cohesive and proudly old-fashioned of British communities. With the closure of the docks and the decline of other industries in the East End, jobs and young people have left Docklands. The people who have stayed face lengthening "dole" queues, worsening transport systems and the sort of urban decay which can be seen in many other parts of the world. But the people are not sad as much as they are angry.

A few years ago that part of the East End sandwiched between the man-made lagoons of the dockyards and which goes by the name of the Isle of Dogs literally pronounced a Unilateral Declaration of Independence — independent not so much of Britain as from the people outside the East End who were planning Dockland's fate. The situation was not entirely dissimilar to that in Tondo in Manila, Sha Tin in Hong Kong or many other areas where people are today protesting against the plans which others have formulated for them and which fail to take notice of their opinions and of the ordinary complexities of their social fabric.

The whole trouble is that these so-called "rotten" parts of cities (which is an arrogant phrase used by people who don't live in them) are plagued by the ideas of those who are convinced that what they need are yachting marinas, expensive hotels, and high-cost accommodation — all those things which would price out or force out the local people. In London, these were the innovations proposed for Docklands Redevelopment.

Fortunately, East-enders themselves have successfully opposed a number of such schemes. They have even organised their own "People's Habitat" which is taking place in London at the same time as this Conference and which is run by people who couldn't or wouldn't afford to come to Vancouver. And "People's Habitat" has a simple message for all of us here: "The problem is that the planners don't understand us. They don't ask what we need. Take transport for instance; the transport boys at County Hall don't live in town and don't travel to town by bus. They's all got cars. How on earth do they know what's wrong with public transport? They'd rather have a motorway than an extra bus. And it's all the same, whether it's housing, rents, or playgrounds for the kids."

But what has all this got to do with IIED and what has IIED got to do with all this? The East-enders' answer of "nothing, mate" should really be qualified. It may be that IIED and the other organisations which get contracts out of the whole Habitat programme will do extremely valuable pieces of research. But they won't unless the questions they are paid to answer are put to people who understand the practice of urban life, rather than just the theory.

This must be recognised not only at national levels but internationally and sub-nationally. Men and women who get their hands dirty must be involved in all levels of human settlement planning. They are irreverent when confronted by people who think they have a lot of answers, but they themselves have brain, brawn and motivation. Their organisation — a milliard self-contained settlement-improvement teams — may not be a bureaucratically tidy as regional commissions and national research groups. But it sure as hell might be more effective.



## Two-wheel two-way message

RAJEEV SETHI rides miles on his bicycle at Habitat Forum. It's his way of communicating the message of Habitat to the remote villages of India.

His bicycle is stationary. It has no wheels. But the chain on the bicycle drives an axle connected to three picture boxes. As he rides along, talking all the time, colourful pictures turn over simultaneously on all three picture boxes. It's a crude but effective turn form of audio-visual communication — one he plans to take with him back to India with the message of Habitat.

You can join in Sethi's "person-powered dialogue" on human settlements and population at the International Planned Parenthood Federation workshop in Hangar 8 twice a day at 1400 and 2000.

Back home in India, Sethi is a consultant on communication and rural reconstruction programmes. The hundreds of hand-made pictures, using collage, puppetry, photography, paintings and ancient symbols have been put together by villages in northern India and illustrate problems relating to their own habitat. Some of the text comes from an ancient religious book, whose 5,000-year-old message remains valid today.

The presentation is designed to be transported by bullock cart from village to village where it is shown and discussed over a period of days, rather than minutes. Sethi hopes that the dialogue with his Habitat audiences may enrich the discussions he will have with villagers and politicians at home.

For anyone wishing to see, and understand, the reality of Indian village life this evocative presentation is not to be missed.

Sethi is critical of the way governments sometimes try to communicate development programmes to the villages they are trying to help. He gives as an example SITE, the Satellite Instruction Television Experiment in India, where "government

television propaganda" is beamed via satellite to 5,000 villages.

"Communication is a two-way street. It's a dialogue, and this is not a dialogue," he says.

Sethi says communication in villages is traditionally carried through communal activities such as theatre, mime, or chatting around a pipe. He says SITE breaks this traditional pattern of communication — where as his bicycle-powered presentation communicates in a way that the villagers will understand.

"My form of communication is not programmed. The villagers can stop me bicycling any time to discuss what's going on. It's not a message being bombarded at you from a screen. It's at a level where people can understand."

"If you can help the villagers share in the experience of Habitat it acts as a catalyst to getting them talking and thinking about their own situation. Sometimes in doing just that the solutions come by themselves."

And that's why Sethi goes on bicycling, convinced that his rough and ready form of communication can beat television and film any day.

### ORDER NOW

It is hoped to print a bumper issue of Jericho incorporating all the essential contents of our Habitat coverage if there is sufficient demand. If you would like to receive a copy (or copies), please fill in your order below and hand it in at the Information Desk in Hangar 6 at the Forum or send it to:

PO Box 48360,  
Bentall Centre,  
Vancouver.

Copies of this special issue will cost \$2.50 plus postage. You will be invoiced later. Bulk rates on application.

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### Habichat

WE wish to thank the Canadian media coordinators for a delightful evening Sunday when we were entertained royally at the Aquarium. (Well, some of us). Yes, we know, in a place where fish conservation is a priority it does seem a bit odd to be served so much of the cooked and smoked variety. But what particularly charmed Jericho (most of us) was the entertainment in the form of a spontaneous happening.

Enter left Joyce Atkinson of Women Today with Michael on a lead with bells

round his neck. (Michael is a cat). Stage right looms Paul Akehurst, Media Director. We are not sure whether he is anti-hero or villain. "I'm not accrediting no (expletive deleted) cat." The heroine (?) pledges undying love to Michael, refuses initially to be parted, and bursts into delightful stage tears. Exit . . . but only to reappear later without cat, we think, to level more protests. The stern representatives of authority banish her from the Aquarium. In one last melodramatic scene she plunges into the whale pool. This upsets the Aquarium authorities and the whale, who has apparently just lost its mate and is pining.

If this is restaged we suggest a couple of amendments. Firstly, with the trend to

nudity in modern drama, we suggest the female lead strips prior to the plunge. Secondly, shouldn't the episode be captured for posterity as a Habitat audio-visual capsule?

THE Spanish-into-English translation facility at Hangar 5 broke down briefly and mysteriously yesterday morning as the plea came over the earphone: "You know I can't shout all day."

PAUL THOMPSON, managing director of Mutual Housing Services in Jamaica, promised a short speech at yesterday's morning briefing for NGOs in Hangar 5. He kept his word, explaining: "Jamaica is a land of wood and water, but no statistics."