

# Jericho

THE HABITAT NEWSPAPER NO. 9

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## CRITICISM OF SECOND DRAFT

# NGOs split on new statement

WOMEN went out of the window as an issue when the NGOs resumed debate at the Forum yesterday on their second statement to the official Conference. The two-page draft had grown an extra page, but there was apparently no room for women in it, and barely for education. A growing number of NGOs dissociated themselves from the draft as not representative of the group as a whole, and Chairman J.G. van Putten faced renewed criticism.

The second draft came out in support of a new institution to co-ordinate the work of organisations bringing resources to bear on the solution of human settlements problems. The first had only urged governments to avoid duplication of effort when deciding on new structures for international co-operation.

Water, which was to be clean by 1990, non-profit and linked to agrarian reform in the first draft, took on some added

dimensions in the second, notably the relationship between water supply and pollution.

The document called for a concurrent effort to provide water and reduce pollution associated with intensive agriculture based on "indiscriminate use of inorganic fertilizers and insecticides whose production and distribution is controlled principally by transnational corporations." The draft also called attention to the inadequate treatment of waste water from industrial plants and

Several speakers in the debate yesterday tried to make the water section even more specific, calling on all users of water — particularly nuclear power plants which raise the temperature of natural water sources — to return it to the ecosystem as pure as it was received.

Noting that the main topic for discussion at the Forum yesterday was rural development, one speaker criticised the document for making no reference to rural people, and the meeting agreed to insert a clause urging governments to lay more stress on improving rural conditions so that no-one would be compelled to leave a village if he or she wished to remain.

Education got a mention in an amendment laying the blame for many human settlements problems on inadequate or unbalanced education, and calling for appropriate education at all levels.

(Continued on next page)

**'GLOSSING OVER THE FACTS'**

A GROWING number of NGOs are pointedly criticised by Forum Chairman J.G. van Putten to the official Conference last week. In a document dated June 7 which is now circulating at the Forum, they state that van Putten's statement was "not representative of the NGO community at large," and that the way it was produced was "not consonant with democratic procedures."

Particular criticism is directed at van Putten's warning to governments against "partial explanation" about human settlements which run the risk of over-emphasising "ecology, urbanistic developments, or catastrophic predictions about over-population." To alternate NGO statement comments: "We hold this statement to be false and pernicious," adding that the issues of ecology, urban spread and population growth cannot possibly be over-emphasised, and that failure to take them fully into account "can only too surely lead to catastrophic consequences. Glossing over or hiding from these facts is a gross disservice to the people living today and a betrayal of future generations."

To date, 12 NGO representatives are registered as signatories to the alternate statement, and more are being solicited through the "hotline" network at the Forum and at the Hotel Devonshire. A computer and telephone conference is to be held today at 1100 in the Hotline office (Hangar 8, Room 4) with link-ups to international NGOs in New York and elsewhere.

The alternate statement comes in the wake of sporadic criticism of van Putten's message in attempting to reflect the concerns voiced at the Forum. He could not be reached yesterday for comment.

### INSIDE

Page 2: Conference round-up; James Barber.

Page 3: Plutonium offer to Greenpeace; Hassan Fathy.

Pages 4 and 5: Is this the death of the talking dinosaur?

Page 6: Rural living has its problems, too; In Camera.

Page 7: Today's programme.

Back Page: Gremlin's Guide to Lobbying.

## 'NO MIRACLES' SAYS PENALOSA

ENRIQUE PENALOSA, Secretary-General of the Habitat Conference, told Forum delegates yesterday that the main Conference would finish Friday on schedule, with strong and specific recommendations on water, land use and popular participation.

However, Penalosa said the Conference would not bring forward recommendations limiting or controlling nuclear growth, nor would it call for a diversion of 10 per cent of

the world's armament spending into spending on human settlements. Additionally, Penalosa said he was disappointed in the lack of attention paid at Habitat to the rights and role of women in human settlements issues.

"No miracles are made in two weeks," Penalosa said. "And none were expected." And he summed up the conference as being

(Continued on next page)



Ernie Philip, of the Shuswap tribe, 17 times grand champion in the Indian wardance, performing at the Forum yesterday.

# Habitat ship runs aground on politics

THE Habitat Conference ship has virtually gone aground on the political rocks of the Israel issue with the Arab filibuster in Committee 1 forcing delegates with jaded minds to endure another session into the night yesterday.

The Plenary hoped to begin yesterday afternoon but was delayed until late afternoon because of the weight of paperwork that the poor secretariat has to handle. When they finally opened consideration of Committee 3's suggestions the Iraqi proposal was not included and so they adjourned after 50 minutes.

Though Committee 1 was still in closed session it appears that the Group of 77 still had not ironed out all their internal difficulties and convened another meeting yesterday afternoon.

The minutiae of phrasing attitudes on settlements so that the Arab group and their supporters feel they have scored some points against Israel and so that the Israeli lobby feels that they can live with them appears to be the main stumbling block. It has clouded most issues in the final agreement of the working parties.

And events far away from the Conference seem to dictate that any solid Arab backing for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wrought at this Conference will be seen as meaningless by historians. While Arab delegates pore over the wording of English texts the shadow of a potential Middle East holocaust throws a pall over the whole proceedings.

Reports from Beirut talk of savage

fighting with Syrian troops backed by tanks and supported by MIG fighters on the threshold of the city defended by left wing guerrillas. The reports say PLO camps have been bombed.

Libyan and Algerian troops are scheduled to fly to the aid of the Syrians, the reports say, while Iraq has massed troops and armour along its border with Syria. Needless to say there is still unrest within Israel.

The PLO delegation is from Beirut mainly and may have no place to return to if the fighting continues. The Soviet Union, like so many other nations, has appealed for a ceasefire but their voice has gone unheeded. So will the voice of the Arab group at Habitat go unheeded unless they show some way of dealing with the wider issues outside Palestine.

The Iraqis appear determined to have

included in the Declaration of Principles some reference to the UN resolution which linked Zionism with racism.

The Syrian delegation would not comment on reports of a possible confrontation with Syria.

Other points of contention cover how to include the Group of 77's view on the New Economic Order, if they are still in general agreement on what all 113 of them mean by the phrase. They do seem to see population as a resource and not as a problem which is the Western view.

On the programme for international cooperation we await with interest to see if they will come down firmly on the side of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning in New York or plump for UNEP in Nairobi or, more likely it seems if disagreement continues, throw the issue back for discussion by the UN General Assembly.

JAMES BARBER



## DOWNTOWN STRUTTERS

"FOURTEEN nights in sun-drenched Vancouver, where passengers will have adequate time to visit native markets, sample native foods, and above all watch (in perfect safety) the primitive lifestyles of the polyglot, uneducated, but happy people who, at previous United Nations conferences, established a reputation for generosity and tolerance....."

I felt like a face on the cover of a cruise brochure. Behind the stage, in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, where the plenary sessions of Habitat daily take place, there is a solid, grey painted (like a battleship) wall, punctuated by rows of square windows. It looks like the side of a liner, its once bright coloured paint made anonymous for wartime. Dimly, through the windows, people are moving, the unhurried movements of first-class passengers, they are not hurried, they are not of the war, they are the inside people, they know one another, they do not need their persons examined to walk their daily lives, they are secure, they are not security risks and they will forever and ever sit behind windows looking out, observing. In front of the wall, on the stage, sit more comfortable people; they talk, like head tables everywhere in the world, discreetly behind programmes. Women come and go, carrying paper, glasses of water, and serious faces.

On the floor, in the 2,700 red upholstered seats, sit 81 delegates, 179 curious spectators, and 47 people with cameras or notebooks. The media, the magician mechanics who will make this final exercise in bureaucracy into a real event, the word mechanics who — unable to report the smell of boredom — will dutifully type the facts, the exact words of the Distinguished Delegate from Anywhere.

It is right and proper that the United Nations Conference on shelter should take place in a large theatre. Large theatres no longer attract thinking audiences. In New York, in London, in Paris, in all the large centres which once controlled the world's culture, the old-time promoters are discovering that it is in the small theatres, in the comparatively unstructured groups of actors who can escape from the formalised bowings and the outdated archaic language restrictions that audiences will sit, and listen, and learn, to go home activated, seeing things in a different light, and make some significant changes in their own lives.

But the United Nations insists upon grand opera, upon the elaborate sets, the traditional costumes, the formal rituals, the prissiness of polite and passionless actors walking their way through a pre-set script.

It is not so strange that of the delegates and observers registered, only 81 of them were on the floor. Nor that five of them, on Tuesday afternoon, were sleeping.

## COMMITTEE 2

COMMITTEE 2, which has so far excluded most of the political issues which have occupied other sessions of the Conference, was bogged down in its late night meeting on Tuesday over amendments relating to the Palestinian issue.

Israeli representative Mordechai Lador told the Committee that "extraneous political issues" had arisen even in Committee 2 which was supposed to be "technically and professionally oriented." He claimed that they were meant to destroy the vital consensus and to inject a disruptive element which was "wholly objectionable and completely out of context to the business of Habitat."

After an acrimonious debate leading to a further session yesterday morning, it was finally agreed to adopt in the preamble on settlement policies a new paragraph based on an Iraqi amendment which states that "the ideologies of States are reflected in their human settlement policies. These being powerful instruments for change, they must not be used to dispossess people from their homes and their land, or to entrench privilege and exploitation. The human settlement policies must be in conformity with the Declaration of Principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

A further controversial proposal by Cuba, on "prolonging and consolidating occupation and subjugation in territories and land acquired through coercion and intimidation," was referred to the Plenary meeting. Although these amendments clearly cover Southern Africa as well as the Middle East the argument has been almost exclusively in terms of the Palestinians.

Apart from this controversy, adoption of the preamble proceeded smoothly. The Committee's report was adopted speedily, except that Japan asked that it reflect its proposal to delete the reference to the new international economic order.

The Committee also agreed to a proposal by Australia that praised the use of audio-visual capsules in the debate by delegations to illustrate their experience and support their cause. "The Committee would commend the technique to other conferences of like natures."

Committee 2 has now completed its work. The three sections of the Recommendations on National Action approved by it are scheduled for consideration by the Plenary today.

THE PROBLEMS and possible solutions to human settlement problems in Mexico were outlined yesterday at the Forum by Carlos Reyes Navarro and Jose Ramon Sordo Cedeno, of the Interdisciplinary Institute of Urban and Regional Planning in Mexico City. They warned developing countries to try to avoid "a situation of increasing violence, degradation and boredom."

## 'NO MIRACLES' SAYS PENALOSA

(Continued from previous page)

"a great stride forward, but only a beginning."

Penalosa said the three main goals of Habitat were reflected in the recommendations of the NGOs and the Vancouver Symposium, and would also be seen in the official Conference recommendations.

"First, we must make clear to the world that the social, political and economic systems of the past — both national and international — have failed to satisfy the needs of the present and are totally inadequate to the challenges of the future.

"Second . . . the health and progress of individual communities of the world . . . must be a matter of urgent government concern at every level . . .

"And third, we are making specific recommendations . . . (to) meet the worst of existing problems and prepare new policies and strategies for the future."

Penalosa stressed the achievements of the Conference on water and land use. "If this Conference plays a catalytic role in a new world attack on water problems, that alone would repay our effort a hundred times over," he said.

"If this Conference leads no more than 20 nations to implement new and progressive laws on land use, that alone will repay our entire effort."

He said while the Conference would make a clear stand on popular participation "the outlook for meaningful implementation is less certain."

Penalosa said the Conference would not address itself to the nuclear issue, as many at the Forum had wished, because "quite honestly, the basis for consensus is not there."

As Forum members hissed, he said some nations saw nuclear power as a way to "leapfrog" into energy self-sufficiency and scientific sophistication, while others were still trapped in a spider's web of national defence and national prestige.

However, he said the Forum had focused attention on the issue and maybe that would raise international awareness.

Penalosa said he was disappointed that the rights and roles of women had not received more attention. He said he was also "astonished" that this issue had not received greater attention in the NGO Declaration.

He was confident of an endorsement by all participating governments in the principles and recommendations to be brought down by the main conference. He was confident most of these statements "will

address most of the main issues at Habitat. He said that, unlike many other UN conferences, Habitat had been largely free of ideological confrontation.

"At Habitat we have provided an initiative. We have started a few snowballs rolling. Whether they go on and grow or stop and melt away is for the future."

## 'The father of human settlements'

ENRIQUE PENALOSA called him the father of human settlements, and said this Conference ought to be dedicated to him. C. A. Doxiadis died almost a year ago, but the spirit of this Greek planner, architect and philosopher gave Habitat its meaning, name and commitment.

"The crisis which now confronts us is not only a question of housing or inadequate transport systems or urban pollution and congestion," Doxiadis once said. "It is a crisis of social organisation and of civilisation itself."

Doxiadis fathered the ekistic approach to human settlements, the embracing of all that is involved in the settlements of mankind. All problems must be seen in the context of a unified discipline to lead toward a comprehensive solution. The message of his approach can be seen in the Hangar 7 exhibit, Building the Cities of Tomorrow.

## Split on new statement

(Continued from previous page)

An introductory paragraph which merely recognised the need for a society not based on profit and exploitation was strengthened to read "we have the responsibility to create" such a world.

The debate generally reflected the direction the Forum has taken over the past two weeks. Instead of a meeting of interests at Jericho Beach, there has been a hiving off of what amount to study groups with the result that specialists have emerged convinced their own particular issue is paramount.

Many of the participants in yesterday's debate wanted the statement to be specific in detail, particularly on water and energy, against the advice of van Putten, who said the statement must be brief, and therefore more general.

Coming after the statement by NGOs who have dissociated themselves from the

Forum pronouncements, yesterday's meeting provided more evidence of the split which has materialised between the old guard NGOs, veterans of the UN conference circuit, and the more amorphous groups which have gathered at the Forum.

When he adopted his consensus procedure, van Putten explained he did so because "few of us have come with a mandate," and therefore a voting procedure was not necessary.

Virtually none of the speakers yesterday represented an organization, suggesting that the more "institutionalised" NGOs have moved downtown to lobby delegations, as they are accustomed to doing at UN conferences, leaving those less familiar with the ritual to attempt to influence the official conference in their own way.

(Tests of the NGO statement should be available by noon today.)

# Plutonium offer sets out risks

THE Greenpeace Foundation says it has been offered, and turned down, one ounce of stolen plutonium — enough, it says, to seriously threaten a city the size of Vancouver.

In a sworn affidavit at a news conference yesterday morning, Robert Hunter, Greenpeace president, said the offer came from an unnamed non-government group. The offer had been made with the idea of Greenpeace turning over the plutonium to the United Nations at Habitat, as proof "that this incredible deadly material is no longer in the hands of governments alone and that it is in fact in the hands of non-governmental bodies."

Hunter offered no proof of this offer of one ounce of stolen plutonium. However, his affidavit stated "that I was able to verify through my personal connections in other environmental groups in France, England and the United States that the group who were offering me the plutonium were totally credible and were offering the plutonium on their faith that the Greenpeace Foundation

would deliver it up to the proper United Nations authorities at Habitat without it falling into the hands of the wrong persons along the way."

However, Hunter said Greenpeace couldn't take that responsibility. "We would not accept the responsibility of holding one ounce of plutonium for one second."

He said other peace and ecology movements had received similar offers. Pointing out that the age of nuclear terrorism was just around the corner, he called once again for a moratorium on nuclear production "until there are realistic means of controlling this deadly and Titanic energy."

Dr. Patrick Moore of Greenpeace, said

17 pounds of plutonium were needed for a nuclear fission explosion. However he said that one ounce of plutonium, strapped to a piece of dynamite and exploded, could cause the evacuation of a city the size of Vancouver for "perhaps 100 years."

He exhibited a four-page newspaper distributed by a radical British group at the 1972 Conference on the Environment at Stockholm which gave blueprints for the design of a crude nuclear weapon from both plutonium and nuclear reactor waste.

Dalton McCarthy said governments had argued that plutonium was extremely difficult to obtain, and therefore the possibility of non-governmental groups building their own nuclear device was not

possible. However, he said the existence of this plutonium and the existence of nuclear waste made this argument false, and that once you had plutonium or nuclear waste it was relatively easy to build a device.

In a conference call from California, nuclear expert Dr. John Gofman said security at nuclear reactor sites was only 99½ per cent efficient. He said half of one per cent potential margin of failure could cause enough plutonium to be drained off to build more than 500 nuclear bombs.

Hunter called for governments to tighten up on the production of plutonium and nuclear waste and to increase security. "Governments have been irresponsible and they'd better act fast," he said.

"One of these terrorist acts is just around the corner . . . There are hundreds of terrorist groups with their own axes to grind. Now thanks to governments like Canada this material is available. If you can toss a bomb into a pub in Ireland it won't be long before you can toss a nuclear bomb into London."

## HOMES FOR POOR SHIPWRECKED, SAYS HASSAN

EGYPTIAN architect and master builder Hassan Fathy told the Forum yesterday that government and international programmes to house the poor had been "shipwrecked on the rock of high cost of building, relative to the low income of the people, or what their governments could give them in cash loans."

The main reason was that both governments and international organisations had come up with the same technical solution and built with industrialised materials which had to be bought in cash.

After ten years of effort, he said, the Economic Commission for Africa admitted that the few thousand dwellings built in Africa housed the privileged minority. The ECA concluded there would be no end to shanty towns until African states reached a certain level of economic development.

The real solution, Fathy said, was to encourage the peasant to invest his labour rather than cash, to convert available local materials into housing. In hot, arid zones, mudbrick was readily available. "The real problem is that most architects are not acquainted with the use of local materials. That does not exist in the curricula of the technical universities and schools or architecture." The science of soil mechanics was taught, but dealt almost exclusively with the problem of foundations, and not earth as a building material.

Mudbrick was suggested by Nature herself, said Fathy, as earth mixed with straw formed big solid lumps which did not crack.

He explained how he had consulted the ancients to solve the one problem building with mudbricks i.e. they could withstand compression but not tension, which made conventional roofing impossible. "The ancients had devised an ingenious method for roofing with mudbrick, solving the problems by making the roof in the shape of a vault."

Fathy said using earth and vaulted roofs were the only possible solution to housing peasants in the hot arid zones where the majority of the Third World lives. "In this

way we shall have subjected technology to the economy of the people, and not the other way around." But the architect-contractor system of building would have to be replaced by a system of "aided owner-builder."

Borrowing again from the ancients, Fathy said the owner-builder would need the help of his neighbours. "One man cannot build a house, but ten can build ten houses easily." Nubians flooded out by the second stage of the Aswan Dam in 1934 proved this when they built 35,000 new houses in one year on a government grant of \$1.5m, using mudbrick and vaulted roofs.

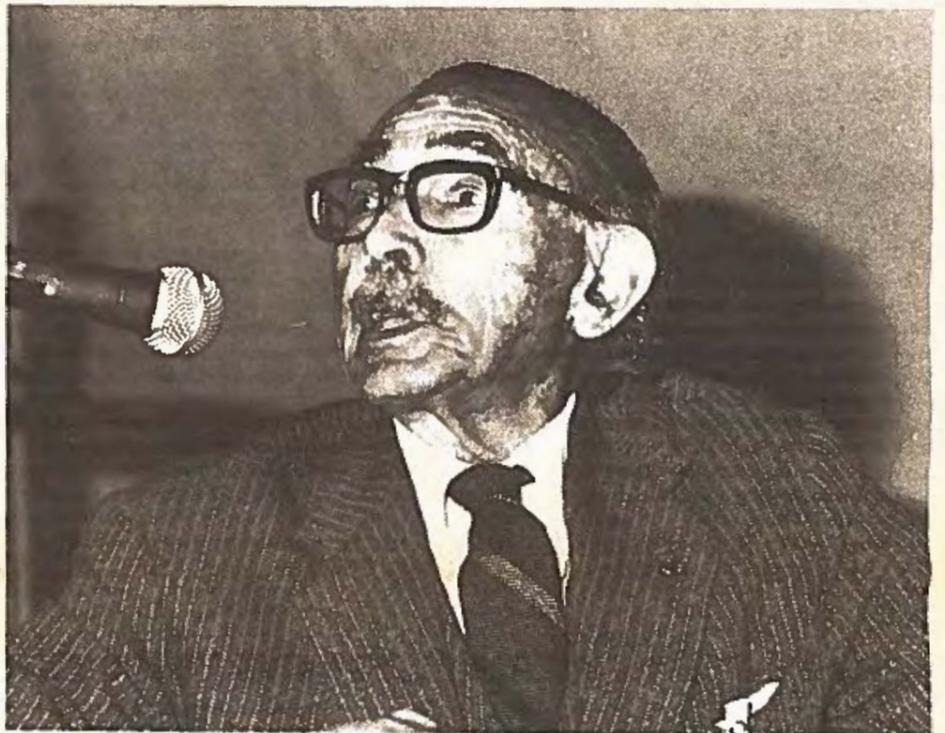
"This could not have been achieved unless the peasants were accustomed to depending entirely on local building materials, and unless some social traditions of self help and mutual aid had already existed."

By contrast, when the region was reflooded in 1965 because of the High Dam, and the whole population was moved again, the architects were called in. They came up with one house type, in stone and concrete, repeated identically all over the region. "To build just half the houses in this way cost \$56m," Fathy said.

He gave another example of a village buried in 1956 by moving sand dunes. "The mayor of the village told me the inhabitants built an entirely new one into which everyone had moved but an old man who remained behind for sentimental reasons, although his house was almost buried. "When I asked what would happen when his remaining two rooms were gone, the mayor said 'don't worry, we have already built him a new house.'"

Fathy said the best way to train villagers in construction is on the job. He said one master mason in a single village project had trained 46 boys among his helpers who had mastered all the operations which go into constructions of a house: walls, arches, vaults, domes, stairs.

Architects should give the villages a change, winding streets to contrast with the rectangular fields, and a free patterning of the buildings to shut off the view of the fields which are the peasants work place. "We



have to create opportunities for entertainment, festivity and public life. When the peasant comes back into the village after working hard in the fields, he should come into a relaxed environment where he can begin to live as a social being."

Variety in village life cannot come from architecture alone, Fathy added. "A thousand farmers living in even the most inspired architecture will have nothing to talk about but their labour in the land. Their society will not have that internal liveliness and imaginative fertility that comes from the interactions of different kinds of experience when the members come from various trades and professions. At best, the village will be like a holiday camp full of workers from the same factory."

Fathy said the stability of farming communities would depend on a mixture of occupational groups which would bring the social life to a standard sufficient to keep the people on the land and stop the drift to towns. "A variety of trade would make a boy feel that there was some escape from the cotton and rice fields."

Finally, he cautioned against the attitude taken by some planners "who take the easy way out and try to transplant the town into village, succeeding only in creating a sub-urban environment instead of creating a super-rural one."

"THE ARCHITECT is a missionary. We must create a class of architects willing to view their work as a holy mission, not as a profitable job." The speaker is Hassan Fathy, a slight, intense Egyptian who is still carrying on his 40-year mission of finding ways to house the poor of the world.

"There is no way out of it," he said. "We must get people to build for themselves. Not low-cost housing but no-cost housing, as it exists in isolated communities."

Later on he will tell a Forum audience that it is the duty of anyone with any expertise in solving problems to share it with those who are in need. "It is a moral right," he will say.

"But the architect must be careful about what he does. All decisions have chain reactions that must be followed through to the last solution. There must be the concept of the architect-builder-owner, with no in-between organisation."

He believes man must go back to the knowledge he used to have and materials that surround him. He looks for lessons from history. He describes how his ancestors used mudbrick and looks for vital relationships. "You give a Rodin half a cubic metre of clay and he will make you The Thinker, radiating energy and costing millions."

## 'CONCENTRATE ON THE RURAL AREAS'

THE Vancouver talks could retard the integrated development of human settlements if it continues to stress urban issues at the expense of the rural habitat in which at least 50 per cent of humanity will still be living in the year 2000.

Chandra Soysa, an international expert on rural housing, said in the Forum Plenary yesterday that most Third World governments had, on the very eve of Habitat as it were, at last begun to abandon the old idea that the countryside existed to serve the

city. Habitat could slow down the process of change.

As Chandra Soysa puts it: "The new approach to rural development recognises that the process does not consist of a shift of the rural population to urban centres but rather in the socio-economic transformation of the rural economy and the rural habitat itself." Growth strategies of earlier development decades, of the 1950s and 60s, attempted to transplant patterns of growth of the industrialised countries willy nilly practically everywhere else. The effort was to concentrate on large projects designed to

thrust the country into the so-called modern age.

It is out of these misplaced programmes, Soysa says, that the frightening prospect has emerged of cities assailed by a frustrated rural workforce. "This has become the obsession of the Vancouver Conference on Human Settlements," Chandra Soysa says.

The Habitat talks have taken a too defensive approach to urbanisation and migration. "We should be thinking about how to re-organise the rural sector as a suitable habitat for humans. Rural

development should not be conceived of as a mere holding operation.

"The real strategy should be to generate a more organic and integrated process of growth of the total habitat," Soysa stresses. "The dispersed urban superstructure which can grow out of such rural development will be an outgrowth from the rural sector itself."

"The total culture within this pattern will be, to a large extent, the opposite of the urban. The human product of such a design will have a different relationship to both man and his total environment."

# Jericho

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They became extinct when they could no longer carry the weight of their own verbiage. ➔

# Is this the death of the talking dinosaur?

AS EXHAUSTION replaces the euphoria, and Habitat nears its end, the value of the all-talking, all-TV, all-star conference spectacular is naturally being questioned. It is not just the question of the usefulness of the many millions of dollars and thousands of person-years that went to put it together. That's history.

The larger question is, should Habitat be part of an on-going series of global teach-ins each different, but each tending — as is natural with all competitive human endeavours — to be larger, with more side shows, more over-communication, more confusion?

Or should Habitat mark the end of a short-lived but necessary planetary phenomenon, a massive concerted reappraisal of where humanity is going at the start of the last quarter of the century?

There is a feeling abroad that the species "Megaconferencia Spectacular" has in the five years since Stockholm gone from amoeba to dinosaur: that its weight of body has already outgrown the capacities of its coordinating brain.

Since the inchoate but ebullient outbursting of Stockholm, the first UN event in which THE PEOPLE met together with governments from around the world, the megaconference became a creature of instant traditions and fixed formulae. The Forum, the non-official newspaper, the NGO causes, the sideshows, the governmental declarations and vaguely worded proposals for action, took the shape almost of ritual.

At Vancouver the added dimensions of local cable TV hook-ups, films, capsules and a world-spanning phone-in have added to the spectacular dimension, while the repeated appearance of the world problem gurus whose sayings have fed the endless appetite of the communicators have validated a sense — right or wrong — that something would result from it all, thus further promoting the mushroom growth of this instant species: — making "Megaconferencia Spectacular" possible, appealing and — almost — workable.

Adolf Ciborowski, the Conference Rapporteur, is quite clear about the value of it all. Whether the Declaration contains six points or sixty, and no matter how vague and hedged are the recommendations for

national action, he claims for Habitat what many have claimed for previous conferences in the series, that the Conference's success is assured by the way in which it has exchanged experience, and above all raised the consciousness of the governmental participants. The fact is that governments are now talking about urban land use controls participation in planning, urban-rural strategy, self help housing, in terms that three years ago were common only to small groups of advanced thinkers about settlements.

The claim is difficult to refute. But the megaconference will still die of its own weight of words does not evolve into international and governmental action.

The danger of the Conference spectacular is the danger of a jet travelling, verbalising, audio-visual momentum. Already substantial vested interests are entrenched around the megaconference process; the "call-girl" consultants who "know the ropes" and consult always with the same old crowd of names — the governments, pushed by national airlines, hoteliers and the whole convention industry, who want the prestige and pickings of the next verbal olympics.

The dinosaur was around a long time — about 300m years — before it finally became extinct. Unquestionably there is the danger that if the conference dinosaur tramps the earth much longer, its appetite for funds and its elitisation and centralisation of problem-solvers, may starve and crush on-going decentralised efforts to accommodate conflicting interests and find solutions.

One cannot avoid the parallel with the world of music, whose professionalisation, and integration with the media and hi-fi industry, has drained opportunity from the provinces, heaped the rewards and riches on a few stars, who flit from metropolis to metropolis, and whose excellence while enjoyed by mass millions, tends to stunt local activity and participation.

On the other side of the coin, the megaconference, by the ballyhoo of its build-up, and through the spotlight of media coverage, emphasises and even caricatures the rigidities and rituals of governments. The readers of *Eco*, *Planet*, *Pan* and *Jericho*, though many of them privileged

globe trotters themselves, observe and recount the spectacle of official delegates flying in to swallow or choke over the pre-digested conference documentation.

Who could devise a more flauntingly hypocritical style of waste than that of officials who cross the world and feast for a fortnight to change an ought to a should, or to add an ideologically slanted clause to a limply-worded appeal for greater resource conservation?

No amount of political pyrotechnics, of thrown out Declarations and multiple drafts, of verbal crises that hang up the midpoint of each conference spectacular in paper chains, can distract the public from the emptiness of the intent. Indeed the bone weariness of delegations, numbed by all night sessions over phraseology only adds to the sense of futility, to alienation and to public contempt.

Disillusion with the megaconference spectacular is widely evident in a sampling of Western Habitat reporting, or lack of reporting: the New York media, for example, appear to have become bored even before the beginning. And as for the media people who stick it through, whether moved by the unarguable relevance of the matters at issue, the subsidised start of a holiday far from home, or just the cakes and ale and general brouhaha of a subsidised circus, they too add to the momentum of the conference dinosaur, join the vested interest of the world chat festival series, even as they file their caustic copy.

Stockholm, the first of the megaconferences became a spectacular because its preparation advanced on a rising wave of comprehension, enthusiasm and concern at the threats to our fragile biosphere. The wave carried Bucharest which was dynamised by the Malthusian conflict; it was renewed at Rome by the clarity of the food issue and the fact that a few governments had the power to take action if they had the will. The Women's Conference in Mexico City, though poorly reported by the masculine media, also crested a world wide groundswell.

But at Habitat we find the no great wave. No simple conflict in principle, no immediate issue. Governments resent the Symposium's and the Forum's focus on

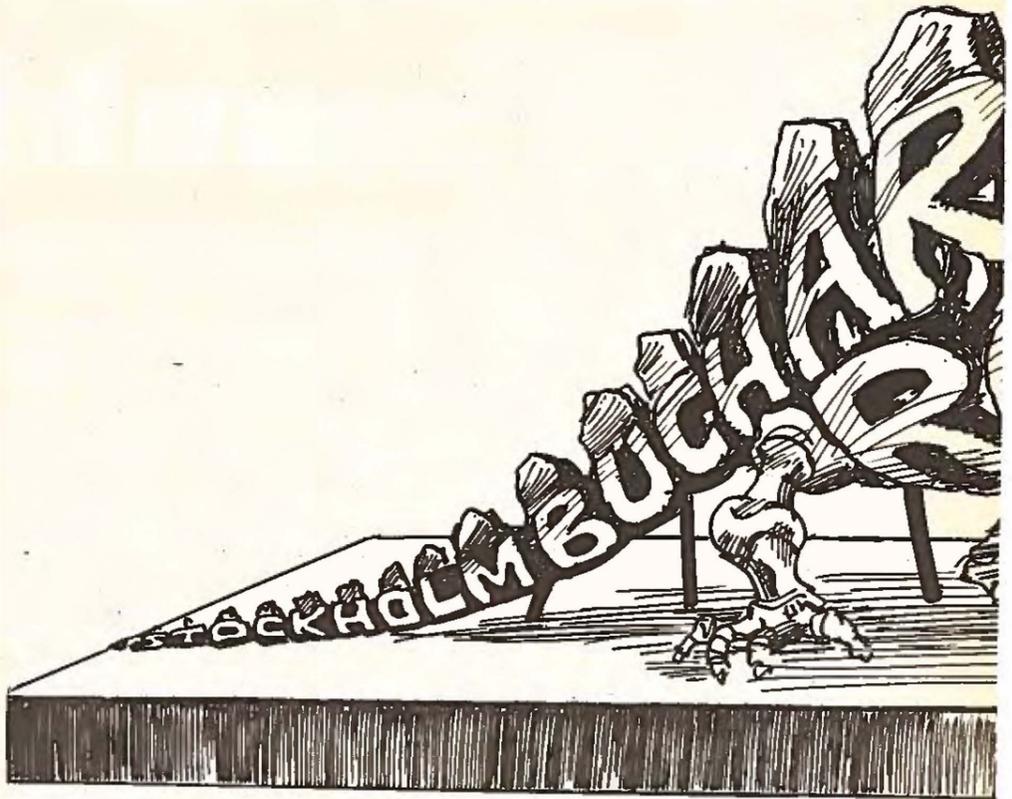
water as distracting from other issues, (though clearly some, and some close to home are happy to have water to douse the smouldering dynamite of efforts to socialise the plus value of urban land). Despite the hefty and coordinated push of the anti nuclear power campaigners the nuclear issue has failed to penetrate the inner city of the Conference.

Habitat, with its promise of bigger and better, was somehow too contrived: a feeling enhanced for many people by the audio visual experiment which some how recalled Pooh-Bah's defence of "merely corroborative detail, intended to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative".

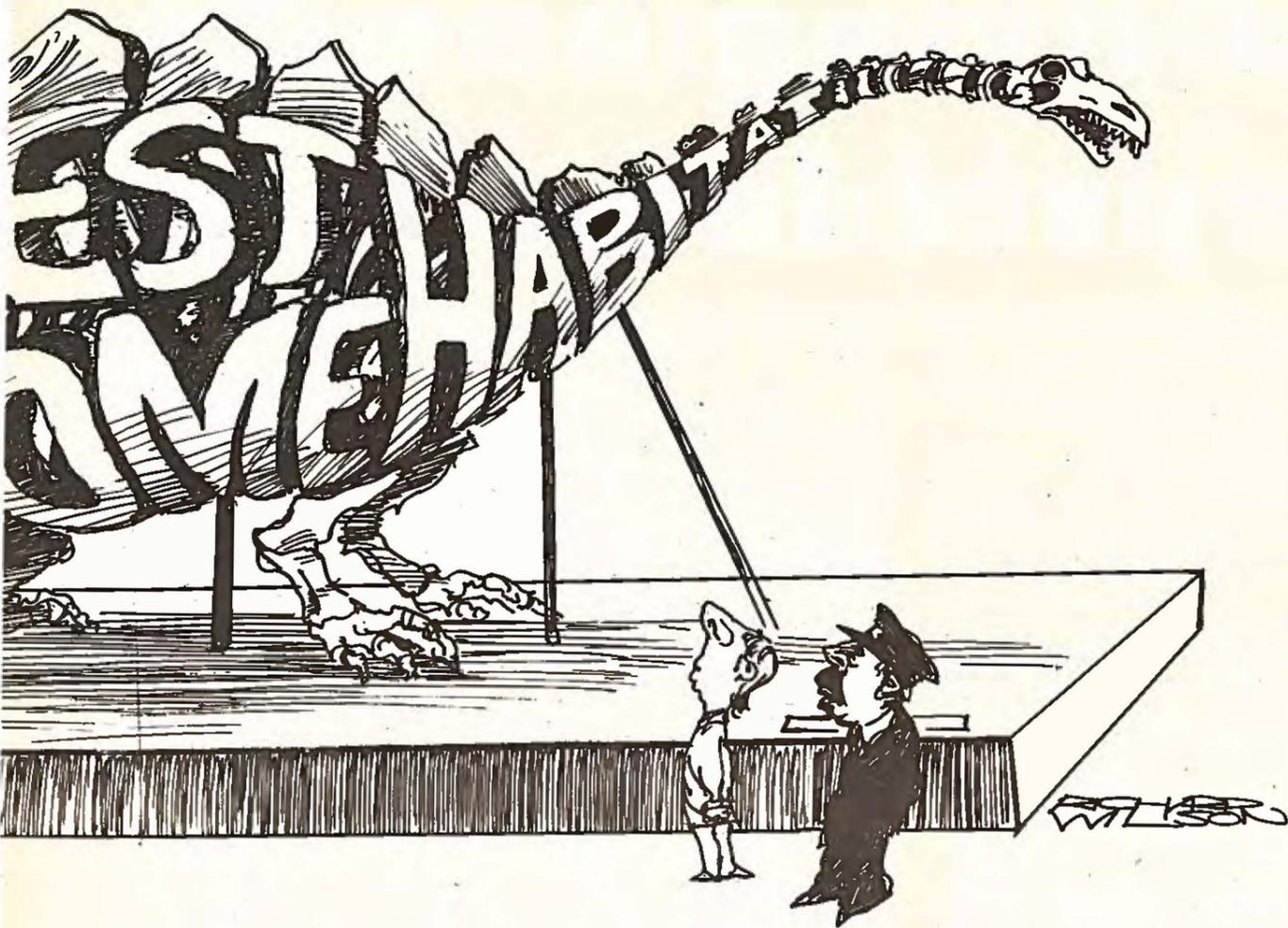
The Habitat spectacular seems in fact to shadow the malaise of the great sick industrial cities. The governmental core of the megaconference resembles, intellectually, the core of the city, no longer the centre of intellectual vigour and originality, stifling and lifeless when compared to the concentric "suburban" rings of non-governmental activity. Around the core the middle class suburbs of UN, accredited NGOs cluster, yielding, further out, to the more informal groupings of the Forum — the self-help housers, Third World grass roots participants, the missionaries and visionaries of alternative lifestyles.

Coherence, or at least a semblance of it has been given to the lively sprawl by the members of the Vancouver Symposium: the reformists of urban decay, trying to span the complaints and pressures of the outer city and the efforts of the city halls downtown to stay out of intellectual bankruptcy and keep in touch with their departed intellectual tax base.

Perhaps the solution to the question "Where do we go from the megaconference?" also parallels the proposal of the Vancouver Symposium for settlement patterns: concentrate on smaller and intermediate conferences and specific regional solutions which really strengthen civic and governmental interaction, in doing so we may lessen the confusion and mutual alienation which could be the result of further trampling by conference dinosaurs, by the vested interest of the Poverty Spectacular.



**Backchat**



**CONFERENCE PROFILE**

**CIBOROWSKI: MISSION IN A WILD LAND**

AS ONE of the small, original group which met in Vancouver three years ago to plan for Habitat, following the decision at Stockholm that such a follow-up conference should be held, Adof Ciborowski has taken a particular pleasure in chairing the Plenary Sessions as Rapporteur General.

A large, hard driving man, whose joviality breaks through a slightly intimidating exterior, Ciborowski has a fund of post-war experience in the reconstruction of cities blasted by war or natural disaster.

As a boy he had to choose between his twin interests of journalism and architecture. Coming down on the side of architecture, he helped to organise the clandestine university set up in Warsaw during the war, and designed a whole textbook on Italian architecture for its students.

His first task after the war was to search through the ruins of old Warsaw to find any materials which could be used in the reconstruction of the city. He still recalls with delight the discovery of 10 bottles of fine old French brandy.

At 26 he was nominated chief architect of Szczecin, and with his wife as his deputy drew up the many plans for its reconstruction. A task which was to be repeated in North Korea, West Germany and elsewhere.

His most fruitful years of learning followed, as chief architect of Warsaw when he completed the reconstruction of the historic city and combined social and economic roles as a member of the city council with his work as an architect.

Ciborowski's first encounter with a city destroyed by nature rather than men was in 1963, when Skopje was destroyed by an earthquake. He went on to become the highly successful project manager for the rebuilding operation. Years later, when he was caught driving the wrong way down a one-way street in that Yugoslav city, he was immediately recognised by the policemen who ticked him off for forgetting his own street plan.

Planning work on the Adriatic, in Singapore, Lagos and Karachi was followed by a spell as deputy director of the UN Centre for Housing and Building and deep involvement in preparations for the Stockholm Conference.

Two and a half years ago he was recalled to Warsaw to take over direction of the newly consolidated Research Institute on the Environment, which remains a unique research body with 1,400 staff working on everything from town planning to ecology and pollution.

He is also professor at Warsaw School of Architecture and has just published his book on "Guidelines for Disaster Prevention."

On Habitat he has no doubts: "In this kind of big international conference the main success is the fact that it takes place. The main problem is the preparatory process. The fact that 140 countries agreed



to have a conference, that they recognised the importance of human settlements, is exactly what we need."

Hoping not to be quoted, he adds: "Habitat is like a wedding party with a girl you have already lived with for three years."

"A few of us," he goes on, "were like missionaries in a wild country. Not too many people took any notice of what we were saying, now every speaker is talking the language we were talking three years ago."

And he justifies the endless repetitions with a quote from Huxley's Brave New World: "Two thousand repetitions make a truth."

He is full of praise for audio-visual element in the Conference. The capsules were, he believes, a unique feature of the general debate: "They dramatically illustrated not only the disparities and difficulties facing people all over the world, but also the deep determination of every nation to seek solutions."

He feels sure the films and capsules have had an important impact on the subconscious of delegates "confronted for the first time at a world conference with live pictures of human society and its striving for survival . . . an unprecedented vision of the tragedies, misery and successes of human beings."

It is a view that will be debated for a good while to come.

Sir, No other country should have cleaner water than Canada, right? Wrong, at least in some communities of Canada. I never drank dirtier water than in a village on the mouth of a river in northern Quebec called Povungnituk. This river comes from a land with nothing but wilderness and should be the cleanest water you could imagine. Except that the garbage dump which not only holds garbage, but dead dogs and all the excrement from all the 700 people of the village, is on the riverbank about three miles upstream from where the water is drawn for use in the village.

In regard to water there is also Canada's own example of mercury poisoning in Ontario. Our own government is ignoring this issue, and why?

We are an educated people, a leading country, yet we do not keep our water sources clean. Housing in Canada is business first, people second.

So I am ashamed of my country, Canada, and I am ashamed of all the countries which are the same. But I know that as long as we have the same kind of people in power we will never solve the habitation and food problems of this world. We will instead exploit each other as usual and call it trade.

Talk of love is easy. Doing it as Mother Teresa does is another story, not another conference.

Daisy Arbess, Vancouver.

Sir, I would like to make a correction to Robert Allen's article in the 7 June issue of Jericho. "Will the plum really be worth eating?" In the article, it said that the difference between existing UN bodies and any new human settlement organisation, with the exception of UNEP and UNICEF, is that United Nations agencies are sectoral and concentrate their efforts along a fairly narrow base. This statement is inaccurate and shows a complete misunderstanding of the role of United Nations specialised agencies, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme.

While the specialised agencies of the UN tend to concentrate their activities in areas which are sectoral, their work is closely inter-related. The United Nations Development Programme as the central funding organisation of the United Nations Development System is multi-sectoral in its operations. The projects the UNDP finances in developing countries cover every aspect concerned with developmental assistance, and the improvement in the quality of human life, from projects concerned with human settlement, to activities in human resources development and education, natural resources, agricultural and industrial. In fact, there is scarcely an area where the UNDP has not assisted governments of developing countries, from sophisticated technology for educational research using satellites to the planning and building of pilot housing schemes.

The UNDP programme of assistance to developing countries for the period 1972 to 1977 has amounted annually to some \$500m. Of this amount, over a five-year period, some \$57m of projects have been financed in human settlement. While the amount made available to projects in the field of human settlement is small compared with the needs, it should be emphasized that it is the governments which determine the priorities for UNDP assistance.

It is UNDP's hope that this conference will awaken the world's consciousness and focus the attention of planners and those responsible in government for allocating financial resources for human settlement, and thus we will see a commensurate increase in UNDP assistance in this extremely important field.

A. Bruce Harland  
Director and Representative  
United Nations  
Development Programme  
Habitat, Vancouver.

YOU did not make clear in Habichat (June 8) who Chris Dutoit represents at Forum. Anglo-American of South Africa is a mining and industrial company, not an NGO. As a consultant for Anglo-American, Dutoit should know that the gold mining industry is based on black migratory labour; that African workers are housed in bachelor "barracks" within compounds; that wives and children are not permitted to live in the compound or, with extremely rare exceptions, in the nearby urban areas. The claim that Anglo-American provides a "minimum housing standard of a three-bedroom house etc." is therefore patently absurd.

Finally, for the record, South Africa was invited to the Conference. The African National Congress is recognised by the General Assembly and speaking for the people of South Africa and we have been participating at the Forum and Habitat.

Dr. Frene Ginwala,  
ANC Delegate to Habitat

Sir, What are we going to do as we return home? Our governments have to be challenged on the issues they spoke on. We are asked to establish people's movements at our places to feed back all we have learned.

The main task must be aggressive control of governments on all levels and being highly critical towards our own practical attitude on environmental problems. Unfortunately, Western citizens are only moved to action if their own property and well-being is endangered. For the sake of long-term survival, let us start with dedication to the deepest causes of human needs as well as to the immediate symptoms.

Power to the people for a human settlement.

Wolfgang Gern  
West Berlin, Germany

# Rural living has its problems too

DESPITE the massive rural-urban migration, half the world's population will still be living in rural areas at the turn of the century. But the problems of their human settlements have attracted less attention than those of the urban slums, the Forum session on Rural Development was told yesterday.

Dr. Vinyu Vichit Vadakan, of the UN Institute for Asian Studies in Bangkok, said it was difficult to find development schemes in South-east Asia whose main objective was improving the living standards of the rural poor.

Resettlement schemes, for example, often moved people to conserve watershed areas, preserve forests, or vacate land to build reservoirs, rather than to provide better agricultural land for the resettled.

He cited a case in his own country, where the hill tribesmen had been moved from their traditional homeland because their system of shifting agriculture was thought to damage the watershed, and because they trafficked illegally in drugs.

Resettlement failed, and the government was now trying to introduce a cropping pattern to the hill country which would not disturb the watershed.

Although the government acknowledged the need for rural development, less than two per cent of Thailand's budget was allocated to rural development, and so many government departments were involved that what programmes existed were poorly co-ordinated.

Vinyu-Vichit said all South-east Asian countries faced the same problem with regard to rural development: how to provide an infrastructure for widely scattered settlements which need water, electricity and roads. Some government planners though small farms could not benefit from agricultural extension services, and problems like housing were thought to be a peculiarly urban concern.

In Latin America, the main obstacle to rural development is the concentration of prime agricultural land in the hands of a few big landowners, according to Samuel Benchimol, a Venezuelan planner.

The emphasis on commercial export of agricultural products meant the small

farmer was not integrated into the economy of the country as a whole. With no hope of a profitable agricultural existence, young people drifted to the towns, "where their rural mosery was transformed to unemployment or underemployment."

The solution he said, was political. Technology would not change the lives of the rural poor; it would require a clear and precise re-orientation of government priorities toward providing the small farmers with a productive role in the economy, and the infrastructure to support that role.

Sally Findley, a regional and urban planner from Washington, D.C. described the role of rural service centres, which provide dispersed farm communities with goods and services they cannot always provide for themselves, such as schools, post offices, farm machinery repair, bus transport, small shops, clinics, banking facilities and non-agricultural industry.

## 'Shell' houses

SMALL, precast funicular shells that can be assembled using simple molds and unskilled labour in remote villages form the basis of a housing plan being promoted by India's Structural Engineering Research Centre.

N. Jayaraman, of Roorkee, India, says the funicular houses can be built for between \$600 and \$1,200. He said conventional construction methods cannot be used to cope with the volume of houses needed. The present short-fall in urban housing, he estimated, was 15.6m units in the cities and 75m rurally.

Jayaraman said the Structural Engineering Research Centre was established in 1965 under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to make India self-sufficient in structural engineering skills. He said Indian housing was hampered by lack of finances, building skills and skilled craftsmen. The funicular shells are room-sized, mobile forms that need no steel reinforcement. Bricks must be bonded by mortar, but the mortar doesn't have to be rich.



**THE WORLD ON OUR CONSCIENCE**

Dacca: A family makes its "home" on a vacant lot. In 1974 the Bangladesh capital had a population of 1.7m. At present growth rates it is estimated that the population could rise to 8m by the end of the century.

## NOTICE BOARD

### Real Estate:

The position taken on potential land profits by the Canadian delegation to the Habitat Conference is both accurate and fair, says Blair Jackson of the Canadian Real Estate Association. Jackson said the Canadian position would provide a wider latitude for subscribing countries to determine their own system of land profit recoveries.

### Third World:

The Third World group, which meets daily in Hangar 6 Room A, has formed seven working commissions to facilitate understanding of the conference.

### Intermet:

Urbanisation must be dealt with in the context of a comprehensive social plan is the conclusion of the International Association for Metropolitan Research and Development (Intermet) after several Forum workshops. Intermet concluded any policy for human settlements must recognise that there are minimum units of urban concentration necessary for economic and social development. Communities must also create alternative growth centres and an overall plan is needed.

### Australia:

The Australian delegates to Habitat have given the Australian Government a petition urging it to stop all activities concerned with the mining of uranium and the development of nuclear power. The group says that because of Australia's considerable uranium deposits, "its voice should be heard clearly on the side of restraint."

### Northwest Regional Foundation

The Northwest Regional Foundation, a Spokane-based, non-profit, education group, has received a grant from the United States Office of Education to carry out a three-part regional programme based on the issues which emerge from Habitat. The group will put together a television documentary, two resource kits and will convene a regional conference later this year. Interested persons are invited to contact the Federation at Box 5296, Spokane, Washington.

## FILMS NEED COMMITMENT

THE HEAD of one delegation has described almost all the Habitat films as being "very stupid." He meant they were too bland. They had nothing to say. They did not have a point of view.

It's a truism among film-makers that films made with an objective, an argument — and the sharper the better — turn out to be the most memorable. A committee can no more make a good film than draft a good resolution. The hallmark of the most useful Habitat films — Jericho's top 26 — is an individual point of view. It gives them a momentum and invites audiences to respond.

Films as diverse as the PLO's The Key, Canada's Canwell Water Purification System, Sweden's Land Policy and Austria's Is Inequality Fate? all share this vital characteristic to a marked degree.

The four film-makers, the PLO, Canada's Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Swedish Socialist



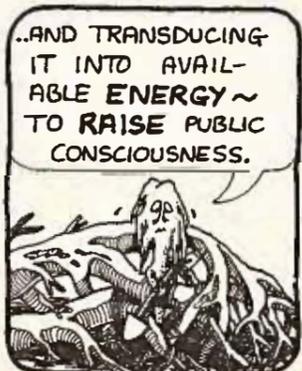
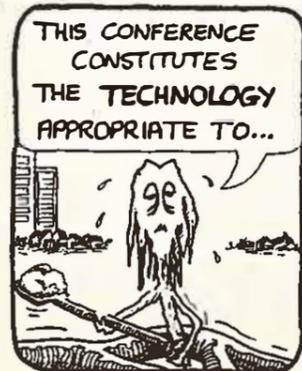
Government and Dieter Bokemann, the Professor of Planning who masterminded the Austrian film, do not have much in common. But they all believe firmly in their subject-matters, know what they want to say, to whom, and why. All of them also had directors who knew how to use a camera. All four films are very well made.

It doesn't denigrate the feelings of the Palestinians, nor is it being too pompous about a piece of technological hardware, to say that both the PLO and Canwell films stand out because both film-makers knew how to use film as effective communication. They knew what they wanted to say and they said it well.

Strongly-worded statements tend to cause arguments. The Swedish film on the merits of the socialist government's land policy has been heavily criticised in Stockholm by the Conservatives who say that it gives a very "one-sided picture". Knut Billing, political adviser to the Conservative Party and a member of the Swedish delegation at Habitat, has written a letter to the head of the delegation protesting about the biased selection of interviewees and saying the film gives a false view of Swedish housing and current government policy. Both Billing and Jorge Danell, MP, who has asked questions about the film in the Swedish parliament, must feel particularly annoyed because the film is so good. It is entertaining, provocative, persuasive. It certainly provides a good talking-point for any discussion of Swedish housing policy.

One of the most memorable films on view is Austria's Is Inequality Fate? Instead of the now-familiar summary of a "successful" practical project, Professor Bokemann had the bright idea of presenting a series of epigrammatic statements about the relationship between settlements, property, ownership, profit, radical action and the opportunity to change.

The statements are brought to life by a mimic who acts out some of the situations while others are projected on to his chest or written on placards. Sometimes the connections are obscure and the film doesn't work. But it's worth an effort. Few people who are interested in human settlements — particularly their politics — can simply ignore it. Once again, the film stands out because it is pointed and argumentative. J.H.



# SELECCIONES

Tres panelistas latinoamericanos tomaron parte ayer en las discusiones sobre desarrollo rural, panel presidido por el venezolano Arturo Luis Berti. Las discusiones estuvieron en torno a la importancia tanto del desarrollo agrícola de las regiones menos desarrolladas como la de los asentamientos humanos en áreas rurales y la migración del campo a la ciudad.

El arquitecto venezolano Samuel Benchimol trató el tema desde un nivel continental e identificó los países latinos como exportadores de productos primarios durante los últimos treinta años, lo cual los ha convertido en centros internacionales de los países desarrollados dominantes de la comercialización de dichos productos, fenómeno este que ha afectado profundamente el sistema económico de las naciones, hasta el punto de obligar algunos países a adoptar medidas drásticas para recuperar buena parte del flujo de ingresos que tradicionalmente termina en el extranjero.

A excepción de Cuba, México y Bolivia, dejó el arquitecto Benchimol, la estructura agraria latinoamericana es uniforme, donde el control y uso de la tierra, lejos de ser de beneficio colectivo, está en gran parte en manos de latifundistas. Por su parte, los jóvenes de las poblaciones rurales, desposeídos de tierra y sin medios de sustento, emigran a las áreas rurales donde terminan sumándose a las

fabelas, los tugurios y los cinturones de miseria que evidencian el estado de sub-desarrollo de América Latina. Si esta tendencia continúa, añadió, para el año dos mil la actividad agrícola solo empleará un catorce por ciento de la fuerza laboral; para el mismo año América Latina necesitará crear millones de empleos en sus centros urbanos.

Los problemas de asentamientos humanos requieren decisiones más audaces, que con fundamento y apoyo político tiendan a hacer las naciones latinoamericanas cada vez más independientes "los problemas del Hábitat del mundo en desarrollo," dijo el arquitecto venezolano, "se traducen en especulación de tierras, destrucción del suelo agrícola, extensión de la miseria, desnutrición, falta de acceso a la educación, degradación de las condiciones sanitarias, incremento de la migración y crecimiento de las áreas marginales."

Otros participantes en el panel incluyeron al Dr. Clodomir Santos de Moraes quien se refirió al desempeño de empresas agrícolas colectivas en la creación de condiciones de vida propias de los sectores urbanos en el medio rural. La panelista cubana, Georgina Leiva, después de describir la situación prerevolución y los logros alcanzados en últimos 16 años dijo que lo esencial en la estrategia del desarrollo agropecuario consiste en la especialización de territorios con la finalidad de obtener el máximo provecho de las condiciones naturales de las estructuras productivas existentes.

# NOUVELLES

Une femme de la campagne m' a dit un jour: "Tout ce dont tu as besoin pour vivre se trouve autour de toi. Regarde et apprends." Les fossés lui procuraient nourriture, remèdes, fibres, teintures. Le Forum de Jéricho, lui, fut construit du bois échoué sur les plages voisines. Que l'homme soit le seul élément autonome de notre planète, comme le disait Paul Lin, est peut-être la meilleure leçon du Forum Habitat. Pas tant une leçon scientifique d'ailleurs qu'une leçon apprise de la participation de quelques milliers de personnes de pays variés, d'éducation différente, de croyances diverses, et de rôles sociaux multiples, aux discussions relativement peu structurées du Forum. Et pourtant cette autonomie peut se démontrer à coup d'oscillographes et d'ordinateurs, confie Claude Leroy, dans son Laboratoire d'Eco-éthologie Humaine. Des gens "conditionnés" différemment socialement, psychologiquement, auront des réactions toutes différentes à une situation, à un environnement donné. Deux infirmières peuvent avoir des opinions contradictoires sur l'état d'un malade mental, tout comme deux experts peuvent recommander des solutions pratiques plus ou moins appropriées à un problème. En conséquence, il est présomptueux aux professionnels de notre société de prétendre avoir la solution optimum qui satisfera la majorité des gens. "Les objets protègent l'homme du délire" a dit Merleau-Ponty. Les statistiques ne rendront jamais compte des menus détails

qui rendent pour chacun de nous la vie sinon agréable, du moins vivable, et cela, le démontre Leroy, pour des raisons biologiques.

Le gouvernement qui survivra à long terme est celui qui aidera les gens à se suffire, fut-il commenté à une session sur l'"Auto-Construction" celui qui établira une structure dynamique qui intègre la notion de changement. Faut-il pour cela institutionnaliser, légitimer les événements organiques, si l'on veut éviter l'autodestruction des villes comme New-York, Londres, Paris? Mais institutionnaliser le changement fait que finalement rien ne change. Alors on décida que les individus possédaient tous les talents nécessaires pour résoudre les problèmes de leur société, que l'on pouvait faire fi des professionnels et des grandes institutions. Le principe de base de l'auto-construction n'est-il pas de clarifier la notion que l'on a besoin de différents niveaux de systèmes de contrôle pour mettre en place l'infrastructure de services? Cette infrastructure doit-elle venir en premier lieu, ou après qu'un groupe local se soit établi? Afin que son travail soit constructif, il faut, a-t-on conclu, qu'un groupe décide de son rôle, et où il veut obtenir ses services, ensuite fasse pression sur les politiciens appropriés.

Communicating: Persons interested in a new form of communicating are invited to become members of Erehwemos, Box 4093, Calgary, Alberta. Erehwemos is described as a communication network through which people with similar ideals and commitments can reach each other. It is concerned about the future and "anything that reduces the alienation between man and the world in which he lives."

## programme

### Forum

- 0900 - Conference Briefing - Hangar 5-Plenary Hall.
- 0930 - Center for Humanistic Studies. Sam Pagee - Hangar 6-Room F.
- 0930 - "How best to create a continuous forum especially of young people in the spirit of Habitat." John Krasnikov - Hangar 8-Conference Room.
- 1000 - "Brotherhood of Sun" (multi-media) Sunburst New Age Communities - Hangar 6-Room C.
- 1000 - "Urban Co-operatives" (slides) Amos Gatai - Hangar 6-Room J.
- 1000 - The Manila Competition - further discussion. Self help room - Hangar 8.
- 1004 - "Cultivating Famine" and "Who pays - who profits?" (slides) Development Education Centre - Hangar 5-Room J.
- 1000 - Children's Conference - final statement - Hangar 5-Room A.
- 1000 - Structuring Community Choice - an experimental workshop in participation - Hangar 5-Room H.
- 1000 - Exploiting people through Habitacion. Zoltan Szoboszlai - Hangar 6-Main Hall.
- 1015 - The story of 3 community-oriented job-creation projects as told by project participants. Sponsored by Canada Manpower and Immigration - Hangar 6-Room H.
- 1015 - APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY, Chairperson: M.M. Hoda (A.T. Development Unit, Gandhian Institute of Studies). Panel: George McRobie (Intermediate Technology Development Unit, UK), Ray Wijewardene (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Nigeria), Justin Samarasekera (Sri Lanka) - Hangar 5-Plenary Hall.
- 1015 - Physical Planning, Co-ordinator: Mr. J. Ledoux (Community Planning Association of Canada). Speakers include: Mrs. E. Chavez de Ortega (Mexican Society of Planning) - Hangar 3-Theatre A.
- 1015 - The Role of Tall Buildings in Human Settlements. Co-ordinator: Mr. Lynn Beedle. Speakers include: Dr. L.S. Leroy (France), Dr. Yue Man Yeung (Singapore), Ms. Lee de Gouffray (Colombia) - Hangar 3-Theatre B.
- 1015 - Creative Employment, Mr. Hallam Johnston (Canada), contributed paper - Hangar 6.
- 1100 - "Bicycle Transport - an ecological salvation for our cities." R. Silverman - Hangar 6-Main Hall.
- 1100 - "Hi-density Housing Frameworks-Self-Help" (slides) Neil Pinney - Hangar 6-Room J.
- 1100 - Young Adult Global Environment Team. 3 multi-media slide presentations - Hangar 6-Room B.
- 1100 - Exchange of information and ideas among planners. J.C. Roberts - Hangar 5-Room I.
- 1100 - Healing Energy Workshop. Friends of Nutmeg - Hangar 5-Room G.
- 1115 - User-oriented planning & design decision model for a housing agency. Subir Paul (India) - Hangar 6-Room H.
- 1130 - Bicycle Transit System Planning. John Troja - Hangar 6-Room F.
- 1130 - "Protection of Fur Bearing Animals." Bunty Clements - Hangar 6-Room C.
- 1200 - Preservation & Restoration of Ancient Sites in Israel. A. Smachar - Hangar 5-Room J.
- 1200 - Toronto Island Residents Assn. (slides) - Hangar 5-Room A.
- 1200 - Life in Contemporary China (slides-discussion) Tanja Winter - Hangar 3-Theatre A.
- 1200 - "PUEBLITO" (slides) Dr. Dan Birch - Hangar 6-Room J.
- 1200 - Self-Help - wrap-up session. John Turner - Hangar 6-Main Hall.
- 1200 - App. Tech. slide presentation - Hangar 6-Room C.
- 1200 - Solar Hydrodynamics Outside arena between Hangars 5 & 8.
- 1230 - Village-based rural development. Dr. Windey and A.A. Tokela - Hangar 8-Conf. Room.
- 1230 - Planning a Canadian Workshop on community development. James Draper - Hangar 5-Room G.
- 1300 - "Earth Metabolic Design" Questions-Answers about Buckminster Fuller's World Game Conference - Hangar 5-Room A.
- 1300 - The Multi-dimensional nature of man. Dr. Barton - Hangar 3-Theatre B.
- 1300 - One World Family Commune (slides) David Mathew - Hangar 6-Room C.
- 1300 - Transition from a Consumer to a Conserver society. M. Griggs - Hangar 6-Room B.
- 1330 - "Une poétique du paysage: le demesurables" (slides) Professor Bernard Lassus - Hangar 5-Room G.
- 1330 - "Where do we go from here?" slide-sound. High school's study of Edmonton - Hangar 6-Room J.
- 1400 - Int. Assoc. for Urban & Regional Research & Ed. - Hangar 5-Room D.
- 1400 - "Erehwemos" (post-Habitat Interchange Network. Arni Fullerton - Hangar 6-Room B.

- 1400 - Tarot Workshop. Friends of Nutmeg - Hangar 8-Conf. Room.
- 1400 - Person-powered dialogue. Workshop-demonstration on alternative communication - Hangar 8-I.P.P.F. booth.
- 1415 - A Case Study: Replanning & Rehabilitation of a Slum Neighbourhood in Salford. John F. Bray (UK), contributed paper - Hangar 6-Room H.
- 1500 - Appropriate Technology (Cont'd). - Hangar 5-Plenary Hall.
- 1500 - S.H.S. Disaster Relief Housing, Self-Help & Low Cost Housing Room - Hangar 8.
- 1500 - App. Tech. Working Groups - Hangar 5-Rooms A & J.
- 1500 - Physical Planning (cont'd.) - Hangar 3-Theatre A.
- 1500 - The Role of Tall Buildings in Human Settlements - Hangar 3-Room B.
- 1500 - Greater Vancouver Regional District Assn. - Hangar 6-Room C.
- 1500 - "Kenios" (film) Commonwealth Human Ecology Council - Hangar 6-Room B.

- 1500-1700 - Regional Town Centres: Our Proposal for a Better Human Settlement, a Greater Vancouver Regional District Presentation - Hangar 6-Theatre C.

- 1530 - Citoyens d vieux Quebec - Hangar 6-Room J.
- 1540 - People's participation in community development in squatter settlements, Yasmeen Lari (Pakistan) contributed paper - Hangar 6-Room H.
- 1600 - East African Wildlife Association (films) - Hangar 6-Room B.
- 1630 - The Rehabilitation of Syracuse Bernardo Rossi Doria (Italy) contributed paper - Hangar 6-Room H.
- 1700 - "Homo metropolis" Daniel Gilbertson (Human Ethology Assoc.) - Hangar 6-Room J.
- 1700 - Preservation of Historic Sites. Mr. M. Benverish (Jerusalem) - Hangar 8-Conference Room.
- 1700 - App. Tech. in Nigeria (slides) - Hangar 5-Room J.
- 1700 - Follow-up to Habitat Forum - Hangar 5-Plenary.
- 1700 - Workshop: Tools for Establishing a Unified Community (Baha'i) - Hangar 5-Room D.
- 1730 - "Let's Talk About Women and Planning" Viviane Holtz and Joan McHardy - Hangar 6-Room F.
- 1730 - Sandplay for all Ages. Austin Delany - Hangar 6-Room B.
- 1800 - Human settlement problems in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) - Hangar 5-Room A.
- 1800 - "Communes," "Self-Reliance" and "The Great Treasure House". Sponsored by the Canada - China & US - China Friendship Associations - Hangar 6-Room C.
- 1830 - "Brother-Blue" storytelling - Hangar 3-Theatre B.
- 1830 - "The Values We Live By" - Hangar 5-Room I.
- 1900 - "The Barefoot Doctors of Rural China" (film) Diane Li - Hangar 3-Theatre B.
- 1900 - Film-paper on Indigenous Building and the Third World. F. Afshar - Hangar 6-Room H.
- 1900 - Discussion of Human Settlements in Chile. Isabel Lopez - Hangar 5-Room J.
- 1900 - American Indian Movement. Land claims & aspirations of American Indians & Leonard Pelletier case - Hangar 6-Main Hall.
- 1900 - Communitas: Housing co-ops, neighborhood planning, hi-rise alternatives - Hangar 6-Room B.
- 1900 - "A Layperson's views on Habitat". Ashok Sarkar - Hangar 6-Room F.
- 1900 - Squatting Wars in Europe - 1970's. Copenhagen-Christiana, London, Amsterdam. - Hangar 6-Room J.
- 1900 - "Should There Be a Moratorium on Prisons?" United Prisoner's Rights Movement - Hangar 8-Conf. Room.
- 1900 - "Doing More with Less" - Hangar 5-Room D.
- 1930 - S.H.S. Party, Self-Help & Low Cost Housing Room - Hangar 8.
- 1930 - Future of Jericho - Tanner, Clapp, & Thomson - Hangar 5-Plenary.
- 1930 - People's Power in Angola. Liberation Support Movement - Hangar 5-Room A.
- 1930 - "Design and Industrialisation" (FIAT) - Hangar 3-Theatre A.
- 1000 - Personpowered dialogue. Workshop-demonstration on alternative communications - Hangar 8-I.P.P.F. booth.

### Conference

1000-1300 & 1500-1800 - Plenary and Committees convene. Locations: Plenary - Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Committee 1 - Holiday Inn. Committee 2 - Hotel Vancouver. Committee 3 - Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Hope Village continues a week of spiritual activities. An earth healing ceremony begins at 400 today and continues until noon in the south-east meadow of the Forum site. Further information may be obtained from 736-1623.

### Festival

- 0830-1630 - Vancouver: A Changing Habitat - City Archives.
- 0900-1700 - "Greetings from the Urban Wilderness", the art of Michael de Courcy - Artist Gallery.
- 1100-2100 - Concourse Craft Fair - CPR Station, Plaza Craft Fair - Granville Square. Interior Design Exhibition - CPR Station, Children's Art Programme - Granville Square. Exhibition of Outstanding Canadian Craft - CPR Station.
- 1200 - Snowbird Pass - Granville Square.
- 1200 - Cosmic Salto Trampoline Troupe - Pacific Centre.
- 1245 - Carl Payne - Granville Square.
- 1300 - A.C.M.E. Theatre - Pacific Centre.
- 1215 & 1315 - Herringbone - City Stage, \$2.
- 1900 & 2000 - Native Peoples Program (film) - Western Front, Canadians Make Films series, \$1.
- 2000 - Touchstone Theatre presents Brecht plays: The Exception and the Rule and The Farce of Pierre Patelin - City Stage, \$2.50.
- 2030 - Les Hauts et Les Bas d'la Vie d'une Diva: Sarah Menard, with La Compagnie des Deux Chaises from Montreal - David Y.H. Lul Theatre, \$4.50.
- 2030 - Cruel Tears, with Humphrey and the Dumptrucks, presented by Persephone Theatre - Vancouver East Cultural Centre, \$3.50.
- 2030 - Vancouver New Music Music Ensemble - Christ Church Cathedral, \$3.50.
- 2200 - Tamahous Theatre Workshop Society doing Review Sketches - Vancouver Art Gallery.
- 2330 - Pacific Salt Jazz Sextet - Vancouver Art Gallery.
- 0100 - Royal Canadian Aerial Theatre in Habitat Ballroom Event - Vancouver Art Gallery.

### Events

- 1000 - Press Conference, Dr. Larry Ward, President, Food for the Hungry - Press Room, Building 13, Forum.
- 1000-1700 - Other Worlds - an exhibition on Habitat-Environmental Themes - Burnaby Art Gallery.
- 1300 & 1730 - Brother Blue, storyteller - Outdoors, Forum.
- 1330, 1500 & 1630 - Performances of life-centered music and dance - Twin Valleys Dome (on the hill).
- 1400-1600 - Canada's Audio-Visual Contributions to Habitat - NFB Theatre, 1155 W. Georgia.
- 1430 - Representatives of the US Delegation briefing for NGOs - Garibaldi Room, Four Seasons Hotel.
- 1630-2000 - Balloon Sculpture Event - Habitat Forum Ferry Dock.
- 1830 - Meeting of Canadian delegations and Canadian NGOs - 1020 Nelson St. at Burrard.
- 1930-2130 - Extraterrestrial Experience, a science fiction participation - Conference Room, Centre for Continuing Education, UBC.
- 2000 - The Art of Living with Geo. Bullied, founder Twin Valleys Community - Twin Valleys Dome (on the hill).
- 2200 - Reaction to Habitat Forum, Co-ordinator: Michael Berns - Committee Room, Main Floor, North Tower, Gage, UBC.
- Earth Healing Ceremony - First Day. Presentation of sacred ceremonies. Participation of all people of the world invited. Morning: Council Circle. Afternoon: Presentation of Sacred Music - Hopi Teepee Site, Forum.
- UN sponsored International Photo Competition on display - Hangar 7.
- Exhibition of Vedic City in Mayapur India runs continuously with cinema shows, song and dance, free food for all - ISKCON Vedic City Exhibit, Outdoor Exhibition Area, Forum.
- Exhibit of Third World Theatre Arts - International House, UBC.

### Films

- AT THE FORUM
- 1000 - They Die One at a Time (28 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1000 - Burns Lake Native Development Corporation (28 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 2.
- 1040 - I Was Born Here (23 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 2.
- 1045 - Hunger (11 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1115 - Land is the Culture (28 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1300 - Fells Point, Baltimore, 1975 (40 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1330 - ASEA Mass Transit (15 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 2.
- 1400 - Solar Water Heating (13 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1400 - Water in Boer (15 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 2.

- 1430 - Canwell Water Purification Scheme (Canadian official Habitat film) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1430 - A Sense of Place (NFB official Habitat film) - Hangar 8-Theatre 2.
- 1500 - Sulphur Development Institute of Canada (23 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1530 - The Burning Problem (20 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1600 - (An Andean film - title unknown) (28 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 2.
- 1605 - The Barefoot Doctors of Rural China (52 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1800 - Slide Shows by the Commonwealth Association of Architects on low cost housing and urban settlement dynamics in South Africa - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1830 - Motor City Madness (15 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1900 - The Barefoot Doctors of Rural China (52 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 1.
- 1900 - Powers That Be (50 mins.) - Hangar 8-Theatre 2.
- 1900 - Siteco Design and Industrialisation (90 mins.) - Hangar 3-Theatre A.

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE  
 1000-1300 - Cuba: To Change Life. Dominican Republic: Tibildo - Agrarian Reform. Ecuador: Human Settlements and Oil. Egypt: Yellow and Green (25 mins). France: To Build Better, More Quickly, More Cheaply (18 mins). The Beavers (10 mins). German Democratic Republic: The Housing Construction Programme of the GDR. Federal Republic of Germany: Urban Development in Old and New Quarters. UNESCO: Push Button (11 mins).  
 1400-1700 - World Bank: Chawama (17 mins 25 secs). Hungary: USA: Shelter (18 mins). Canada: Management of Urban Growth and Land Use. Colombia: Seagulls. France: Saint Quentin-en-Yvelines (14 mins).

HABITAT FORUM wants feedback. Just as if it's the end of term on a college course, the Forum is distributing a leaflet asking you to tick off your opinion on 28 different items. You have the option of very good, good, fair, poor or not seen or no opinion. Items being checked range from the Plenary sessions to the bar, staff courtesy to walkways. Additionally, the leaflet solicits comments on what to do with the Jericho site following the end of Habitat.

## 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.

Please send me.....copies of a special issue of Jericho.

Name (Block Capitals) .....

Address (Block Capitals) .....

# Now some NGOs are getting through

SLOWLY, but surely, some NGOs are making their presence felt where it counts — in odd phrases and sentences in paragraphs of and sub-sections to the documents that will be presented to the official Conference for passage.

Some get their point through with fuss and fanfare. Others come across by dint of sheer dogged pursuit. But while some NGOs still complain that delegates are hard to reach and are deaf to their cause, others are having success.

The nuclear group, for example, has surrounded their lobbying activities with well-publicised speeches and demonstrations. However, they have not ignored the committees. After talking to dozens of delegates, they got Papua New Guinea to introduce an anti-nuclear amendment into Committee Three. Then Brazil got any specific reference to the nuclear question deleted. As of now, Papua New Guinea is pursuing the point in the Plenary.

Women's organisations have had some success getting women written into recommendations along with men. But it was two individuals, Sue Clifford and Jill Davidson, volunteers working for the NGO monitoring group, who were responsible for an amendment concerning sexual equity in the ownership of land being written into Committee Three's report. They bombarded delegates with memos, and got a favourable reaction from the Netherlands and the U.S.A.

The first statement of the NGOs, delivered to the Conference by J.G. van Putten, chairman of the NGO Committee for Habitat, focussed attention on the plus value of land, which is being incorporated into committee drafts.

Both the NGO document and the Vancouver Symposium have successfully pushed the water issue. Specific target dates for clean water and sanitation for everyone have been written into draft reports, although actual budgetary allocations have not yet been mentioned.

The Fourth World Movement, a group of NGOs from Holland, Switzerland and France, have successfully put their point that there is a need for both developed and developing countries to involve people in their societies who are deprived.

Some groups, like the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council have worked all along with their governments, and have a comparatively easy time of it. Zena Daysh CHEC's Secretary-General, says delegates from at least "15 cohort countries" have been participating daily in their workshops. She says governments and NGOs working together from the start offers advantages to both sides: the governments can concentrate "on the cunning", while the NGOs

can say things the governments can't.

Some NGO groups, however, argue over the effectiveness of having their point expounded in U.N. documents. Bruce Fairbairn of Self-Help Housing, for example, says that group "hasn't tried to knock our heads against a brick wall to get a committee to change an and or a but." Instead, they've held some 60 hours of workshop sessions at the Forum with architects, planners and interested persons from around the world.

The result of their work has been the setting up of an international network to carry on their work. The group feels that this global organisation could prove a useful contact for individual governments to carry on the work of Habitat.

So while the behind-the-doors negotiations is sometimes singularly undramatic, many NGOs are achieving results they are satisfied with, be this inside or outside of the official U.N. proceedings.

## Gremlin

- 1) HAVE A CAUSE. Sounds a bit obvious, but unless you've previously identified exactly what it is you are lobbying for, you might end up just having a nice trip. But, of course, that might be your objective anyway.
- 2) Have a cause that a government is already pushing. That way they come to you and life is easy. Your work compliments theirs, and delegates come flocking. An enviable situation.
- 3) Do your homework. Unavoidable this one, unfortunately. Not only have your cause clearly identified but find out, before the conference starts, who are the delegates, what are their positions, which of them might buy your cause, where can they be reached? A lot of work, this.
- 4) Understand U.N. procedures and bureaucracy. Working your way through the labyrinths of committees, core groups and drafting groups takes expertise of the highest order. Know how the U.N. works. Otherwise, get someone who does.
- 5) Make your thrust early. Hit your

## LOBBY GUIDE

main theme at the beginning of the conference. Then repeat it again and again. By the second week your point might be getting through to the delegate of your choice.

6) Approach your delegate politely. He might be thoroughly bored with the whole conference procedure and be in need of some gentle wining and dining.

7) Approach your delegate directly. The polite approach may not work, so bang noisily on a committee door when he's in the chair. Demand that he hear the people's voice (that's you). Call him up in the middle of the night. Misdirect his mistress to the wrong hotel. But beware. This tactic can backfire, especially if his security guard is bigger than you, or can call on more police than you have friends.

8) Demonstrate. Do something dramatic. Tie up a major area of the city. Get the masses howling your cause. People love a demo. They'll follow any flag.

9) Use big names. Say that Robert Redford espouses your cause. When he fails to show up, say he was unavoidably detained. Read his

telegram of regrets. Also, lure some leading lights of academia into your bosom. Promise them fat research grants. Wives of leading politicians can never hurt your cause.

10) Use the media. This is a must success. If your demo does tie up the downtown area, with Robert Redford rooting for it, then you're guaranteed front-page pictures and footage on the evening news. Make life easier for the lazy, beleaguered journalist. Bombard him with P.R. handouts and pictures. Buy him a beer at the end of the day. Try to get a slightly new angle on your cause each day. Call up the editor and complain the media is denying you your rightful voice. That way you're sure of more space than you deserve. Get your friends to write letters to the editor. Say something outrageous.

11) Start your own newspaper. If for some reason the media doesn't embrace your cause, do it yourself. Solicit ads from book publishers. Try Permagon Press.

12) Go at it with enthusiasm. Better still, go at it with money.

## Habitat

THE Indian war cry delivered at the outset of the Conference by the elegant President of the Native Council of Canada, Gloria George, that Indians were not going to sit back and allow Canada to comfortably host it, doesn't seem to have resulted in much action. The youthful militants in their red berets appear to have ignored the world audience which has settled briefly on Vancouver, apart from demonstrating against the possible extradition of American Indian Leonard Peltier to face murder charges in the United States.

Perhaps the Hopi — the peaceful people — will get their message across, if delegates can be wooed away to appear in the Jericho Woods at dawn. After so many thousands of words that have numbed even the most ardent of conference goers, the simplicity of a ceremony at dawn, holding hands in a circle and blessing Mother Earth, may provide the spiritual charge necessary for them to remember something good from this verbal marathon.

Each delegate will be given a token — a small Douglas Fir seedling — to take home and plant in his own country as a living Habitat symbol, a permanent reminder that the fine words are nothing without being translated into action. The Hopi hope that as the fir grows so will the achievement, the national legislation necessary to stop inhuman settlements, abuse of nature, despoiling of the environment and the leaps into dangerous technology without clearer ideas of future consequence.

The Hopi prophesy says if the white man continues to destroy the native peoples and the natural resources, it will bring an end to man's existence. They tried to get this message across to the United Nations in 1940. They tried again in 1975 during a convention of five great religions in New York. The went unheard. "The white brother's advanced technological capacity has occurred as a result of his lack of regard for the spiritual past and for the way of all living things." Take home a simple living thing in the form of a fir.



## TOO MUCH TALK OF WATER

"THE 1990 clean water deadline is preposterous — it is meant to distract the Third World nations from concrete solutions to their problems," Mangalam Srinivasan, a UN advisor on urban and rural development, said yesterday.

"The media has focused on clean water. It is the No. 1 goal of the Conference." She thinks this focus, coupled with rigid control of many Forum seminars, has resulted in "an intellectual level that has led people away from the basics."

Srinivasan said the Women's Conference in Mexico City was better organised because it limited people to speaking once instead of several times at different places. "There was one plenary so people could concentrate on one thing at a time. Each day there was a continuity."

She also feels the Forum could be more honest and should be more emotional. "The Third World psyche is at the confrontation point now. The Forum should be an outlet for these emotions and it is not. The Forum

should explore the way in which every country would say here what they wouldn't dare say anywhere else. But the Forum has become a tool of unintentional intellectual domination."

Srinivasan, who has UN advisor status and who chaired a Monday symposium on Housing for the Poor, said many of the sessions showed an insensitivity to the Third World by "looking with a Western perspective."