



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
A DIVISION OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

MS-630: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Digital Collection, 1961-1996.
Series A: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1961-1996.

Box
5

Folder
2

Global Forum, 1995-1996.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

January 31, 1996
10 Shevat 5756

Akio Matsumura, Executive Director
Global Forum
336 East 45th Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Matsumura:

Your letter of January 4 reached our office during Rabbi Schindler's absence so I write to acknowledge receipt in his behalf.

As you may know, Rabbi Schindler will retire as president of the UAHC on July 1, 1996 and he is now on Sabbatical. He is travelling out of the country for the next few months but will get to the office on occasion. Be assured your letter will be held for his return.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President



GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

Handwritten signature

HONORARY CHAIR:

JAVIER PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR
Former Secretary General of the UN

CO-CHAIRS:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUFTARO
Islam

Rabbi AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAHANI
MP, Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Christianity

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief OREN LYONS
Native American

PATRICK BALOP
MP, Botswana

NEY LOPES
MP, Brazil

BLANCA ESPONDA
MP, Mexico

VICTOR I. DANILOV-DANILIAN
MP, Russia

ALBERT GORE
VP, USA

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

The Very Rev. **JAMES PARKS MORTON**

Dr. KARAN SINGH

Metropolitan PITIRIM

FELIPE PROPPER DE CALLEJON
Chair
International Advisory Committee

BYRON JANIS
Chair, Arts Panel

GEORGE KRIMSKY
Acting Chair, Media

Dr. CARL SAGAN
Co-Chair, Science

Dr. EVGUENIJ VELIKHOV
Co-Chair, Science

SECRETARIAT:

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

January 24, 1995

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Fax: 650 4169

Handwritten: Sabbathical

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

It has been some time since I have talked with you, and I hope all is well. Since we last spoke, many things have happened. There was of course the tragic event of Prime Minister Rabin's assassination, which horrified and still horrifies us all. To lose such a champion of peace at the most crucial time of the peace process makes it difficult to go on, and yet as we have seen just today the peace process has in fact gained historic momentum. I am sure you share with me the positive results of the Palestinian elections, which we hope will bring increasing stability for the Jewish people. Bringing peaceful democratic change to the Palestinian National Authority is a most positive step in the over all peace process.

It is as well an auspicious sign for our conference to have such an enthusiastically elected government as our hosts. I think you may agree that the potential for truly historically meaningful event is overwhelming.

We are diligently working on the conference at present, the final dates of which shall be determined by President Arafat and in consultation with the Israeli government. Though we have been successful on many levels in preparing for the conference, our financial situation is still in need of support. In the past I have discussed the issue of fund raising with you, and your enthusiasm on our behalf has been great. I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your great efforts. Perhaps the tragedy of last years events, as well as the increasing success of the peace process has changed the landscape of the fund raising possibilities.

Though I understand and appreciate that your own projects take your full financial priority, I am hoping you could introduce me to one or two potential donors of your acquaintance. Coupled with recent events, there must be philanthropists in the Jewish community who see the need for and the potential of a global dialogue on reconciliation, and the historic effect it will have taking place with the full cooperation of Israelis and Palestinians alike, in Jericho. Further, the Global Forum has a notable history of Jewish participation, when Rabbi's, for the first time prayed in the Kremlin, at our 1990 Moscow Conference.

I know that you have a busy schedule, but if you could let me know your thoughts on possible individuals as soon as possible, I would be grateful.

Sincerely,
Akio Matsumura

Akio Matsumura
Executive Director





GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

July 11, 1995

HONORARY CHAIRMAN:

JAVIER PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR
Former Secretary General of the UN

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUFTARO
Islam

Rabbi AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAHANI
MP, Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Christianity

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief **OREN LYONS**
Native American

PATRICK BALOPI
MP, Botswana

NEY LOPES
MP, Brazil

MASAYOSHI TAKEMURA
MP, Japan

BLANCA ESPONDA
MP, Mexico

VICTOR I. DANILOV-DANILIAN
MP, Russia

ALBERT GORE
VP, USA

TARZIE VITTACHI
Media

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

Dr. KARAN SINGH

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM

ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE
Chairman
International Advisory Committee

The Very Rev. JAMES PARKS MORTON
Founding Chairman

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021-7064

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I just returned from a three week trip to Asia and I would like to thank you personally for the contribution you secured for us from Mr. Arthur Kobacker.

In Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines, I received an enormous amount of support for the Global Forum and the Jericho Conference, and I met many prominent world leaders including His Excellency Fidel Ramos, President of the Philippines.

I am departing for Jerusalem and Jericho on July 15 for meetings with key Palestinian and Israeli leaders. Prime Minister Rabin has indicated his support for the World Assembly for Reconciliation and designated Shulamit Aloni, Minister of Communications, Science, Technology and the Arts, to be the Global Forum point of contact within the government of Israel. The Global Forum now has an operating office in Jericho headed by Mr. James Richard, our local coordinator for the conference.

I am enclosing a few copies *The Global Forum Decade*, our tenth anniversary publication which was just printed last week. I thought they might be helpful to you as you discuss the World Assembly for Reconciliation with your friends, colleagues and potential donors. I am also enclosing a proposal for the Assembly which has a more detailed project description and budget than the materials I gave you previously.

Kindly contact my office if you would like any additional materials. Thank you again for your support. With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Akio Matsumura
Executive Director

AM:adf
Enclosure

August 8, 1995
12 Av 5755

Akio Matsumura, Executive Director
Global Forum
336 East 45th Street, 10th floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Akio:

Thank you for the up-date on what has been transpiring in connection with the World Assembly for Reconciliation. I am delighted with your progress.

Alas, however, my own participation at the December 4-7, 1995 gathering is precluded. The National General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations will conclude a five day meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on December 3; it is my last Biennial Convention as President of the UAHC and will be a very busy time for me. There are also a number of post-convention meetings at which I must be present and thus I simply would not be able to journey to Jerusalem in time for the Jericho Conference. I do regret this development but am certain you can appreciate my situation and thus forgive my absence.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

August 4, 1995

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

We are moving forward rapidly and successfully with preparations for the World Assembly for Reconciliation. I just returned from Jerusalem and Jericho and I am writing to let you know that we have changed the dates of the conference from November 6-8 1995 to December 4-7 1995.

After consulting the Palestinian Coordinating Committee, headed by Dr. Sami Musallam, Director General of Arafat's office in Jericho, and composed of representatives from eight Palestinian National Authority (PNA) ministries, the municipality of Jericho, the religious and private sectors and independent institutions, we concluded that the first week of December is more conducive for weather conditions in Jericho and hotel accommodations in Jerusalem than the first week in November. I was then able to block book rooms at the Notre Dame Center of Jerusalem and the Ambassador Hotel.

Chairman Arafat agreed to the date change, and confirmed that he will preside over the opening and closing ceremonies of the Assembly. I met with him on July 25 despite a complete closure of Gaza following the 24 July suicide bombing near Tel Aviv. Special arrangements for this meeting were made by the PNA and the Israeli authorities.

During my trip I also met officials in the Israeli government, including the Minister of Communications, Science, Technology and the Arts, Shulamit Aloni, who has been designated by her government as the Global Forum point of contact for the Jericho Conference. Minister Aloni happens to be a long-time member of the Global Forum who attended the Oxford and Moscow conferences. The government of Israel fully supports our initiative in Jericho, and has pledged to assist as necessary with conference arrangements and security.

Next week I am meeting President Carter to discuss the Jericho Conference, and invite him to address the plenary on the opening day.

As always, I welcome your input and suggestions.

With best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Akio Matsumura
Akio Matsumura
Executive Director

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

By Fax: 650-4169

AM:adf

HONORARY CHAIRMAN:

JAVIER PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR
Former Secretary General of the UN

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUFTARO
Islam

Rabbi AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAHANI
MP, Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Christianity

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief OREN LYONS
Native American

PATRICK BALOPI
MP, Botswana

NEY LOPES
MP, Brazil

MASAYOSHI TAKEMURA
MP, Japan

BLANCA ESPONDA
MP, Mexico

VICTOR I. DANILOV-DANILIAN
MP, Russia

ALBERT GORE
VP, USA

TARZIE VITTACHI
Media

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

Dr. KARAN SINGH

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM

ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE
Chairman
International Advisory Committee

The Very Rev. JAMES PARKS MORTON
Founding Chairman

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

*Global
Forum*

June 13, 1995
15 Sivan 5755

Byron Janis
521 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Byron:

Between my journey to Los Angeles and my departure for London later today, I stopped by the office for an hour or two. Much to my delight, the enclosed check for the Global Forum in the amount of \$5,000. arrived from Arthur J. Kobacker of Columbus, Ohio and I am pleased to forward it to you.

I had told him of the Forum's work and he was intrigued. He and I go back a long way and he is a wonderful person who cares deeply about the work of our Religious Action Center and allied causes, including the Peace Process. am sending this on to you and ask that you make certain it gets to the Forum.

Rhea and I send fondest regards to you and Maria. Have a wonderful Summer and hopefully we'll see each other when we return from our latest round of travels.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

June 13, 1995
15 Sivan 5755

Arthur J. Kobacker
Huntington Center
41 So. High Street, Suite 3610
Columbus, OH 43215-6105

Dear Arthur:

As I leave for London later today, I am writing in haste to express deepest appreciation for your generous contribution to the Global Forum. This is a most worthy cause and I am truly grateful to you for your gift which arrived today.

I'll be heading for Israel and The Jewish Agency meetings from London and then on to Paris for a World Union for Progressive Judaism Conference. I'll be back at my desk sometime in July but I couldn't leave without a word of gratitude. You will undoubtedly also hear from the Global Forum.

Have a wonderful Summer, restful and rewarding in every way.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

New York
Globe
Town



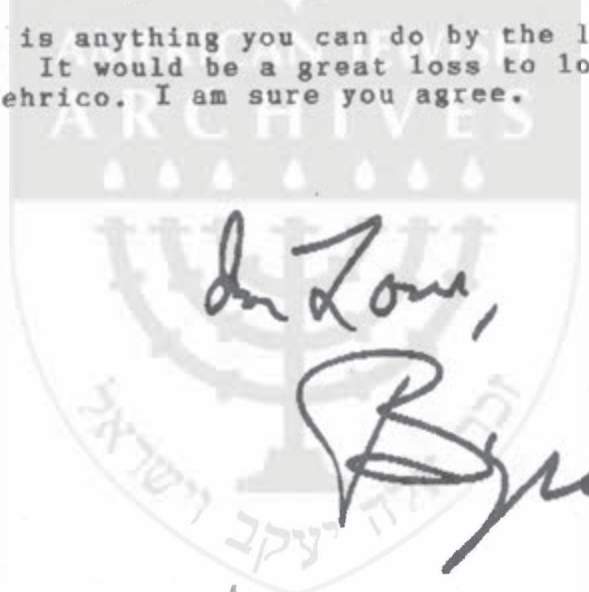
May 8, 1995

Dear Alexander,

Again, it was so wonderful to be with you and your lovely family the other night. Pursuant to our conversation the other day, I spoke with Akio. He told me regretfully unless he has some funding before he leaves by the 11th for Israel, the Jehrico conference will have to be cancelled. There apparently is no way it can be postponed-- the wheels for Arafat's participation were set in motion and would be extremely difficult to change. He, Akio, has told me that if he could say he had \$100,000 funded, the Israelis, whom he is seeing on the 11th, would be satisfied that we were serious about the conference.

We had hoped that something might have transpired in the last months funding wise. I understand all the problems involved and I must admit I did concentrate on the area of Jewish funding because of all the benefits they derived from the Global Forum.

Anyway, if there is anything you can do by the 11th we would be deeply grateful. It would be a great loss to lose this golden opportunity of Jehrico. I am sure you agree.



Dr. Zou,

Byron

Handled by
Ahron

Date: May 8, 1995

To: Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Fax: (212) 650-4169

From: Byron Janis
Fax: (212) 688-1916
Phone #: (212) 838-2455/2456





faxed 5/4

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

May 4, 1995
4 Iyar 5755

Via Fax: one page

Mr. Akio Matsumura
Executive Director
Global Forum of Spiritual and
Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival
336 East 45th Street
New York NY 10017

Dear Mr. Matsumura:

Your fax arrived at Rabbi Schindler's office just as he was leaving for Norfolk Virginia. He asked me to fax a reply to you to by all means try through Ambassador Loeb. He said the more the merrier.

Hope this is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Marian Brewer

Marian Brewer
Rabbi Schindler's office

Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival

**336 East 45th Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10017
tel: 212-953-7947 fax: 212-557-2061**

Fax Transmission Cover Sheet

To: Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Fax: 212-650-4169

From: Akio Matsumura

Date: May 4, 1995

Page 1 of 2





GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

4 May 1995

HONORARY CHAIRMAN:

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Former Secretary General of the UN

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUFARO
Islam

Rabbi ABRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAHANI
MP, Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Christianity

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief OREN LYONS
Native American

PATRICK BALOP
MP, Botswana

NEY LOPES
MP, Brazil

MAJAYOSHI TAKEMURA
MP, Japan

BLANCA ESPONDA
MP, Mexico

AL CORE
VP, USA

TARZIE VITTACHI
Media

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

Dr. KARAN SINGH

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM

ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE
Chairman
International Advisory Committee

The Very Reverend JAMES PARKS MORTON
Founding Chairman

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Byron told me about the wonderful conversation he had with you yesterday. I am delighted to hear about the man in Columbus, Ohio who might be in a position to support this project.

I gather you are really quite busy. Regarding Edgar Bronfman, I recently had lunch with Ambassador John Loeb, together with Maria Janis, and Ambassador Duke. I wonder if Ambassador Loeb might be another avenue of approach to Mr. Bronfman. Kindly let me know what you think of this idea.

Time is of the essence as we prepare for this conference, and that is my reason for writing. I am departing for Jerusalem on May 10, returning May 19. I hope to speak with you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Akio Matsumura
Akio Matsumura
Executive Director

AM:adf



COPY

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

April 20, 1995
20 Nisan 5755

755-5770

Dr. Israel Singer
501 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Israel:

I tried to reach you several times during the past few weeks but you were always out. I don't blame you one iota. To begin with, there are your tasks, and above all there is your responsibility to be with your family especially on Pesach. At least one of the reasons why I wanted to talk to you is to wish you a sweet and a kosher Pesach. But there is a second reason as well and I will try to reach you this coming week when, so I am told, you will be back.

The reason relates to an endeavor by an organization called the "Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival". This particular grouping has a good record in bringing together clusters of leaders of varying religious background for a variety of purposes, all in the effort to bring peoples of divergent views together. They had an Oxford Conference in 1988 which brought together Christian, Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim leaders. They had a Moscow Conference in 1990 which, so I am told by a great many people, was an important and helpful effort in easing the plight of Soviet Jewry. Quite a few Jewish leaders participated in that, not only from the Eastern Bloc like Rabbi Rosen of Rumania, Olav Hashalom, also Steinsaltz from Jerusalem. Several effective conferences along that line were conducted. One in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, then a General Assembly in Kyoto in 1993. By all reports they were exceedingly effective.

April 20, 1955
Dr. Israel Singer
Page two

Now this group is turning its attention to the Middle East and is planning a World Assembly for Reconciliation in coordination with the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations International Year for Tolerance. This Conference will bring together senior religious leaders, Parliamentarians, and representatives of the private sector from the world over. Its goal is threefold:

- (a) to contribute to the overall peace process through a non-political dialogue,
- (b) to promote private sector initiatives in the region and,
- (c) to introduce the spiritual dimension into the development process.

This meeting has the blessing of the Israeli leadership from Peres and Rabin, with some push apparently from Aloni and Burg as well as Steinsaltz, who intends to play a leading role in this particular project.

The reasons for my approaching you are twofold.

First of all, I would love it if you were to persuade Edgar Bronfman to participate in this particular program, that is to be present himself and perhaps give a talk.

The second reason, frankly, is to gain some support for this venture. To my embarrassment, none of the past efforts had any kind of support from the Jewish community even though other faith groupings were contributors and even corporations from several countries, especially those based in Japan. Is there any possibility that Edgar, either through his Foundation or his corporation, might be willing to contribute some

April 20, 1955
Dr. Israel Singer
Page three

sums so that we are not at all left out. I am making a similar effort with Rabbi Sobel and some of his members of Temple Emanu-El because I recognize the potential worth of these and like efforts.

The organization itself has some impressive names on its list - I am talking about the Global Forum now. The Grand Mufti Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro and Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp and Leticia Shahani of the Philippines are Co-Chairmen. Cardinal Koenig represents Christianity on the Executive Committee and of course Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz for the Jewish community, as well as Al Gore. Obviously, I don't ask you to make these commitments, but I would appreciate it if you could prevail on Edgar to see me together with the director of the Foundation and perhaps Byron Janis, who is also very much involved in this particular venture.

Once again, my heartfelt thanks to you and every good wish to you and Evelyn for a happy and festive season and above a healthy year for you and all those you love.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

18 April 1995

HONORARY CHAIRMAN:

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Former Secretary General of the UN

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUARTO
Islam

Rabbi AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAHANI
MP, Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Christianity

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief OREN LYONS
Native American

PATRICK BALOPI
MP, Botswana

NEY LOPES
MP, Brazil

MASAYOSHI TAKEMURA
MP, Japan

BLANCA ESPONDA
MP, Mexico

AL GORE
VP, USA

TARZIE VITTACHI
Media

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

Dr. KARAN SINGH

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM

ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE
Chairman
International Advisory Committee

The Very Reverend JAMES PARKS MORTON
Founding Chairman

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Happy Passover to you and your family.

This afternoon I spoke with Global Forum Co-Chair, Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp. He just returned from Israel where he had a meeting with Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz in Jerusalem last week. Rabbi Steinsaltz has agreed to write a letter addressed to me, describing how the Global Forum facilitated increased contact between international Jewish groups and government officials in the Soviet Union. I understand that you are awaiting this letter, and as soon as I receive it, I will forward it to you. In the meantime, I want to thank you for your kind assistance in fundraising for the Jericho conference. Preparations are coming along quite well.

I am scheduled to depart for Israel on May 10, and Rabbi Soetendorp will join me there for meetings with our colleagues Minister Shulamit Aloni, Rabbi Steinsaltz, and Avraham Bourq. These three friends have agreed to arrange a meeting for me with the Foreign Minister, and if possible with the Prime Minister. Here in New York, I am having lunch with former Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke on Monday, April 25, to discuss the Jericho conference.

I do hope that I will have encouraging news from you to report during my trip to Israel. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Akio Matsumura
Akio Matsumura
Executive Director

AM:adf

cc: Rabbi Sobel
Byron Janis



GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

23 March 1995

HONORARY CHAIRMAN:

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Former Secretary General of the UN

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUFTARO
Islam

Rabbi AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAMANI
MP, Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Christianity

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief OREN LYONS
Native American

PATRICK BALOPI
MP, Eswatini

NEY LOPES
MP, Brazil

MASAYOSHI TAKEMURA
MP, Japan

BLANCA ESPONDA
MP, Mexico

AL GORE
VP, USA

TARZIE VITTACHI
Mexico

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

Dr. KARAN SINGH

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM

ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE
Chairman
International Advisory Committee

The Very Reverend JAMES PARKS MORTON
Founding Chairman

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

Dear Friend,

I have just returned to New York after attending the Social Summit in Copenhagen and a series of meetings in the Middle East. During my stay in Jerusalem, I was able to travel to Gaza to meet Chairman Arafat, who was extremely busy with a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. This was made possible through an introduction and arrangements by Ambassador Terje Larsen. Ambassador Larsen is the U.N. Secretary General's Special Representative in the Occupied Territories, and as Deputy Foreign Minister of Norway, he was a key player in the secret peace talks between Israel and the PLO.

Ambassador Larsen was impressed with the concept of the Global Forum and the idea of the World Assembly for Reconciliation in Jericho. He immediately recognized the role this conference can play to bolster the peace process and improve the image of the United Nations. Mr. Arafat also understood this, and agreed to host the conference in Jericho, which is under his authority. A calm peaceful village, Jericho is the oldest city on earth. For that reason I thought it would be an ideal location to meet to discuss the need for and the meaning of reconciliation as we enter the next millennium.

Ambassador Larsen has agreed to establish a joint secretariat in his office to organize this historic affair. As we proceed with the enormous preparations for this conference, I welcome your input and suggestions. I would also be grateful if you could introduce me to any potential donors who might be interested in this project. I am attaching a one page overview of the conference, which we are now planning to hold in November.

I look forward to hearing from you. With best wishes, I am

Yours Sincerely,

Akio Matsumura
Executive Director

AM:adf

2/10



GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

23 March 1995

Mr. Byron Janis
521 Park Avenue

Dear Byron:

It is my pleasure to send you Global Forum's budget for the Jericho conference. As I'm sure you understand, many unknown factors remain as we think about equipment and facilities for a conference in Jericho. In organizing past conferences, Global Forum received considerable assistance from the host country. However given the lack of Palestinian infrastructure and the newness of the Palestinian Authority, Arafat's government is not in a position to provide this type of support.

I fully expect that we will have to provide our own computers, telephone equipment, copy machines and the like. Similarly, we plan to hold the conference plenary sessions under a tent amid ruins of an ancient theater where there is no electricity. We will therefore have to arrange for some type of generator, lights, wiring, amplification, and so forth. I have done my best to estimate, using common sense, what facilities Global Forum will need to provide locally, though I am sure there will be additional needs unforeseen at the moment.

I would be grateful if you could kindly deliver this budget, along with the brief history of major donors to past conferences, and an overview of the Jericho conference and the Global Forum to Rabbi Schindler and Rabbi Sobel. Given that we need to establish a secretariat, recruit several local staff in Jericho and additional professional staff here in New York, any immediate and sizable Jewish support at this point would be extremely helpful.

I hope you will have the opportunity to meet Rabbi Schindler again, to explain the conference arrangements to him in more detail. I am expecting to visit Jerusalem again in mid-April. With arrangements by Ambassador Larsen, I may be able to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres to discuss the organizational structure and logistics for the conference.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

Akio Matsumura
Executive Director

AM:adf

HONORARY CHAIRMAN :

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Former Secretary General of the UN

CO-CHAIRMAN:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUFTARO
Islam

Rabbi AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAHANI
MP, Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Christianity

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief OREN LYONS
Native American

PATRICK BALOPI
MP, Botswana

NEY LOPES
MP, Brazil

MASAYOSHI TAKEMURA
MP, Japan

BLANCA ESPONDA
MP, Mexico

AL GORE
VP, USA

TARZIE VITTACHI
Media

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

Dr. KARAN SINGH

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM

ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE
Chairman
International advisory Committee

The Very Reverend JAMES PARKS MORTON
Founding Chairman

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

Memorandum

To: Byron Janis
From: Akio Matsumura
Date: 23 March 1995
Re: Explanation of past conference donor list

The attached donor list only shows individuals of varying religious backgrounds who donated to Global Forum conferences. Corporate donors are not shown.

Oxford Conference 1988

Since this was the first Global Forum conference, I thought it would be appropriate to request equal financial participation from each major religion. Thus I sought a \$300,000 from the Christian, Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim communities. I did not expect that the Hindu community had the financial means to donate such a large sum. Given that neither the Jewish nor the Muslim communities contributed any money, I eventually had to ask help from my friend Mr. Nomura in Japan. He donated half a million US dollars to cover the Jewish and Muslim portions.

Moscow Conference 1990

In preparation for the Moscow conference I again requested money from each religion and received contributions even from the Hindu community. The Soviet Union agreed to supply and arrange for 18 interpreters, 16 computers, and 4 large copy machines. They also promised to provide air tickets on Aeroflot for 70 participants from the Third World.

Three months before the conference, the host committee chairman, Dr. Velikhov of the Russian Academy of Science approached me apologetically. He informed me that due to the change of administration and government reform of the Soviet Union, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Transportation would no longer be in a position to supply the equipment and airfare. Dr. Velikhov suggested that I postpone the Moscow conference, and I understood that postponing at that point would most likely lead to an eventual cancellation. I told Dr. Velikhov that we could not borrow great timing, but we could borrow money. I therefore agreed take responsibility for the money side of the conference, and he assured me that he would take responsibility to assure that President Gorbachev would attend the closing ceremony at the Kremlin.

This meant we had to pay for 70 extra air tickets and arrange for interpreters from Geneva Switzerland and photocopy machines and computers from London. These unexpected costs totaled more than half a million US dollars. In the face of this challenge I approached the Jewish community for financial assistance, though unfortunately received none. Based on the mutual effort and trust between Dr. Velikhov and myself, however, we decided not to postpone the conference. The timing of the Moscow conference indeed was superb and historic as it was held in January 1990, right after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

**WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR RECONCILIATION
(GLOBAL HEALING)**

NOVEMBER 1995

BUDGET OUTLINE

A. On-site Expenses in Jericho (June to December 1995)

Rental of office premises	42,000
Equipment	
-Telephone, Fax, Copier, computer, Furniture, supplies and other utensils	150,000
Local transportation:	
Car, bus and van expenses	30,000
Coordinator and other staff and temporary help	100,000
Organizing meeting expenses	50,000
Motivational activities in key countries	30,000
Printing and publications (Drafting conference discussion papers)	75,000
Media and communication services, and public information	85,000
Public Relations	60,000

Subtotal A	622,000

B. Actual Conference Expenses

Conference Venue	100,000
Equipment	
-computers, ear phones, telephone fax, copiers and other interpreting equipment	80,000

Resource Persons and Guest Speakers (travel, per diem, hotel and local transportation)	250,000
Simultaneous interpretation	50,000
Translators' fees	15,000
Refreshments during conference	25,000
Hospitalities for participants	15,000
Sundries:	
temporary help, kits, photos supplies etc.	75,000
Airfare for 10 staff from New York Office	30,000
Contingencies	20,000
Subtotal B	660,000

C. Preparatory Work in New York (January 1994 to December 1995)

1. First 12 months (January to December 1994)

- travel, communication, meetings, administration,
office supplies, salary etc. 350,000

2. Second 12 months (January to December 1995)

-1995's expenses will be 30% higher than 1994 455,000
(Additional staff in NY office)

Subtotal C **805,000**

D. Airfare, Per Diem & Hotel

- Airfare for 200 Participants	500,000
- Hotel charges (\$150 x 5 x 200)	150,000
Subtotal D	650,000

Grand Total (A+B+C+D) = \$2,737,000

NOTES

1. This budget is arranged categorically, in order of necessity. The actual scope of conference undertakings will depend on the amount of money raised. The activities designated in budget items and subtotals C and D can be forgone if necessary funds are not received.
2. Out of the estimated total of \$2,737,000, one half million dollars from Japan has been allocated to cover preparatory and launching expenses.

The New York Times

Copyright © 1995 The New York Times

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1995

\$1 beyond the greater New York metropolitan



Associated Press

Gore Takes Aid Proposal to Jericho

As the highest-ranking U.S. official to call on an area governed by Palestinians, Vice President Al Gore went to Jericho yesterday offering aid and trade benefits. He met with Yasir Arafat, the P.L.O. chairman. Page 2.



GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

Overview of Jericho Conference

HONORARY CHAIRMAN :

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Former Secretary General of the U.N.

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUFTARO
Islam

Rabbi AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAHANI
Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Catholicism

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief
OREN LYONS
North American

PATRICK BALOPI
South Africa

NEY LOPES
Brazil

MASAYOSHI TAKEMURA
Japan

BLANCA ESPONDA
Mexico

AL GORE
U.S.A.

TARZIE VITTACHI
Media

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

Dr. KARAN SINGH

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM

ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE
Chairman
International Advisory Committee

The Very Reverend JAMES PARKS MORTON
Founding Chairman

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

Since its founding in 1985, the Global Forum has worked to foster multidisciplinary dialogue among parliamentarians, religious leaders, business people, artists, scientists, and the media. Seeking new approaches to transnational issues, the Global Forum organized a series of conferences beginning in Oxford, England in 1988; followed by a conference at the Kremlin in Moscow in 1990, hosted by then Soviet President Gorbachev; a parliamentary Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; and a general assembly in Kyoto in 1993. Throughout the world, the importance of this cross-sectoral work is increasingly recognized.

Turning its attention to the Middle East, the Global Forum is now planning a World Assembly for Reconciliation in coordination with the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations and the UN International Year for Tolerance. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has agreed to host this assembly in November 1995 in the ancient city of Jericho. The conference will bring together senior religious leaders, parliamentarians, and representatives of the private sector from the world over. With the motto *Global Healing*, the objectives of the World Assembly for Reconciliation are threefold: (a) to contribute to the overall peace process through a non-political dialogue, (b) to promote private sector initiatives in the region and (c) to introduce the spiritual dimension into the development process.

At this critical time in history, there is a great need for global thinking. Over the past two years, Chairman Yasser Arafat of the PLO, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel, and King Hussein of Jordan signed historic peace agreements. But legal agreement alone will not establish genuine peace unless it is accompanied by reconciliation among the people. Bringing together a multinational, cross-sectoral group of leaders, the World Assembly for Reconciliation will be both an historic event and a watershed for the future of the Middle East.



GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

24 May 1995

HONORARY CHAIRMAN:

JAVIER PÉREZ DE CUELLAR
Former Secretary General of the UN

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Grand Mufti
SHEIKH AHMAD KUFTARO
Islam

Rabbi AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
Judaism

LETICIA SHAHANI
MP, Philippines

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MAPALAGAMA WIPULASARA THERO
Buddhism

FRANZ Cardinal KOENIG
Christianity

SWAMI PARAMANANDA BHARATI
Hinduism

VIQAR HAMDANI
Islam

Rabbi ADIN STEINSALTZ
Judaism

Chief OREN LYONS
Native American

PATRICK BALOPI
MP, Botswana

NEY LOPES
MP, Brazil

MASAYOSHI TAKEMURA
MP, Japan

BLANCA ESPONDA
MP, Mexico

VICTOR I. DANILOV-DANILIAN
MP, Russia

ALBERT GORE
VP, USA

TARZIE VITTACHI
Media

SPECIAL MEMBERS:

Dr. KARAN SINGH

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM

ANGIER BIDDLE DUKE
Chairman
International Advisory Committee

The Very Reverend JAMES PARKS MORTON
Founding Chairman

AKIO MATSUMURA
Executive Director

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
By Fax

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I just returned from Jerusalem and Jericho where I had a series of meetings with officials in the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority. I was joined in Jerusalem by Mr. Andrew Joseph, former Undersecretary General of the United Nations, and below I outline our most significant meetings.

Mr. Joseph and I spent more than an hour and a half with officials at the Israeli Foreign Ministry explaining the Global Forum, the Jericho Conference, and together watching the ten minute video tape of our Oxford and Moscow conferences. The Foreign Ministry officials clearly understood our concept and agreed to report positively to their Minister. They were also of the view that the Foreign Minister might designate Shulamit Aloni, the Minister of Communications, Arts, Science and Technology, to be the Global Forum point of contact within the Israeli government.

By coincidence, Mr. Joseph and I had a meeting scheduled with Minister Aloni directly following our meeting at the Foreign Ministry. She and Avraham Burg, among other Israeli parliamentarians, participated in past Global Forum conferences, and the two of them have by now briefed Foreign Minister Peres and Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin about the Jericho Conference. (Beilin and Peres were traveling while I was in Jerusalem). If designated by her government to be the Global Forum point of contact, Minister Aloni assured us that her ministry will provide all possible support for our project.

Last Saturday, May 20, I met Minister Aloni again in New York. Joined by the Head of the Arts and Culture Administration within her ministry, Yossi Frost, the Consul General of Israel, Colette Avital, and Byron and Maria Janis, we discussed the Jericho conference at length.

On the Palestinian side, my most important meeting in Jericho was with the Minister of Local Government Affairs, Dr. Sa'eb Erekat. He is a native of Jericho, and may be the chair of the Host Committee, which will be composed of all appropriate ministries within the Palestinian

Authority. Beginning in mid-June, the Global Forum will open a small office in Jericho, with the support of the Palestinian government.


The Israeli and Palestinian officials I met all agreed that if the peace process fails at this stage, another opening for peace may not arise for generations to come. The Jericho Conference will boost this fragile process by building confidence and consensus at this critical time.

I would like to again emphasize the importance of securing support for this project within the Jewish community, particularly among those who believe in the peace process and understand the critical juncture that process now faces. I am confident that the Jericho Conference will receive strong support from Muslim and Christian individuals and communities. It is crucial that this conference not become a partisan affair.

I appreciate your efforts thus far, and I urge you to continue seeking substantial support for the Global Forum within the Jewish community.

With best wishes, I remain.

Yours sincerely,


Akio Matsumura
Executive Director

AM:adf

PROPOSAL



THE WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR RECONCILIATION
AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD IN JERICHO

Submitted by:

Akio Matsumura, Executive Director
The Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders
on Human Survival
336 East 45th Street, Tenth Floor
New York, NY 10017
212-953-7947
fax: 212-557-2061

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	1
2. The Threat to Survival (A Statement of Need)	2
3. The Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival (Organization Information)	4
4. The World Assembly for Reconciliation in Jericho (Project Description)	9
The Assembly Plan	9
The Assembly Idea	12
Dissemination	14
Budget	16
5. Conclusion	18
6. Appendix Members of the Global Forum Council	21

PROPOSAL

THE WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR RECONCILIATION AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN JERICHO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the UN International Year for Tolerance, the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival plans to convene The World Assembly for Reconciliation in the ancient city of Jericho November 6, 7, and 8, 1995. The Assembly will be hosted by Yasser Arafat, PLO Chairman and Head of the Palestinian Authority.

Created in 1985 to foster dialogue between religious and political leaders --the twin pillars of human communities--the Global Forum has sponsored successful conferences in Oxford, England (1988), Moscow, USSR (1990), and Kyoto, Japan (1993). It also co-sponsored, with Brazil's National Congress, the Parliamentary Earth Summit that preceded the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It has played a central role in the creation of a multicultural network of individuals dedicated to dismantling religious and political barriers. The Forum is founded on the belief that survival in the next century depends on coordinated global action for change and on the recognition that all human beings are interconnected.

To bring about a genuine peace, there must be reconciliation among people and communities. That imperative is at the heart of the World Assembly for Reconciliation, which will bring spiritual and political leaders together with business leaders, artists, scientists, journalists, and youth to contribute to the overall peace process through a nonpolitical dialogue; to explore the meaning of reconciliation for the next century and the next generation; to promote private sector initiatives in the Middle East; and to introduce a spiritual dimension into the development process.

The Global Forum is seeking broad-based foundation, corporate, and individual support for this historic event.

THE THREAT TO SURVIVAL

Fifty years after the founding of the United Nations, the need for comprehensive solutions to human problems has never been more urgent. It has become increasingly clear that threats to global survival transcend political boundaries and governmental solutions. No longer is nuclear war the only or even the major international danger to the earth's future. In the past few years, entire societies have been threatened or destroyed by genocide, civil strife, and environmental contamination. As the scientist and Global Forum member Carl Sagan has written, the fundamental difficulty is that

we have emphasized the local over the global, the short-term over the long....We have become predators on the biosphere--full of arrogant entitlement, always taking and never giving back. And so, we are now a danger to ourselves and the other beings with whom we share the planet....In too many cases, we have lacked a moral compass.

That all human beings are interconnected is the fundamental insight that is driving a new call for coordinated global action. The theme is especially well articulated in the parable that describes humanity as a village of 100 families. In the human village, 65 families are illiterate, 70 lack drinking water at home, 80 have never traveled in an airplane, 7 own 60 percent of the land and consume 80 percent of the energy, 60 live on 10 percent of the land, 1 has a university education. And the climate for all is degenerating.

Awareness of our common peril has been accompanied by a deepening understanding of the need to blend political with moral

solutions and to foster a common dialogue among representatives of all cultures and perspectives to devise new solutions. No one threat to survival can be addressed apart from the others, nor in a moral vacuum. Environmental problems demand transnational coordination among scientists, religious leaders, and politicians; sustainable economic development requires cooperation among business, political, and nongovernmental leaders; regional and ethnic warfare cannot be ended by military intervention alone; an end to the exploitation of the world's marginalized people will require the voice of moral, as well as political, authority; and massive inequalities in the distribution of wealth may require broader acceptance of the belief that a viable future depends on those who learn to share resources. In the words of the Native American saying, "We have not inherited the Earth from our ancestors, we have borrowed it from our children."

For many world leaders, the recognition of this crisis has led to a commitment to act on the imperative to develop new ways of thinking about global issues. They recognize that the old methods of dealing with one another no longer work. No longer can political leaders negotiate change on political terms designed to produce partisan advantage. We need to discover new ways of fostering commonalities that can move us beyond the differences that have traditionally dominated international discourse and to encourage political and spiritual leaders to articulate a common vision of the future.

THE GLOBAL FORUM OF SPIRITUAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ON HUMAN SURVIVAL

Until recently, no single organization has had the ability or the mandate to facilitate this dialogue. Organizations such as the Trilateral Commission and the Club of Rome, although international in scope, have not convened parliamentary and religious leaders on a global basis. Other organizations, such as the United Nations, do not have the authority to do so, since their mission focuses on the political realm. The challenge of international groups to work together with socially conscious leaders from other fields has been a critical need that largely has gone unmet.

Founded in New York City in 1985 to address these needs in the belief that a new vision could only come from sustained dialogue among the world's leaders, The Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival sponsored three major global conferences--in Oxford in 1988, in the Soviet Union in 1990, and in Kyoto in 1993--on the threat to human survival. It was also a co-sponsor, with the Brazil National Congress, of the Parliamentary Earth Summit that preceded the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Each conference brought together spiritual and legislative leaders from around the world. Each has advanced in significant ways the formation of a new vision of the global future.

The world leaders who participated in the Forum's conferences have included, among many others, Mother Teresa, Cardinal Koenig of Vienna, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, the High Priest of Togo's Sacred Forest, the Dalai Lama,

Elie Wiesel, Senator (now Vice President) Albert Gore, US Senator Claiborne Pell, the Prime Minister of Norway Harlem Bruntland, Father Theodore Hesburgh, Thornton Bradshaw (of the MacArthur Foundation), Carl Sagan, James Lovelock, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the president of the WorldWatch Institute, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund.

The meetings have been inspired and organized by the Global Forum's founder and executive director, Akio Matsumura, who was described by the late Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke, as "an unusual visionary. He has a diamond-hard sense of what is practical and possible. He is that odd combination of a dreamer who knows how to get things done."

By involving religious and political leaders--the two pillars of human communities worldwide--the Global Forum helps to foster the transformation of values through dialogue. By combining legislative common sense with moral values, these two groups of leaders are given the opportunity not only to inspire each other but to extend their spiritual and political influence to the communities they serve. The Global Forum gathers together the opinion-, policy-, and law-makers who work most closely with people at all levels, from the local to the planetary community. They meet under these auspices not as official representatives of their organizations but as concerned citizens of the world, acting in their individual capacities.

Forum participants seek insights not in the narrow certainties of the past but in the crises and uncertainties of the present. It is in this context that they consider the future of the planet. The result is a form of ecumenism that encompasses not just human beings and human religions but all of life.

The first Global Survival Conference held in April 1988 drew 300 spiritual and legislative leaders, scientists and artists, to Oxford, England, for five days of intense discussion of the relationships among environmental, legislative, and religious concerns. The meeting was addressed by such scientists as James Lovelock (who developed the Gaia concept) and Wangri Maathai (of Kenya's Green Belt Movement). The conference provided an emphatic statement that dialogue was possible and productive--and demonstrated that further by housing delegates of all faiths and political perspectives in common dormitories where even opponents shared bathrooms.

As a result of the Oxford conference, leaders in the Soviet Union invited the Forum to convene the Global Forum on Environment and Development, which occurred in January 1990 in Moscow and was hosted by Mikhail Gorbachev. The conference was co-sponsored by a unique alliance: the first freely elected Supreme Soviet, all Soviet faith communities coordinated by the Russian Orthodox Church, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity. More than 1,000 religious and political leaders, scientists, artists, journalists, business leaders, and young people came to Moscow from 83 countries.

The results of the Moscow forum were immediate. President Gorbachev articulated the need for an International Green Cross (which was officially established at the Kyoto Conference in 1993 under his chairmanship). Carl Sagan launched the pioneering National Religious Partnership for the Environment, with an appeal to religious leaders for a joint commitment to preserve and nourish the Earth. A worldwide television and radio program on

the Global Forum was broadcast via satellite direct from Moscow to an estimated audience of one billion people in 100 countries.

Subsequent forums in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Kyoto, Japan, have continued the global education process begun in the Oxford and Moscow conferences. The theme of the Kyoto meeting was "value change." It was preceded by focus group discussions of scientific issues, the media, indigenous peoples' traditional spiritual life, and artistic expression.

The impact of the conferences on individual attendees has been dramatic--and underscores the value of the dialogue format itself in bringing about institutional change through personal commitment. For example, the Dalai Lama came away from the Oxford meeting convinced for the first time of the importance of the environment for religious leaders. He has since become an advocate for the spiritual roots of environmentalism. Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, a member of the Global Forum Executive Committee, established a pioneering Judaica Study program in the former Soviet Union following the Moscow conference. Other leaders, such as businessman Albert Reichman (CEO of the Canadian company Olympia-York) have been impressed by the fact that conference dialogues have emphasized issues instead of dogma.

The Global Forum has taken from each of its previous conferences an agenda that has been lived and expanded by the participants themselves in their work and in their ongoing efforts to implement change. Education needs to continue, both for politicians, who too often ignore the importance of spiritual values in human lives, and for religious leaders, who too often ignore the political and economic realities of human lives.

Each successive conference has expanded the dialogue to new world communities and issues. Each has built upon the

others, creating a growing global network of thinkers and activists.

At the heart of this new consciousness is creative listening, not the imposition of a world monoculture. The goal is a communion in which different voices are simultaneously heard. As the Dalai Lama said at the Oxford conference in 1988: "For one to improve, everyone must. We need to realize the oneness of human beings. Everyone must take personal responsibility for the common good."

The next step is to take the principles and methods developed by the Global Forum to a consideration of the issues of peace and resource sharing in the context of regional and economic conflict. As one attendee stressed at the conclusion of the Oxford conference, the solution to conflicts between the rich and the poor requires "a new economic order, peacefully realized--people in power to solve the problems, not just to hide them--and the enshrinement of a common moral order in treaties that defend the sanctity of life."

THE WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR RECONCILIATION IN JERICHO

The Assembly Plan

The Global Forum plans to sponsor a World Assembly for Reconciliation in Jericho, November 6, 7, and 8, 1995, to be hosted by PLO Chairman and head of the Palestinian Authority Yasser Arafat, on the theme of global healing in the context of a common moral order. The Assembly will be held in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and in honor of the UN International Year of Tolerance. The site of the Assembly will be The Hisham Palace, which dates to the rule of the Ommayyad Dynasty in the eighth century of the Common Era. A tent will be erected in the palace courtyard to house the main events and to symbolize our fragile common household.

By meeting in the Middle East, which is the home of three major world religions and a symbol of seemingly intractable political conflict, the Assembly will emphasize the connection between local and global issues. Jericho is one of the oldest cities on earth, important to Christians, Jews, and Muslims. It lies at the crossroads between East and West, bridging ancient and modern cultures, religions, and peoples. Its choice as the location of the Assembly symbolizes the quest to bring a new consciousness of ecumenism as a concept of cultural as well as religious importance to discussions of human survival. Although the word "ecumenical" means "the whole inhabited world," it also suggests the intimate relations of the household. The Jericho meeting will be ecumenical in bringing people of diverse faiths and political persuasions

together--but it will also be ecumenical in bringing all of the critical issues facing humanity in the next century into the same tent.

The goal of the Assembly is not to "resolve" the conflict in the Middle East. Rather, by convening this Assembly, the Global Forum hopes to contribute to the overall process of making peace through nonpolitical dialogue; to explore the meaning of reconciliation for the next century and the next generation; to promote private sector initiatives in the region; and to introduce a spiritual dimension into the development process.

The most important agenda for the World Assembly for Reconciliation is the development of a way of talking together that leads to a new way of acting in the world for change. Building on the Global Forum's previous conferences, the World Assembly for Reconciliation will draw together, as it has so successfully in the past, participants of international stature who can be expected to contribute substantially to a new understanding of the relationships among peace, development, and politics in the global community. It is anticipated that the Assembly will be attended by many of the world leaders who have participated in previous Global Forum conferences, as well as new delegates of equal stature.

The Assembly will be organized around the Global Forum's four basic working groups on science (chaired by Carl Sagan), the media, the arts (chaired by pianist Byron Janis), and business. International delegates will be invited from these four communities, as well as from the world's religions and parliaments, and from the United Nations. Some official observers will also be included. It is expected that there will be 300 international participants and another 100 from the Middle East itself.

Approximately 30 world business leaders will be invited, expanding significantly the role of that community beyond previous conferences. The work of the Assembly will be accomplished through a combination of small working group discussions and large-scale plenaries. Each working group will bring together representatives of different constituencies and disciplines to encourage multidisciplinary exchanges.

Unique aspects of this Assembly will include: the participation of local--Middle Eastern--and international artists and performers, whose work inherently transcends boundaries and will further emphasize the multicultural nature of the meeting; a Youth Forum that will bring together university students from both Israel and the Palestinian territories to spend one day of the conference looking into the next century and their role in it; and a deeper consideration of the need for business and religious leaders to cooperate in humanizing the development process.

The Assembly has been endorsed by both Israeli and Palestinian authorities. It has also been encouraged by Muslim and Jewish members of the Global Forum, which hopes to conclude the Assembly with a symbolic act of reconciliation such as group meditations at each of the sacred sites in Jerusalem--the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the al-Aqsa Mosque. Such an event would be an eloquent expression of the possibility of reconciliation and provide an image of hope and confidence in the future.

The Assembly Idea

The germ of the idea to focus on a conflict region such as the Middle East was initially presented by Paulos Mar Gregorios, the Metropolitan of Delhi and the North Syrian Orthodox Church of India, at the 1988 Oxford conference. There he observed about zones of conflict in which religion is an issue, that

in the context of a conference, where all the religions of the world are present, we could bring the conflicting parties together so that they could be responsive to a different atmosphere, an atmosphere which is not one of self-justification or putting the blame on the other, but where we are trying to find together a way out for all of us. . . .

Reconciliation is needed, because there are faults on both sides, probably, and there are economic factors behind the religious conflict also. In the Middle East, economic factors are very important, the historical factors are very important, but also the religious factor is a source of conflict. There we could use a little more of this kind of atmosphere-creating, which governments cannot do. . . . You have to have some of the chief authorities of Israel and the Palestinians and the Arab countries all together, but in a different atmosphere than the simply political.

Metropolitan Gregorios's insight into the relationship between economic and spiritual value issues is a potent one. What has happened in too many areas of the world is that modernization has led to a loss of religious or spiritual values. Moreover, the material results of the development process have failed to improve the life conditions of the populations. Disparities in wealth have been exacerbated rather than resolved. The gap

between the haves and the have-nots, as well as the politically powerful and powerless, has grown alarmingly wide. Alternative mechanisms for improving the dialogue between citizens and government have been developed particularly by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) around the world, many of which have consciously articulated a vision that builds on spiritual as well as human values. Much has been done as a result to humanize the process of development. Conflict over wealth and regional power, however, remains a threat to the work of NGOs and other transnational organizations that seek reconciliation among peoples rather than governments.

Religious leaders have access to vast constituencies around the world who may participate in policymaking but whose influence is felt in the lives of people at a level deeper than that of day-to-day economic and political life. By drawing on the moral authority of spiritual leaders, many feel that the development process can be reinvigorated and strengthened precisely through the recovery of a balance between traditional and modern values. This insight is formative for the Global Forum itself as well as for the Jericho Conference. As Akio Matsumura has said, "spiritual leaders have something in common with lawmakers. They are close to the people, working with the people, helping and advising them in their parishes, their neighborhoods--their constituencies."

Looking at the Middle East, over the past two years, Chairman Yasser Arafat of the PLO, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel, and King Hussein of Jordan have signed historic and important peace agreements. But legal agreements alone will not establish genuine peace unless they are accompanied by reconciliation among peoples. Bringing together a multinational, cross-section of leaders, the World Assembly for Reconciliation will

symbolize a new commitment to peace, political progress, and ecumenism, not only in the Middle East but for the world as a whole. It will be both an historic event and a watershed for the future of the Middle East. As such, it will also serve as a potent sign of hope in a conflicted age that a new consciousness can evolve into a new way of acting in and on behalf of the world.

It is easy to speak about the development of a new consciousness but more difficult to express what that means in practical terms. As one delegate to the Oxford conference said, "we need to devise a new way of politics, a new way of production and distribution." That new way of doing things will come out of a more complex dialogue among representatives of business and government, religion and science, art and academia, economics and diplomacy. The concrete expectation of this complex dialogue is that strategies on a grand scale will be devised that begin to revise the rules of the game of politics, industrial production, and injustice in light of a holistic vision of human endeavor. Most importantly for a conference that focuses on the Middle East, the creation of a new vocabulary for the global dialogue then becomes a tool for the necessary local discussions among people who have not been able to talk to each other.

Dissemination

As it has with previous conferences, the Global Forum intends to disseminate the results of the Assembly in a variety of ways, using the full spectrum of media. Since the process of dialogue is itself the story, Peter Armstrong will make a videotape record of the meeting (as he has for previous Global Forum conferences). Tokio Yamanouchi, a leading film maker from Japan

who has won two Grand Prix awards for his work, will also be present to create a documentary film. His work has focused on ancient traditions, peoples, and cultures. It is hoped that artists and performers who participate in the Assembly will take their work to other venues around the world.

The Global Forum is also seeking funding to create a television broadcast link, as it did for the Moscow conference, and to engage an internationally known writer/reporter to chronicle the events of the meeting for print media. (The Oxford conference resulted in a book, *Earth Conference One: Sharing a Vision of our Planet*, written by Anuradha Vittachi.) Young people from local universities will also be engaged as translators who will create transcripts of the Assembly meetings.

Given the explosive world-wide growth of the Internet in recent years, the Forum expects to establish a site on the World-Wide Web to promote the Assembly and to publish materials (including photographs) about and resulting from the Jericho meeting.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the participants themselves will be the primary mode of dissemination, as they have been in the past, taking the experience of the Assembly, and the process of dialogue, into their work as scientists, religious leaders, legislators, business people, artists, and community leaders. Applying the concept of dialogue to solving problems of development, regional conflict, and the environment is the real work of the Assembly. It is an ongoing process of education through personal witness in the public realm.

Budget

The estimated operating and dissemination budget for the World Assembly for Reconciliation is \$2,152,000. Funding is being sought for Assembly and related expenses, not for Global Forum operations, which has secured support for its operations from private sources. In addition to support for the conference itself, additional funding is also being sought for specific dissemination plans. Estimated expenses, based on experience with previous Global Forum conferences, follow (budget notes are on page 17):

1. Planning Expenses, Jericho



Salaries, Conference Staff	\$80,000
Jericho Office Equipment	60,000
Meeting Organizing Expenses	50,000
Public Relations	50,000
Office Space Rental	42,000
Grassroots Organizing	30,000
Printing and Conference Publications	25,000
Local Transportation	10,000
Subtotal, Planning Expenses:	\$347,000

2. Conference Expenses

Airfare, 200 Delegates	\$500,000
Distinguished Speakers Expenses	250,000
Delegate Hotel Expenses	150,000
Conference Venue, Hisham Palace	100,000
Equipment (interpreter, computer, fax, etc.)	50,000
Simultaneous Translator Fees	50,000
Food and Refreshments	40,000
Contingencies	20,000
Subtotal, Conference Expenses	\$1,160,000

3. Dissemination

Radio and Television Production (On-Site)	\$300,000
Videotape (Operator and Production Costs)	300,000
Free-Lance Writer (Fees and Expenses)	25,000
World-Wide Web Site	20,000
Subtotal, Dissemination	\$645,000

TOTAL:	\$2,152,000
---------------	--------------------

Budget Notes:

Jericho Office Equipment includes telephones, fax machines, copiers, computers, necessary office furniture, etc. Meeting Organizing Expenses refers to travel in the Middle East region, primarily, and associated expenses for local arrangements and host committees. Public relations includes developing constituent communities, providing information to potential delegates, creating local support for the Assembly, maintaining relations with other organizations. Grassroots Organizing covers travel and expenses for planning meetings with groups in key countries to develop a local meeting constituency and to set up systems for ongoing collaboration. Distinguished Speakers Expenses refers to the cost of travel for 8 to 10 invited speakers, and their conference expenses, as well as the cost of support for their staffs, as necessary. Delegate Hotel Expenses are based on rooms at \$150 a day for 200 delegates for five days. Equipment under Conference Expenses is for necessary technical support for interpreters and simultaneous translations; fax machines, telephones, and computers for delegate use; and audio equipment. Food and Refreshments does not include all meals for delegates but only special events and hospitality costs. World-Wide Web Site includes the design and set up of an Internet site, encoding materials for transmission, site management, links editing, computer storage and management fees.



CONCLUSION

As a direct result of the first Global Survival Conference held in Oxford in 1988, Carl Sagan wrote a declaration for human survival that articulated a call for action that the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders will not only answer but develop further in the planned World Assembly for Reconciliation. The statement read, in part:

"Human society is in a period of intense introspection, gripped by fear, uncertainty, and confusion. But we are challenged by new opportunities and encouraged by signs of hope.

"We have derived from our meeting a vivid awareness of the essential oneness of humanity, and also the realization that each human person has both a spiritual and a political dimension. We acknowledge the inadequacy of attitudes and institutions within all our traditions to deal with our present global crisis.

"We therefore now affirm our shared vision of survival, and we commit ourselves to work for a fundamentally changed and better world. We urge the leaders of the world to adopt new attitudes and to implement new policies based on sustainability and justice.....

"Where international or civic relationships are broken by conflict or injustice, we commit ourselves to promoting reconciliation and peace; if we are to achieve common security, we must dismantle arms, build trust, and join in the struggle to enhance the quality of human life.

"Where opportunities for practical cooperation exist within nations or local communities, we shall avoid jealous competition

and promote respectful and equal partnerships of young and old, women and men, of people of all races, religions, traditional cultures, and political persuasions....

"Three areas of present critical concern shall receive our special attention: elimination of the perils of nuclear and other armaments; realization of appropriate balances between resources and populations; and promotion of the well-being of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

"In order to implement these proposals we shall support existing structures, such as the United Nations agencies, and shall promote at regional, national, and local levels all possible collaboration between spiritual leaders and parliamentarians. We commit ourselves to revive neglected ideals, revitalize useful structures, and, where necessary, devise at every level new ways to coordinate our work and improve our communication."

The Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival has established an exemplary record as an organizer of international conferences on the environment, development, human survival, and value change. It has created a new method of addressing conflict that is based on a new vision of community. In planning a World Assembly for Reconciliation to be held in one of the historic crossroads of civilization, the Forum hopes to contribute substantially to the process of building peace.

The Global Forum is seeking broad-based support for this historic event from individuals, foundations, and corporations. The Assembly will bring together leaders from around the world representing diverse religious faiths, nongovernmental organizations, political entities, scientific communities, media, the arts, the United Nations, and international businesses. It will

allow all of these people, who ordinarily do not talk with each other in an atmosphere of acceptance, to explore common goals and express common frustrations. The Assembly will be a symbolic event that will also have practical results on the world stage.

Most importantly, the World Assembly for Reconciliation will stand near the close of the most dangerous, most violent century in human history as a sign of hope for the new millennium. It represents both a beginning and a culmination of the evolution of human consciousness, a gathering of visionaries who refuse to accept the world as it has become. By taking responsibility for the future, those who assemble in Jericho will lead others throughout the global community to become instruments of peace and reconciliation.

The crisis of human survival continues. The solutions, as they have been articulated by the Global Forum in the past ten years, are in us. We need no longer be victims of our own greed and short-sightedness. We are better than our past. We have a future.

That future is what the World Assembly for Reconciliation intends to celebrate and nourish in Jericho in November 1995.

The Global Forum invites funders and partners to join the world community in this historic enterprise.

APPENDIX

MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL FORUM COUNCIL

Honorary Chairman

Javier Perez de Cuellar

Former Secretary-General, United Nations

Co-Chairpersons

Grand Mufti Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro, Islam

Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Judaism

Senator Leticia Shahani, the Philippines

Executive Committee

Mapalagama Wipulasara Thero, Buddhism

Franz Cardinal Koenig, Christianity

Swami Paramananda Bharati, Hinduism

Viqar Hamdani, Islam

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, Judaism

Chief Oren Lyons, Native American

Patrick Balopi, M.P., Botswana

Ney Lopes, M.P., Brazil

Masayoshi Takemura, M.P., Japan

Blanca Esponda, M.P., Mexico

Victor I. Danilov-Danilian, M.P., Russia

Albert Gore, Jr., Vice President, U.S.A.

Special Members

The Very Reverend James Parks Morton

Dr. Karan Singh

Metropolitan Pitirim

Secretariat

Akio Matsumura, Executive Director