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World Conference on Religion and Peace, 1984-1995.

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WCRP/International Memorandum: URGENT

To: Members of the WCRP Governing Board
From: Dr. William F. Vendley
Secretary General
Date: 09/13/1995
Subject: WCRP statement on Children and Violent Conflict

faxed
9/13

Greetings.

I seek your approval on the attached three page statement titled *Children and Violent Conflict* so that the document may be issued as a formal position of the WCRP International Governing Board.

The background of the statement is as follows. The United Nations General Assembly instructed the UN Secretary General to conduct a *Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children*. The Secretary General in turn secured the services of Ms. Graca Machel to implement the Study. UNICEF approached WCRP and asked that we assist Ms. Machel to delineate the underlying moral issues that the Study should address, and determine what advocacy roles would be appropriate for religious communities to consider on behalf of children in situations of violent conflict.

As a response to UNICEF's request, WCRP convened a representative group of religiously affiliated child-care experts in Geneva from 2-4 August 1995. The attached statement, *Children and Violent Conflict*, is the product of that meeting. The document in its present form has been thoroughly examined by the UNICEF Office of Legal Affairs, and has received approval today from UNICEF to be translated into three languages and distributed worldwide through the UNICEF network. The WCRP statement will also form a portion of Ms. Graca Machel's report to the UN General Assembly for inclusion in the *Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children*.

My request to you is that you review the statement and fax to me your willingness to assent to the document by Monday, 18 September 1995. UNICEF asks that WCRP respond by Tuesday, 19 September 1995, in time for the opening of the 50th Anniversary Session of the UN General Assembly.

Thank you for your quick and decisive action in this matter on behalf of children worldwide.

Please fax to WCRP at the following number: 1-212-983-0566

☒ Yes, I give my assent to the statement *Children and Violent Conflict*.

☐ No, I regret that I am unable to give my assent to the statement.

Your Name: A.M. Seftin D L E R

Date: 9/13

Thank you.

cc: WCRP Honorary Presidents

WCRF
WCRF

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

World Conference
on Religion and
Peace/USA

From:

To:

Ms. Courtney Goto

Date : Apr 25 1996, 02:16 PM

Subject : Second request for May-June calendars

4/25
Please accept my apologies for the faulty calendars I sent out previously. Again, please indicate your availability to meet in May or

2 Page Fox

Sorry for delay.

777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
tel. (212) 687-2163

Fax (212) 687-8555

*only possible dates
May 14 - 28 - 29*

Alexander M. Schindler

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From: Dr. William F. Vendley
Secretary General
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Your Name:

A.M. Seftin DLER

Date:

9/13

Thank you.

cc:

WCRP Honorary Presidents

Name: _____

Directions: Please indicate when you are **NOT** available to meet by marking an "X" over those days. You may also comment on your best dates to meet. Please send or fax to Ms. Courtney Goto at (212) 983-0566 by **Wednesday, May 8.**

May 1996

Availability Planner

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							5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31		X	X	X	X			

Printed by Calendar Creator Plus on 4/25/96

Name:

Directions: Please indicate when you are **NOT** available to meet by marking an "X" over those days. You may also comment on your best dates to meet. Please send or fax to Ms. Courtney Goto at (212) 983-0566 by **Wednesday, May 8.**

June 1996

Monthly Planner

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Printed by Calendar Creator Plus on 4/25/96

WCRP

October 24, 1995
30 Tishri 5756

Dr. William F. Vendley
World Conference on Religion and Peace
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3521

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your candid response to my suggestion that I be replaced as an International President of WCRP. I truly appreciate your kind comments.

As I told you, I feel a bit guilty being named to so important a post when my frenetic schedule precludes my ability to attend meetings. While I am retiring as President of the UAHC on July 1, 1996, I will still be involved in the Union's work after that date for I will be heading an effort to secure Endowment and other funding for the Union to assure the continuation of our critical work.

Be that as it may, your plea has not fallen on deaf ears and I have given considerable thought to your appeal. Since you understand my situation and my inability to attend most meetings, yet remain willing to have me stay on as an International President so I might provide advice and counsel, I will abide by your wishes and withdraw my letter of resignation.

With warm regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP)

777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-3521 U.S.A.

Telephone: (1) 212-687-2163 Telefax: (1) 212-983-0566

Office of the Secretary General

October 19, 1995

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

Dear Alex:

Warmest thanks for your recent letter sent 10 October 1995. I appreciate greatly the concern expressed in your letter and the letter which you sent prior to it, to which I have failed to respond.

I can well appreciate the enormous demands that are upon your shoulders in your final year as the president of the UAHC, as I further understand your hesitation to lend your name to causes to which you are unable to give time and effort. Let me attempt to persuade you to remain an International President of the World Conference on Religion & Peace. I shall make my appeal in two points.

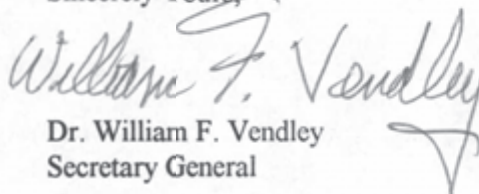
First, both of the events which prompted your note to me were events which we did not anticipate you to attend. They were WCRP/USA events, and as a courtesy I had requested my staff to keep all of the International Presidents informed of the local events. Unfortunately, these were not clearly marked as USA events and therefore you and your staff would have quite naturally anticipated that we were hoping for your presence at them. In fact, it would have been a joy to have welcomed you but quite beyond our reasonable expectation. Therefore, may I ask you to recognize that we shall not have to call upon you as frequently as you might have understandably expected given the communications from our office.

Second, your wide experience and personal attributes suit you quite perfectly as an International President of WCRP. Surely you are quite busy these days. But when crises or issues of particular concern for the Jewish community arise, I can think of no one who could offer us more sage counsel and advice and help steer us in more useful ways. You are really eminently qualified to serve as our President and I would personally judge it to be in your and WCRP's good interest.

I will of course respect your deepest wishes. However I implore you on the basis of a common good to which we are both committed, to remain an International President of WCRP.

Again with every good wish and grateful for our association, I am

Sincerely Yours,


Dr. William F. Vendley
Secretary General

HONORARY PRESIDENTS: Metropolitan Athanasios (Turkey); Dame Ruth Nita Barrow (Barbados); Rev. John A. Buehrens (USA); Dr. Rodrigo Carazo (Costa Rica); Most Rev Remi De Roo (Canada); Don Silvio Franchi (Italy); Rabbi Albert Friedlander (United Kingdom); Metropolitan Kirill (Russia); Ms. Norma Levitt (USA); Ms. Chiara Lubich (Italy); Rev. Toshio Miyake (Japan); Dr. Abdullah bin Omar Nasseef (Saudi Arabia); Rev. Nikkyo Niwano (Japan); Mrs. G. Bagoes Oka (Indonesia); Ms. Shobha Prabhat Pandit (India); Mr. Zhao Puchu (China); H.E. Vinko Cardinal Pulic (Bosnia-Herzegovina); Sir Paul Reeves (New Zealand); Rev. Dr. Malcolm R. Sutherland (USA).

PRESIDENTS: Dr. Kamil Al-Sharif (Jordan); Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Ali (Saudi Arabia); H.E. E.J. Korthals Altes (The Netherlands); Dr. M. Aram (India); Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka); Dr. Elizabeth Bowen (USA); Rev. Joan B. Campbell (USA); Dr. Diana Eck (USA); Bishop Björn Fjörstedt (Sweden); Mr. Gabriel Habib (Cyprus); Dr. Won Yong Kang (Republic of Korea); Dr. Hans Küng (Germany); Rabbi John Levi (Australia); Rev. Rainer Lingscheid (USA); Ms. Olive D. Luena (Tanzania); Archbishop Luna Tobar (Ecuador); Rev. Tatsuo Miyake (Japan); Imam Wallace Deen Mohammed (USA); Dr. Adamou N'Dam N'Joy (Cameroon); Mr. Tarlok S. Nandhra (Kenya); Rev. Nichiko Niwano (Japan); Archbishop John O. Onaiyekan (Nigeria); Mrs. Saba Risaluddin (United Kingdom); Rabbi David Rosen (Israel); Ms. Maritza Salazar (Costa Rica); Rabbi Alexander Schindler (USA); Bishop K.-I. Ting (China); Dr. Abdurrahman Wahid (Indonesia).

PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Archbishop Angelo Fernandes (India).

SECRETARY GENERAL/INTERNATIONAL: Dr. William F. Vendley (USA); **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Ms. Melissa Chase (USA)

ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES GENERAL/INTERNATIONAL: Rev. John Baldock (Australia); Dr. Günther Gebhardt (Switzerland).

we p

October 10, 1995
16 Tishri 5756

Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General
World Conference on Religion & Peace
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Dr. Vendley:

Alas, I am unable to attend the December 18-19 meeting at Maryknoll Center as I have a schedule conflict which cannot be changed at this time.

It is for just this reason that I wrote to you and offered to step down as a president; for I feel it is not fair to so fine an organization as the WCRP/USA to have among its president's one who has been and continues to be unable to attend meetings. I usually hesitate to lend my name to causes when I am unable to give the time and effort needed to further the organizations' work. I made an exception in the case of the World Conference on Religion and Peace/USA but I do feel guilty as my inability to attend any of the meetings. Please give thought to making a change as I have requested.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

WCRP/USA Memorandum

To: *Members of the Executive Council*
From: *William F. Vendley, Secretary General, WCRP/USA*
Date: *10/04/1995*
Subject: *December 18-19 Meeting*

1) Greetings. We hope you had a good summer and look forward to seeing you all soon. After reviewing your calendars, we have selected December 18 and 19 as the next meeting dates.

2) The Executive Council meeting has been scheduled as a two-day event in order to provide adequate time to review and discuss major steps in the development of the USA chapter. I know that your schedule is busy, but hope that you'll be able to set aside both days for this important meeting. **We will begin with lunch on Monday, December 18th and continue through lunch on Tuesday.** This will give most people time to travel to the meeting on Monday morning and return home after lunch on Tuesday. Overnight accommodations will be available at the Maryknoll Center. I am writing now so that you can hold these dates. More information on the meeting and logistical details will follow.

Next WCRP/USA Meeting

<u>Days</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place</u>
Monday & Tuesday	Dec. 18	Maryknoll Center, Ossining, NY

3) Ms. Courtney Goto has joined us this fall in the WCRP/USA office. She and Dr. Peter Laurence will be making the arrangements for this meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you have any further questions.

Tell them once again

I have prior commitment

*Tell bad
reiterate my
feeling that
I should
step down*

*Wendley
St. Joseph*

WCRP

August 23, 1995
27 Av 5755

Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General
World Conference on Religion and Peace
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Bill:

Thank you for sharing the minutes of the WCRP/USA
Executive Council's June 16 meeting. They are well done,
brief yet informational.

As I reviewed the calendar for dates when I might be
available to meet, I realized that my forewarning to you
might not have been strong enough. My frenetic travel and
meeting schedule really overwhelms my calendar, as you can
see from the very few dates available at this time. The
UAHC has its Biennial General Assembly this Fall and time
has been blocked off to prepare my major address to the
convention, indeed my final President's Message prior to
my retirement. Add to that the forthcoming High Holy
Days for which I must prepare sermons as I will be in the
pulpit, as well as meetings in Israel in late October and
you can see why there are so many's xxx's on the calendar.

All of this causes me distress for it means I simply
cannot give to the WCRP the time and effort it merits.
Bill, I would be the first one to understand if you would
determine it best to name a replacement for me as a WCRP
president. It would be much fairer to this worthy
organization to have someone who can do more than lend
his/her name to so important a cause.

With warm regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

**WCRP/USA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
June 16, 1995**

Attendance:

Mr. Dawud Assad, Mr. Edward Doty, Dr. Jane Evans, Mrs. Betty Golomb, Mr. P.N. Bawa Jain, Ven. Chung Ok Lee, Mrs. Norma Levitt, Rev. John McAuley, Ms. Edna McCallion, Rev. Robert McClean, Imam W. Deen Muhammed, Dr. Anand Mohan, Ms. Mary Jane Patterson, Ven. Piyatissa, Rev. Robert Smylie, Dr. David Stowe, Dr. Malcolm Sutherland, Dr. William Vendley.

Regrets: Dr. John Borelli, Dr. Hamdani, Ms. Judith Hertz, Rev T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki,
Rev. Margaret Thomas

Guests: Mr. Amir Al-Islam, Dr. Peter Laurence, Imam Alfred Mohammed,
Wali Amin Muhammed

Proxy: Dr. Anastasios Zavales (for Rev. Dr. Milton B. Efthimiou)

MINUTES

The assembled Executive Council members were called to order after having attended the morning multireligious service for the Day of the African Child, sponsored by WCRP and UNICEF. Mary Jane Patterson, President, opened the meeting at 10:45 am with a period of silence, followed by introductions of members and guests. The minutes of February 7, 1995 were accepted with the addition of the phrase "and appreciation for his life" after "regret the death of Rev. Herschel Halbert", and the addition of the word "Executive" before "Director of UNICEF" in reference to Mr. Jim Grant.

A motion made by Dr. Jane Evans to avoid statements in the minutes which limit the agenda of subsequent formal meetings of the Executive Council was passed.

Treasurer's Report

Rev. Bob McClean presented the Treasurer's Report which was accepted with the correction by Dr. Evans to the name "Women of Reform Judaism" in the list of donors.

Guests

Dr. Vendley introduced Imam W. Deen Mohammed, a WCRP/International President, who was the keynote speaker in the morning's service. Imam Mohammed had several Muslim colleagues with him, who were also introduced to the Executive Council.

WCRP/USA Planning Committee

The WCRP/USA Planning Committee submitted the "Draft Interim Standing Rules" of WCRP/USA to the Executive Council for adoption. The report was introduced by Dr. Stowe.

Following his explanation of procedure, a detailed introduction by Dr. Peter Laurence, and expressions of thanks to members of the committee and the hard work of the staff, the Executive Council engaged in extensive discussion of the full significance of the draft and numerous specifics.

In the discussion, Rev. Robert Smylie stated that the purpose of WCRP should continue to be focused on religion and peace issues. Dr. Sutherland and Mrs. Norma Levitt suggested that the purpose of the organization be stated at the beginning of the Standing Rules, instead of at the end. Rev. McClean and

Dr. Evans stressed the importance of keeping the exact wording in the preamble for IRS tax exemption purposes, and to remain in sync with relevant documents of WCRP/International. It was noted that significant written interventions were received from Dr. John Borelli, Rev. Peggy Thomas, and Mr. William Thompson.

Lunch Break

Before lunch, Imam Mohammed expressed his goal of working more closely with WCRP/USA and to continue his interfaith work. Rev. McClean emphasized that the role of WCRP at the state and local levels was not to support viable interfaith groups, but to strengthen them. Mr. Ed Doty asked the Muslim guests to help WCRP be more sensitive to the different perspectives within the Muslim community.

(Due to a previous commitment, Ms. McCallion was excused as Secretary, and replaced by Rev. Smylie after lunch.)

WCRP/USA Planning Committee

Following this discussion, it was **moved, seconded and passed** without dissent that the Standing Rules as presented by the WCRP/USA Planning Committee be provisionally adopted with adjustments to be made in light of the questions raised and changes recommended. This action was taken with the following understandings:

- ♦ that the Committee revise the provisional Standing Rules as discussed;
- ♦ that the specific concerns of persons not present but providing significant input should be noted and that opportunity be assured for further consideration of their points regarding the provisional Standing Rules;
- ♦ and that a draft should be submitted as appropriate for final discussion, amendment and adoption.

Expressions of thanks were given to Dr. Stowe and the committee and all who had helped in the process.

Dr. Vendley shared brief comments on the developments of working relations with varying UN bodies.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

World Conference on Religion and Peace
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10017, U.S.A.



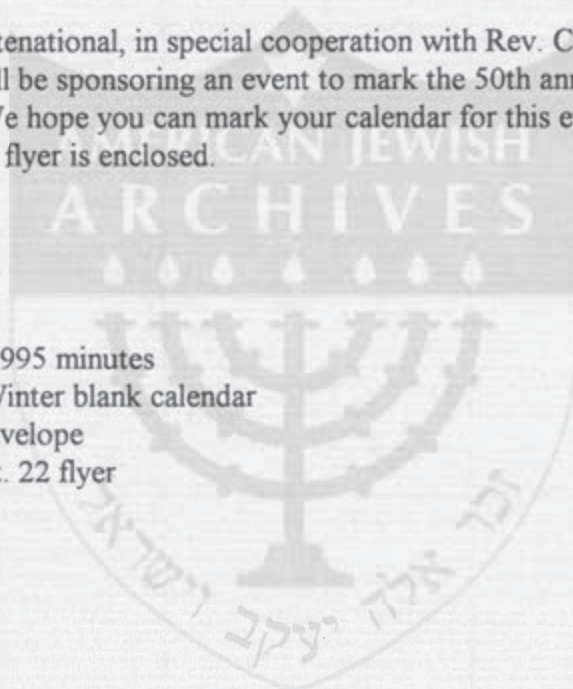
WCRP/USA Memorandum

To: WCRP/USA Executive Council Members
From: William F. Vendley, Secretary General
Date: 08/17/95

1) Greetings. Please find enclosed a copy of the draft minutes from the WCRP/USA Executive Council meeting of June 16. You will also find enclosed blank calendars for the fall and winter. Please write your name on this calendar, and cross out any days that you would not be available for our next meetings. Please return these to our office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Thank you.

2) WCRP/Intenational, in special cooperation with Rev. Chung Lee and the Won Buddhist Community, will be sponsoring an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN on Friday, September 22. We hope you can mark your calendar for this event, and look forward to seeing you soon. A draft flyer is enclosed.

Encl.: June 16, 1995 minutes
Fall and Winter blank calendar
Return Envelope
Draft Sept. 22 flyer



(DRAFT)

In Commemoration of the UN 50th Anniversary:

***The United Nations
and
The Development of World Community***

H.E. Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali*

Secretary General, United Nations

(Suggested topic: Welcoming remarks and The Role of the UN in a World Community)

His Holiness Patriarch Filaret

Metropolitan of Minsk

(Suggested Topic: Religion and World Community)

His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali

Secretary General, Muslim World League

(Suggested topic: Religion and World Community)

Professor Dr. Tu Wei Ming

Professor, Harvard University

(Suggested topic: The Politics of Community)

Ambassador Juan Somavia

Chilean Mission to the United Nations

(Suggested topic: The Political Structures of World Community)

His Holiness Chwasan Lee Kwang Jung

Head Master of Won Buddhism International

(Suggested topic: The Role of Multireligious Cooperation in World Community)

(* invited)

DATE: Friday, 22 September 1995

TIME: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 3
United Nations Headquarters
(use Visitor's Entrance at 46th Street)
New York City

for further information, contact

**WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP)
777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017; Tel: 212-687-2163**

well

free

WCRP/International Memorandum

To: WCRP/International Presidents
From: William F. Vendley, 777 United Nations Plaza, NY, NY 10017 USA
Tel: 1-212-687-2163; Fax: 1-212-983-0566
Date: 07/07/1995
Subject: Newsletters

1) Greetings. Please find enclosed WCRP's newsletter *Religion for Peace*, Issue 66, June 1995. If you or your office would like more copies, please let Ms. Melissa Chase know how many additional copies you would like.

2) We look forward to hearing from you soon.



RELIGION FOR PEACE

A newsletter on multireligious dialogue and action for peace, issued by
The World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP), 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA
June 1995. Issue 66

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

March 1995, Copenhagen, Denmark

By Dr. Günther Gebhardt

This major UN Conference was the occasion for WCRP to bring more than 60 of its officers (*including those pictured at right, top*) and activists to the capital of Denmark for a wide range of public events and internal meetings. The UN Secretariat of the World Summit had in fact invited WCRP to provide a platform where the ethical and spiritual perspectives of the world's religions on social development could be brought forward. At WCRP VI in Italy, this invitation had been extended by Ambassador Juan Somavia himself, the Chairman of the Social Summit, who stated, "The human being must be in the centre of development," and "Societies must meet the spiritual needs of individuals, as well as the material ones." Such slogans are not taken from religious documents but from those of the UN Summit. They challenge the religions of the world to join hands and to co-operate with each other and public institutions towards eradicating poverty, creating productive employment and promoting social integration, as ways to implement their deepest teachings. *Pictured at right, WCRP Moderator, H.E. N'Dam N'Joya offers Ambassador Somavia the WCRP Copenhagen Declaration. (See page 5 for text.)*

The official events which WCRP organized for the Social Summit included a symposium on "Ethical and Religious Perspectives on Social Development" and a multireligious service. The Youth Leadership of WCRP organized a number of activities at the NGO Forum. The official events were preceded by a two day meeting of the WCRP Governing Board and by a small meeting of representatives of major Christian and Muslim relief agencies, convened by WCRP.

"Ethical and Religious Perspectives on Social Development"

Held, like the Governing Board, in a beautiful historic warehouse, transformed into a Foreign Ministry Conference Centre, this all-day symposium was attended by about 80 participants. They listened to speakers representing Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Judaism, and Islam, including several WCRP Presidents, as well as an economist and a UNICEF representative. The presentations focused both on concrete examples of religiously inspired social development activities and on the underlying ethical values. Several speakers emphasized the responsibility of religions to recall the basic insight which Gandhi expressed in the words "There is enough for everybody's need but not enough for everybody's greed." ■

(See related articles pages 4 - 6.)



President Nelson Mandela and
WCRP officer Rev. Gerrie Lubbe (See article page 8.)



What is WCRP?

The World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) is dedicated to promoting cooperation among the world's religions for peace. A worldwide movement based on respect for religious differences, WCRP has members in over 100 countries. Accredited to the United Nations, WCRP engages in vigorous peace promoting

initiatives throughout the world on a multireligious basis. Leaders and believers of the following religions regularly participate in WCRP: Baha'ism; Buddhism; Christianity; Confucianism; Hinduism; Islam; Jainism; Judaism; Shintoism; Sikhism; Taoism; Traditionalism of the indigenous cultures of Africa, the Americas, Australia, and Oceania; and Zoroastrianism.

Why is religious cooperation essential today?

Regional conflicts today remind us that religious differences have often been misused in promoting conflict and warfare. The world's religious communities, however, do have unique capacities to function as powerful agents of change in the pursuit of peace. In our interdependent world, multireligious cooperation for peace can be more effective than the efforts of a single religious group. Moreover, cooperation among religious groups can serve to promote tolerance in circumstances where religious people, tragically, contribute to conflict and violence.

What do we do?

WCRP provides a potent base on local, national, regional, and global levels for a variety of peace related activities. Examples include: promoting religious tolerance; assisting in conflict resolution; working for disarmament; developing peace studies and peace education; encouraging equitable and sustainable development; furthering human rights; fostering the welfare of children and youth; caring for refugees and displaced persons; and sponsoring environmental projects.

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(* Members of the Executive Committee)

WCRP Prepares for a new Center on Religion and Conflict Transformation



European and Middle Eastern Consultation on Religion and Peacebuilding in Bellagio, Italy, September 1994

(back row, from left to right) WCRP Secretary General William F. Vendley, USA; Rabbi David Rosen, Director of Inter-Religious Affairs, Anti-Defamation League, Israel; Dr. Derick Wilson, Director, Understanding Conflict Project, Northern Ireland; Dr. Luc Reyckler, Professor of Political and Social Sciences, University of Leuven, Belgium; Mr. Jonathan Sisson, Steering Committee Member, International Fellowship of Reconciliation; Dr. Roger Williamson, Assistant Secretary (International Affairs), Board for Social Responsibility, Church of England, United Kingdom; Mr. Bernt Jonsson, Director, Life and Peace Institute, Sweden; Mr. Mohammed Sammak, Adviser to the Sunni Mufti of Lebanon, Hariri Foundation, Lebanon; Dr. Paul Mojzes, Professor of Religious Studies, Rosemont College, USA; Dr. Johan Galtung, Professor of Peace Studies, University of Hawaii and European Peace University, France. (front row) Mr. Gabriel Habib, then-General Secretary, Middle East Council of Churches, Cyprus; Ms. Cynthia Sampson, Program Associate, Religion and Peacebuilding Program, WCRP, USA; Sister Margorie Keenan, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Vatican; Ms. Elizabeth Salter, then-Executive Secretary, Commission of the Churches for International Affairs, World Council of Churches, Switzerland; Ms. Lynn Szwaja, Senior Research Associate, Rockefeller Foundation, USA; Dr. Geraldine Smyth, Director, Irish School of Ecumenics, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

While the frequency and types of involvements by religious communities in conflict resolution have increased markedly in the last couple of decades, so too, on other fronts, has religion more frequently been perceived as a flashpoint in intercommunal violence. A recent collection of case studies, *Religion: The Missing Dimension of Statecraft*, by Douglas Johnston and Cynthia Sampson, eds. [New York: Oxford University Press, 1994], reveals that efforts at religiously motivated peacemaking have, in fact, had their greatest impact in conflicts in which religion is not an important defining characteristic. A pressing need today is to transform conflicts -- including those in which religious communities themselves may be engulfed -- in the cause of peace and reconciliation.

Religions, in fact, possess powerful social and moral characteristics that, if mobilized, would uniquely equip them to act as constructive forces for peace. Dispersed throughout the world and reaching into every village, religious communities are often organized at the national and international levels, representing significant potential channels for communication and action. In addition, religious traditions establish ethical visions that can summon those who believe in them to powerful forms

of committed action. Many religions provide moral warrants for resistance against unjust conditions, including those that give rise to conflict. Thus the moral claims of those religions, if effectively pressed by religious leadership, could provide an impetus for adherents to take responsibility for preventing, ameliorating, or resolving conflicts nonviolently. Moreover, given the psycho-social nature of most conflicts in today's world, the social and moral characteristics of religious communities are all the more significant as potential resources for conflict resolution.

In recognition of this enormous potential, WCRP is embarking on an initiative that will call religious communities to rise to the challenges of peacemaking in today's world. With funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, planning is underway for a new International Center for Religion and Conflict Resolution to be established within WCRP. The Center is envisioned as a catalytic service that will work to mobilize the tremendous moral and sociological assets of religions for peacemaking. Three research questions are driving the planning process for the Center: (1) What are the "assets" -- the special qualities and potentials -- for peacemaking possessed by religious communities by way of their teachings,

institutions, structures, leadership, and membership? (2) What would it take to mobilize these assets more effectively? and (3) How might assets of different communities be brought into effective multireligious cooperation? These questions are being asked initially of five case studies (Sri Lanka, South Africa, Lebanon, Northern Ireland, former Yugoslavia) through three international consultations. It is clear, however, that planning for the Center will continue well beyond the designated one year planning-in-action, and the questions will continue to be the relevant ones to be asked in many different settings.

At the first consultation, held in Sri Lanka in June 1994, representatives of that country's four major religious communities -- Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam -- wrestled with the questions in an effort to discover how the religious sector might contribute more effectively to the resolution of conflict between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority. At the conclusion of the meeting, WCRP/Sri Lanka was asked to take the lead in convening further multireligious sessions for the purpose of identifying priorities and strategies for joint action. The second meeting was held in South Africa in August, and the third at the Rockefeller conference center in Bellagio, Italy in Sept. ■

More on Copenhagen Events:

Christian and Muslim Relief Agencies Meet for Interreligious Development Action

Representatives of three Christian and three Muslim relief agencies met on March 6 in Copenhagen under the auspices of WCRP in order to launch a joint committee on interreligious development action. Its aim is to promote more effective humanitarian service and testimony to the shared values of Islam and Christianity, including their commitments to reconciliation, justice, peace and care for human beings. The co-chairpersons of the new committee are Rev. Lawrence Turnipseed (USA) of Church World Service and Dr. Kamel Al-Sharif (Jordan) of the International Islamic Council for Daw'a and Relief. Through common agreement, the committee will expand to become fully multireligious.

WCRP/International Governing Board

The first meeting of the new Governing Board after the World Assembly was held March 7-8. Twenty-five Governing Board members and numerous guests and observers from all continents made the journey to Copenhagen. The Board started to evaluate the World Assembly, heard and discussed reports from the Women's Committee and the Young Leadership Committee, encouraged steps towards Standing Commissions on Conflict Transformation, Peace Education, and Dialogue/Ethics, and adopted a budget for 1995. Dr. Adamou N'Dam N'Joya, a Muslim from Cameroon, was elected Moderator of the Governing Board, with Dr. Edy Korthals Altes, a Christian from the Netherlands, as Vice-Moderator. Mr. Simon Guerrand-Hermès (France/USA) was elected Treasurer of WCRP/International. The Board further elected an Executive Committee, with the same Moderator and Vice-Moderator. (Executive Committee members are noted by an asterisk on page 2.) A major task of the Governing Board consisted of discussing and adopting a WCRP Declaration for the Social Summit, which was delivered the following day to Ambassador Somavia, Chairperson of the Summit, and distributed to all government delegations. (See text of the "WCRP Copenhagen Declaration," page 5.)

The evening before the Governing Board meeting participants shared a joyful welcome dinner and afterwards were invited to attend the Christian Ecumenical Service for the Social Summit in the Lutheran Cathedral. Several WCRP leaders were asked to sit among the guests of honor on that occasion.

This was a week of intense activity for WCRP on various levels. It would not have been possible without the excellent partnership and assistance of the UN Secretariat for the Social Summit and of many Danish friends and colleagues in the Inter-Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, the Danish Ecumenical Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Copenhagen City Administration. They all deserve WCRP's sincere gratitude.



Multireligious Service in Copenhagen

The impressive City Hall of Copenhagen provided the prestigious setting for the closing evening of the official WCRP events in Copenhagen. Nearly 300 people attended the service in which representatives of nine religions, including religious leaders from Copenhagen, expressed the commitment of all religions to social development by prayers and other texts from their different traditions. Pictured above is Shinto priest Rev. Tatsuo Miyake of Konko Church of Izuo, Japan. A reception followed, hosted by the City of Copenhagen.

The Contribution by Religions to the Culture of Peace Second UNESCO Seminar held in Barcelona

As a follow-up of a seminar held in April 1993, 50 religious representatives (including Bishop Michael Fitzgerald of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, Rabbi Meir Lau, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, and Sheikh Mahmoud Zagzoug, Dean of Al-Azhar University), personalities from interreligious and peace organizations and academia (including Professors Masao Abe, Johan Galtung and Raimón Panikkar) were invited by the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia to mark the beginning of the "International Year for Tolerance" on 12-18 December 1994. WCRP members Dr. M. Aram (India), Rabbi Ehud Bandel (Israel), Archbishop Emeritus Angelo Fernandes (India), Dr. Günther Gebhardt (Geneva) and Archpriest Alexander Koja (Russia) participated, each in an individual capacity. After a broad range of presentations and inspiring discussions, the seminar issued a "Declaration on the Role of Religion in the Promotion of a Culture of Peace." The Declaration was presented in a ceremony at the Catalanian Parliament in the presence of the Dalai Lama and of Dr. Federico Mayor, Director General of UNESCO, who were among the first signatories. The text, which is understood as a kind of basic charter of co-operation between UNESCO and religions towards a culture of peace, states that "Unless we recognize pluralism and respect diversity, no peace is possible" and, "Neither the meaning of peace nor of religion can be reduced to a single and rigid concept, just as the range of human experience cannot be conveyed by a single language." The text of the two page Declaration can be obtained from the Geneva Office of WCRP.

*All of the articles on this page were contributed by
Dr. Günther Gebhardt.*

The WCRP Copenhagen Declaration
8 March 1995, Copenhagen, Denmark
(at the time of the UN World Summit for Social Development)

World Religions are deeply concerned about the betrayal of humanity. The current economic development paradigms very often contradict the essence of social development. We have profound yearnings for peace with justice as the spiritual foundation for social development. Poverty, unemployment, and marginalization cause tremendous human suffering and social dislocation, resulting in the dehumanizing of people and destruction of communities, especially in the developing world. The magnitude of these conditions has created a crisis of global proportions.

The Governing Board of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, 7-8 March 1995, expresses appreciation to the United Nations for convening the World Summit for Social Development, to address these concerns. We anticipate that an alternative paradigm of development will emerge.

We understand social development to be a process leading to the enhancement of human dignity and social harmony. This includes expanding the freedom and moral development of persons in ever more inclusive and interrelated humane communities. Such communities must be marked by just and humane governance at all levels, the acceptance of individual and collective responsibility, the guarantee and protection of human rights, the provision of common security, the assurance of economic justice, and the sustainability of the environment.

The realization of these conditions demands the dynamic cooperation of the full range of institutions in society: familial, educational, economic, cultural, humanitarian and religious. This cooperation requires the cultivation of shared values that can orient these diverse institutions toward the development of the common good. This

translates into a moral imperative to nurture, care for, and protect life and to hold all human structures accountable to that central value.

While recognizing the failure of religious communities to live in full accordance with their visions, religious teachings do strive to give meaning and value to human life and its relationship to reality as a whole. Each religion has sought to shape particular communities in order to try to be faithful to its values. Today, the urgent challenges of social development call all religious communities to act together in the spirit of their respective traditions.

The contemporary challenge to establish a common ethic and shared values committed to the common good is matched by the concrete task of re-structuring the basic institutions of society, in accordance with those values. These essential tasks require the collaboration of all of the various institutions of society.

We call upon all religious communities:

1. To support the work of the United Nations, and of other international, regional, national and local organizations committed to social development.
2. To join forces in reinforcing the concepts of self esteem, the inherent worth of human beings, and the understanding of work as a means of spiritual fulfillment and service.
3. To monitor the progress of the world community in the fulfillment of the Plans of Action that have received the moral commitment of the world's leadership.
4. To promote interfaith, intergroup, and intercommunity dialogue to develop mutual respect and cooperation in order to transcend historical divisiveness and abandon

intolerance, persecution and exclusiveness.

5. To develop models to help communities in conflict, particularly those with long tragic histories requiring reconciliation and trust building.
6. To facilitate the creation of alternative models of community development.

Further, we call upon the member states of the international community:

1. To strengthen the international instruments essential to the promotion of economic and social development.
2. To provide the legal framework and coherent structures of global governance to regulate international social and economic activities, and to promote a global fiscal and monetary structure to ensure equitable distribution of resources.
3. To increase the resources of the United Nations for development assistance and to resolve the global debt crisis in ways that promote empowerment and do not foster further dependencies.
4. To honor the moral commitments made in the Declarations and Plans of Action emerging from the global conferences on human rights, women, environment, population, and social development, and to mobilize the human and financial resources necessary to implement those Plans of Action.
5. To promote literacy, universal education and the status of women and children.
6. To find ways of reducing international tensions and conflicts, to abandon militarism, and to consecrate the enormous energy wasted on wars to meeting basic human needs. ■

The Standing Commission on Peace Education

By Dr. Günther Gebhardt

As a follow-up to the decision of the World Assembly in Riva to establish standing commissions in order to ensure the continuation of activities in the main program areas of WCRP, a project proposal for a "Peace Education Programme" (PEP) was submitted to the Governing Board in Copenhagen.

The proposal, elaborated by Mr. Hans van Willenswaard (Secretary, WCRP/Netherlands) and Dr. Günther Gebhardt (Secretary-General, WCRP/Europe), focuses on reinforcing existing activities in the field of peace education at local, national and regional levels through communication and exchange. The area of interreligious education is of special relevance. WCRP can draw upon a number of qualified experts among its members. Other priority areas may include: training in active non-violence and constructive socio-economic action, and environmental education. Encouraged by the Governing Board, the project authors convened an exploratory meeting in The Hague 13-14 May 1995, the outcome of which will be reported in the next issue of "Religion for Peace."

United Nations International Conference on Population and Development

by Mr. Patrice C. Brodeur

The eleven days spanning 3-13 September 1994 saw over 5,000 people gather for the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt. WCRP was very much in evidence with a strong program, including a multireligious statement, resource booklet, and multireligious roundtables on a wide range of population and development issues.

WCRP held seven roundtables during the NGO Forum at the ICPD. Amerindian, Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim speakers shared a variety of religious perspectives. WCRP's consensus-based "Statement from the Multireligious Consultation on Issues of Population and Development," which was formulated a month earlier in Switzerland, was distributed to the public at large during the ICPD. In addition, a booklet entitled "Religion, Population, and Development: Multireligious Contributions" was distributed to the roundtable participants as well as to government delegations.

Religious voices were heard more clearly at the ICPD than in previous UN conferences, from the Vatican's observer seat in the governmental section to the many display tables in the NGO Forum. WCRP's roundtables provided a unique setting: an hour and a half every day where various religious voices could be heard, appreciated, and challenged; all conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The many riveting conversations, at times full of passion and ethical concerns, demonstrated the great interest and growing need for a space within UN forums where constructive multireligious conversations can take place around issues critical for the survival of humanity. ■



WCRP Youth at the World Summit for Social Development Copenhagen, Denmark

by Mr. Nersey Rastan

Twenty WCRP youth, who had only recently met at the World Assembly in Italy last November, managed to assemble again in Copenhagen for the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) in March 1995. The youth came from far and wide: Canada, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, England, India, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Namibia, and of course Denmark. Ten of these youth are members of the newly elected International Youth Committee (IYC) of WCRP. The schedule of work was quite intense and centered on four activities: 1) U'th Forum '95, which brought together 450 youth from around the world on projects based on themes of the Summit; 2) International Youth Consultation on Social Development, which comprised some 200 youth representing international youth NGOs from around the globe; 3) NGO Forum, where WCRP youth organized a roundtable of interfaith dialogue on themes of the Summit, a meditation room, a small exhibit where specially made T-shirts were sold and WCRP literature was handed out; 4) the governmental Summit, where the youth were responsible for a peaceful, though small meditation room for official delegates.

Despite all this activity, the ten IYC members managed to meet to discuss their plans for youth camps, peace buses, special commemorative events for the coming year, the youth newsletter 'Bridges', and much more. These IYC meetings were held at quite odd times. In fact, one began at 11 PM and ended at 3 AM! All of this activity was made possible through the tireless and invaluable work done by the Danish youth both before and during the Summit events. The World Student Christian Federation, the Baha'i '95 Task Force, and U'th Forum '95 were instrumental in negotiating space for WCRP youth events, securing funds and accommodation, and much more. Special thanks also go to my employer, Otis Elevators, UK, for being so understanding during the preparatory months and allowing me use of their equipment. (Editor's Note: Mr. Nersey Rastan acted as the central coordinator for the logistical and programmatic planning of WCRP Youth at the WSSD.) ■

EDUCATION FOR TOLERANCE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING: THE ROLE OF RELIGIONS

*By Dr. Günther Gebhardt
European Secretariat of WCRP
Organizes Roundtable in Geneva*

In preparation for the International Year of Tolerance (1995) high level experts in education from six world religions shared the concerns and contributions of their religious traditions for an education for tolerance and mutual understanding. This Roundtable was organized on 4 October 1994 by the Secretary-General of WCRP/Europe, Dr. Günther Gebhardt, in cooperation with the International Bureau of Education (a UNESCO affiliate, based in Geneva), within the framework of the international conference of Ministers of Education. The moderator, Prof. Johannes Lähnemann (Christian; Head, Dept. of Religious Education, Nuremberg University, Germany), introduced the following panelists: Dr. Vinu Aram (Hindu, India; Youth Coordinator, WCRP), Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne (Buddhist, Sri Lanka; Founder-President, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement), Prof. Mrs. Beyza Bilgin (Muslim, Turkey; Faculty of Islamic Theology, Ankara University), Mr. Trevor Finch (Baha'i, United Kingdom; teacher and playwright), Mrs. Jana Marcus (Jewish, Switzerland; responsible for ethical and religious aspects in teachers' training at the Dept. of Education, Canton of Bern). In addition to these religious representatives, the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, Prof. Abdelfattah Amor, and the Minister of Education of the Philippines, Dr. Ricardo Gloria, completed the panel, which was attended by more than 120 participants in a crowded hall, among them many members of government delegations, NGO representatives and local religious figures. The panelists addressed the various motivations for tolerance and understanding which can be found in the different religions and identified problems amid challenges which the religions are faced with in their educational efforts. They also mentioned concrete initiatives and projects being carried out by religious institutions, and formulated suggestions to improve educational activities. Strong emphasis was laid on "educating the educators" in teachers' training amid in-service-training, and on the role of education in counteracting fanaticism. The UN Special Rapporteur repeatedly expressed his conviction that religious extremism is one of the major threats to peace in our day. The final report of the Roundtable (4 pages, available from the Geneva Office of WCRP) closes as follows: "The global aim of religious education for tolerance and mutual understanding is that adolescents as well as adults show respect for their fellow human beings, that they feel responsible for the animate as well as inanimate nature, and that they are sensitive to hate, violence and the developments which threaten life and the community. Thus they will be prepared for a way of living together which will provide our planet with prospects for the future." ■

1995: International Year of Tolerance

By Rev. John J. McAuley

Under the leadership of UNESCO, the UN is marking 1995 as the International Year of Tolerance. To celebrate this year, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Methodist Office for the UN invited WCRP to sponsor an event which would demonstrate multireligious concerns for and contributions toward tolerance.

On 9 January 1995 WCRP, with the coordination of the Presbyterian UN Office and the United Methodist Office for the UN, sponsored a reception to honor Shaikh Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, Grand Mufti of Egypt, and Rev. Dr. Samuel Habib, President, Protestant Churches of Egypt. Both Shaikh Tantawi and Rev. Habib were in the United States to receive Honorary Doctorates in Peacemaking from Westminster College, Pennsylvania.

Rev. Robert Smylie, Vice-President of WCRP/USA, hosted the reception. Rev. Habib and Shaikh Tantawi were greeted by Mr. Raffeeudin Ahmed, special representative from the UN Secretary General and Associate Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and by Mr. Jorge Wertheim, special representative from UNESCO. The guests of honor in turn addressed the gathering of religious leaders and representatives of various UN missions. They stressed the important roles that religions had in modeling coordinated efforts which would support an atmosphere conducive to tolerance. They also remarked that individual religions must not become so sectarian in their self-expressions as to allow themselves to be misused as instruments of intolerance.

UNESCO will sponsor several events throughout 1995 to mark the International Year of Tolerance. It is also seeking to investigate with religious bodies the various roles that religions play as effective international instruments of peace, tolerance and understanding. ■



One of the Governing Board members who met in Copenhagen, Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda (of Zimbabwe) serves as a Coordinator of WCRP's Women's Coordinating Committee. (She is pictured here with her daughter who accompanied her to WCRP's Sixth World Assembly in Italy, Nov. 1994.)

Moving into the new South Africa, By Rev. Gerrie Lubbe

The past year has been a time of great excitement in South Africa. We have finally moved into the New South Africa with a democratically elected President in the person of Dr. Nelson Mandela.

Looking back over the past months one cannot help but be filled with deep gratitude for the way in which God has helped us over the many stumbling blocks and almost insoluble problems which cropped up as we prepared for a new dispensation.

In April 1993, WCRP/South Africa (WCRP/SA), in conjunction with the South African Catholic Bishops Conference and the South African Council of Churches, formed a Panel of Religious Leaders for Electoral Justice. This Panel was to create confidence in all the people in the election process, to act as a liaison between people on the ground and the election authorities and to keep an eye on the moral integrity of the election process. This Panel consisted of 23 religious leaders and represented the Christian, Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim Communities in our country. Initially Dr. Frank Chikane and I were elected as Co-chairpersons, but when Dr. Chikane was appointed to the Independent Electoral Commission, the role of Chairperson fell on my shoulders. WCRP was prominently involved in this Panel. Besides myself, one of our officers, Ms. Yasmin Sooka, was appointed Executive Secretary, and all our associate organizations were represented on the Panel. It was therefore indeed an interfaith undertaking which in itself sent out a message of unity and reconciliation to the nation.

All sponsoring bodies of the Panel also sponsored the Ecumenical Monitoring Programme in South Africa, known as EMPISA. During the final days of the election, EMPISA brought an Eminent Persons Group to South Africa. Amongst the members of this group were two of the Presidents of WCRP International--namely Dr. M. Aram and Archbishop Paul Reeves. They were posted to different areas in the country and acted as Observers.

On Wednesday, 20 April 1994, a week before the elections, the Panel of Religious Leaders organized interfaith prayer meetings country-wide. I attended the Prayer Meeting in Johannesburg and was struck by the wonderful spirit of unity and peace which prevailed. In all these prayer meetings WCRP members featured prominently and formed the backbone of organizing committees.

During the elections the members of the Panel were deployed country-wide to oversee the election process and, in many instances, to act as mediators in conflict situations. Virtually all WCRP members country-wide acted either as Election Monitors, Presiding Officers or Counting Officers. It has indeed been a wonderful experience to see people of different faiths acting together in the interests of their one country. Shortly before the elections commenced there was a crisis regarding the participation of the Inkatha Freedom Party and the position of the Zulu King. There again religious leaders and WCRP played an important role in defusing a potentially dangerous situation. Whilst the ultimate solution was a political one, there is no doubt that the interventions of

religious leaders were of great importance in paving the way for a settlement.

With the elections over, there were, of course, more things to come: the Constitution of the National Assembly and the Inauguration of the new President. We are happy to say that at least three of our active WCRP members are part of new governing structures. Our Chairperson for the Johannesburg Region, Mr. Mohammed Dangor, is a member of the Provincial Parliament of Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PMV) Province, Transvaal.

Mr. Ebrahim Rasool, who at one time served as our National Co-ordinator, has been appointed member of the Executive Committee of that Province. His portfolio is Health and Welfare. Ms. Ela Gandhi, a very active member of WCRP Durban, is now a member of the National Assembly, one of a considerable number of women serving in the chamber.

In my capacity as then President of WCRP/SA, I was invited to serve on a Sub-committee of the National Inauguration Committee. This Sub-committee was particularly involved in the Religious Aspects of the Inauguration. We organized a visit for Dr. Mandela to a Mosque and to a Synagogue, (both of these in Cape Town), and to a huge Christian Thanksgiving Service in Soweto. Unfortunately a visit to a Hindu Temple could not be included, but will follow in due course. We also arranged for the first session of the National Assembly, where members were sworn in and where Dr. Mandela was officially elected, to be opened with a Christian prayer and concluded with a Muslim prayer.

During the Inauguration Ceremony of Dr. Mandela at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Hindu prayers were led by Mr. PV Lakhani, Chairperson of the South African Hindu Maha Sabh. A reading from the Koran was given by Shaykh Nazeem Mohammed from the Muslim Judicial Council, and Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris read from the Old Testament. Archbishop Desmond Tutu concluded with a prayer. All of these religious leaders are, of course, closely associated with WCRP, and we were very grateful that, for the first time in the history of our country, all major faiths in South Africa were represented at such an event.

Within the ranks of the Panel of religious leaders, the view has already been expressed that this Panel should continue since there is so much that religious leaders in our country can do jointly. We are still discussing appropriate ways of continuing the Panel. It has been suggested that there be a more formal link between the Panel and WCRP/SA. Time will teach us which way to go. What is certainly important is the whole election process. Such historic events emphasize the need and the possibility for religious leaders to co-operate in such affairs. This will certainly add to the spirit of tolerance and respect which our country so urgently needs and which is beginning to appear like welcome blossoms at the beginning of Spring.

We wish to thank all members of WCRP who have so earnestly been praying for our country in these crucial times. ■

THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD



Mrs. Donna Hanover Giuliani and New York City Mayor Giuliani greet Archbishop Desmond Tutu at WCRP's multireligious service, 16 June 1994. (Photo credit: Edward Reed)

On the "Day of the African Child", 16 June 1994, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town and a member of WCRP/South Africa, pleaded in New York with the countries of Africa to rid themselves of armies and follow the move toward freedom which started in South Africa. Noting that every single army has been used against its own civilians, Archbishop Tutu asked at a multireligious prayer service, "For goodness' sake, why don't you demilitarize? ... Please, please, for the sake of the children."

The annual multireligious service sponsored jointly by WCRP and UNICEF commemorates the massacre on 16 June 1976 when schoolchildren were gunned down in Soweto, South Africa, as they protested apartheid.

At a joint WCRP-UNICEF panel discussion after the service on the topic *Web of Violence: How Religious and Political Leaders Can Cooperate for the Protection of Children*, Archbishop Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, said that the world should address the difficulties of African countries, besieged by revolt that results in civilian slaughter, because "this is a moral universe." He said, "We have a God who cares about right and wrong, about feelings, about injustice, about praying. Each one of us carries an important role. God has not created us for war, for violence, for injustice. God has created us for harmony, for peace, for loving." Archbishop Tutu, a longtime advocate of racial equality, spoke of the changeover to a new government in South Africa as "a deeply spiritual, a deeply religious" event. "You walked into the polling booth one kind of person; you came out transformed," he explained. "You walked in a lesser person, and you walked out shouting 'I'm free! I'm free!'"

Wars in the world have taken the lives of more than 500,000 children and permanently disabled many more in the past 12 months alone. Another 5 million children are in refugee camps waiting for the wars to end, while 12 million have lost their homes entirely. There have been 150 conflicts since the end of World War II, and among the casualties 80% have been civilians, half of them children. ■

(The above article is taken from an article by Gerard J. Hekker, *Catholic New York*, 23 June 1994, pg. 23.)

"Global Ethics"

By Rev. John J. McAuley

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium at the United Nations was filled to standing room capacity on 26 May 1994 as Prof. Dr. Hans Küng delivered an address titled *Global Ethics* to UN Delegates and NGOs. The event was under the joint sponsorship of WCRP and the Pacem in Terris Society of the UN Social and Recreational Council.

Dr. Küng's writings on Global Ethics were major sources for Global Ethic documents issued by the Parliament for the World's Religions in Chicago in August 1993. At the UN Dr. Küng challenged the international community by stating that far from a new world order, many nations and peoples were gripped by a new world disorder, and that the strongest undercurrents in this turbulence involved religion. He claimed, "People no longer define themselves simply in terms of nations, peoples or civilizations, but in terms of nations, peoples and civilizations built around religion. And what we see is not that religions are coming together. On the contrary, age old frontiers of confessional lines seem to be re-emerging. Religion continues to play a major role in world affairs. We cannot simply modernize it and get rid of it."

Dr. Küng warned that the challenges facing world peace and world order are twofold. On the one hand, "There will not be peace among nations, peoples and civilizations until there is first peace among religions," he stated. Religions must tell their own members what is in their tradition strongly and clearly, for religions already possess an ethic that can bring world order. The uninformed or improperly informed believer can be the unwitting channel for misuse or abuse of faith by others in support of violence.

On the other hand, with their own houses in order, religions can help address a problem that is facing all civilizations at the present: a moral and spiritual vacuum that is unprecedented in human history. Dr. Küng said, "Charters of rights are not enough. We need also a Charter of Ethics. Armistices do not work in Yugoslavia and elsewhere because there is nothing behind it morally. We need human values and human obligations. We need basic principles for care and commitment. And that is what ethics is: agreement; agreement on principles which foster a culture of nonviolence, respect for life, solidarity, tolerance and equal rights. The search for a common ethic (Global Ethic) is nothing less than a search for the transformation of human consciousness. And it is possible. Momentous changes have already begun."

In WCRP's Sixth World Assembly in Riva del Garda last November, Dr. Küng continued the dialogue through an address to the Assembly in relation to the Assembly sub-theme *Isolation and Indifference: Searching for a Global Ethic*. ■

News from WCRP Chapters

WCRP/USA

The Dag Hammarskjöld Lounge in the Church Center for the United Nations, New York City, was alive with the voices of debate on 16 February 1994 as WCRP/USA hosted another symposium in the Miyake Lecture Series on *Regional Conflicts and Religion*. The focus this time was Kashmir.

Those present at the event included members of the WCRP/USA Executive Council, representatives from national missions to the UN, a number of religious NGOs, peace organizations monitoring developments on the Indian subcontinent and interested individuals. The panel was moderated by Dr. William Vendley, Secretary General of WCRP/USA, and consisted of three speakers: Dr. Ainslee Embree, Senior Scholar, Columbia University; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Executive Director, Kashmiri-American Council, Washington DC; and Dr. Anand Mohan, Executive Director of the Hindu Temple Society of North America, and a member of the WCRP/USA Executive Council.

Dr. Embree sketched the political and religious history of the Kashmiri valley, emphasizing particularly the sociological origins and periods of coexistence of Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam in the region. Dr. Fai provided both a current description of modern Kashmir and a vision for a greater Kashmir, outlining some of the political and legal precedents in British, Indian, Pakistani and international agreements that could form the basis of this vision. Dr. Mohan argued that religious, ethnic and political claims to self-determination must be interpreted as legitimate and necessary claims to the self-autonomy of all parties in question, but that self-determination should not serve as the legitimization of divisiveness between peoples. He contended that absolutist claims to a divisive self-determination are countervailed by the universalism inherent in so much religious thought, and are also countered by the deleterious consequences of separatist extremism found in the historical, political and social records of so many peoples.

A quite lively and impassioned discussion period ensued. Before the concluding remarks of the speakers, Mr. A.K. Singh, Counselor of the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, contributed some observations on the social, political and religious issues surrounding the question of Kashmir. Many responded vigorously.

WCRP Members in Zimbabwe

About 80 Christians, Muslims and Baha'is convened in Harare for a project to assist homeless children. A local children's home was also involved in mounting the project. Money was collected to assist 'street kids' who were in dire need, although the main aim was that of rehabilitation.

WCRP/Germany

WCRP/Germany has many active local units. Their activities are summarized below. (The chapter address is c/o Franz Brendle, Staffelseeweg 37, D-70378 Stuttgart, Germany.)

Berlin: Opened the house "Space for Silence" at the Brandenburger Tor. WCRP/Berlin also held interreligious prayers during the UN Climate Summit in March and April.

Frankfurt: Hosted interreligious prayer meeting on the occasion of the 1200th year anniversary of the city of Frankfurt, with an information stand about WCRP activities.

Regensburg: Concentrated on intensification of the contacts between the Abrahamic religions: prayer services and dialogue between Muslims, Jews and Christians.

Stuttgart: Working on supplying food and medicine for the refugees from the former Yugoslavia.

Tübingen: Thanks Giving Day: Meeting with representatives from 12 nations and various religions to discuss the theme "World Ethos."

Witten: Intercultural week on the theme: "World Religions: Basic Information for Interested People." Dialogue with the local religious communities on the theme "Hope in the Midst of Crisis."

Youth: Conducted role-playing with the theme of "non-violent communication" as a component of interreligious dialogue.

WCRP/Canada at 20 Years

WCRP/Canada was founded in Ottawa in 1975 by a group of delegates who attended the WCRP's Second World Assembly in Leuven, Belgium. Mgr. Remi De Roo, Catholic Bishop of Victoria and WCRP/International Honorary President, was among the founders. The Cold War was at its peak and religious communities had no platform to voice their concerns collectively. WCRP found its first homes in Toronto, as well as in Victoria and Vancouver on the West Coast. Its first National Convention, held in Toronto in 1980, attracted members from various religions from all parts of Canada. That year the Montreal chapter of WCRP was set up and three years later it hosted the Second National Conference. Since 1993, three new chapters were established: in Sudbury, Ottawa, and Waterloo. In addition, a youth section has been formed in Quebec. More information on WCRP/Canada can be found in their newsletter. Contact WCRP/Canada, 319 av. Berkshire, Beaconsfield, Quebec, H9W 1A6 Canada.

Asian Conference on Religion and Peace (ACRP)

In their latest newsletter (no. 2, Vol. 4), ACRP reports on an number of events from different chapters, including Pakistan, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and Singapore. January 15 marked the World Religion Day in Singapore with an event entitled; "Religions Should Be the Cause of Unity." Nine religious communities spoke before a crowd of 1,000 in the Singapore Conference Hall. One of the speakers was WCRP International Council member Dr. Mehervan Singh who offered an address on Sikhism. Copies of the ACRP newsletter can be obtained through individual chapters in Asia, or by contacting Bogoda Premaratne, 296/2c Shanthi Mawatha, High Level Road, Kirulapone, Colombo 6, Sri Lanka. ■

Congratulations to Dr. Abdullah bin Omar Nasseef

Dr. Abdullah bin Omar Nasseef, an Honorary President of WCRP/International, recently became the Vice President of Majlis Al-Shura (the consultative council for the Custodian of the Two Grand Mosques, H.R.H. Fahd bin Abdel Aziz Al-Sa'ud, King of Saudi Arabia.)

Dr. M. Aram wins Niwano Peace Prize

Dr. M. Aram, a President of WCRP, is the twelfth recipient of the Niwano Peace Prize. The Niwano Peace Foundation, located in Japan, established the Niwano Peace Prize to honor and encourage individuals and organizations that have contributed significantly to interreligious cooperation in the spirit of religion, thereby furthering the cause of world peace.

A Message from Mrs. Inge Jack

Dear Friends,

Since it is not possible for me to respond to each of you who so kindly sent messages of condolence at the death of my husband, Dr. Homer Jack, I would like to assure you that your kind expressions of sympathy were deeply appreciated and are gratefully acknowledged.

- Inge Jack, Swarthmore, PA

In Memoriam, Rev. Herschel Halbert

It is with sadness that we report that Rev. Herschel Halbert passed away of natural causes in his home on August 2, 1994 at age 78. Rev. Halbert was one of the founders of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP), and one of the bearers of the original vision of interreligious cooperation for peace on both a national and a global scale. His contributions to both were made primarily through trailblazing trips across the USA and around the globe to seek the cooperation of religious bodies and religious leadership on issues of peace, and also by giving years of service to translating and concretizing the goodwill of religions into effective organizational instruments.

Since that first World Conference, Rev. Halbert had been active in WCRP both nationally and internationally. He has attended in the capacity of staff or delegate five WCRP World Assemblies, including Kyoto in 1970, Belgium 1974, Princeton 1979, Nairobi 1984, and Melbourne 1989. He also served the WCRP/USA Chapter in various capacities.

In Memoriam, Archbishop Rivera Damas

We regret to inform you that one of our newly elected Presidents, Most Rev. Arturo Rivera Damas, Roman Catholic Archbishop of El Salvador, died on November 26, 1994 of a heart attack. The Archbishop, a tireless critic of human rights abuses, negotiated for peace settlements in El Salvador.

In Memoriam, Priest Kawai

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Rev. Kiyotoshi Kawai, Secretary General of WCRP/Japan, who died of peritoneum cancer on June 21, 1994, at the age of 73. Dr. M. Aram offered the following eulogy to him on July 23, 1994:

"Rev. Kawai has rendered invaluable service in the cause of world peace as Secretary General of WCRP/Japan, Associate Secretary General of WCRP/International and Executive Member of ACRP.

"Rev. Kawai was a man of deep spirituality. I vividly recall my visit to the Shinto Shrine of which he was Chief Priest. I participated in the Worship Service and experienced the vibrant spiritual atmosphere prevailing in the shrine. I learned from him firsthand about the principles and practices of the Shinto Faith.

"Rev. Kawai was also a man of practical wisdom. He thought deeply about the future of the WCRP Movement. Out of his creative thinking he gave new ideas from building up the finances of WCRP. ...

"Rev. Kawai, above all, was a good soul, a kind and noble human being, a loving and lovable person. We will miss him very much for a very long time. His memory will remain a perennial inspiration."

In Memoriam, Ven. Vishuddhananda Mahathero

It is with deep regret that we inform you that Ven. Vishuddhananda Mahathero, the President the Bangladesh Chapter, Executive Committee member of ACRP, Supreme Patriarch of the Buddhists of Bangladesh, a participant in WCRP and ACRP Conferences held in different part of the world, founder of orphanages, schools, colleges, monasteries and many social religious organizations in Bangladesh passed away on March 2, 1994 at the age of 87.

He was awarded the Peace Prize by Mongolia and the Gandhi Peace Prize by the Gandhi Peace Foundation, Norway. He extensively toured many countries with a message of peace and nonviolence.

In Memoriam, Dr. John Humphrey

On March 14, 1995, Dr. John Humphrey, past-president of WCRP/Canada (1992-1994) died at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal at age 89. Dr. Humphrey was well known throughout the world as the writer of the final text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1945. Born in New Brunswick, the eminent jurist taught for forty years in the Faculty of Law at McGill University.

One of the most remarkable aspects of his presidency of WCRP/Canada was his ability to challenge us with the following question: "How do you explain that religion can be an agent of peace and a catalyst toward war at the same time?". A few months prior to his death, Dr. Humphrey traveled the world from Tokyo to Gaza in his quest to rid our planet of violence. ■



WCRP WORLD CALENDAR

☐ Yes, I would like to know more about the World Conference on Religion and Peace. Please send me additional information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send to your local WCRP chapter.

Contact Address of Local WCRP Chapter:

If you do not know your local WCRP contact, you may write to:

WCRP/International
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017 USA

Thank you.

Date: 30 August - 15 September 1995

Event: NGO Forum and World Conference on Women

Place: Beijing, China

Date: September 1995

Event: WCRP/International Executive Committee Meeting

Place: New York, USA

WCRP Chapters and members are encouraged to send articles and photos about WCRP events. You may mail them to our New York address, or FAX us at:

1-212-983-0566.

Thank you.

Deadlines: Dec. 1, March 1, June 1, Sept. 1

*From: WCRP/International
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017
United States of America*



WCRP/USA Memorandum

To: WCRP/USA Executive Council Members
From: Dr. William F. Vendley
Date: 05/04/1995
Subject: Next Meeting: Friday, June 16



1) Greetings. We wish to inform you of the next WCRP/USA meeting and event as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Event</u>
Friday, June 16	8:45 - 9:45 am	Holy Family Church (315 E. 47 Street)	Day of the African Child Service
Friday, June 16	10:00 - 2:00 pm	Room 10-H 777 United Nations Plaza	WCRP/USA EC Meeting

The Day of the African Child multi-religious service will feature new WCRP/Intenraional President, Imam Wallace Deen Mohammed of Chicago, as the keynote speaker.

At the Executive Council meeting, among other agenda items, Dr. David Stowe will present a report from the sub-committee which has been meeting concerning the "Development of WCRP/USA." This report will consist of a draft model and Standing Rules of an expanded WCRP/USA. These materials will be sent to you shortly and we hope that you will find time to carefully review them before June 16's meeting. Once an agreeable chapter model and Standing Rules are determined, the Secretariat will begin steps, including seeking financial support from appropriate sources to implement the expansion.

We hope you can join us for both events.

2) Please find enclosed the minutes from our last meeting on February 7, 1995 and a draft agenda for the next meeting. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Encl.: Feb. 7, 1995 Minutes
Draft Agenda for June 16, 1995

cc: WCRP/Internaional Presidents residing in the USA

WCRP/USA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

February 7, 1995

Attendance:

Mr. Dawud Assad, Dr. John Borelli, Mr. Edward Doty, Dr. Jane Evans, Mrs. Betty Golomb, Mr. P.N. Bawa Jain, Rev. John McAuley, Rev. Robert McClean, Dr. Anand Mohan, Rev T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, Ms. Mary Jane Patterson, Rev. Robert Smylie, Dr. David Stowe, Rev. Margaret Thomas, Dr. William Vendley.

Regrets: Bishop Thomas Costello, Ms. Judith Hertz, Mrs. Norma Levitt, Ms. Edna McCallion, Ven. Piyatissa, Dr. Malcolm Sutherland.

Guests: Ms. Melissa Gillis.

MINUTES

Mary Jane Patterson, President, opened the meeting at 10:15 am with a period of silence.

The minutes of September 28, 1994 were accepted with the addition of a statement of regret for the death of Rev. Herschel Halbert.

Treasurer's Report

Rev. Bob McClean presented the Treasurer's Report, set forth in two documents: "1994 Income, Expenses and Account Balances Report, Dec. 31, 1994" and "1995 Income, Expenses and Account Balances Report, Feb. 7, 1995". He noted the existence of an asset of WCRP/International in the form of a fund of approximately \$70,000 with at present only one stated signatory for checks. Dr. Vendley should be added as a signatory. It was voted to request WCRP International to replenish the Miyake fund from this source.

Dr. Vendley described the complicated way in which expenses in the NY office are split between WCRP/USA and WCRP/International. He then reported, in an informal manner, the interest of the Pew Foundation in funding a study of proselytization in Africa with \$600,000 focusing on legal questions relating to freedom of religion. WCRP was asked by the Carter Center and Emory University for advice and possible collaboration.

Reports on Assembly VI

Each member present who had attended the Assembly made an oral report. All agreed that this was the best Assembly they had experienced, with a number of positive aspects noted: among these were the broad and energetic participation, the Jewish Sabbath service which many attended, the fine contribution of Ms. Melissa Gillis (for which she was thanked), the value of the meals shared at lunch by the entire Assembly, generally outstanding presentations, the very hard and excellent work by the New York staff, the delightful experience of hearing an Orthodox Christian speak on multireligious relations, the obviously increasing interest of Muslims in active multireligious participation.

Constructively critical comments were made on a variety of subjects, including the aggressive tenor of some procedural discussions; the need for more time in subcommissions; the push made to simply adopt the Common Ethic statement from the Chicago Parliament and the mistake of relying too heavily on a single framer (Hans Küng); the difficulties and failures of representativity (e.g., the relative absence of Traditional Buddhists as against New Buddhists); and the need for a better balance of East and West.

Dr. Vendley spoke of successes achieved in relation to goals for the Assembly:

- ♦ the transition in WCRP paralleling the transition taking place in the world of the religions regarding their willingness to cooperate at international levels;
- ♦ the significance of the Standing Rules, produced by a committee chaired by Dr. Sutherland;
- ♦ the degree to which real and strong representativity was achieved in the leadership of WCRP, with evident commitment to significant participation.

Weaknesses arose mostly from the great differences among the regions in ability to participate effectively. In this regard WCRP/USA offered something of a model both of competence and representativity.

Two areas of significant development were noted: (1) the proposal for permanent Standing Commissions to do continuous expert work in at least five areas: Common Ethic, Conflict Prevention, Economic Justice, Children, and Environment; and (2) a new Peace Education program, on which initiative has already been taken by WCRP/The Netherlands.

How are such new program activities and structures to be related to the general governance structure of WCRP, and to the secretariat? This question will be considered in the Governing Board meeting in Copenhagen in March 1995. Perhaps a beginning might be made with Conflict Resolution (utilizing the WCRP/USA Rockefeller grant), and with Multireligious Dialogue, under Japanese leadership.

In all these areas there is great disparity between the task and the capacities of WCRP in itself. Its role must be as convener/catalyst, enabling existing organizations and interests to function more effectively and cooperatively.

Copenhagen Events in March 1995

At the end of the morning Dr. Vendley described the March 6-10 events planned for Copenhagen including (1) the meeting of the WCRP/International Governing Board; 2) the symposium and multi-religious service for the UN World Summit for Social Development; and (3) a meeting of Muslim and Christian Relief Agencies.

Future of WCRP/USA

The afternoon was devoted to a wide-ranging free discussion of the future of WCRP/USA. Dr. Vendley spoke of the need to somehow relate WCRP more effectively to the many religious groups now active in our society. A structure is needed to provide, in the changed religious and sociological climate of the '90s, what the National Council of Churches provided in "Protestant America" of the 1950s. Should there be an "American Conference on Religion and Peace" (pace our Canadian friends!)? Existing structures of the several religions working on peace and other social problems need to be effectively linked together.

Rev. Thomas reported a conversation in which a possible model emerged involving: (1) a senior leaders forum ("heads of denominations") to meeting infrequently but provide effective oversight and lend clout; (2) middle management level for program formation and management; and (3) significant grassroots participation. Dr. Vendley noted that WCRP/Japan exhibits a strong senior leadership model; WCRP/USA has had a middle management model; and Germany exhibits effective grassroots activity. Can the USA learn from the others?

Rev. Smylie then moved, and it was voted that the President, Mr. Mary Jane Patterson, appoint a committee of approximately 5 to 9 members to study the future of WCRP and report, hopefully, within six months. It was noted that this the committee might consider various options for future models, staffing and finance questions, the involvement of consultants, etc.

Death of James Grant of UNICEF

By unanimous consent the council expressed its deep regret at the death of Mr. James Grant, the able and creative Director of UNICEF.

Program for next meeting of WCRP/USA Executive Council

WCRP/USA needs a better understanding of the lively current ferment of ideas and activities concerning interfaith relationships in the US. It was agreed that the program of the next meeting should center in presentations and discussion on that subject. The topic of a National Assembly of WCRP/USA was discussed briefly, with the suggestion that such an event be thought of as preparation for the next World Assembly. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

DRAFT AGENDA
WCRP/USA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, June 16, 1995

10:00 - 2:00 WCRP/USA EC Meeting

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| I. | Welcome | Ms. Mary Jane Patterson |
| II. | Discussion of Minutes | Ms. Edna McCallion |
| III. | Treasurer's Report | Rev. Robert McClean |
| IV. | Report on the "Development of WCRP/USA" | Dr. David Stowe
and sub-committee members |
| V. | Other | |



WCRP

Rabbi David Rosen

(o) 972-2-251 171
Fax 250-308

(h) 972-2-724-596
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WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP)

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Memorandum to: Members of the WCRP Governing Board
From: Dr. William F. Vendley *WV*
Date: 25 April 1995
Regarding: Draft Minutes of the WCRP Governing Board Meeting in
 Copenhagen, March 1995

- 1) Greetings. Your participation in the WCRP Governing Board Meeting in Copenhagen was sincerely appreciated.
- 2) Enclosed please find for your review and possible approval draft minutes of the Governing Board Meeting.
- 3) A comment on the arrangement of the draft minutes may be useful. There are three sections:
 - a) the list of participants on page 1
 - b) a list of motions and decisions on pages 2 - 5, and
 - c) the narrative minutes of the meeting on pages 6 - 20.
- 4) In order to proceed with the business of WCRP, it would seem advisable to adopt the minutes prior to the next meeting of the Governing Board, which may not take place for over one year. Therefore, I would respectfully recommend the following procedure:
 - Please examine the draft minutes and submit any corrections to me in writing before the end of May 1995. Enclosed for your convenience you will find both an envelope and a relevant form.
 - If I have not received word from you by the end of May, I shall assume that you approve of the minutes as written.
- 5) If the draft minutes are adopted, the minutes -- together with relevant annexes -- will be sent to all officers of WCRP International, Regional Moderators, and National Chapters.
- 6) Please accept my appreciation for your helpful cooperation with this matter.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS: Metropolitan Athanasios (Turkey); Dame Ruth Nita Barrow (Barbados); Rev. John A. Buehrens (USA); Dr. Rodrigo Carazo (Costa Rica); Most Rev Remi De Roo (Canada); Don Silvio Franch (Italy); Rabbi Albert Friedlander (United Kingdom); Metropolitan Kirill (Russia); Ms. Norma Levitt (USA); Ms. Chiara Lubich (Italy); Rev. Toshio Miyake (Japan); Dr. Abdullah bin Omar Nasseef (Saudi Arabia); Rev. Nikkyo Niwano (Japan); Mrs. G. Bagoes Oka (Indonesia); Ms. Shobha Prabhat Pandit (India); Mr. Zhao Puchu (China); H.E. Vinko Cardinal Pulic (Bosnia-Herzegovina); Sir Paul Reeves (New Zealand); Rev. Dr. Malcolm R. Sutherland (USA).

PRESIDENTS: Dr. Kamil Al-Sharif (Jordan); Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Ali (Saudi Arabia); H.E. E.J. Korthals Altes (The Netherlands); Dr. M. Aram (India); Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka); Dr. Elizabeth Bowen (USA); Rev. Joan B. Campbell (USA); Dr. Diana Eck (USA); Bishop Björn Fjårestedt (Sweden); Mr. Gabriel Haoib (Cyprus); Dr. Won Yong Kang (Republic of Korea); Dr. Hans Küng (Germany); Rabbi John Levi (Australia); Rev. Rainer Lingscheid (USA); Archbishop Luis Alberto Luna Tobar, OCD (Ecuador); Ms. Olive D. Luena (Tanzania); Rev. Tatsuo Miyake (Japan); Imam Wallace Deen Mohammed (USA); Dr. Adamou N'Dam N'Joya (Cameroon); Mr. Tariok S. Nandhra (Kenya); Rev. Nichiko Niwano (Japan); Archbishop John O. Onaiyekan (Nigeria); Mrs. Saba Risaluddin (United Kingdom); Rabbi David Rosen (Israel); Ms. Maritza Salazar (Costa Rica); Rabbi Alexander Schindler (USA); Bishop K.H. Ting (China); Dr. Abdurrahman Wahid (Indonesia).

PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Archbishop Angelo Fernandes (India).

SECRETARY GENERAL INTERNATIONAL: Dr. William F. Vendley (USA).

ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES GENERAL INTERNATIONAL: Rev. John Baldock (Australia); Dr. Günther Gebhardt (Switzerland).

(please feel free to use additional paper as required)

Draft Minutes

World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS

**7 - 8 March 1995
and
SPECIAL SESSION
9 March 1995**

Copenhagen, Denmark

PARTICIPANTS

Meetings of the Governing Board Copenhagen, Denmark 7-9 March 1995

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Dr. Kamil Al-Sharif, Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, Dr. M. Aram, Dr. Vinu Aram, Rev. John Baldock (proxy for Rabbi John Levi), Dr. Elizabeth Bowen, Mr. Eitan Eliram, Dr. Jane Evans (proxy for Rabbi Alexander Schindler), Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, Dr. Gabriel Habib, Mr. Simon Xavier Guerrand Hermes (after his election as Treasurer), Dr. Won Yong Kang, Dr. Norbert Klaes, H.E. E.J. Korthals Altes, Rev. Rainer Lingscheid, Ms. Olive Luena, Rev. Tatsuo Miyake, Imam Wallace Deen Mohammed, Dr. T. S. Nandhra, President Nichiko Niwano, Dr. Adamou N'Dam N'Joya, Ms. Saba Risaluddin, Rabbi David Rosen, Ms. Maritza Salazar, Dr. William F. Vendley

Excused Absences:

Bishop Ting (China), Dr. Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka), Dr. Eck (USA), Dr. Hans Küng (Germany), Mrs. Norma Levitt, Archbishop John Onaiyaken (Nigeria), Bishop Biörn Fjärstedt (Sweden), Rev. Joan B. Campbell (USA)

Honorary Presidents:

Ms. Natalie Dallapiccola (proxy for Ms. Chiara Lubich), Don Silvio Franch, Dr. Abdullah bin Omar Nasseef, Rev. Dr. Malcolm R. Sutherland

Guests, observers, staff, and aids:

Mr. Tsutomu Aikawa, Mr. Amir Al-Islam, Dr. Mohammed Al-Najaffi, Mr. Ahmad Al-Shariff, Mr. Kimio Arakawa, Ms. Brittany Betts, Ms. Melissa Chase, Imam Plemont El-Amir, Mr. Marcello Farina, Dr. Günther Gebhardt, Rev. Ralf Geisler, Mr. Michael Hallundbaek, Professor Yoshiaki Iisaka, Ms. Cristina Lee, Mr. Michel Leonard II, Rev. Nobutoshi Masuda, Rev. Yoshinobu Miyake, Mr. Kazuhiko Nagamoto, Mr. Nobuhiro Nemoto, Mr. Nersey Rastan, Mr. Harbaksh Singh Nanda, Rev. Robert Smylie, Mr. Kunio Sonoda, Rev. Kotaro Suzuki, Mr. Akitaka Tsuburaya, Rev. R. L. Turnipseed, Mr. Holger Wielsch

DRAFT SUMMARY OF MOTIONS AND DECISIONS

Meetings of the Governing Board
Copenhagen, Denmark
7-9 March 1995

MOTIONS

Motion(1): Be it resolved that the above noted apologies [of those Governing Board members unable to attend the meeting] be recorded.

Moved: Dr. V. Aram
Seconded: Ms. N. Gumbonzvanda
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(2): Be it resolved to file as received the minutes [of the previous Governing Board meeting], conscious that unfinished actions noted in those minutes may be completed or acted upon by the Governing Board as it is presently constituted.

Moved: Dr. M. Aram
Seconded: Imam W.D. Mohammed
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(3): Be it resolved that Dr. A. N'Joya and Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes act as Interim Moderator and Interim Vice-Moderator respectively until these positions are filled by election.

Moved: Mr. T. Nandhra
Seconded: Dr. W.Y. Kang
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(4): Be it resolved that WCRP authorize the establishment under its auspices of a Committee on Interreligious Development Action to initiate interreligious cooperation among religious humanitarian aid and development agencies in specific places to meet urgent human needs and to promote peace and justice.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(5): After consultation with relevant religious agencies, be it resolved that the WCRP Executive Committee be empowered to send, if deemed appropriate, a delegation to Moscow and, if possible, Chechnya, to discuss questions related to humanitarian aid for Chechnya and to urge access and free flow of aid.

Moved: Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes
Seconded: Dr. M. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(6): Be it resolved that Dr. A. N'Joya serve as the Moderator of the Governing Board and Executive Committee.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(7): Be it resolved that Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes serve as the Vice Moderator of the Governing Board.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(8): Be it resolved that the nomination of Mr. S. Hermes as Treasurer be accepted.

Moved: Dr. M. Aram
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(9): Be it resolved that the following five members of the Governing Board be elected as members of the Executive Committee: Dr. A. Ali, Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes, Dr. W. Y. Kang, President N. Niwano, and Rabbi D. Rosen. (These to serve on the Executive Committee together with additional ex officio members: Dr. Vinu Aram [IYCC], Ms. N. Gumbonzvanda [IWCC], Mr. S. Herme [Treasurer], Dr. A. N'Dam N'Joya [Moderator], and Dr. W. Vendley [Secretary General].)

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(10): Noting that the 1994 WCRP Financial Report presented to the meeting was an internal report and not an audited statement of WCRP accounts, be it resolved to file the 1994 Financial Statement as received.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. J. Evans
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(11): Noting that the Assembly Financial Report presented to the meeting was an internal document and not an audited statement of account, be it resolved to file the Assembly Financial Report as received.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(12): Be it resolved that the following persons be appointed to act as signatories to the WCRP Templeton Fund: Dr. A. N'Joya, Dr. W. Vendley, and Mr. S. Hermes.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. J. Evans

Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(13): Be it resolved that Mons. Luis Alberto Luna Tobar, OCD, Archbishop of Cuenca, Ecuador, be elected as a President of WCRP to serve as the replacement for the unexpired term of the deceased WCRP President, Mons. Rivera y Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador.

Moved: Dr. J. Evans

Seconded: Ms. O. Luena

Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(14): Be it resolved that the matter of the formation of a Consultative Council be referred to the Executive Committee.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock

Seconded: Dr. J. Evans

Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(15): Be it resolved that the Executive Committee be authorized to establish Standing Commissions, paying specific attention to the definition of their agenda and composition, the process of their establishment, their accountability to WCRP governance and executive structures, and their budgeting, in consultation with those WCRP chapters willing to undertake a major initiative in forming them.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock

Seconded: Ms. O. Luena

Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(16): Be it resolved that the 1995 Budget be approved for implementation, subject to future evaluation by the Executive Committee when possible, and noting especially the support from the international budget for \$5,000 funding for both the IYCC and the IWCC.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock

Seconded: Dr. V. Aram

Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(17): Be it resolved that the matter of the WCRP International Newsletter be addressed at the by the next Executive Committee.

Moved: Dr. V. Aram

Seconded: Imam W.D. Mohammed

Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(18): Be it resolved that the Executive Committee be assigned by the Governing Board to define the job description and term of office of Trustees, to commission qualified candidates as Trustees, to assist them in their work, and to report on these developments to the next Governing Board.

Moved: Dr. A. N'Joya

Seconded: Rev. J. Baldock

Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

DECISIONS OR AGREEMENTS

(ACCEPTED BY THE SENSE OF THE MEETING, BUT NOT FORMULATED AS MOTIONS)

Agreement(1): It was agreed that the Treasurer and the Secretary General would consult with each other further before transferring the funds from the Templeton account to the Miyake Fund.

Agreement(2): It was agreed that Dr. Vendley would investigate and obtain a liability insurance policy designed to protect WCRP/International officers and staff when they are formally operating in the name of WCRP at the request of the organization.

Agreement(3): It was agreed with regard to the specific proposal from WCRP/Netherlands, that Dr. Vendley would express on behalf of the Governing Board appreciation of efforts to date and encouragement to continue with their initiative in an *ad hoc* capacity.

Agreement(4): Regarding the future of the Geneva International Office, it was agreed that WCRP/Europe will take full responsibility for funding the Geneva Office.

Agreement(5): Regarding Dr. G. Gebhardt's work with WCRP International as an Associate International Secretary General, it was noted that his term of office would expire on 30 April 1995. It was agreed that with respect to the possible renewal of this status, that the Standing Rules make it clear that such matters are to be considered by the Executive Committee.

Agreement(6): Regarding any future recognition of the WCRP Europe Office in Geneva as an international office, it was agreed that this should take place according to the normal procedures for recognition outlined in the Standing Rules. It was also agreed that similar procedures apply to all Associate Secretaries General and all WCRP offices which function as part of the International Secretariat.

Agreement(7): It was agreed that Dr. Vendley would correspond with Dr. Habibur Rahman Khan, communicating the fact that the Governing Board had taken note of his letter and would offer a clarification of the procedures for nomination and election of International Presidents at the last Assembly.

Agreement(8): It was agreed that Dr. Vendley would correspond with Dr. Lukman Harun from Indonesia and would offer a clarification of the procedures for nomination of International Presidents at the last Assembly.

Agreement(9): It was agreed that the Executive Committee decide the date of the next Governing Board meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES

Meetings of the Governing Board Copenhagen, Denmark 7-9 March 1995

7 MARCH

First Session

1. Convening of Meeting and Welcome

Dr. N'Joya called the meeting to order. A minute of silence was observed. Voting members of the Governing Board introduced themselves, followed by the Honorary Presidents, guests, observers, staff, and aids. In welcoming the participants, Dr. N'Joya noted that this was the first opportunity for the Governing Board to meet following the Assembly VI, and that therefore the gathering had particular importance. He noted that the meeting would substantially set the direction for WCRP over the next few years, and hence should be seen as an historic moment within the history of the organization.

2. Apologies

The following members of the Governing Board sent written apologies indicating that they could not attend the meeting: Bishop Ting (China), Dr. Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka), Dr. Eck (USA), Dr. Hans Küng (Germany), Archbishop John Onaiyaken (Nigeria), Bishop Biörn Fjärstedt (Sweden), Rev. Joan B. Campbell (USA) (verbal).

Motion(1): Be it resolved that the above noted apologies be recorded.

Moved: Dr. V. Aram
Seconded: Ms. N. Gumbonzvanda
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

3. Minutes of the Previous Governing Board

Noting that the Minutes of the previous Governing Board were related to the previously constituted Governing Board (elected by Assembly V), the Governing Board took the following action:

Motion(2): Be it resolved to file as received the minutes, conscious that unfinished actions noted in those minutes may be completed or acted upon by the Governing Board as it is presently constituted.

Moved: Dr. M. Aram
Seconded: Imam W.D. Mohammed
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

4. Agenda for the Governing Board Meeting

The draft Agenda was agreed to by consensus, with the following added for consideration:

- i. Commission on the Future
- ii. 25th Anniversary of WCRP
- iii. Preparations for Assembly VII
- iv. Communication within WCRP

Concern was also expressed as to whether sufficient time had been allocated to the consideration of pragmatic planning matters and the functioning of the commissions of the organization. It was suggested that participants be attentive to these matters in the discussion of individual items of business.

5. Appointment of Interim-Moderator

The history of a group of WCRP Presidents requesting, at the conclusion of the Sixth Assembly, Dr. A. N'Joya and H.E. E. J. Korthals Altes to serve respectively as the interim moderator and vice moderator was reviewed. It was recalled that the "interim" character of the request was made due to the fact that a quorum for election was not possible at the time of the meeting immediately following the Assembly. It was agreed to appoint an interim moderator and vice moderator to assist the Governing Board meeting until formal elections could be held.

Motion(3): Be it resolved that Dr. A. N'Joya and Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes act as Interim Moderator and Interim Vice-Moderator respectively until these positions are filled by election.

Moved: Mr. T. Nandhra
Seconded: Dr. W.Y. Kang
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

6. Overview of WCRP Meetings in Copenhagen

Dr. Vendley presented an overview of the meetings planned to occur during the stay in Copenhagen, focusing especially on those directly involving WCRP. Dr. Vinu Aram supplemented the report by mentioning WCRP youth involvement in the Social Summit, drawing attention in particular to the WCRP youth leadership in organizing meditation rooms for both the Bella and Holmen Centres.

7. Secretary General's Report

Dr. Vendley made an oral report and indicated that he would address two issues of fundamental importance to WCRP, namely WCRP's (1) identity (who we are) and (2) mission (what we do).

With regard to identity (who we are), Dr. Vendley suggested that WCRP was challenged to become more inclusive in its membership by reaching out to different levels of religious community to encourage their respective roles in multi-religious cooperation. As an example, he presented a chart which noted leadership, middle management and experts, and grass root levels of religious community. While noting that each community has its own particular way of organizing itself, he suggested that typically each of these levels can be found in religious communities and each level has its own potential for cooperating for peace and, therefore, could

be understood -- in principle -- as complementary in character. He noted that within WCRP, different chapters had typically succeeded in developing the participation of one level of religious community more than another. As examples, he noted the Japan chapter's success in involving senior leadership, the United States chapter's success in involving middle management levels of leadership, and the German chapter's success in building up grass root units. Again speaking at the level of example, he noted that each of these chapters have developed highly important areas of strength. Today however, he suggested that every WCRP chapter is challenged to grow in ways that can both build on their existing strengths and extend and complement their strengths by involving levels of religious community which -- to date -- have not yet been strongly included by their chapter.

With regard to WCRP's mission (what we do), Dr. Vendley reviewed briefly the historic commitments of WCRP. He suggested that fidelity to that historic mission required WCRP to forge ever more adequate institutional instruments for multi-religious cooperative action for peace. He suggested that the development of Standing Commissions could be of cardinal significance in assisting WCRP to become a more effective action oriented organization. These commissions could draw on a wide range of commitment from around the world and would remain active between the ordinary meetings of WCRP.

After discussion on WCRP's identity and mission, Dr. Vendley presented a chart which outlined the relationship between the various levels of organization within WCRP: units, chapters, regional conferences, and world conference. It was recognized that different levels of WCRP organization could initiate activities at their respective levels of organization in accordance with the purposes of WCRP. International programs, however, should be correctly related to both the international governance and secretariat structures.

During more general discussion, it was urged that greater attention be given to the promotion of local level activities in WCRP. It was also noted that each level of the organization held a responsibility to communicate its action programs to the International Secretary General.

Second Session

The second session of the Governing Board began with a period of silence.

8. Report on Meeting with Representatives of Religious Development Agencies

Dr. Al-Sharif reported on a meeting held on 6 March convened by WCRP involving the development agency of the German Protestant Churches (EKD), the United States based Catholic Relief Services, the United States based Church World Service, the Saudi Arabian based Muslim World League, the Saudi Arabian based International Islamic Relief Organization, and the Egyptian based International Islamic Council on the subject of religious cooperation for social development. He indicated three areas of agreement: a) that religions should be further utilized to promote justice and peace, b) that religions should cooperate in practical ways to promote

social development, and c) that religious agencies involved in relief work should seek to cooperate in joint activities wherever possible.

Rev. R.L. Turnipseed, the Director of Church World Service, added to Dr. Al-Sharif's report and introduced, on behalf of the committee participants, recommendations which were then formulated as the following two motions:

Motion(4): Be it resolved that WCRP authorize the establishment under its auspices of a Committee on Interreligious Development Action to initiate interreligious cooperation among religious humanitarian aid and development agencies in specific places to meet urgent human needs and to promote peace and justice.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(5): After consultation with relevant religious agencies, be it resolved that the WCRP Executive Committee be empowered to send, if deemed appropriate, a delegation to Moscow and, if possible, Chechnya, to discuss questions related to humanitarian aid for Chechnya and to urge access and free flow of aid.

Moved: Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes
Seconded: Dr. M. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

9. Roles of WCRP Presidents at International and Regional/Chapter Levels

Dr. Vendley presented a worksheet designed to assist Presidents in planning their involvement in WCRP. Presidents were invited to respond by indicating potential areas of involvement in future WCRP activities. It was suggested that forthcoming regional meetings of Presidents would also assist in a further delineation of responsibilities among the Presidents. It is anticipated that Presidents will forward the completed President's worksheet to the Secretariat.

Third Session

The session began with silent meditation.

10. Elections

a. Election of Moderator and Vice-Moderator

Following a lunch meeting, the Presidents recommended Dr. A. N'Joya and Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes to the Governing Board for the positions of Moderator and Vice-Moderator respectively. The recommendations were proposed as motions.

Motion(6): Be it resolved that Dr. A. N'Joya serve as the Moderator of the Governing Board and Executive Committee.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock

Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Motion(7): Be it resolved that Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes serve as the Vice Moderator of the Governing Board.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

b. Election of Treasurer

Motion(8): Be it resolved that the nomination of Mr. S. Hermes as Treasurer be accepted.

Moved: Dr. M. Aram
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

c. Election of Members of the Governing Board to the Executive Committee

The Governing Board appointed a small *ad hoc* committee (Dr. M. Aram, Dr. Jane Evans, Mrs. N. Gumbonzvanda, and Dr. William Vendley) and requested it to propose to the Governing Board five members of the Board to be members of the Executive Committee (in addition to those already on the Executive Committee *ex officio*). Upon concluding its work, the *ad hoc* committee reported its recommendation to the Governing Board. This recommendation was then formulated as a motion.

Motion(9): Be it resolved that the following five members of the Governing Board be elected as members of the Executive Committee: Dr. A. Ali, Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes, Dr. W. Y. Kang, President N. Niwano, Rabbi D. Rosen. (These to serve on the Executive Committee together with additional ex officio members: Dr. Vinu Aram [IYCC], Ms. N. Gumbonzvanda [IWCC], Mr. S. Hermes [Treasurer], Dr. A. N'Dam N'Joya [Moderator], and Dr. W. Vendley [Secretary General].)

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

d. Election of a President for an Expired Term

The name of Mons. Luis Alberto Luna Tobar, Archbishop of Cuenca, Ecuador, was presented to the meeting for potential election as President following the death of Mons. Rivera y Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador. Archbishop Luna Tobar was recommended by a number of Latin American participants at the Assembly after being sounded by the Secretary General. Concern was raised regarding the procedure for making a recommendation or nomination, and it was noted that according to the Standing Rules the Executive Committee is clearly charged with that responsibility. The fact that the Executive Committee was not formed immediately after the last Assembly (due to the absence of a quorum) was noted. The Secretary General indicated that the sounding was taken in order to assist the members of the Governing

Board which most probably would not meet again for a rather extended period of time. Dr. Vendley indicated that the members of the Governing Board should feel under no obligation to consider the matter if they felt unprepared to do so. After discussion on the procedure for nomination, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for their consideration and possible recommendation.

e. Election of Honorary Presidents

This matter was also referred to the Executive Committee for their consideration.

Fourth Session

The session began with silent meditation.

11. WCRP Finances

Dr. Vendley reviewed WCRP's financial situation through the presentation of a series of detailed reports. The following matters were agreed upon:

a. Acceptance of the 1994 Financial Report

Motion(10): Noting that the 1994 WCRP Financial Report presented to the meeting was an internal report and not an audited statement of WCRP accounts, it was resolved to file the 1994 Financial Statement as received.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. J. Evans
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

b. Provisional Acceptance of the Assembly Accounts

Motion(11): Noting that the Assembly Financial Report presented to the meeting was an internal document and not an audited statement of account, it was resolved to file the Assembly Financial Report as received.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

c. Adoption of 1995 Budget

Following introductory remarks by Dr. Vendley and discussion around various matters, it was decided to defer consideration of the final approval of the budget until later in the meeting.

The history of the status of the WCRP/International office in Geneva was discussed from the time of the Brazil Governing Board to the present. Following considerable discussion on the matter, the question of the future of the Geneva office was referred to the Executive Committee for later reporting to the Governing Board.

e. Signatories of the Templeton Fund and the use of these funds to replenish the Miyake Fund

Dr. Vendley informed the Governing Board that a formal motion of the Governing Board was required to change the signatories of one of the WCRP accounts, an account maintained with the Templeton Mutual Funds.

Motion(12): Be it resolved that the following persons be appointed to act as signatories to the WCRP Templeton Fund: Dr. A. N'Joya, Dr. W. Vendley, Mr. S. Hermes.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. J. Evans
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Dr. Vendley drew attention to that part of the WCRP Financial report that noted borrowings of WCRP/International from a WCRP/USA designated account, the Miyake Fund. Dr. Vendley explained that monies were lent to WCRP/International from the Miyake Fund as an expression of goodwill from WCRP/USA. The reasons for the loan were a) shortage of cash flow, b) difficulty accessing the Templeton Fund, and c) the depressed value of the stock in fund. Dr. Vendley noted that current stock values were high and suggested that the Templeton Fund be cashed out and the assets transferred to the WCRP/USA accounts as a way of beginning to repay the loan. Mr. Hermes raised questions as to whether or not the assets in the Templeton Fund were restricted by the original donor. Dr. Vendley answered that the donor of these funds left the decision on how the funds might best be used to the International Governing Board. It was agreed that the Treasurer and the Secretary General would consult with each other further before transferring the balance from the Templeton Fund to the Miyake Fund.

f. Liability of WCRP Officers

Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes raised the question of the liability of WCRP officers. Dr. Vendley indicated that a liability insurance policy could be purchased which could protect officers and staff when then are formally operating in the name of WCRP at the request of the organization. It was agreed that Dr. Vendley would investigate and obtain such a policy.

g. Discussion on the Formation of Trustees for WCRP

Due to insufficient time, discussion on the matter was deferred.

12. Report on the Social Summit

Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes introduced the subject of the Social Summit and WCRP's potential response to the gathering. An oral report was offered on informal meetings held in Würzburg and Bonn in January 1995 to help prepare WCRP for the Social Summit. A previously distributed statement drafted by Mr. Altes was received with appreciation and discussed. It was noted that different kinds of statements were needed for different audiences. On the one hand, it was recognized that an expression of urgent concern framed in moral terms should be presented to an audience that goes far beyond the one interested in the technicalities of the formal United Nations text. Mr. Altes' draft was recognized as moving in this direction in a most helpful fashion. On the other hand, it was recognized that there could exist the need for a more limited

WCRP document focused on more technical aspects of UN deliberations. The possibilities and limitations of combining both approaches in a single document were noted. It was agreed that a small *ad hoc* working committee be formed to work on a Declaration for possible presentation to the Social Summit. Further consideration of this matter was deferred to the following morning.

8 March

Fifth Session

The session began with silent meditation.

13. Report from the Executive Committee on Nominations for President and Honorary President

The Executive Committee unanimously recommended to the Governing Board that Mons. Luis Alberto Luna Tobar, Archbishop of Cuenca, Ecuador, be elected as a President of WCRP, following the death of Mons. Rivera y Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador.

Motion(13): Be is resolved that Mons. Luis Alberto Luna Tobar, OCD, Archbishop of Cuenca, Ecuador, be elected as a President of WCRP to serve as the replacement for the unexpired term of the deceased WCRP President, Mons. Rivera y Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador.

Moved: Dr. J. Evans
Seconded: Ms. O. Luena
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

The Executive Committee reported further that additional time would be taken to clarify criteria for nominating persons as Honorary Presidents.

14. Assembly Evaluation

Dr. Gebhardt introduced a document designed to assist in the evaluation of the Assembly VI. It was noted that the instrument would be distributed to all participants of the Assembly. Considerable discussion ensued with the following issues being raised.

It was acknowledged that the organization of the Assembly placed unreasonable demands upon a small Secretariat, with the staff being commended for their dedication and the professionalism of their work. It was noted that WCRP was a victim of its own success, in the sense that interest in the Assembly had become so large. An Assembly of 950 or so persons may be too large and may actually hinder the desired level of interaction and discussion.

In terms of Assembly content, it was suggested that there exists a great need for delineating practical models for religious cooperation and action, and that addressing this need should have gained greater emphasis within the program.

The opinion was also expressed that the Assembly suffered from a surplus of talent in the sense that there were too many speakers and few chances to involve speakers creatively beyond their formal interventions. The desire for creative interaction among speakers and the other Assembly participants was noted. It was suggested that in the future, time could be set aside in the program for individual presentations by Assembly participants, and for regional and chapter reports.

Comment was also made that there appeared to be a lack of spirituality during the Assembly, especially in the closing ceremony, and that a greater emphasis on spirituality in small groups may be a remedy for this. In this context, a youth participant suggested that the Youth Camp might provide a helpful example of how an Assembly might be conducted.

In terms of Assembly procedures, the need for a procedurally clear opening was commented upon. It was emphasized that a first presentation of the Credentials Committee Report should have been the first item of business for the Assembly.

In terms of participation in the Assembly, comment was made that the process of inviting delegates was lacking in the sense that some areas were under represented relative to other areas. In response, it was noted that WCRP is at present more fully developed in some areas compared with others.

Other matters raised included concern over the level of politicking at the Assembly. Concern was also expressed over the lack of transparency and communication between the generations at the Assembly. It was suggested that more emphasis should be placed upon communication among the participants, especially in explaining the business agenda of the of the Assembly.

The establishment of the International Women's Coordinating Committee was commented upon as one of the more significant decisions of the Assembly.

Considerable thanks were also expressed to the Italian hosts, especially to Don Silvio and the Focolare movement who provided magnificent assistance during the event.

In response to these and others comments, Dr. Vendley noted that WCRP as an organization was in a period of transition and that, consequently, there was the need for a heightened sensitivity to the legitimate demands for growth within the organization. First, he drew attention to the fact that chapters in different parts of the world are in different stages of organization, involving people with highly different roles within their respective communities. As a result, he mentioned that there was a wide diversity of experience and background on issues among the participants. This was an important factor for consideration in the further development of the organization.

Second, with regard to Assembly preparatory concerns Dr. Vendley noted that he believed that there existed some confusion between the relevant consultative and decision making instruments. He suggested that on the one hand widely representative consultative instruments are a requirement for good Assembly preparation in WCRP. On the other hand, smaller, professionally competent implementing structures, marked by an ease of regular communication, are also essential. To the extent that a confusion of roles existed between the broader consultative

and more narrow implementing instruments, time, energy and goodwill were to some degree misplaced.

Finally, Dr. Vendley commented that major efforts had been made to involve youth in the preparation of the Assembly by including them in key positions with major responsibility on the Secretariat staff. Dr. Vendley praised the skill, dedication, and positive contribution of the youth staff. He noted, however, that some of the youth staff were also vigorous participants in the Assembly. At times, he suggested, a conflict in roles was apparent. Fundamentally, he suggested that the staff should be solely dedicated to serving the Assembly participants. When some of the staff also assumed the roles of Assembly participants by lobbying for particular concerns during the Assembly, some confusion would seem to be inevitable. This potential conflict in staff roles should be avoided in the future.

15. Consideration of Governing Board WSSD Declaration

Dr. Robert Smylie introduced a Draft Copenhagen Declaration for the consideration of the Governing Board. Considerable discussion ensued. The draft Declaration was referred to a small working group for further refinement.

16. Actions Arising from the Previous Governing Board

a. Commission on the Future

With regard to the establishment of a Commission on the Future, it was pointed out that the new Standing Rules provided for the establishment of a Consultative Council, one of the functions of which might involve strategic planning for the future. It was suggested, therefore, that the establishment of a separate Commission would be superfluous. Comment was also made that time during future Governing Board meetings could be set aside to discuss the direction and development of the organization.

Motion(14): Be it resolved that the matter of the formation of a Consultative Council be referred to the Executive Committee.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. J. Evans
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

b. Standing Commissions

The notion of international Standing Commissions organized around the major program commitments of WCRP was reviewed. It was recognized that the development of such organizational instruments in WCRP could further assist in the realization of WCRP's action oriented goals, as such commissions would remain in continuous operation between governance meetings of WCRP. It was recalled that the Assembly recommended that the Governing Board take into consideration the possibility of implementing such commissions. With respect to the establishment of standing commissions, it was suggested that the matter of coordinating the work of the commissions also needed to be considered by the Executive Committee. Prominent in the discussion was the need to clarify the relationship of the commissions to the governance structures of WCRP and to the Secretariat. In this context, it was noted that the development of the standing commissions might require further expansion of the Secretariat. Dr. Vendley noted

that a movement to expand the Secretariat in different parts of the world was already underway in WCRP. The importance of a strong relationship of the standing commissions to both the chapters and to qualified persons not yet in a WCRP chapter was also noted.

Five potential areas of activity were identified in relationship to the possibility of forming new standing commissions: Disarmament proposed by WCRP/Japan, Dialogue and Shared Ethics also by WCRP/Japan, Peace Education by WCRP/Netherlands, and Conflict Transformation by WCRP/USA. The possibility of forming a standing commission on Development was also noted, particularly the possibility of relating such a commission to the cooperation of religiously affiliated development agencies.

While there was strong interest in forming standing commissions around these areas of concern, there was general agreement that the Governing Board was not yet in a position to make a final decision on the establishment of particular commissions. In this context, it was suggested that the Executive Committee should take particular regard of the need for sponsoring chapters to take initial responsibility for funding their proposals.

Motion(15): Be it resolved that the Executive Committee be authorized to establish Standing Commissions, paying specific attention to the definition of their agenda and composition, the process of their establishment, their accountability to WCRP governance and executive structures, and their budgeting, in consultation with those WCRP chapters willing to undertake a major initiative in forming them.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Ms. O. Luena
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

With regard to a specific proposal from WCRP/Netherlands on Peace Education, it was agreed that Dr. Vendley would express on behalf of the Governing Board appreciation of efforts to date and encouragement to continue with their initiative in an *ad hoc* capacity. As to the possibility of financial assistance from WCRP International for a preparatory meeting, Dr. Vendley stated that the International Secretariat was in principle open to discussion on the subject. It was noted that the Secretary General should be able to exercise executive discretion in such matters, taking into account WCRP's financial position.

17. Youth Report

A Youth Report was presented by various youth participants present in Copenhagen. The report indicated various activities currently being undertaken by the International Youth Coordinating Committee (IYCC), together with their hopes for the future. A request was made for WCRP International to meet the expense of a youth meeting in 1996, at a cost of \$7,500, and to cover the costs of producing the Youth Newsletter, at a per issue cost of \$2,000. It was also suggested that the IYCC be allocated funding within the core budget of WCRP International. On this latter subject, while no commitment to funding was made, Dr. Vendley expressed the hope that \$5,000 could be made available from within the International Budget as core support money. He expressed the hope that this money could provide a basis from which the IYCC could secure its own working and project budgets. A similar point was made in terms of the IWCC budgets.

18. Women's Report

A report from the Coordinator of the International Women's Coordinating Committee (IWCC) was presented for the consideration of members. A request was made that, as the IWCC had not yet been able to meet as a group, funding be found to enable such a gathering to take place as soon as feasible. The importance of this meeting was noted by various members of the Board. A request was also made to incorporate women's programs into the proposed Standing Commissions of the organization.

Regarding future initiatives of the IWCC, the importance of WCRP involvement in the Beijing Women's Meeting was stressed, together with the need for preparation before the gathering. In this context, Rev. Baldock expressed his hope WCRP/Australia may receive funding from a potential donor to allow for a limited preparatory meeting. Confirmation of this possibility should be forthcoming in three weeks time. The value of long term planning in relationship to participation in UN related gatherings was noted. While this observation received support, it was noted that the IWCC had only recently been established, and that therefore Beijing presented WCRP with special circumstances.

As with the IYCC, it was also suggested that the IWCC be allocated funding within the core budget of WCRP International. Again, while no commitment to funding was made, Dr. Vendley expressed the hope that \$5,000 be made available from within the International Budget for the IWCC. As in the case of the IYCC, Dr. Vendley expressed the hope that this money could provide a basis from which the IWCC could secure its own working and project budgets.

Regarding the request for funds to be made available for an initial meeting of the IWCC, Dr. Vendley asked that a proposal be prepared by the Women's Coordinator to assist in soliciting support from among Governing Board members and their related institutions. He stressed the need for the development of financial resources beyond those already noted in the existing international budget if such a meeting was to be secured.

19. Confirmation of the 1995 Budget

Following on the earlier Budget discussions, the following matters were considered:

a. Regarding the Continuation of the Geneva Office

Regarding the future of the WCRP Geneva Office, Dr. N. Klaes stated that WCRP Europe will take full responsibility for funding the Geneva Office.

Regarding Dr. G. Gebhardt's work with WCRP International as an Associate International Secretary General, it was noted that his term of office would expire on 30 April 1995. With respect to the possible renewal of this status, it was noted that the Standing Rules make it clear that such matters are to be considered by the Executive Committee. Similarly, regarding any future recognition of the WCRP Europe Office in Geneva as an international office, it was stated that this should take place according to the normal procedures for recognition outlined in the Standing Rules. It was made clear that similar procedures apply to all Associate Secretaries General and all WCRP offices which function as part of the international secretariat.

Dr. Vendley noted that the entire discussion was to be properly understood as a discussion of "procedure." He noted further that in his judgment the normal concern for procedure was heightened by the special circumstances of the Geneva office dating back to the Governing Board meeting in Brazil. Dr. Vendley noted that he felt strongly that the presence of an international office in Europe was of enormous importance to WCRP. He also noted the value of the Geneva location, but mentioned that WCRP International should be particularly attentive to the views of WCRP/Europe on this matter.

In conclusion, Dr. Vendley praised the high quality of Dr. Gebhardt's work and dedication to WCRP in often highly demanding circumstances. This was acknowledged with acclamation.

b. Regarding Core Funding for the IYCC and IWCC

Dr. Vendley expressed his commitment to find \$5,000 of seed money for both the IYCC and the IWCC. Again he stressed the importance of both these groups developing funding support for their activities from beyond the funding noted in the WCRP International budget.

With respect to the preparation of a budget for youth activities, it was noted that a mechanism for this was set out in the minutes of the Brazil Governing Board meeting. The suggestion was made that this procedure should be adhered to. A request was also made that consideration be given to providing financial assistance for WCRP's work in Africa and Latin America.

Motion(16): Be it resolved that the 1995 Budget be approved for implementation, subject to future evaluation by the Executive Committee when possible, and noting especially the support from the international budget for \$5,000 funding for both the IYCC and the IWCC.

Moved: Rev. J. Baldock
Seconded: Dr. V. Aram
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

20. Issues of Concern from Chapters

It was noted that a letter from WCRP/Pakistan had been included with the documentation for the Governing Board Meeting. In commenting on the substance of the letter, Dr. Vendley noted his appreciation of the good intentions of the Pakistani chapter and its desire for clarification. He pointed out that it was a decision of the previous Governing Board that nominations for the positions of President within WCRP be sought from as wide a number of sources as possible. Accordingly, the Governing Board had decided that WCRP Regions, Chapters, individuals, and fraternal organizations be approached to offer nominations for the Presidium. Moreover, International Presidents are elected by and serve the entire World Conference. While chapter nominations were to be duly considered by the Assembly Nominating Committee, that committee's fundamental task was to prepare a slate to serve the wider concerns of the international body. It was noted that this procedure had caused some tension during the Assembly, but that there was general agreement that this approach had resulted in securing a strong Presidium for the coming years.

In concluding this discussion, it was suggested that Dr. Vendley correspond with Dr. Habibur Rahman Khan communicating the fact that the Governing Board had considered his letter, taking full regard of his concerns.

It was noted that a similar concern had been received from Mr. Lukman Harun from Indonesia, and that the same principles as noted above applied. Dr. Vendley will communicate with him as well.

21. Recognition of WCRP's 25th Anniversary

Dr. Vendley reported negotiations were underway for a possible day-long seminar to commemorate WCRP's 25th anniversary.

22. Date of the Next Governing Board

Dr. Vendley suggested for consideration that the next Governing Board meeting be held in Istanbul in June 1996, coinciding with the UN Habitat meeting in that city. An opinion was expressed that WCRP need not always coordinate its meeting schedule in relationship to UN meetings and that thought should be given to holding meetings in other locations as well. It was also suggested that holding meetings in locations where WCRP was not yet well developed might have the effect of helping to build-up support and interest in the organization. The comment was also made that many Chapters which are not able to contribute financially to the international budget may still be in a position to host gatherings within their own countries. It was agreed that considering these matters, the Executive Committee decide the date and venue of the next Governing Board meeting.

Further to this discussion, comment was made that WCRP needed to have a longer time range for planning, especially with regard to participation in major UN gatherings. It was suggested that planning for such gatherings should normally begin up to three years before such meetings take place.

23. World Assembly VII

The need for an early decision about the location of the next WCRP World Assembly was stressed by some. Representatives from WCRP/Japan expressed the hope that the next Executive Committee may be able to make a decision on the location of the next Assembly.

24. Communications within WCRP/International

While discussion on this subject covered a broad range of issues, two matters were specifically recommended. First, that a commitment be made to developing the means for communicating by electronic mail within WCRP. And second, it was resolved that:

Motion(17): The matter of the WCRP International Newsletter be addressed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Moved: Dr. V. Aram
Seconded: Imam W.D. Mohammed
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

25. Close of the Meeting

The Moderator closed the meeting with thanks to the participants for their involvement and input over the past few days. He encouraged members of the Governing Board to actively participate in building a strong future for the organization.

9 March

Sixth (Special) Session

26. Formation of Trustees for WCRP

The Moderator called the Governing Board into a special session mid-day on 9 March. It was noted that the Governing Board meeting which had concluded on 8 March had not been able to conclude an important item of business due to the pressure of time. The issue of defining a job description for potential WCRP Trustees, and of taking initial steps to commission a group of Trustees was raised. It was recognized that the potential importance of a group of Trustees for the development of WCRP was considerable and that such development should not wait until the next Governing Board. The following action was taken:

Motion(18): Be it resolved that the Executive Committee be assigned by the Governing Board to define the job description and term of office of Trustees, commission qualified candidates as Trustees, assist them in their work, and report on these developments to the next Governing Board.

Moved: Dr. A. N'Joya
Seconded: Rev. J. Baldock
Accepted: Consensus by acclamation

Following the above action the Moderator closed the meeting.



WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP)

777 United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.



World Conference on Religion and Peace
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10017, U.S.A.



COPY

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

Mar Omy

June 11, 1991
29 Sivan 5751

Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut
Holy Blossom Temple
1950 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5P 3K9

Dear Gunther:

What a splendid idea! By all means nominate the Religious Action Center. I would certainly appreciate putting the name of this organization in nomination.

You might consider giving this honor to Al Vorspan. As you know, he is finishing his last year as a staff member of the Union - though of course, he will continue to serve in a consultative capacity. He would assuredly deserve this honor.

If I am not mistaken, Al actually addressed the World Conference on Religion and Peace at its last assembly.

Cordial regards to Elizabeth and from Rhea, too.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, o.c.

J.D.S., D.D., LL.D., H.Litt.D.
Senior Scholar, Holy Blossom Temple
1950 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5P 3K9
(416) 789-3291 / Fax (416) 789-9697

#6

June 4, 1991

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.
U.S.A. 10021

Dear Alex,

You are probably familiar with the Niwano Peace Foundation. Every year, it awards a fairly substantial prize to an individual or organization that has made a substantial contribution to international amity. In the past, the awards have included Archbishop Helder Camara, Homer A. Jack and the World Muslim Congress.

It occurred to me that a Jewish person or institution should be nominated, and I would suggest that perhaps the Religious Action Center in Washington be singled out. If you consider this a possibility, do advise me and I shall be glad to put the name of the organization in nomination. I am enclosing the general guidelines with this letter so you may see the scope of what apparently is being intended.

I am not sure why I was asked to be one of the nominators, but perhaps it was because of my early connection with the World Conference on Religion and Peace. Nikkyo Niwano, the chairman of the Peace Foundation, is also the president of the Japanese committee of the World Conference. Nominations must be submitted by June 30th, and therefore some speed is of the essence.

With cordial regards to Rhea and the family.

As ever,

Gunther

WGP/et

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Please type all information.
2. Please fill in all sections of the form except those marked with an asterisk.
3. Please write all numbers in Arabic numerals.

GUIDELINES ON EACH SECTION OF THE FORM

1. Nominee

- In the case of an individual, please give the individual's full name, home address and telephone number, religion, sex, and date of birth (month, day, and year).
- In the case of an organization, please give the organization's name, address, and telephone number. In place of date of birth, please give the month, day, and year of the organization's foundation.

2. Organization of affiliation

- Please give the name, address, and telephone number of the institution with which the nominee is most closely affiliated within the organization to which the nominee belongs, as well as the name of the leader of that institution.

3. Position in organization

- Please give the nominee's position or post within the above-mentioned institution.

4. Nominator

- Please give the address and telephone number that you wish the Foundation to use in communicating with you.
- Please be sure to sign your name yourself.

5. Organization of affiliation and position

- Please give the name of the appropriate institution with which you are affiliated within the organization to which you belong, as well as your position or post within that institution.

6. Reasons for nomination

- Please describe clearly the nominee's philosophy of interreligious cooperation and the achievement of peace.
- Please enumerate, as specifically as possible, the nominee's activities so far based on this philosophy, especially any activities of a nonsectarian nature.
- Please attach any reference materials in connection with the above that you may have.

7. Brief résumé of nominee's personal background, career, and major achievements

- Please list the major points of the nominee's educational history (higher education) and career.
- Please list any awards the nominee may have received, giving the name of the award, the year of presentation, and any other relevant information.
- Please list any other honors the nominee may have received.
- Please list any organizational positions or posts that the nominee may have held down to the present, together with the dates of such service (in years).

April 3, 1995
3 Nisan 5755

Dr. William Vendely
World Conference on Religion and Peace
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Bill:

Jane Evans suggested I share with you the enclosed address which I gave at a recent Convocation of Muslims and Jews held at North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, Illinois. I trust it will be of interest to you.

With warm regards and best wishes to you and your dear ones at this Easter season, I, am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.



file

draft

PROJECT PROPOSAL

concerning a

'Peace Education Programme'

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

and

the establishment of a

Standing Commission on Peace Education

submitted to

the Governing Board of WCRP/International

by

Dr. Günther Gebhardt and Hans van Willenswaard

PROJECT PROPOSAL

POSSIBLE OUTLINE WCRP 'PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME'

1995 - 2000

Introduction

The programme should in the first place reinforce existing activities at local, national and continental level, by means of communication and exchange.

Secondly a set of new (pilot) projects could be developed, in close interaction with existing programmes and organisations. Some projects could be worked out based on the principal of 'twinning', or exchange and co-operation between a small number of core groups. Experiences could be multiplied among the wider membership and interested groups by creative use of communication media.

The 'projects' together constitute the 'programme'. The programme should be understood as a network, with its main emphasis at the local level.

In this proposal several Chapters are suggested (not excluding others) to possibly take up the challenge of responsibility and engagement in a co-operative structure. For each project 1-3 Chapters should act as co-ordinating groups, with backing from an international 'Peace Education Team'. Intensive co-operation with 'fraternal' NGOs, Universities, Colleges and agencies should be pursued.

Concentration areas mentioned in the proposal are subject to discussion.

Conditions should be created for Staff input in an international 'Peace Education Team' in order to assist local and national team members in operationalising projects and in order to co-ordinate actions. Global co-ordination in a holistic perspective will create 'added value' to the single activities.

The following are examples of areas, providing a context for identification of concrete pilot projects, and their formulation, submittance for financing, realisation and evaluation; six project areas have been tentatively identified:

Some projects have been worked out in more detail, because they are proposed to be subject to further planning during the intended 'Seminar on Peace Education', 13 and 14 May 1995 in The Hague, the Netherlands.

A progress report based on the responses received to the Questionnaire concerning the Peace Education Programme will be available at the Governing Board meeting in Copenhagen.

Projects description

1- Inter-religious education as part of the primary and secondary formal education systems; related to moral education and development of shared ethics.

Concentration area: Europe (to start with)

Responsible WCRP Chapters: Germany, U.K., Eastern European countries, France, the Netherlands

Project objectives:

- to undertake research into existing practice in religious and interreligious education in (public and private) primary and secondary schools in various countries; to collect and compare educational materials concerned
- to make an inventory of legislative and constitutional provisions regarding (inter-)religious education
- to inquire about, and analyse educational principles behind respective approaches to religious and inter-religious education
- to analyse possible relationships between material and social conditions and various educational principles
- to guide and initiate experiments in this field, and evaluate the experiences, in the total context of existing practice and legislative framework
- to discuss findings among religious lay people (parents), leaders and educators (through WCRP Chapters); to recommend provisions for aims and objectives of policy development to educational, religious and government bodies concerned
- to stimulate interreligious dialogue in a general sense

NB. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, Prof. A. Amor, issued a questionnaire on religious freedom and tolerance in school education. Not only governments but also relevant NGOs are asked to respond to this questionnaire. It could be of great value to link the WCRP Peace Education project no. 1 to the Special Rapporteur's initiative.

2- Training in active non-violence and constructive, socio-economic action

Concentration areas: Africa, Asia, Europe

Responsible WCRP Chapters: South- Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, India, Thailand, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Germany (-Youth) and U.K.

Project objectives:

- to promote tolerance and co-operation between a variety of cultural and ethnic groups, with special regard to the influence of culture and religion on individual attitudes, in socio-economic perspective
- with special attention to the enthusiasm of age groups 15 - 35 years to undertake initiatives; and to the integration in a co-operative structure of participants of university background, vocational and basicly skilled background, including an important margin of unemployed
- by dialogue and multi-disciplinary experiential learning, explore the way attitudes are linked with expectations towards **1- personal development, 2- the world of work, and 3- ideals (goals for humanity)**
- with special attention to the relation between majority and minority cultures, the role 'sense of origin' may play and the effects of gaining experiential knowledge about cultural 'origin'
- to identify objects of service and needs of target groups to be accommodated
- formulate projects and programmes serving the needs of target groups; with effect on community building, especially by creating work and (small scale) business opportunities
- to analyse, by exchange of experiences, the causes of conflict in intercultural relations; and the assets of intercultural and interreligious co-operation
- to identify the resources for overcoming conflict by non-violent constructive action and interreligious co-operation, in the context of a 'global service network'
- (as a possible alternative for investment in military soft- and hardware, while observing a similar serious concern towards security)
- (as a means of conflict prevention and rehabilitation in post-conflict development)

3- Research and training in religion and conflict resolution; humanitarian action in conflict areas

Concentration areas: Central Asia and Central Europe, East Asia, Middle East and Northern Africa, Central Africa, Caribbean area

Responsible WCRP Chapters: WCRP/International, USA, U.K., Germany, Japan, South Africa, Thailand, India, Egypt, France, the Netherlands, Costa Rica

This project may be developed as a consequence of training needs arising from the project of WCRP/International on Religion and Conflict Resolution, submitted to the Rockefeller Foundation. At this moment it is not known whether the subsequent consultations and preparations at this stage can be co-ordinated with the 'Peace Education Programme', and the 13 - 14 May 1995 Seminar in The Hague.

4- School rehabilitation and transformation; support for teachers in primary education threatened by 'structural adjustment'

Concentration areas: Bosnia, Africa, Asia, Latin America

Responsible WCRP Chapters: Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, India, Thailand/Cambodia

This project could arise from projects 1 and 2 as a more concrete objective. It requires a sound, professional approach, and therefore may be taken up in a later stage of planning.

5- Environmental education, rural development and role of women

Concentration areas: Costa Rica, India, Thailand, Africa, Europe (the Netherlands)

Responsible WCRP Chapters: Costa Rica, Peru, Japan, Nepal, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Tanzania, South Africa, WCRP/International Women, Europe (the Netherlands, Italy, France, Germany)

Project objectives:

- to analyse the relationship between religions -including indigenous beliefs- and attitudes towards nature
- by exchange of experiences, add to the understanding of how these attitudes influence agricultural practice (micro and macro) and (rural and urban) lifestyle
- to contribute to change of unjust socio- economic and socio- cultural structures determining rural communities, especially where direct involvement of religious bodies is crucial (landownership; justification of exploitation; suppression)
- to strengthen dignity and quality of life of the rural population and especially women; to prevent mass migration to urban centers
- to promote 'organic farming', 'fair trade' of rural produce, and consumption consciousness among religious communities
- to establish harmony between agriculture and nature conservation
- to indicate, from an interreligious point of view, group behaviour responsible for destruction of nature, and introduce adequate sanctions
- to organise elements of research and training concerned, and promote integration of experiences in education systems

6- Use of media in support of Peace Education

Concentration area: global

Responsible WCRP Chapters: Japan, USA, South Africa, Europe (the Netherlands, Germany, U.K., France, Italy)

It is hoped that WCRP/Japan would take leadership in this project. First consultations with other Chapters could be made during the Seminar on Peace Education, 13 - 14 May 1995, The Hague, or during a separate special meeting.

In Europe an affiliated pilot project could be initiated within the financial mechanism of the European Social Fund (ESF).

N.B. Other projects may come forward from further consultations with Chapters.

Implementation

The 'Peace Education Programme' can be implemented under responsibility of a Standing Commission to be established by the Governing Board.

The Standing Commission should include approximately 12 Advisors, of which 8 are Presidents or Honorary Presidents. An Executive Board should be established of approximately 4 members, the International Secretariate, and the Peace Education Team consisting of 2-5 Coordinators (and a Co-ordinator of each responsible Chapter). One of the Project- Coordinators should be a participant in the International Secretariate.

The first meeting to explore:

- 1- the content of the programme (+ identification of concrete pilot projects)
- 2- the organizational structure and methodology
- 3- the determination of tasks and responsibilities

is proposed to be organised by WCRP/the Netherlands, in co-operation with WCRP/Europe, as a working 'Seminar on Peace Education' at Saturday and Sunday 13 - 14 May 1995 in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Seminar can be attended in conjunction with the Symposium 'Generation, Growth and Resolution of Conflict: the Role of Religion' to take place at the ISS (Institute of Social Studies) in The Hague, Thursday and Friday 11 - 12 May.

Because little time is left for the organisation of the Seminar, much will depend on improvisation and goodwill. (Alternative options may be proposed if the time for proper preparation is considered too short. Another possibility is that meetings concerning several aspects of the programme take place separately in the same period, culminating in a co-ordination meeting shortly after.)

The (provisional) results of the exploratory Seminar on Peace Education can be transferred into a project proposal to be submitted to the WCRP/International Executive Committee (to be mandated by the Governing Board concerning this issue), guided by the Standing Commission on Peace Education.

Priorities

Mainly because of operational reasons, three projects are advised to be undertaken with priority:

- * project 1: interreligious education
- * project 2: socio-economic action + non violence
- * project 5: environmental education.

When desired, also project 3: conflict resolution, and 6: use of media could be introduced into the consultations during the Seminar in the Hague. For each pro-

ject, appr. 10 participants would be invited. The total amount of participants being 30 - 50, of which 10 - 15 will be from the Netherlands.

Finances

The finances needed to organise the Seminar (including preparations, travel costs participants, board and lodging, and follow up communications until the submission to the EC) is estimated to be \$ 20. - 25.000. (This is based on the assumption of *pro deo* work). If 30 - 50% of this amount would be provided from WCRP/International and WCRP/Europe sources, WCRP/the Netherlands will be able to raise the remaining sum.

The next steps would be, to submit the project proposal, authorized by the EC, for funding to relevant agencies; and to organise a meeting of the 'Peace Education Team' for further planning of pilot projects and communication with Chapters and 'fraternal organisations' active in Peace Education. From this point salaries will have to be covered from external funding.

A provisional 5 year projection of resources needed to finance the programme will be handed out at the Governing Board meeting.

Governing Board meeting Copenhagen

The Governing Board is kindly asked to consider and to decide on the following:

- 1- To approve the general outline of the Peace Education Programme (and formulate comments, suggestions, conditions)
- 2- To establish a Standing Commission on Peace Education and to appoint at least 6 Presidents/members of the Governing Board to guide the initial process, with the mandate: a- to co-opt additional commission members b- to appoint an Executive Group c- to appoint project co-ordinators as members of the Peace Education Team
- 3- To mandate the EC and International Secretariate to implement the Peace Education Programme, guided by the Standing Commission
- 4- To stimulate Chapters to engage fully in the Peace Education Programme
- 5- To mandate WCRP/the Netherlands, in co-operation with WCRP/Europe and WCRP/International, to organize an exploratory Seminar on the Peace Education Programme in The Hague, 13 - 14 May 1995

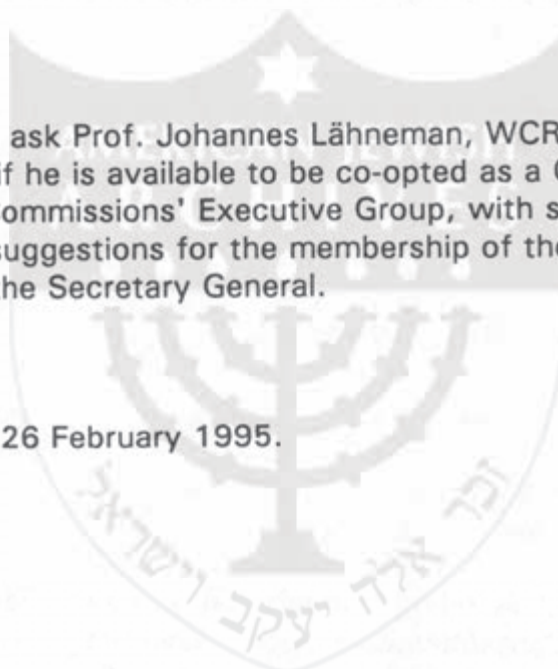
6- To appoint Günther Gebhardt and Hans van Willenswaard as the initial project co-ordinators and members of the Peace Education Team (it is proposed that Günther takes responsibility for project 1, and Hans for projects 2 and 5, until the team is complete; additional team members are hoped to be appointed from Asia, Africa and the Americas)

7- To include an amount of \$ 8-15.000 for the start of the Peace Education Programme in the budget 1995 of WCRP/International and to solicit WCRP/Europe's co-operation in providing part of this amount.

8- To mandate the International Secretariate to start fund raising for the programme, and support and co-ordinate fund raising to be undertaken by Chapters (for local, national as well as international activities) in the framework of the Standing Commission.

It is recommended to ask Prof. Johannes Lähneman, WCRP/Germany and University of Nürnberg, if he is available to be co-opted as a Commission member, and member of the Commissions' Executive Group, with special responsibility for project 1. Other suggestions for the membership of the Standing Commission are submitted to the Secretary General.

Amsterdam/Genève, 26 February 1995.



WERT

February 2, 1995
2 Adar I 5755

To Whom It May Concern:

Norma Levitt and Dr. William Vendeley have briefed me fully on the important agenda of the forthcoming Governing Board meeting of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. I am truly distressed that my travel schedule precludes my presence.

By means of this letter, I am assigning my full voting rights to Dr. Jane Evans, who shall serve as my legal proxy.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

World Conference on Religion and Peace
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

January 30, 1995
29 Shevat 5755



In re WCRP/Governing Body Copenhagen conference: Norma will probably not be able to go - she feels strongly Jane should represent you ...

Jane is willing but needs authorization and will also need some financial assistance

If ok will prepare letter as attached for Jane



OK Please authorize



January 3, 1995
2 Shevat 5755

To Whom It May Concern:

Norma Levitt and Dr. William Vendeley have briefed me fully on the important agenda of the forthcoming Governing Board meeting of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. I am truly distressed that my travel schedule precludes my presence.

By means of this letter, I am assigning my full voting rights to Mrs. Norma Levitt who shall serve as my legal proxy.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

World Conference on Religion and Peace
~~777 United Nations Plaza~~
New York, NY 10017

WCRP

Per J.E.
Advice
Stay out!
Vendely
J.E.

January 30, 1995
29 Shevat 5755

Dr. Habibur Rahman Khan
Secretary General, WCRP/PAK
240, Garden East
Karachi 74500 Pakistan

Dear Dr. Khan:

Many thanks for your warm words of congratulations on my election as a president of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. I am grateful for your thoughtful words as well as your good wishes for this New Year, which I reciprocate fully to you and all your dear ones. May 1995 be a year of peace and plenty for the entire human community.

It was thoughtful of you to share your concerns with me. Since I was not present at the last session, your plaint is new to me. I am sending a copy of this correspondence to Dr. William Vendely unless he is already aware of your letter.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Dr. Willlliam Vendely

In the name of ALLAH, the most Beneficent & most Merciful

WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION & PEACE/PAK
ASIAN CONFERENCE ON RELIGION & PEACE/PAK

President:

Mir Nqwaz Khan Marwat

Kashana-e-Hafeez
240 Garden East
Karachi 74500
Pakistan

Secretary General:

Dr Habibur Rahman Khan (MD)

Tel: 7211426

Date: 21st Jan, 1995.

To,

Rabbi Schindler Alexander,
UAHC
838 Fifth, New York,
NY 10021, U.S.A.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Kindly accept heartiest congratulation on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues of WCRP/Pakistan on your election as President WCRP.

Wishing you and Family a very happy New Year. We are rather late in sending you this letter of congratulations, as we got your address rather late.

Now great responsibilities lies on your shoulder to guide us all to achieve our goals according to RIVA DEL GARBA Declaration and also to look after the rights and preveledges of different WCRP Chapters.

WCRP VI Conference has achieve a great success in all fields, management and the standard of the papers presented as well as key note speeches. You are one of those who alongwith other respected personalities and members of WCRP worked hard to achieve it and you all deserve our heartiest thanks and congratulations.

We also noted some lapses and mistakes during the election meetings. We have compiled a paper "An observation" I am sending you a copy of the same, with the request that if you are inconvenienced of these mistakes, you may kindly take them up in the next meeting of Executive Committee or Governing Body whichever is held earlier.

If WCRP itself cannot conduct its own affairs on the basis of justice towards all its members religions, chapters and individuals how can it expect either to be an influence for World Peace or to be respected when it claims to speak for religions and peace. Both for WCRP itself and for the chapters affected, in our humble opinion, this

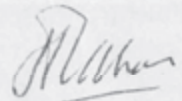
P.T.O.

(2)

this is a serious matter and that needs to be urgently addressed
and resolved, keeping our tradition of Unity, Harmony and justice.

With highest regards,

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Habibur Rehman Khan)
Secretary General WCRP/Pak,
240, Garden East, Kar-74500,



In the name of ALLAH, the most Beneficent & most Merciful

WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION & PEACE/PAK
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240 Garden East
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Tel: 7211426

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Dr Habibur Rahman Khan (MD)

Date:

OUR OBSERVATION

Some lapses and open mistakes were noted during VI WCRP Conference and affected people did raise their objections, but were turned down in a most undemocratic way.

We fail to understand that if the Theme was as it was "Healing the World religions for peace", why a particular religion in Asia should have been deliberately or unintentionally inflicted wounds rather than healing.

I quote from Registration Form

Who may attend? Registration is limited to those who are officially chosen by their local units, national chapters, regions and International Secretariat. Registration Forms are not transferable

A-1 Primary organization, your report. *You belong.*

A-2 Personal Data on your Role in WCRP.

This all goes to prove that this Assembly was primarily meant for members of WCRP from whatever chapters they may belong, besides a few invited as guests and Fraternal Delegates.

Then it was strange to note a name in Presidents list as well in Hon Presidents list. It may be made clear that on Dr. Inamullah Khan become President WCRP as he was one of the founder members of WCRP and later President WCRP/Pak for 11 years, it was coincident that he was also Secretary General Motamir (World Muslim Congress) but his selection as President WCRP International was only dependent upon his attachment to WCRP and not to Motamir (World Muslim Congress).

In the business Session the question started from bifurcation of Asia into two, East and West so that two chapters having majority of one religion should be bifurcated into two. On strong protest they were forced to make it one.

They selected two, one President and One Hon. President from one chapter of one religion and an other President from other religion from another chapter, but no Muslim was selected from Asia including

Pakistan. We fail to understand the basis of selection. We donot know the names of nomination committee members (whether they had a Muslim Member) We do not know whether Nomination Committee Members were with 5 years activities and porjects collected by each chapter, without which they would remain ignorant. We are forced to think that deliberately that muslims President out of Asia was ignored. Is this heaping or inflacting new wounds.

Then some chapter protested the selection of a contravertical personality from Muslim country, name was proposed be christians members and opposed by all muslims members and one christian member of same chapter but was forced into their throat finally, would it be tolerated if a non christian member could propose name of Rev. Moon as President from Korea, the christian members whould have tolerated it? Is it creating a healthy tradition for ignoring chapter.

Then the respected Moderator arbitarily and in a degtorial manner proposed that either all the recommendations should be accepted or rejected. It was requested to take continental vise but rejected.

Let us make is plan we have not tolerated this, we are forced to think Muslim are not well come in this international organization. We have been degraded and brought down as representative of the chapter in our own countries. How it is possible for us to take further interest in the work of WCRP/Int. What we can offer or talk to people of other religions for better understanding between different religions. They way we have been treated in the business sessions.

You will say we took some Muslim Presidents but how many of them from chapters or work like WCRP activity, while others are taken mostly from chapters. We submit most of them except one or two all are new most of them already pre-occupied with their own duties and responsibilities. How much time and attention they will be able to give to this additional responsibility has to be seen.

Intenationally, some one who knew the working and already divoted so much time and energy in last five years, if not mention of last fifteen year have been ignored.

It may also be pointed out that Pakistan had 5 delegates, one observor and one guest including one Hindu and one christian. An

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Karachi 74500
Pakistan

Tel: 7211426

Date:

Secretary General:

Dr Habibur Rahman Khan (MD)

(3)

other chapter had 25 delegates, but no Muslim though a large population of Muslims reside within that chapter.

We feel inconvenienced we have been deliberately ignored and intentionally put out and we have started thinking whether to continue with this degraded status and continue to take effective interest as before.

Why activities and projects collected by different chapters were not published during the Assembly or at least brought out before the members of nomination committee. What was the basis of this selection. 30 was the limit of Presidents. Why stop at 28? We note personalities were given importance, not chapters, then why have chapters at all? It can be understood to select personalities where chapters do not exist, but to select a non-member is degrading the existing chapters. Kindly place this before the governing body members or the Executive Committee Members at the earliest. We will be waiting to hear about it before taking next action.



(Dr. Habibur Rahman Khan)
Secretary General WCRP/Pak.

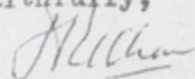
The points raised in my paper "Our observation" further clarification are needed from our standing rules.

- 1) Who could attend the conference.
- 2) Who can contest as President or Non-President whether members of WCRP or non members.
- 3) Whether members of chapters are important or non-members say some personalities.
- 4) Who have the right to nominate President and Hon. President.
- 5) When names were invited and letter published and circulated how some one who rename was not circulated in the list, could be proposed, during the business meeting, what about his or her consent not mentioned in the names circulated.
- 6) When a chapter exists, how one who is not a member of chapter could be proposed during the meeting, or before the meeting.
- 7) Who proposes the names, members of the chapters or some one outside the chapter and also not belonging to the religion of majority of that chapter.
- 8) When chapters does not exist, non member or personalities could be proposed, can be understood.
- 9) Why the activities and projects collected by different chapters of last five years, were not published.
- 10) What is the composition of Nomination Committee and who select them.

The clarification all these will once for all clear most of misunderstood events of the last conference.

We again assure you of our full cooperation in carrying out responsibilities of WCRP in our chapter.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Habibur Rehman Khan)
Secretary General WCRP/Pak,
240, Garden East, Kar-74500, Pak.

WCRP/INTERNATIONAL
Meeting of the Governing Board, Copenhagen, 6 - 8 March 1995
WCRP Events at the Social Summit, Copenhagen 9 March 1995

Registration Form

Please return this Registration Form as soon as possible but no later than February 8 to

Dr. Günther Gebhardt

WCRP/Europe & International

14, ch. Auguste-Vilbert

CH-1218, Grand Saconnex, Geneva, SWITZERLAND

Phone 41-22-798-5162; Fax 41-22-79-10034

201/23

Your Name: A. M. SCHINDLER

Address: 838 5th Ave
NEW YORK NY
10021

Phone: 212-249-0100 Fax: 212-570-0895

1) I shall attend the Governing Board Meeting: 6 March ☐ 7 March ☐ 8 March ☐ None ☒

2) I shall attend the 9 March WCRP events at the Social Summit: Yes ☐ No ☒

3) I shall arrive at Copenhagen on _____ (day/date) at _____ (hour)

- ☐ by airplane: flight no. _____ from _____
☐ by train from _____
☐ by car

4) I shall depart from Copenhagen on _____ (day/date) at _____ (hour)

- ☐ by airplane: flight no. _____ to _____
☐ by train to _____
☐ by car

5) I would like WCRP to make hotel reservations for a single ☐ or shared ☐ room from _____ (date) to _____ (date). (Sharing with _____).

6) I am able to cover my own travel costs: Yes ☐ No* ☐

(*If not, please send the New York Secretariat (Fax: 1-212-983-0566) a copy of your ticket receipt, your bank name, address, and account name and number so that funds can be transferred. Please note that only Economy Class tickets may be subsidized by WCRP.)

7) I have the following dietary requirements:

8) Other remarks:

I truly regret to my inability to attend. Long standing speaking engagements make the trip to Copenhagen impossible.

WCRP/Governing Board Memorandum

To: *Members and Guests of the Governing Board*
From: *William F. Vendley, FAX: 1-212-983-0566; 777 UN Plz, NY, NY 10017 USA.*
Date: *01/18/1995*
Subject: *Copenhagen Meeting*

1) **Greetings.** We look forward to seeing you soon in Copenhagen. Many of you have already informed the Secretariat of your travel plans to Copenhagen. Both our Governing Board meeting and our program in the Social Summit should be highly significant. Please return the enclosed Registration Form to Dr. Günther Gebhardt in Geneva no later than February 8 so that we may make the necessary hotel and local travel arrangements.

2) **Dates.** Please plan to arrive early on 6 March and to depart on 10 March or thereafter. We will have an opening dinner and first session of the Governing Board from 6:30 - 9:00 pm on 6 March. The meeting of the Governing Board will continue on both the 7th and 8th of March. The WCRP program in the Social Summit and the multi-religious service will take place on the 9th of March. Participation on the 10th of March is optional, so departures may be made on the 10th or thereafter.

3) **Payment of Tickets.** If at all possible, please have a sponsoring organization cover the cost of your travel. If this is not possible, please contact our office as soon as possible regarding the necessary subsidy. Should financial assistance be necessary, please inform the New York Secretariat of your bank name, address, and account name and number so that funds can be transferred. Please note that only Economy Class tickets may be subsidized by WCRP.

4) **Hotels.** The sooner we have your travel itineraries, the sooner we can secure hotel reservations. We are currently reserving rooms in the City Hotel, Excelsior Hotel and others in Copenhagen. We will assign you to one of these hotels. Full contact information will be sent to you once we receive your travel itinerary.

5) **Visas.** Please refer to the enclosed page regarding visa requirements. If you need a visa for Denmark, please contact immediately the Danish Embassy or Consulate in your country in order to clarify the procedure to follow. Should you need a formal letter of invitation from WCRP please contact Dr. Gebhardt in Geneva. Should you need a formal letter of invitation from a Danish institution please contact

Rev. Ane Hjerrild
Vestergade 8
DK-1456 Copenhagen K
DENMARK
Fax 45-33-1195-88

6) We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Encl: Registration Form; Visa Country List



COPY

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

December 14, 1994
11 Tevet 5755

Dr. William F. Vendley
Secretary-General
/ World Conference on Religion and Peace
777 United Nations Plaza
New York NY 10017

Dear Dr. Vendley:

Many thanks for your most gracious letter of congratulations on my election by the Sixth World Assembly as a President of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. WCRP is a critical organization and I am honored to serve its cause.

Much to my regret, however, is the fact that I am unable to attend the first post-Assembly Governing Board meeting in Copenhagen from March 8 to 11, 1995. Unfortunately, my calendar is booked for this period of time with speaking engagements on the West Coast which simply cannot be rescheduled. I do hope you understand my predicament and in understanding, forgive my absence at this very important meeting. It is my fond hope that I will be able to attend future meetings.

Thank you for sharing with me the full list of members of the WCRP Governing Board. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

With every good wish and warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE

777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017 USA
Tel. 1-212-687-2163; Fax. 1-212-983-0566

30 November 1994

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021 USA
Fax (212) 570-0895

Respect
3/8-12 Palm Spys
+ Paway Ca.

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

It is my pleasure to be able to thank you for your willingness to serve the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) as an International President. Warm congratulations on your election by the Sixth World Assembly as a President. WCRP is most fortunate to have your leadership. A list of the men and women who join you on the Governing Board is being mailed to you.

The Sixth World Assembly gathered approximately 1,000 religious leaders and activists committed to multi-religious cooperation for peace. Our Assembly was strengthened by the presence of many earnest and highly distinguished religious representatives. You will find enclosed a copy of the Assembly Declaration and Commission Reports. After minor editing, these documents will be prepared for wide distribution. The proceedings of the Assembly will also be prepared and published.

I regret to inform you that one of our new Presidents, Most Rev. Arturo Rivera Damas, Roman Catholic Archbishop of El Salvador, died on 26 November of a heart attack. The Archbishop was a tireless critic of human rights abuses and he negotiated for peace settlements in El Salvador. He is well known in UN circles for his institution of "Days of Tranquillity," during which cease fires were arranged so that children might be inoculated against childhood diseases.

We hope you can join us for WCRP's first post-Assembly Governing Board meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark from 8 - 11 March 1995, during the time of the United Nations World Summit for Social Development. Chilean Ambassador Juan Somavia, Chair of the Social Summit, has invited WCRP to hold a full day symposium on 9 March on the ethical issues raised by the Summit, followed by a multi-religious service. On 10 March, it is anticipated that WCRP will formally present a multi-religious declaration on the Summit to the UN Secretary-General. Additional materials regarding these meetings will be sent to you soon.

Again, with appreciation for your willingness to serve as a WCRP President, I am

Sincerely yours:

William F. Vendley
Dr. William F. Vendley
Secretary-General

Enclosures (by mail):

Address List of the Governing Board; Assembly Declaration and Commission Reports;
Obituary for Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas

HONORARY PRESIDENTS: Metropolitan Athanasios (Albania); Dame Ruth Nita Barrow (Barbados); Rev. John A. Buehrens (USA); Dr. Rodrigo Carazo (Costa Rica); Most Rev Remi De Roo (Canada); Don Silvio Franchi (Italy); Rabbi Albert Friedlander (United Kingdom); Metropolitan Kirill (Russia); Ms. Norma Levitt (USA); Ms. Chiara Lubich (Italy); Rev. Toshio Miyake (Japan); Dr. Abdullah bin Omar Nasseef (Saudi Arabia); Rev. Nikkyo Niwano (Japan); Mrs. G. Bagoes Oka (Indonesia); Ms. Shobha Prabhat Pandit (India); Mr. Zhao Puchu (China); H.E. Vinko Cardinal Pulic (Bosnia-Herzegovina); Sir Paul Reeves (New Zealand); Rev. Dr. Malcolm R. Sutherland (USA).

PRESIDENTS: Dr. Kamil Al-Sharif (Jordan); Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Ali (Saudi Arabia); H.E. E.J. Korthals Altes (The Netherlands); Dr. M. Aram (India); Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne (Sri Lanka); Dr. Elizabeth Bowen (USA); Rev. Joan B. Campbell (USA); Dr. Diana Eck (USA); Bishop Björn Fjörstedt (Sweden); Mr. Gabriel Habib (Cyprus); Dr. Won Yong Kang (Republic of Korea); Dr. Hans Küng (Germany); Rabbi John Levi (Australia); Rev. Rainer Lingscheid (USA); Ms. Olive D. Luena (Tanzania); Rev. Tatuo Miyake (Japan); Imam Wallace Deen Mohammed (USA); Dr. Adamou N'Dam N'Joy (Cameroon); Mr. Tarlok S. Nandhra (Kenya); Rev. Nichiko Niwano (Japan); Archbishop John O. Onaiyaken (Nigeria); Ms. Soba Risaluddin (United Kingdom); Rabbi David Rosen (Israel); Priestess Maritza Salazar (Costa Rica); Rabbi Alexander Schindler (USA); Bishop K.H. Ting (China); Dr. Abdurrahman Wahid (Indonesia).

PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Archbishop Angelo Fernandes (India).

SECRETARY GENERAL/INTERNATIONAL: Dr. William F. Vendley (USA).

ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES GENERAL/INTERNATIONAL: Rev. John Baldock (Australia); Dr. Günther Gebhardt (Switzerland).

WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP)
AMERICAN JEWISH
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(Printed 30 November 1994)



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Arturo Rivera Damas, 71, Dies; Outspoken Salvadoran Bishop

SAN SALVADOR, Nov. 26 (Reuters) — Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas of El Salvador, a tireless critic of human rights abuses during the country's 12-year civil war, died today. He was 71.

Raúl Zeledón, a doctor at the hospital where Archbishop Rivera Damas died, said he had suffered two heart attacks within two hours.

Archbishop Rivera Damas's predecessor as head of the diocese in San Salvador, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was assassinated by a right-wing death squad as he said Mass on March 24, 1980.

Archbishop Romero became a target because he had demanded an end to rights abuses by the army and called on soldiers to disobey any orders to kill or to repress the people. His death appalled Salvadorans like no other during the civil war, during which 75,000 people died, most of them civilians.

Archbishop Rivera Damas then took on one of the country's most politically sensitive jobs.

Although less openly combative than his predecessor, he continued Archbishop Romero's tradition of using Sunday sermons to condemn

rights abuses by the army, by right-wing death squads and by leftist guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. During the years when death squads were rampant and the army effectively ran the country, the sermons were one of the few public signs of dissent.

Archbishop Rivera Damas was also credited by both rebel leaders and Government officials with playing a key role in pushing the country toward peace accords in January 1992. He had mediated the first peace talks in 1984 and constantly pressured both sides to choose dialogue over war.

The Archbishop, who was born on Sept. 30, 1923, in San Esteban Catarina, a small town in central El Salvador, stood up to threats and pushed relentlessly for those who had ordered the killing of Archbishop Romero to be named and brought to justice. A United Nations report last year concluded that the killing had been ordered by Roberto D'Aubuisson, a former army major who founded the ruling Arena party and was widely accused of running death squads that killed thousands of suspected leftists.



Associated Press, 1993

Arturo Rivera Damas.

When army troops murdered six Jesuit priests in November 1989 during the largest rebel offensive of the war, Archbishop Rivera Damas once again led calls for the killers to be named and punished. "There is a vehement presumption that the priests' killers were elements of the armed forces or were working closely with them," he said.

Arturo Rivera Damas, archbishop in El Salvador after Romero; at 71

REUTERS

SAN SALVADOR — El Salvador's Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas, a tireless critic of human rights abuses throughout the country's 12-year civil war, died yesterday of a heart attack. He was 71.

He became archbishop of San Salvador after his predecessor, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was assassinated by a right-wing death squad as he said Mass on March 24, 1980.

Although less openly combative than his predecessor, Archbishop Rivera Damas continued Romero's tradition of using his Sunday homilies to condemn rights abuses by the army, right-wing death squads and leftist guerrillas.

During the years when death squads were rampant and the army effectively ran the country, the sermons were one of the few open public signs of dissent.

Archbishop Rivera Damas was credited by rebel leaders and government officials for playing a key role in pushing the country toward

peace accords in January 1992.

He mediated the first peace talks in 1984 and pressured both sides to choose dialogue over war.

"His work is immense and all we could say about him would fall short, but he was the greatest defender of human rights," Maria Julia Hernandez, head of the Catholic Church's human rights office, said yesterday.

Archbishop Rivera Damas stood up to threats and pushed relentlessly for those who ordered the murder of Romero to be named and brought to justice.

A UN report on El Salvador's war crimes concluded last year that Romero's death was ordered by Roberto D'Aubuisson, a former army major who founded the ruling ARENA party and was widely accused of running death squads that killed thousands of suspected leftists.

When army troops murdered six Jesuit priests in November 1989, Archbishop Rivera Damas again led calls for the killers to be named and punished.