

# LETTER TO WORLD CITIZENS

6/6, July/Aug 92

Sorting out impressions about the Earth Summit will take time. There were so many "trees" claiming attention that the "forest" was often overlooked.

As I looked out from our World Government stand at the crowds passing by day by day, I wonder what they would be reporting to their own local citizens. I kept insisting that the Earth Summit was a "World Moment" in psycho-historical terms much like Paris in September/October/November, 1948 when the UN General Assembly was there. Like at Paris, the world press was now focussed on Rio. It was truly a "defining moment" in human history.

But we who shared this moment then had an awesome responsibility. We had to carry that moment back to our local communities, our towns, our cities, our environment where we, as citizens functioned. I thought of the "mondialization" movement where cities declared themselves "world" or global as well as local. That began in 1949 with Cahors, France. Since then over 900 have made the declaration. But the first Charter of Mondialization didn't mention the environment. It emphasized the common danger from war. It was in the '60s that the environment become a global concern. Now as we approach the 21st century, each village, town, and city becomes dynamically linked to the global environment. The conclusion is obvious. The "Mondialization Charter" must update to incorporate the common environmental dangers as well as solutions, both local and global.

As a start in that direction, WCN publishes here a draft proposal for the consideration of municipal councils and citizens. We acknowledge with appreciation the text of Dana Clark, council member of Burlington, linking world citizenship and the Earth Summit to be submitted to the citizens of that city for their approbation in July.