

# **Letter to World Citizens**

**1/2,May, 1977**

**May 14, 1977, in detention  
Dulles International Airport**

Once again, the issue of human rights and national sovereignty is joined. Upon arriving from London yesterday, I presented my World Government passport to U.S. Immigration at Dulles Airport. I was refused entry. I signed a sworn statement that I was returning to my native land on the basis of Article 13(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Then I was taken to this hotel close to the airport, and placed in a room, a security guard posted outside the door. A hearing before an Immigration and Naturalization judge is scheduled for Monday morning.

This confrontation between local border laws and human rights was ordained from the day I renounced my nationality in 1948 and claimed the status of world citizenship. It is a daily confrontation for millions of ordinary individuals like myself.

But this present situation is unlike all others with which I have been personally involved throughout these 29 years. First of all, it is in Washington D.C. I have long held that America's Founding Fathers foresaw the day when the federal government, limited by the Constitution, would be impotent to resolve vital questions of survival for its citizens. Hence they wrote into the Constitution an "escape clause," the 10th Amendment. It is the only Constitution to my knowledge which refers sovereign decision-making power back to its original source: ". . . to the people.: But what then are "the people" to do with their sovereign power? The historical lesson is clear: add a higher citizenship beyond the present legitimate structure. Create a new legitimacy to cope with the new problems. Protect the whole in order to protect the parts.

That is what I have done. That is what all citizens of World Government have done.

And tomorrow that sovereign decision-making power of a former national citizen will come home to the nation's capital in the form of an Immigration hearing. The judge will not be competent to decide an issue concerning an individual's fundamental right to choose a new political identity - world citizenship- as the embodiment of universal human rights. He is a servant of the sovereign nation-state. He must decide my "status" in the United States. How can he organize a status of "Citizen of World Government as valid for U.S. entry? Yet, if human rights are absolute, as President Carter claims, the right to travel freely is likewise absolute.

Secondly, the very issuing agency of our document is situated now five minutes from the White House. As the legal president and chairman of the board of World Service Authority District III, Inc., I already have a job in the USA. That I am not salaried is irrelevant - but at least I will take no work from any other American. Thirdly, I have a residence in Washington D.C. which I established in February. Thus, I am literally going home.

The judge may ask where is my stateless document on which is a U.S. visa? It was this document which allowed me to board the plane at Heathrow, London. I will reply that although I had it when boarding the plane, I no longer possess it nor does it identify me properly as I choose. It was imposed upon me by the French state as refugee documents are imposed upon those unfortunates who were forced to flee their native lands for political reasons. Without such documents, we have been and would be harassed by every petty state official with a rubber stamp and by every foreign police control with the power to imprison us arbitrarily. A stateless and/or refugee document is a colluding device forcing individuals to accept the anachronistic sovereign-state system. The U.S. Consul at Strasbourg would not visa my W.S.A. passport. "Bring me a valid document, Mr. Davis, and I can give you a U.S. visa," he told me. He was obviously not dealing with me but with the paper world of states. I was the same man with a W.S.A. passport as with a stateless

document. Thus I was obliged to play the farce and travel with the "valid" stateless document until I actually arrived at U.S. shores. But why should I continue the farce when I am re-entering my native land?

I am making my stand as a full-fledged world citizen now. Last month, we reprinted in these pages President Jimmy Carter's January 20th address to "citizens of the world." In seeking our help, our experience, our wisdom and our "active participation" in a joint effort to move the reality of the world closer to the ideals of human freedom and dignity" the U.S. president becomes an ally, while yet the chief executive of U.S. in this latest effort to establish the legitimacy of world citizenship.

I call upon all citizens of our world government to write to President Carter - and especially United States citizens - expressing their support to my present stand. It is vitally important to show support and solidarity on this issue. Rare are the occasions when world law personified by an individual comes into direct confrontation with sovereign nation-statehood. One such occasion was on June 10, 1974 in Mulhouse, France, when I went on trial for issuing the W. S. A. passport. The French judiciary, in convicting me on that occasion, planted the seed for my eventual forced departure from France. (A third indictment is still pending after a second conviction on July 25, 1975.)

Now with upwards of 50,000 World Government documents, I.D. cards, passports and birth certificates, in your hands, confrontation is made easier since documentary evidence of your worldly status becomes an effective tool - if only educational at first - when facing the state official armed with a rulebook.

A further tool is now launched - the first world referendum. It is our democratic method to mandate ourselves. Scoffers will as usual term such an initiative utopic or unrealistic. "Go to Moscow or Kampala or Soweto," they will say, "and see whether your referendum is permitted." They miss the point. Ideas have wings. Those who are free to act to protect it and do not do so will lose their own freedom, while those who are seemingly not free to act will eventually revolt to achieve freedom. For freedom is as essential as bread to humans.

But what about today's lethargy toward all voting? Remarkably enough, there is little lethargy when the vote is on issues. We are more ready to vote on issues than on candidates. Consider the influence of a mere public opinion poll. Gallup will announce the results of a poll, say on the popularity of Jimmy Carter or how many people smoke marijuana. The number of people polled represented roughly 200,000 people!

How much more effective will be an actual world referendum especially when the numbers reach into the hundreds of thousands? Or into the millions? And why not?

While seven heads of state were discussing world problems they were unable to solve at 10 Downing Street, London, last weekend, I took to a soap box at famous Speaker's Corner at Hyde Park to continue the launching of the world referendum.

For six hours I held forth on all aspects of world citizenship to the ever-flowing throng that passed by toasting each speaker's fare as it were, like a smorgasborg. This marketplace of ideas, unique in the world, where Ghandi and Marx, among others, sharpened their arguments in the face of the professional hecklers and the discriminate auditors, was for me an extraordinarily rewarding experience. Forced to respond to the scepticism, the built-in prejudices of nationalism, criticism of the United Nations, the newness of my overcoat, Marxist dogma, federalism, plus the irrational heckler seeking attention at all costs, while trying to convince the interested of the utility and immediacy of our message, I knew beyond any doubt that world citizenship is winning through, that it was in that market place framework we belong and must work.

Yours in world service,