

Letter to World Citizens

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In lieu of my regular letter in this space, I want to let you know about my statement of September 21, 1978, announcing my candidacy for world parliament. The statement was issued at Princeton University during a press conference organized by the Princeton Student Union.

I was prompted to issue the statement by a number of factors including the growing world citizen constituency, the massive voter apathy evidenced by local elections throughout the world, the escalating problems of refugees and stateless persons caught in the international bureaucratic maze, and the spreading denial of fundamental human rights by national governments.

One word, however, about this particular issue. Given its emphasis on the "link-up:" between religion and politics, it will be distributed as well to religious organizations. The issue is admittedly delicate, even explosive. The razor's edge between religion and politics is just that; but honest politics and righteous law, join at last in world citizenship.

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Like millions of my fellow humans, both as a father and a citizen, and as a former bomber pilot, I am deeply concerned by the possibility of nuclear world war, a war which could end the human story on planet earth. And like millions of fellow humans, I am unrepresented by any national political process in matters which affect me, my loved ones, and my humankind intimately.

Furthermore, after returning to my native land in May, 1976, I was legally excluded even while claiming the right to return according to article 13(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which President Carter frequently refers.

In 1980, the U.S. electorate will be choosing a new president. But no national presidential candidate can in honesty address himself to the solution of world problems facing the national electorate. Only world leaders can offer such solutions.

I am therefore, offering my candidacy to a world parliament.

According to a formula conceived in 1924 by Rosilka Schwimmer and Mary Lloyd, reintroduced by the Crusade for World Government, 1947, in Great Britain and made part of the statutes of the International Registry of World Citizens, 1949, in Paris, I seek one million registered votes by declared world citizens, a mandate that would represent a "population" greater than 27 member-states of the United Nations.

My platform will be the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its implementation through codification of world law with the establishment of a true world court of human rights. My party will be the World Citizen Party, already declared in certain parts of the world and, I predict, ready to burst forth with the wisdom, good-will and power of millions of my fellow citizens.

I do not seek to represent the US electorate as such, but rather all those who are not represented politically: the resident aliens, the refugees, the stateless, the politically

dispossessed whoever and wherever they are, as well as those who recognize their individual sovereignty as citizens of our common world.

I welcome other world candidates equally motivated and concerned.

World Ballots will be made available through the World Service Authority to all who desire to vote as a world citizen. These ballots affirm the sovereignty of the individual above that of the nation-states.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights through article 13(2) has already sanctioned such a global election:

"The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

More relevant perhaps to the American people the power to create the conditions of world peace, that is, to institute world law, was clearly foreseen by the Founding Fathers of the United States. By enacting the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, they provided a means by which the people can, as sovereign individuals, make decisions where the Constitution itself does not delegate power. This amendment implicitly condones a world government as the ultimate guardian of individual rights — including the right to survive— and as the logical extension of the creation of the United States itself, conceived for peace and mutual well-being among the people of the 13 equally sovereign states.

My global candidacy is therefore a patriotic affirmation of the principles underlying the founding of the United States itself.

It opens the way to a dynamic new political structure — already begun in embryo— based on the most ancient and logical form of sovereignty, that which begins with the conscientious and reasoning human person.

Finally, the world IS our home; humankind IS our species. And this is the vision and insight brought down to us through the vast corridors of ancient history, both religious and political, to present day.

END OF STATEMENT