

Letter to World Citizens

2/6, Jan '76

YEAR OF WORLD CITIZENSHIP

As the human race stands at the threshold of the last quarter of the 20th century, it finds itself paradoxically on the brink of the precipice of total destruction while at the same time facing the prophetic fulfillment of the Millenia.

The stark interdependence of the world community, due to technological progress in the preceding three quarters of this space-imploded, time accelerated century, so long taught by sages of all ages, has become the dynamic, practical truth of recent years giving rise in turn to the popular recognition of the legitimacy of the human race as such and each human as a legitimate citizen of the total world community.

Thus, for the first time in our history, world problems and personal problems are inter-related, pollution of the common atmosphere, water and soil by a variety of man-made poisons, the most insidious being radio-activity, being a prime example.

War, however, the bankruptcy of morality and reason, ignorance's crowning achievement, legitimized by the sovereign state since its inception when the horse provided the fastest transportation and armies fought in the field with swords and muskets, has become humankind's as well as each human's no. 1 enemy.

War and the nation-state are synonomous.

During the third quarter of this century, states fought 94 wars at a total cost of \$2,969,568,000,000 with over 10,000,000 killed, millions more refueged and whole countries devastated. Armament expenditures for 1975 was over \$240 billion, 20 times the total amount spent on aid to so-called underdeveloped countries. While nuclear proliferation allows the smallest nations to endanger all, "overkill" remains the machievellian military philosophy underlying every human rights violation. Madness can alone categorize the collective nation-states "foreign policy" in our one interdependent world.

Thus exclusive national citizenship is no longer the legitimate social contract between governors and governed it once was in bygone centuries but an insidious suicide pact perpetrated in the name of "patriotism" and "national security", becoming for many a smokescreen for civic persecution and bureaucratic tyranny. A broadening of the very concept of citizenship itself - as endorsed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations - to include the actual viable world community is today, the categorical imperative for the realization both of world peace and human betterment in spiritual as well as economic terms.

The popular mandate to realize a world order grounded in fundamental human rights was proclaimed on December 10, 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Seven days prior to this historic event, upwards of 20,000 people of all classes, all religions, all political horizons, a truly wordly people, gathered in the Valdrome d'Hiver also in Paris, to mandate the conception and actuality of world citizenship. These 20,000 individuals, utopists of that post-war era, bearing the fresh scars of the second inter-national "war to end war", were an electrifying, almost mystical symbol of the common world law which already binds humankind on spaceship Earth.

We, the people of the world of 1976, faced with the Armegeddon of nationalism, must apply this world mandate, born in the ruins of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Dresden and Berlin, Coventry, Warsaw and Stalingrad, to evolve with bold urgency those embryonic global institutions conceived during the fecund period of 1948.

For war, like all crime, must be outlawed.

Myriad, non-territorial organizations dedicated to promoting the concept and implementation of world citizenship now abound throughout the Community, spearheaded by the World Service Authority, acting since 1954 as a global administrative service whose mandate was conceived in the meeting of 3 December 1948 at the Val d'Hiv. A World

Court of Human Rights was founded in 1974 in Mulhouse, France and is functioning from its Chicago offices. Parliamentarians on innumerable countries give increasing lip-service to the notion of world peace through law while literally tens of thousands of jurists from many lands endorse the notion that the individual is already subject to and a subject of international law as stated explicitly by the Nuremberg Principles. Indeed, world constitutions, written by committees of eminent jurists now await debate and sanction by popularly-elected delegates to forthcoming constitutional conventions.

But the most significant and promising development of recent days for peace-lovers everywhere is the growing reorientation of everyday politics to the world citizenship concept. A World Citizen Party was registered in West Germany in 1974 and a sister party is now forming in the United States in association with the Peoples Bicentennial Commission, the largest popular movement for economic environmental reform. Thus the very meaning of the Bicentennial Year takes on a new political dimension in perfect harmony with the original advocacy of concentric or verticalized citizenship for the regulation of public affairs at difference levels of social activity by the Founding Fathers. The world citizen party, transcending national frontiers, exposes the essentially nationalistic and thus impotent character of all major political parties.

Indeed the battle cry of the American colonists in 1776 of "No taxation without representation" is striking relevant to the desperate plight of today's national citizens. Beset with galloping inflation, unemployment, recession, and a host of hidden economic exploitations, he/she is being taxed for armaments, for the maintenance of anachronistic national frontiers, for absurd spy systems, for the monstrous deception of the diplomatic world, for endless, sterile debates, resolutions resolving nothing and the entire paraphernalia of the dis-United Nations, for embassies, consulates, legations, in short, for a 19th century political system hell-bent for destruction - our destruction.

Nowhere in this system is the individual democratically represented. The rip-off is worldwide. We are being taxed by the nation-state for our own suicide.

"No taxation without world representation" must become the new battle-cry of the oppressed average citizen.

To that very end, invoking Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "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 by universal and equal suffrage..." as we promised in 1948 to the assembled United Nations appointed delegates, we shall, beginning in 1976 hold an alternative election on a global scale whereby popularly-mandated representatives on the basis of 1 per million population can assemble in world constitutional convention to codify the requirements of world public management through legitimate and positive law for the good of all and each.

Let historians of the year 2000 gratefully record that, as 1948 could rightfully be designated as the year when both universal human rights and world citizenship was newly born out of a crucible of high moral purpose and dire human necessity, so 1976 was the Year of the Coming of Age of these twins, from which date humankind itself, by enfranchising its common will for spiritual freedom, social peace and general well-being - in the full realization that the earth belongs to no one nor to any group and that its fruits belong to all - finally justified its place in the Cosmic Order of Things by defining and incorporating in meaningful political form the laws of unity and universality without which sovereign achievement no species can long survive, let alone prevail.