

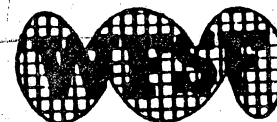
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Vol 14 N° 4 Issue 51

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December 1988

WORLD  
FUTURES  
STUDIES  
FEDERATION



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# NEWSLETTER

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January 18, 1989--4000 days to the year 2000  
"Awareness, Preparedness, Openness"

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## EDITORIAL

“Awareness, Preparedness, Openness.”

These are the words which Mircea Malitza suggests should be used to keynote activities on January 18, 1989, when the world will be 4000 days from the Year 2000. WFSF members everywhere are urged to mark the day in some suitable way and then let me know what you did!

Much of the big news for the Federation in its immediate past is documented in this edition of the Newsletter: The Xth World Conference in Beijing was said to have been a peak experience by virtually everyone who attended; plans for the next World Conference, in Budapest, Hungary, May 1990 were announced, with the World Conference after that being in Barcelona, Spain in September 1991; The European Liaison function which Rolf Homann performed for the Federation for several years has been transferred to Budapest, and the name changed to “European Secretariat”; and, in an inexplicable lapse of good judgement, the General Assembly in Beijing accepted the recommendation of the Nominating Committee of the Executive Council and chose me President. In a return to sanity, the Assembly agreed that Eleonora should assume the newly-created position of Chair of the Executive Council, and that the Council is to try to find a Secretary General from a Second or Third World country, and to consider setting up regional secretariats as well.

Thus, Eleonora Masini remains President until the issue of a new Secretary General is resolved.

Anticipating change as well as continuity for the immediate future of the Federation, I asked all members please to respond to a questionnaire about the future of the Federation which I mailed several months ago. If you have not sent in your suggestions, please do so immediately!

*And for more information about the XIth World Conference in Budapest, May 1990, or to declare your intention to participate in it, please write Maria Kalas Koszegi, Martonhegyi Street 47/B, 1124 Budapest, Hungary.*

Jim Dator □

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Editor: Jim Dator

Managing Editor: Donna Uyeda

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## Program of the Xth World Conference

### **Program of the Tenth World Conference of the World Futures Studies Federation**

[Note: Even though the Beijing Conference took place several months ago, we are still not sure of several names and titles of some of the major participants. We therefore publish the following tentative program in order that people who were not able to attend can get a feeling for the scope and magnitude of the Conference, and so that those of you who did attend will please send in your corrections and additions. If you do that, then we will be able to publish a complete and accurate program of the Beijing Conference in the Proceedings. Please help us!]

Date: September 3-8, 1988

Theme: The Futures of Development—Cultural, Environmental, Economic, Scientific, and Political Perspectives

Venues: Longxiang Hotel, Xijiao Guesthouse, and Beijing National Library, Beijing, China

Host: Chinese Society for Futures Studies

#### Co-Sponsors

The World Futures Studies Federation  
The Chinese Academy of Science  
The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences  
The Research Center for Economic, Technological and Social Development Research, State Council  
The National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO  
The Chinese Society for Futures Studies

Plenary Meeting and Working Group Discussions

**Saturday, September 3, 1988**

9:00 am - 12:00 noon, The Great Hall of the People.

## Program of the Xth World Conference

### Opening Ceremonies

Zhao Fusan (Vice President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)  
Fei Xiaotong (Sociologist, Vice Chairman Standing Committee of the People's Congress)

Huang Hua (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Yogesh Atal (Unesco, Asian Pacific Region)

Eleonora Masini (President WFSF, Italy)

Magda McHale (Center for Integrative Studies, SUNY Buffalo, U.S.A.)

### Opening Panel: "Futures of Development"

Chair: Jim Dator (Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Hawaii)

Panelist: Eleonora Masini (President, WFSF, Italy)

Zhao Fusan (Vice President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

H. Odera Oruka (Professor, University of Nairobi, Kenya)

Mihailo Markovic (Professor, Institute of Philosophy, Belgrade, Yugoslavia)

Robert Jungk (Writer, Austria)

Denis Goulet (Professor, University of Notre Dame, U.S.A.)

2:30 pm - 5:00 pm, Longxiang Hotel & Xijiao Guesthouse

### Working Groups

- Group 1. Norms and Values to Guide Development
- Group 2. Culture, Industrialization and Political Structure
- Group 3. World Economy, World Market
- Group 4. Environment and Development
- Group 5. Rural and Urban Development
- Group 6. High and Traditional Technologies
- Group 7. Changing Political Institutions
- Group 8. Bipolar to Multipolar World
- Group 9. Education and Futures Studies
- Group 10. Futures of Children
- Group 11. Women and Development
- Group 12. Future of Enterprise and Enterprise Consulting

Evening: Reception (International Hotel)

## Program of the Xth World Conference

### **Sunday September 4, 1988**

8:30 am - 11:45 am, Longxiang Hotel & Xijiao Guesthouse  
Working Groups

1:45 pm - 5:00 pm, Longxiang Hotel & Xijiao Guesthouse  
Working Groups

Evening: Chinese Juggling Show. Downtown Theatre, Beijing

### **Monday, September 5, 1988**

9:00 am - 12:00 noon, Beijing National Library

#### Plenary Panel: "Futures of China's Development"

Chair: Lin Xixin (President, Agency of Science and Technology Daily)

Panelists: Tong Dalin (Former Vice Minister, State Commission of System Reform)

Hu Chuanji

Qu Geping (State Bureau for Environmental Protection)

Gong Xiangrui (Professor of Law, Beijing University)

2:30 pm - 5:00 pm, Longxiang Hotel & Xijiao Guesthouse  
Working Group

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm, Xijiao Guesthouse  
WFSF General Assembly

### **Tuesday, September 6, 1988**

9:00 am - 12:00 noon, Beijing National Library

#### Plenary Panel: "Remembering the Future"

Chair: Magda McHale (Center for Integrative Studies, S.U.N.Y. Buffalo, U.S.A.)

Panelists: Romila Thapar (Professor, J. Nehru University, India)

Ashis Nandy (Center for the Study of Developing Societies, India)

Uvais Ahamed (UN Consultant, Sri Lanka)

## Program of the Xth World Conference

Mahdi Elmandjra (President, Futuribles, Morocco)

Johan Galtung (University of Hawaii, Norway)

Donald Michael (Professor Emeritus of Planning and Public Policy, U.S.A.)

Jiang Shunxue (Vice President, Academic of Military Science)

2:30 pm - 5:00 pm, Longxiang Hotel & Xijiao Guesthouse  
Working Group

### **Wednesday, September 7, 1988**

Morning and Afternoon: Visit Great Wall & Ming Tombs

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm, Beijing National Library

Plenary Report on Working Groups

### **Thursday, September 8, 1988**

9:00 am - 12:00 noon, Beijing National Library

#### Closing Panel: "Developing the Future"

Chair: Igor Bestuzhev-Lada (Institute of Social Research, Moscow, U.S.S.R.)

Panelists: Harlan Cleveland (H. Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota, U.S.A.)

Yehezkel Dror (Department of Political Science, University of Jerusalem, Israel)

Amlicar Oscar Herrera (University of Campinas, Brazil)

Qin Linzheng (The Chinese Society for Futures Studies)

Ibrahim Abdel-Rahman (Planning consultant, Egypt)

Ma Hong (President, Development Research Center, State Council)

Mircea Malitza (Former Minister of Education, Romania)

Piet Thoenes (Sociologist, The Netherlands)

#### Closing Ceremonies

Chair: Lin Xixin (President, Agency of Science & Technology Daily)

Eleonora Masini (President, WFSF, Italy)

Ma Hong (President, Development Research Center, State Council)

V. Zharov (Director, Division of Scientific Research & Higher Education, Unesco)

## Program of the Xth World Conference

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Maria Kalas Koszegi (Research Institute of Planning, Hungary)  
Jim Dator (Professor, University of Hawaii)

### Chairs and Rapporteurs of working groups

#### Group 1: Norms and Values to Guide Development

Chairs: Piet Thoenes (Retired Professor, The Netherlands)

Zha Ruqiang (Institute of Philosophy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Rapporteurs: Radmila Nakarada (Institute of Economics, Belgrade, Yugoslavia)

Mika Mannerman (Finnish Society for Futures Studies, Turku, Finland)

Shen Xiaofeng (Beijing Normal University)

#### Group 2: Culture, Industrialization and Political Structure

Chairs: Andrzej Sicinski (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland)

Li Huiquo (Center for Documentation and Information, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Rapporteurs: Marcos Kaplan (Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico)

Bart van Steenberg (Institute of Sociology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

Liu Yuanzhang (Institute of System Science, Chinese Academy of Science)

#### Group 3: World Economy, World Market

Chairs: Igor Ushkalov (Institute of Socialist World Economy, Moscow, USSR)

Zhu Ang (Institute of International Trade)

Rapporteurs: Anna Coen (Institute of Economic Planning Studies, Rome, Italy)

Peter Mettler (Professor, Institut fur Arbeit und Technik West Germany)

Deng Yumin (Chinese Academy of Science)

#### Group 4: Environment and Development

Chairs: Raimondo Cagiano (University of Pescara, Italy)

Qu Geping (State Bureau of Environmental Protection)

Rapporteurs: Gene Williams (University of Massachusetts, U.S.A.)

Harvey Shapiro (Professor, Osaka Geijutsu University)

Chen Mingshao (Vice President, Beijing University of Industry)

#### Group 5: Rural and Urban Development

Chairs: James Robertson (Turning Point, Oxfordshire, U.K.)

## Program of the Xth World Conference

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Li Wenhua (National Commission of Integrative Investigation)

Rapporteurs: Tibor Hottovy (Swedish Institute of Building, Gavle, Sweden)

Ibrahim Jammal (Center for Comparative Studies, SUNY, Buffalo, U.S.A.)

Ye Yaoxian (Development Center of Architecture Technology)

#### Group 6: High and Traditional Technologies

Chairs: Sam Cole (Department of Planning, SUNY, Buffalo, U.S.A.)

Wang Huijiong (Research Center for Economic, Technological and Social Development, State Council)

Rapporteurs: Frithjof Bergmann (Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan)

Ota Sulc (Czechoslovakian Academy of Science, Prague, Czechoslovakia)

Li Guanglin (National Natural Science Foundation)

#### Group 7: Changing Political Institution

Chairs: Donald Michael (Professor Emeritus of Planning and Public Policy, U.S.A.)

Gong Xiangrui (Department of Law, Beijing University)

Rapporteurs: Manfred Henningsen (Department of Political Science, University of Hawaii, West Germany)

Allen Tough (Professor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Canada)

Pan Shiqiang (Institute of Political Science, CASS)

#### Group 8: Bipolar to Multipolar World?

Chairs: Luo Zhaohong (Institute of World Politics and Economy, CASS)

Rapporteurs: Ronald Higgins (Director, Dunamis, U.K.)

Gao Fang (Department of International Politics, People's University of China)

#### Group 9: Education and Futures Studies

Chairs: Staffan Laestadius (Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm, Sweden)

Wu Xing (State Commission of Science and Technology)

Rapporteurs: Michael Marien (Future Survey, New York, U.S.A.)

Huang Shiqi (National Commission of Education)

#### Group 10: Futures of Children

Chairs: Ruthanne Kurth-Schai (Education Department, Macalester College, Minnesota, U.S.A.)

## Program of the Xth World Conference

Xiang Zongping (Central Institute of Educational Science)

Rapporteurs: Samir Ghosh (Indian Institute of Human Science, Konnagar, India)

Simon Nicholson (Open University, Milton Keynes, U.K.)

Fang Yiying (China's Center for Children Development)

### Group 11: Women and Development

Chairs: Eleonora Masini (World Futures Studies Federation)

Cai Sheng (All China Women's Federation)

Rapporteurs: Katrin Gillwald (Sociologist, Berlin, West Germany)

Mitsuko Saito-Fukunaga (International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan)

Cui Keping (All China Women's Federation)

### Group 12: Future of Enterprise and Enterprise Consulting

Chairs: Mason Rumney (Futurist, USA)

Xu Konkshi (Institute of Software, Chinese Academy of Science)

Rapporteurs: Jim Brock (Business Manager, Honolulu, Hawaii USA)

Clem Bezold (Director, Institute for Alternative Futures, USA)

He Zhiyi (Fujian Computer System Engineering Corporation)

Zhao Qijun (Dalian Science & Technology Committee)

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Jim Dator (Professor of Political Science, University of Hawaii, USA)

Rolf Homann (Consultant, Switzerland)

Eleonora Masini (President, World Futures Studies Federation, Italy)

Magda McHale (Director, Center for Integrative Studies, SUNY, USA)

Mihailo Markovic (Member, Academy of Science and Arts, Yugoslavia)

Andrzej Sicinski (Professor, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)

Fei Xiaotong (Vice Chairman, Standing Committee of the People's Congress)

Zhao Fushan (Vice President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Lin Zixin (President, Agency of Science and Technology Daily)

Li Baoheng (Secretary of the Secretariat, Chinese Association for Science and Technology)

Wu Xing (Former Member, State Commission of Science and Technology)

Jia Xue (Deputy Secretary General, Chinese Commission for UNESCO)

Qin Linzheng (Secretary General, Chinese Society for Futures Studies)

## Program of the Xth World Conference

### National Organizing Committee

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Xing Haiyan (Professional Teachers College of Beijing)

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Zhang Yanqi ("Truth-seeking" Publishing House)

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Li Guanglin (Director, Policy Bureau, National Natural Science Foundation)

Zhang Linyu (Deputy Director, Bureau of Science & Technology Policy, Chinese Academy of Sciences)

Wang Shaochen (Deputy Secretary, CSFS)

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### Contributors

UNESCO

UNEP

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International Development Research Center, Canada

Tenri Yamato Culture Congress, Japan

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Department of Cooperation for Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

Italian National Research Committee

The Research Center for Futures Studies, University of Hawaii

Fund for Reform and Opening of China, Inc.

China Foundation for Talent Development

Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences

China Calligraphy College

Guangdong Exhibition Center of Commodities for Foreign Trade

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Guangzhou Dongjian Industrial and Commercial, Inc.

Guangzhou Zhujiang General Corporation of Foreign Investment and Construction  
Guangzhou PEPSI Cola Soft Drink Factory  
South China Institute of Environmental System Engineering  
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Suzhou Changcheng Electrical Equipment Inc., Ltd.  
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Jilin Provincial Sanchazi Forestry Bureau  
Henan Pingdingshan Chaochuan Mining Business Bureau  
Shenzhen Meilin Hongyan Handicraft Furniture Factory  
Baolan Shajing Wanfeng Enterprises Groups, Inc.  
Guangdong Jiaoling Fuling Cement Plant  
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Guizhou Steel Cable Factory  
Guizhou Zunyi Dongjiu Winery  
Anhui Tongling Brewery

#### About the Chinese Society for Future Studies (CSFS)

The CSFS is a national academic organization, and a group member of the Chinese Association for Science and Technology. Founded in January 1979, it is located in Beijing. The aims of the Society are to undertake scientific and multidisciplinary research on the future of society, economy, culture, education, science, technology, energy, resources, environment, etc.; to serve the long-term planning and modernization construction of the country; and to serve the progress of mankind.

By now, the Society has about 5000 individual members and more than 50 group members. They come from most provinces and regions of the country, and from all walks of life. Many of the most distinguished scientists, scholars, experts, and government leaders are consultants of the Society. Besides organizing annual conferences, national meetings, seminars, training classes; teaching courses on the future; publishing *Future and Development* (Bimonthly), Chinese and English newsletters, proceedings of conferences and works on special topics; increasing the scholarly exchanges with other countries, the Society also devotes itself to subject research and consulting activities for the reform and opening, and the economic construction, of the country.



The Acting President of the Society is Lin Zixin and the Secretary General is Qin Linzheng. □

Everyone knows that the Chinese Society for Futures Studies (CSFS) was one of the sponsors of the Conference. Not everyone knows that many of the administrative details of the Conference were undertaken by Fan Yeqi, Director of the Institute of Development Studies of the CSFS. And even fewer may know of a very significant book published by the Institute which was co-authored by Mr. Fan and titled (in English) "A Society Seeking Development". An English overview of the book states the following:

"This book finds that social development is based on economic development, which is premised on economic growth. As far as the developing countries are concerned, however, economic growth is not only the problem of the economy itself, but it is affected and limited by many kinds of social forces. China is a large developing socialist country. How to study the problem of China's economic and social development according to China's specific historical and practical conditions is an urgent and important matter. In recent years, many works which study China's development problems in different fields have been published in China, but there are few which comprehensively study the problems from all angles as this one does. It begins from an historical view and then moves to an overall study of the basic problems China's development and economic development are facing. The book deals with problems of rural and urban areas, manpower resource, cultural and ideological trends, democracy and legal systems, and the evaluation of development. Finally it approaches the problems of reform and development."

A few words about the Institute of Development Science of the CSFS itself might be useful. The aim of the Institute is "To study the problems of developing countries, especially China's, in the light of world development in order to step up their modernization."

The Institute is organized into six departments: Research, Investigation, Economic and Technological Exchange, Movies and Television, Translation and Publishing, and an Overseas Chinese Resources Research Center. We call special attention to two of these six departments. The Overseas Chinese Resources Research Center "mainly studies overseas Chinese, especially their manpower, material, and cultural resources, and how to mobilize these resources to contribute to China's Development."

The Movie and Television Department "uses the modern media of movies and television to disseminate and popularize knowledge of economic and social development so that the masses can acquire a development outlook and work for social development." In addition, "the Institute, with China Central Television Station and World Future Study Front, has produced a five-episode TV series (in English and Chinese versions) [with the same title as the book], 'China: A Society Seeking Development.' The series helps explain the changes that have occurred in China since 1949, especially the achievements made since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Party in 1978. It is also intended to stimulate cooperation between China and the developing countries, and to provide developing countries with experiences and lessons for the development."

In addition to two other books by Fan (*Cultural Mode and Economic Development* and *Introduction to Development Studies*) and books by other members of the Institute among which are *Society and Law*, by Liang Luqi, *Art and Society*, by Li Kerou, and *Analysis of China's Economy*, by Li Yingshi, the Institute has published in Chinese *Shaping the Future*, by Eleonora Masini, *Major Problems of Economic Development*, by one Prof. Meyer of Stanford University, *Growth Theory*, by R. M. Solow of MIT, and *Chinese Cultural Traditions*, by Richard Smith.

"Foreign scholars are urged to donate their works so that they can be published in Chinese editions." □

Preparations for, and the conduct of, the Xth World Conference were exceptionally well covered by the various media in China. Quite a few Chinese participants said they decided to attend the Conference because they had learned about it beforehand from TV or the newspapers.

During the Conference, and for a time after, the activities of the Conference were extensively reported in the daily press (both Chinese and English), and on television. Virtually everyday during the Conference, one or more Chinese newspapers had a half page or more devoted to the Conference.

[I know the word got out beyond the confines of Beijing as well: I recently received a postcard from a person who said they read about the Conference in a Chinese paper while riding a camel in the Himalayas!]

What follows, below, are reports which have been sent to us from various

participants. We would be glad to publish, in subsequent Newsletters, reports by other participants, or comments on the ones that follow. □

## REPORTS ABOUT CHINA

China in the Twenty-First Century

By: MAHDI ELMANDJRA

China has been the host of the Tenth World Congress for Future Studies held in Beijing from 3 to 8 September 1988. It has thus shown its concern and interest in outlooks for the future and particularly that of its preparedness for facing the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The Beijing conference has drawn more than 250 participants from over 70 countries. It was sponsored by the World Futures Studies Federation and the Chinese Society for Future Studies created in 1978. The Chinese participation in this important meeting was of a high academic standing and politically representative of the Chinese thinking about the future of the country.

A very impressive new indicator of the changes taking place in China is the number of young Chinese under 30 years of age who participated actively, responsibly and without any inhibition in the deliberations of the congress with an unreserved pride on the part of their elders.

To underline the importance which China accords to future studies in general and to its own future in particular, the Premier of China received for more than 90 minutes the members of the executive council of the World Future Studies Federation on September 7.

The present author was one of the delegates who attended this meeting with Premier Li Peng. One could not but be impressed by the Chinese visions for the medium and long term ranges. Visions which are the expression of a great assurance in the future perspectives of the country as well as of a realistic pragmatism not devoid of great expectations but in which the traces of dogmatic ideology are practically nonexistent.

The first point which the premier emphasized is that the future of China is linked to its present and its past. The future must therefore take into account the fact that China is a developing country. The future of China is being thought out at two

horizons: (1) that of the end of the twentieth century and (2) the year 2050. The main objective for the year 2000 is to attain a GNP of \$1000 per capita (the purchasing power of this amount in China is not comparable with other countries) and to improve the quality of life. By the year 2050, "China plans to reach the living standards of a medium developed country."

In the words of China's premier, "Development does not only englobe material improvements but also of the spirit and of culture: education, the satisfaction of aspirations of the people and the building up of a democratic system." Li Peng said that the new slogan was "We allow some people to get rich first, otherwise we may stay poor forever."

China has not only opted for a future with a specific content, it has also outlined the means by which it intends to meet the objectives it has set out for itself. These means are a new policy of reform and openness. The premier said, "We intend to retain the better part of our experience while benefiting from the better part of the experience of the developed countries." Peng Li stressed however that a change of the socialist system was "Out of the question."

What China is trying to do is to "move from a centralized economy to a planned commodity economy." This is the main key for understanding the reform under way and which has "reached a critical stage" according to China's premier. This critical stage concerns the revision of a number of important policies such as those affecting the pricing system, the rate of inflation, the development of entrepreneurship and a much greater reliance on advanced technologies.

There is a good deal of pragmatism in the Chinese approach. This is why they are both cautious and open. They do not underestimate the difficulties ahead. "We need understanding and support of our people," said Premier Li Peng, "China is facing a serious problem of unfair income levels and it must introduce all of the new technologies while escaping some of the corrupt manners which can come along with them."

The new commodity economy necessitates price adjustments to encourage investments in productive sectors, to give incentives to the farmers to produce grains and to reduce the consumption of energy. The price of travel by rail has not changed from its level of 1937. The price of grains are very low and the farmers are moving to the production of more lucrative agricultural activities such as fruit growing. China is now the first world producer of cereals-about 400 million tons per year-but

when divided by its population this only leaves 400 kilos per person.

"An imperative is to adjust our prices within the period of the five year plan...it may however take longer," said Premier Li Peng. The question is not only of pricing but also of new pricing mechanisms. Some prices will continue to be determined by the government while others will be left to the mechanisms of the market.

While Premier Li Peng was outlining these new economic policies to some of the participants in the 10th World Congress, Zhao Ziyang, the Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, was telling the American publisher Frank Gibney, "Things were different when I was Premier, I do not directly deal with economic affairs but concentrate my efforts on research and investigation so that I can discuss major policy issues with my colleagues at party meetings."

This statement confirms the present preoccupation for separating the functions of the state and the government from those of the party. The party concentrating on "Policy Elaboration" while leaving "Policy Operation" to the government, to use the distinction made by a Chinese university professor during the Future Studies World Congress.

One of the striking features of the new China is the relatively small amount of ideological references and dogmatic expressions in the new political vocabulary. Another new feature is the emphasis which is put on political, social and cultural rights of the individuals while still recognizing the importance of these rights at the level of the collectivities and of the state. The priority is now clearly given to the building up of a middle class China 21st century with entrepreneurship capabilities.

For the Premier of China the main concern in the medium and long term is that of peace and development in that order although both are interlinked. These are conditions for achieving the long term objective which is to achieve a higher form and degree of democracy with more substantive content in the political life of the country.

The above comments of the Premier of China and the impressions one gathers from a highly stimulative World Congress on Future Studies in which most of the attention was focussed on the interventions of the Chinese specialists must be understood in the very specific and unique situation of China. One is dealing with a country where the sheer proportion of size, more than one thousand millions, which makes not only quantitative but also major qualitative differences as

compared with most of the rest of the countries of the Third World with the possible exception of India. China also has the longest recorded cultural history of the world and a time span of human civilization which enables it to tackle problems in quite a different manner from the rest of the world. Finally, China has undergone a long revolution at a very heavy human cost and is now trying to capitalize on the sacrifices it has made and to draw lessons from its past errors. It is doing it in a very original manner as only the Chinese can.

The very probable success of China in one of the greatest endeavours of human history aiming at the improvement of the quality of life of over one billion people cannot but have positive consequences for the rest of mankind and of the countries of the Third World in particular. Notwithstanding the possibility of a third world war which may annihilate the human race and make any prediction more than futile, and regardless of what further progress the developed countries may be able to make in the next sixty years, China will be by the middle of the twentieth first century the leading political, economic, scientific and cultural power in the world.

The keen interest it is showing in the study of the future and the seriousness with which it is taking it into account enables China to develop visions which will no doubt be turned from the realm of ideas to that of concrete realizations. One can only hope that it will be capable of keeping the sense of modesty which enabled it to make such a fast progress and that it will not easily forget what it insists on emphasizing now, namely she constitutes a part of the Third World. The respective knowledge of China by the rest of the Third World and that of the latter by China are far from being adequate. It is a problem of direct cultural communication and of mutual understanding. Any improvement in these area can only positively help the practically non existent north-south dialogue by giving it more balance leading thereby to a more just and equitable world. This is why the fate of China has a direct bearing on the economic and social development of the rest of the world as well as on world peace. □

Beijing diaries

By: HARLAN CLEVELAND

My life has been punctuated with four visits to China. The first was dangerous, the others merely exciting.

In 1937, while a student at Princeton, I came within a few hours of being wiped out in the Shanghai cross fire when the Japanese militarists began their invasion of the Yangtze Valley.

## Reports About China

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Ten years and a world war later, I was sent to China by the United Nations to manage the last year of the huge postwar relief effort — two-thirds of a billion dollars (that's 1947 dollars), distributed on both sides of a civil war, including the rebuilding of dikes to put the great silty flow of the Yellow River back into its old bed, from which it had been diverted by the Chinese as a measure of defense against the Japanese. Rebuilding those dikes was a task about the equivalent of building the Panama Canal — only the Chinese, with the U.N. help, did it in a scant three years.

A long hiatus then, as "Red China" and its favorite dragon glared at each other across the ramparts of nonrecognition. I returned to China in 1975, part of a "policy group" led by Cyrus Vance (shortly before he became President Jimmy Carter's Secretary of State).

The Cultural Revolution was still sputtering in spastic degeneration. Deng Xiaoping was briefly in power, and we spent a fascinating afternoon with his quick wit, his strategic mind and his graphic body-language. (When he heard something he disagreed with, he would launch spittle at a strategically placed spittoon with impressive range and accuracy.) Deng, now 83, was thereafter banished to the countryside once again, but his friends soon prevailed over the "Gang of Four." He has been the undisputed leader of China's reformed revolution during the past decade.

I traveled to Beijing earlier this month, for a week of talks about China's future and the globe's; the People's Republic was hosting visitors from 40 countries for a convention of the World Futures Studies Federation.

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This is a city of dust. It's not mostly smog from auto emissions. Most people ride bicycles, millions of them. Private cars are still scarce, a luxury for foreigners and government motor pools. But heavy trucks clog even the widest avenues of the capital city. The haze is an artifact of rapid development, evidence of an unbelievable construction boom.

Lots of Minnesotans want to do business with China, and I've picked out my niche: I want the scaffolding concession. Beijing is like Minneapolis: You're never out of sight of a building halfway built. But in China they're not more offices for the bureaucratic overhead of an information society. They are mostly highrise apartments; to make good on government promises that every citizen will be decently sheltered. Beijing looks like what it is: a citywide public-housing project.

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Li Peng, China's premier, says the building boom has to be slowed; the public investment required is out of kilter with the provision of other basic needs. But people who need housing won't be impressed with the constraints on the government's investment strategy. The coming cutbacks in construction will test the capacity of China's leadership to lead people where they won't want to go.

I've never thought the cultural identity of the Chinese was in much danger of erosion. But television is doing its homogeneous best, even so.

The nightly TV news is a carbon copy of the format that's so familiar on our tubes — handsome anchorman and winsome, soignée anchorwoman, resolutely cheerful about the disasters they report, fading professionally to on-the-scene reportage from near and far.

Since I can't understand what the Chinese anchorpeople are saying, I have a chance to test a theory: that in TV news coverage, if the pictures are good enough they're enough. In the sample I'm watching, the photography is excellent — the local reports quite as good as the feeds from networks abroad.

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The weather report thus becomes a nightly lesson in global geography. The world map, of course, is oriented around the Pacific — Hawaii at its center, Western Europe and the East Coast of the United States somewhere out on the far fringes. (Am I looking at a map of the 21st century?) The Chinese are not raising a generation of children who won't know where they come from: The weather map highlights China in red.

In 1975 the watchwords in Beijing were uncertainty and caution. Leaders were rising and falling. Citizens were unsure whether it was safe to speak to foreigners. Dependable cadres were assigned to handle the "outer barbarians" — the traditional name for invaders, hence visitors, from outside the Middle Kingdom.

On that trip I found nobody who would admit that anything good had happened before 1949, the year the Chinese Communists pushed Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek off the mainland and established the People's Republic of China. The great Yellow River project had apparently never happened, at least until after Mao Zedong came to power.

In September 1988 things are very different. For me, the symbol of that difference came during a group visit with China's comparatively young (59) premier, Li Peng.

He had evidently been well briefed for the occasion. "Oh, you are an old friend of China," he said as he greeted me.

I heard no complaint that, as the United Nations' agent, I had channeled the lion's share of the postwar aid to the Nationalists (they still had the lion's share of the country at the time). Li, and the government of which he is the No. 3 man, are now confident enough to acknowledge that the United Nations' huge postwar input into China was destined for the Chinese people no matter by whom they might later be governed.

I had played a bit part in the postwar rehabilitation of China. The premier's quiet acknowledgment of that fact, duly mentioned in the press briefing afterward, has now rehabilitated that slice of Chinese history. That makes me feel good, because China is a lifelong part of me.

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"A river boatman riding the rapids sees a boulder in his path. He concentrates on following the swirling water around the obstacle he can see. He knows that there are other dangerous rocks farther down the river, but he doesn't try to plan now what to do about them. He's busy staying afloat and alive."

In a week of talks with Chinese futurists, planners and government officials, I heard some version of this story a dozen times. It seems to be accepted metaphor for cheerful pragmatism in exhilarating motion.

No Socialist reform-from-within anywhere has yet succeeded. China's "revolution of reform" is the world's largest and most innovative social experiment just now. We need to learn how to think about it — and Chinese metaphors may be a better learning tool than our own.

For a start, it isn't a drift toward capitalism. Most of the economy is still socialized. All heavy industry and other large enterprises are owned and managed by the state. Most agriculture is still controlled, and mass transportation and communication are, too. All land is owned by the state and contracted out for use.

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What's new in this decade of reform is that the Chinese — their leaders as well as natural-born small enterprisers by the millions — have discovered the incentive value of markets, in what they like to call the "Socialist commodity economy" or a "bargaining economy."

Markets, they argue, were around for several millennia before anyone even heard of capitalism. From old-time bazaars to modern shopping plazas, markets have been bringing buyers and sellers together to bargain for jade and for opium, for rice and fresh vegetables, for hairbrushes and compact disks. So China's leaders don't think of their rediscovery of market techniques as a Western import — it's more like a remembrance of things past.

What they have rediscovered about markets is that they generate incentives — to work hard, to innovate, to hustle. In the bad old days, demand was estimated by central planners and that much (or, usually, less) was what got produced under rigid quota systems. But now the official quotas are kept low enough so that an increasing amount of the nation's total business is subject to decisions by buyers and sellers, instead of econometricians.

Even Deng Xiaoping, the ranking reformer, is said to have been astonished at the rapid growth of small rural industries all over the country once local entrepreneurship was given its head.

The central puzzle is prices. How do you let lots of commodities find their prices through bargaining in an uncontrolled environment, while most of the economy (including production and distribution of some of those same commodities) is still price - controlled? Huge distortions are evident, and sometimes they rig incentives in wrong directions.

Li Peng, China's premier, gives an example. China has an unmatched system of inland waterways, great rivers and historic canals. But they are greatly underused because water transport can't compete with railroad freight rates that, he says, haven't changed in more than 50 years. Yet raising railroad freight rates would produce a surge of inflation — not to mention a storm of political unhappiness — throughout the national economy. It's a puzzlement.

With the state such a big player in the marketplace, economic behavior even in the margaining markets is going to be driven by some excruciatingly difficult political decisions at the center of things, in Beijing. And the needed changes in behavior will ultimately be deeply cultural. "If we're supposed to be inventive and enterprising in taking advantage of all these new opportunities," says one frustrated entrepreneur, "we'll have to go to the banks for investment funds. That's not only a novel idea for us, it's culture shock to the banks."

The absence of longer-range answers is itself, these days, a Chinese characteristic. After all these years, the 13th Party Congress in 1987 initiated "the first stage of socialism" which the leadership said might take as long as a hundred years. That takes care of the vocabulary for a century or so. Now, let's get on with the job.

A cheerful and confident pragmatism — trial and, sure, some error, too — is the pervasive mood of this "Second Chinese Revolution" which bills itself with undue modesty as "reform." As everybody says that Deng Xiaoping says, "It doesn't matter what color the cat is, as long as it catches mice." □

China: Two Reflections With One Tentative Conclusion  
By: MAGDA CORDELL MCHALE and Peggy Choong

Reflection I 1988, by Magda Cordell McHale

Over 400 people from more than 30 countries, including our Chinese colleagues and co-host, attended the 10th World Futures Studies Federation Conference at Beijing. Early on Friday morning, our caravan of buses was escorted by police cars down the wide boulevards, to the Opening Session held at the Great Hall of the People. This impressive building is at the Tian An Men Square, near the Forbidden City. The significance of our warm reception at these historic grounds where much of recent Chinese history was enacted, touched me greatly.

As I entered the Great Hall, memories of past World Futures Studies Federation conferences, held in different countries where we were received by various heads of states and religious leaders, passed before my eyes. From very modest beginnings, with hardly any financial backing, a small group of passionate individuals created an organization that continually furthered ideas on creating better futures and had an influence on changes needed in an ailing world.

The meeting in China gladdened me even more as it brought together some of our members who we had not seen for many years, and gave us an opportunity to meet again and talk about freedom, human requirements, and so on. It also meant a lot to all of us that persons from both North and South Korea were present and that the East and West were at peace. We all hoped that our various governments would soon be following in our footsteps.

At the Conference, everyone talked quite freely. The Chinese, in particular,

expressed great interest in making changes. They wanted to know how to go about doing it and were eager to learn.

### Of young people and women

During my stay, I met many young people. One person in particular was memorable. He was a 29 year old engineer from a Northern province who was working on a hydro-electric dam project to generate power. He was married with a one year old son. Apparently, he had heard about the Conference via television when Eleonora Masini, President of the World Futures Studies Federation, was interviewed. He wrote a letter and misdirected it to the "Futurist" in America. This letter was redirected to Jim Dator who later forwarded it to our Chinese counterpart. The author of the letter was given permission to take a week off from work. His request for official permission to represent his province, in order that he could obtain transportation allowances, was still pending. In the absence of official sponsorship, he took his personal savings, travelled two hours by bus to the railway station and 33 hours by train from his home 2500 kilometers away, to Beijing to attend the Conference. Since he had some family in Beijing, his accommodation was ensured. He even paid for his registration fee to the conference, his food, and other expenses. A most extraordinary young man! As he had no printed name card, he made one of his own. On one side was his name and address; and instead of the usual Chinese version on the other side, he had inscribed the following quotation: "Let us build a world full of love, beauty, creativity."

I also met many students from the universities. They were curious and were full of questions. Most of the people I met voiced hopes for peace. Some had heard about Buffalo and our University because they had friends, or friends of friends, who were here. Many were eager to study here.

I found the Chinese to be similar to the Americans. They were noisy, messy, and full of entrepreneurial spirit. An example of this was a woman who somehow managed to get herself unobtrusively located within the conference hotel and sold a variety of fresh fruits.

During the Conference and at meal times, one was also fortunate to meet many interesting participants. Amongst the people were some very interesting women. One of them was an older women with her research assistant, both of whom spoke English. She was a local representative of the Party and a professor at a university, instructing teachers of kindergarten students. They had done much research at the

## Reports About China

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university and were aware of the shortcomings of the education system. She freely acknowledged that the Cultural Revolution had set them back a great deal.

I also met with Mrs. Lei Jieqiong, Vice Chair, Standing Committee, National People's Congress, and Vice Chair of the All China Women's Federation, at the banquet which they hosted for us. It was an extraordinary and moving experience.

In retrospect, I found that the young Chinese women were also not very different from us in the West. They wore the latest styles, were health and figure conscious, and were usually elegant and slim. Many of them were working and they looked as chic as any European or American women. Several hoped to continue their studies, work, marry, and have more physical space. They were not satisfied with just sitting at home, and instead wanted self-fulfillment at work and in relationships. The young Chinese men I met volunteered that they did their own cooking (and even preferred it), and helped with the household chores.

### Of learning English

I asked one person from the provinces about learning English. He said that they had English teachers but that the training was fast and not sufficient. They did much of their learning through self-study. This young man had learned English by listening to BBC News and the Voice of America broadcasts. Every day, he would spend an hour listening to these two programs with a dictionary by his side. He would jot down new phrases and words he did not understand, and then look them up in the dictionary immediately after the programs were over. This way, he added new words to his vocabulary every day. In addition, he would read books and journals in his field of specialization which he obtained independently or exchanged with friends.

The eagerness of the Chinese to learn is very apparent. Workers and professionals alike do a lot of their learning after their long working hours. Much of their continued learning and updating of professional knowledge was made through reading the latest American or English writers in the field. Not surprisingly, they knew the latest planning literature. In the Futures arena, they had heard of Daniel Bell, Toffler, and others.

Invariably, the youth in China (and indeed all over the world), complain that the older generation tells them things in an "oblique" manner, while they prefer being told "straight."

## Reports About China

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On my return home, I recounted my new experience to my young research associate, Peggy Choong, an architect and planner from Singapore. She in turn recollected her own earlier experience in China in 1983.

### Reflections II 1983, by Peggy Choong

I was twenty-six when I first visited China in 1983. Then, discernable changes were already taking place. China's "open-door" policy was attracting foreign investors from Asia and other countries. Singapore's architects were most interested in this new investment partner, since China represented an avenue for the expansion of architectural practice. Most Singapore architects in joint ventures with major contracting companies, offered package deals. All projects had to be in partnership with a Chinese counterpart with equal investment shares. In many cases, the Chinese provided the land which constituted part of their half of the investment. The contract normally stipulated that the profits obtained from the finished project would be shared equally between the two investors. In addition, the property would revert to the Chinese partners after a stipulated period of time, usually 5 years. During this period, therefore, the foreign investor had not only to make his profits but also to figure a way of getting the profits out of the country, because money (the Yuan) could not be taken out of China, according to government policy at that time.

Aside from the benefit of foreign investment, the Chinese also hoped to learn from foreign professionals in areas of architectural design, engineering, and especially construction methods.

Most of the labour on site was provided by the local Chinese community. Supervision was usually done by the contractor's representative. We sometimes found it difficult to work with the local force as they were accustomed to working at a different tempo and standard.

In their hope for technology transfer of some kind, we were also required to work with local professionals, that is, architects and engineers. For example, in a project to design a university, we sponsored a team of more than ten professionals to work in our office, as well as that of our Structural, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineers. The Chinese working at our office were most eager to learn and very curious. They were fascinated with our Computer-aided design system and technical skills. This was strange to me since these are procedures and equipment I had always taken for granted and assumed to be common knowledge.

In terms of the contractual agreement, I found the Chinese exceedingly careful. The impression I had was that they liked dealing with the Chinese from Singapore. After all, most of the Singapore Chinese were recent migrants from the mainland going back only to our grand-parents if not our immediate parents. We didn't have the burden of a historic dispute with China that other nations had. More importantly, we were not so completely removed from indigenous Chinese culture and customs as many Chinese born in Western countries were.

A characteristic that seems remarkable to me as a designer was the willingness, indeed the eagerness of the Chinese to embrace all things "modern." They didn't want anything to do with indigenous forms or buildings that were designed to reflect their tradition and culture. Instead, they loved high-rise buildings, and the taller the better. Mostly, they saw them as symbols of modernity and change. They wanted glass curtain walls and daring forms in the very latest "styles" — buildings that one could find in the United States or Singapore. I.M. Pei's Fragrant Hill Hotel, which is a low rise modern building sensitively designed to reflect the Chinese culture and special sense of space, impressed many foreign architects but meant little to the local Chinese.

Doing business with the Chinese involved a certain amount of attention to formal "protocol" and knowing one's way around the bureaucracy.

In my travels in China, I also met some young professionals. They were eager to know more, see more, and to travel outside of their own country. In terms of architectural form and aesthetics, they were uncertain in many ways of how to express it in design, but they knew in no uncertain terms that it had to be "modern."

Other forms of change were also present. I remember having a very formal 15-course business dinner with our Chinese counterparts, some of whom spoke excellent English. I was sitting next to a young lady architect. After the usual cursory introductions, one of the first questions she asked me was, "do you Disco?"...something I had not done for a long time in my great rush to learn to be a good architect.

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Peggy and I talked at length about the changes that have occurred and are taking place in China. We read and re-read some recent articles about it and came to some tentative conclusions.

The Changing Faces of China  
...of Entrepreneurship Chinese style...

Things that oppose each other, also complement each other.  
Chinese Proverb<sup>1</sup>

China is at a very interesting stage in its social, political and economic development. There is a climate of excitement here which is tinged with more than a little apprehension at the depth, extent and speed of change. Li Peng,<sup>2</sup> the Premier and Head of the State Council, realizes the problems associated with China's modernization program and its encouragement of entrepreneurship. He believes in Deng's "open door" policy but would prefer to minimize any disruption.

China's efforts at reform may constitute one of the largest social experiments in our lifetime. What is extremely interesting in their approach is their very different concept of time and expectations of results. Unlike Western cultures which tend to prefer immediate results and have development plans of short time frames, the Chinese have a totally different perspective. They plan in "decades." Li Peng expects to raise the per capita income to \$1000 by the year 2000.<sup>3</sup> And Zhao Ziyang expects this reform to last for the "next 100 years."<sup>4</sup> History has given them a sense of continuity and with both feet planted in pragmatic soil, the Chinese are willing to ride the winds of time, to change in small stages and adapt to new demands. As one Chinese proverb summed it up: Gains each day are the month's strength.

The history of the Chinese people, their homogeneity, the nature of the language and its common use has forged a nation strong in its sense of culture. The nature of Chinese reforms springs from and is closely intertwined with its culture. The authorities realize that they need to increase efficiency, generate greater vitality, and stimulate the initiative of all sectors of society. In their reform efforts, they have borrowed ideas, applied new technologies, and made necessary changes. But these changes have always been carried out in a particularly "Chinese style," adapted to their own people and culture. Excessive friction between the imposition of new ideas and old ideals is thereby minimized.

Innovation, pragmatism and an innate optimism seem to be major characteristics of the Chinese. A good example of private enterprise Chinese style is seen in the "commercialization" or "privatization" of the Chinese army. The Chinese government now regards the People's Liberation Army (PLA) as a business. In 1986, the army in Guangdong made a profit of \$54 million and paid more than \$16 million in



taxes.<sup>5</sup>

The birth of this Chinese business was unconventional enough. It started between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s when Mao Zedong built factories in the inland areas of China felt to be vulnerable to attack. This Third Front Strategy resulted in the creation of more than 30,000 factories at a cost of about \$54 billion.<sup>6</sup>

China's more recent efforts have been to utilize these factories to produce consumer goods. More than two-thirds of these factories now market consumer goods such as refrigerators, rubbish compactors, teddy bears and so on. Profits are channelled back to the army to subsidize troop cost, to maintain the barracks, and pay for training.

NORINCO (China North Industries) is one of the factories belonging to the Central government army. It maintains separate defense and civilian manufacturing divisions. The former is a top secret entity that deals with the purchase and marketing of arms, while the latter manufactures and exports a wide range of consumer goods from cameras to field glasses, from bicycles to sewing machines.

Change in China is occurring at an amazing speed. A decade ago, "capitalism" was deemed a decadent evil, and the PLA was thought of as the epitome of anti-capitalism. Today, Mr. Xu Jia Tun, China's representative in Hong Kong, says, "The modern capitalist system is a great invention of human civilisation."<sup>7</sup> Pragmatism seem to be a powerful denominator in these changing ideological stances.

"Capitalism," however, take on a different flavor altogether in China. It does not find its roots exclusively in Western civilization, but has a different concept altogether. A better word for it may be "entrepreneurship."

The Chinese philosophy and ethics of human conduct are conducive to such a development. Innovation, hard work, and above all education remain important cornerstones in their lifestyles. In addition, the Chinese philosophy contains within it a sense of balance, an interweaving of things that seemingly oppose, a duality of existence. Yin and Yang are not perceived as fixed states of being. In achieving one to the exclusion of the other, one creates an "excess" that is self-defeating. The Chinese word for "crisis" also contains such a duality. It consists of two opposing words, "Wei" (danger) and "Chi" (opportunity). Crisis is both danger and opportunity.<sup>8</sup> Therefore it is not an occasion for despair but one for taking full advantage of the opportunities.

The Chinese language is a very visual one and is filled with metaphorical expressions, a reflection no doubt of their thought process. Embedded in their metaphors are visions that determine their course of action. As such, changing old metaphors to suit the particular needs of the present times is not uncommon in China.

For example, the metaphor "Communism" takes on a meaning in present day China that is quite different from what westerners might presuppose, based upon the history of over twenty years ago. The government no longer promises "work and housing from birth to death." Neither will it fix the prices of all consumer goods. The notion of Communism here is no longer, "to each according to his needs." Rather, the vision of the Chinese future is one of "to each according to his work."<sup>9</sup> They feel that it may be necessary for "some to grow rich first in order that everyone doesn't remain poor forever."<sup>10</sup> This notion does not pit communism against capitalism; rather, it calls for a balance between communism and entrepreneurship. The evolution of China's entrepreneurial army, the PLA, is an distinctly Chinese mode of development and reform — the unorthodox and pragmatic partnership of militarism and industrialization.

The Chinese people are ready and eager for change. The young are impatient for the latest consumer goods and a better life. But the pitfalls of rapid conversion are clear. In 1988 alone, there were more than 50 industrial strikes and even riots.<sup>11</sup> Somehow, a balance has to be struck, to encourage entrepreneurship and yet curb the social unrest and corruption festering there. A partnership of entrepreneurship and communism needs to be forged — management Chinese style with its natural enthusiasm and historic flair for enterprise.

Thus, we continue to learn from each other about the need for new understanding of our interdependent world and its futures. The World Futures Studies Federation has played and will continue to plan an important role.

<sup>1</sup>This proverb was used by Xianggrui Gong when discussing the relationships of democracy, socialism, stability, and freedom of the market place.

<sup>2</sup>This was discerned from the discussion that several WFSF Council members had with Premier Li Peng. I was fortunated to be among them (Magda McHale).

<sup>3</sup>This was mentioned by Premier Li Peng in our discussion with him.

<sup>4</sup>Xianggrui Gong mentioned this in his talk when he said that Zhao Ziyang expects this first stage of socialism to go on for the next hundred years.

<sup>5,6</sup>From "Asia's New Fire-Breather," Business Week, October 1988 and "China

invents the entrepreneurial army," *The Economist*, May 1988.

<sup>7</sup>From "Where China learns to love capitalism," *The Economist*, August, 1988.

<sup>8</sup>This was explained in greater detail by ChungLiang Al Huang in his book, "Quantum Soup. A Philosophical Entertainment," E.P. Dutton Inc. New York, 1983.

<sup>9</sup>Explained by Tong DaLin in his talk at the Conference.

<sup>10</sup>Mentioned by Premier Li Peng in his discussion with us.

<sup>11</sup>From "Bad Day at Beidaihe," *The Economist*, August, 1988. □

The newsletter of the Center for the Advance of Human Co-operation, edited by KENNETH and RENÉE-MARIE CROOSE PARRY, contained the following:

Four weeks in the Soviet Union, leading an American group on our seventh journey through the various republics, and six weeks in China, including Hong Kong and Macao, all in one year, has confirmed us in our conviction that every political and economic decision needs to be taken with reference to the global impact on both human and ecological futures. One illustration which comes to mind from our experience in China is that China does not need capital for yet more polluting investment, so much as aid to control the pollution from developments that are already taking place.

The most striking impression left with us from this opportunity to compare the two largest countries with experience of Marxist revolutions, was the following contrast. In the Soviet Union there is intense political debate and reluctant economic change. In China there is a marked absence of political debate amongst the people, but a major economic explosion, with periodic attempts from the center to rein in the excesses. Another contrast between the two countries is the difference in attitudes towards authority: in the USSR, the centralized tradition which Stalin exploited for his goal of building "socialism in one country" (as against Lenin's and Trotsky's views that the successful building of a communist society would depend on international support from like-minded peoples), has, over decades, left initiative in the hands of local party bureaucrats and stifled innovative, inventive and dynamic participation in the economic process. The expression of such a constructive spirit seems to be confined mainly to artisans' cooperatives, restaurants in the big cities and the new decision-making flair of some factory managers. Many of the Party representatives do not seem to be taking kindly to the challenge of creative initiatives, which threaten the bureaucratic certainties that have become their habitual, and sometimes privileged, way of life.

In China one has the sense that everything is possible and that nearly everything is happening! But the price which is being paid for this worried us and many of the foreign participants at the Tenth International Congress of the WORLD FUTURES STUDIES FEDERATION in Beijing — the catalyst in our decision to visit China. We saw pollution on the rise nearly everywhere, with serious ecological damage occurring in places such as Lake Tai, with its rich harvest of fresh-water shrimp, and the interconnecting waterway system around the Grand Canal, on which we travelled for five hours from Suzhou to Wuxi. The rise in illiteracy, as peasants engage their children in the scramble for economic gain, is perhaps the most worrying cost that the opportunities for getting rich in the new 'socialist commodity economy' (as the Chinese called it at our conference), have created. In some parts of China, inflation in urban centers has now reached 40 to 50% and has caused Mr. Zhou Ziyang, the Party Secretary, to announce measures, designed to slow the economy and reduce inflation.

This comparison between the Soviet Union of 'glasnost' and the China of the 'open door policy' helped us focus on the enormity of the contradictions raised by the problem of countries, aspiring to socialism, trying to internationalize their approaches in an effort (i) to improve their economies without repeating our rapacious mistakes and (ii) to partake meaningfully in the pacification of the future. Adding to this the non-convertibility of the rouble and the yuan, the arms race, and the basically dichotomous, shifting Western attitudes to each of these two countries — the hurdles seem almost insurmountable. Nevertheless, although there is yet to be a Chinese - Soviet summit, a new era has already begun along the borders between Inner Mongolia and Siberia, and between Heilongjiang Province and the Russian Far East, where trade between two countries is beginning to boom. □

## WFSF BUSINESS

First Meeting of the Executive Council. September 2, 1988, Beijing, China

Members Present: Uvais Ahamed, Sam Cole, Jim Dator, Yehezkel Dror, Mahdi Elmandjra, Johan Galtung, Rolf Homann, Robert Jungk, Maria Kalas Koszegi, Mircea Malitza (for Olteanu), Eleonora Masini, Magda McHale, Radmila Nakarada, Linzheng Qin, Andrzej Sicinski, Bart van Steenbergen

1. President Masini reminded us that almost exactly 21 years ago this week, the first

meeting of what was to become the WFSF was held in Oslo, Norway. Bob Jungk observed that the Federation has thus finally come of age legally. This is also the Xth World Conference, and it is the tenth anniversary of the first time Mr. Qin and other Chinese participated in the Cairo 1978 WFSF Conference.

2. President Masini discussed the preparations that had been taken for the Conference, including obtaining \$20,000 from Unesco, and other funds from all the groups and organizations mentioned in the official conference program—for a total of well over \$90,000.

3. The main discussion concerned matters to be put before the General Assembly by the Council.

A. The recommendations of the Council's Nominating Committee were accepted by the Council. Jim Dator is recommended for President; Eleonora Masini for a newly-created position of Chair of the Council; and a new Secretary General will be chosen later, preferably from a second or third world area. Dator's and Masini's new positions will become effective when a new Secretary General is chosen by the Council.

B. The next World Conference will be held in Budapest, Hungary, in the same location as the European Regional Conference of September 1987. It will be held the last week of May 1990 on the theme, "Linking Long-Range Visions with Present Decisions".

C. Members proposals for regional meetings may be made for Nagoya, Japan; Yugoslavia; Tenri, Japan; Australia; Indonesia; South Korea (and perhaps North Korea as well).

D. The 1989 Futures Course in Dubrovnik will also be announced.

E. The possibility of raising the membership fee was discussed. Because many valuable members find it difficult (some impossible) to pay even the \$30 fee, while others find \$30 ridiculously low (and because membership fees cover only a tiny fraction of the total costs of running the Federation, and, if they were to cover more, fees would have to be many times higher than they presently are), it was agreed that we would keep the fees as they presently are, but encourage members who can pay more to do so.

4. It was noted that this is the 200th Anniversary of the French Declaration of Human Rights, with many celebrations planned worldwide. Members should use the occasion to conduct activities on the futures of human rights as well. □

General Assembly Xth World Conference WFSF-Beijing

Items on agenda: President's Report, Secretary General's Report, Election of New President, Next World Conferences, Other Activities.

The President presented a report describing activities since 1986. She listed in detail activities related to the organization of the Xth World Conference of the Federation in China. She indicated the fund raising activities conducted within the Federation with special reference to fund raising for the China Conference. The President expressed satisfaction with the growing membership of WFSF and its increased world credibility.

The Secretary General stated that he did not intend giving a detailed account of activities since a printed document was circulated with detailed information. He stressed the importance of institutional support in running a secretariat and expressed his intention to resign from the secretariat in 1990.

Discussion was declared open, with the following main points being made in the course of discussions:

- the need for WFSF to be a 'shaping' organization, a futurist organization on the global scale.
- the need for WFSF to develop mechanisms whereby its thinking and voice could come up to a global level.
- the need for WFSF to recruit young people, to enhance its formal structure and to dialogue with outside.
- the need to create a group to list feasible actions.
- the need for a commitment, for a concern for human rights.
- the possibility of creating sections within WFSF on issues considered to be of importance.
- the hosting of 5 or 6 students under a WFSF scholarship.

The deliberation for the election of the new president was put forward as well as the creation of a new position, chairperson of the Executive Council.

After some debate on the possible election of a third world president, a vote was taken and Jim Dator was elected President as of 1990. It was decided that the election of a chairperson was a matter for the Council to decide.

Proposals were put forward on the question of the election of a new secretary general, and discussions followed on the various possibilities for secretariats-China, Finland, Australia, Hungary-It was decided that the matter should be left to the Council to examine and discuss in greater depth.

It was announced that the next World Conference of the Federation would be held in Hungary in 1990 (May) on the following topic: "Linking Long-Range Visions to Present Decisions."

It was also announced that the XIIth World Conference will be held in Barcelona, Spain, during the first week of September 1991 on the theme, "New Forms of Economic, Political, and Social Participation."

Other proposals for meetings were presented:

There will be a regional conference in Nagoya, Japan, in September 1989 especially on "new economic paradigms of the information society."

There is also a regional conference proposal for Austria in 1991 on the East-West dialogue.

WFSF members were also encouraged to participate in, and thus hold a regional meeting at, the Extraordinary World Conference of Philosophers which will be held in Kenya in 1991.

(We thank Margaret Cook Federico for submitting this summary of the General Assembly) □

### Report

To the General Assembly, World Futures Studies Federation Beijing, September 5, 1988.

Jim Dator  
Secretary General

The main purposes of the Secretariat of the WFSF are:

- Assist the President, Vice Presidents, members of the Executive Council and other members of the WFSF in the administration of the Federation.
- Communicate, and help others to communicate, with the members of the Federation and others interested in futures studies.
- Seek as new members, persons and organizations engaged actively in futures studies, especially from geographical, cultural and other groups who are presently not members of, or are underrepresented in, the WFSF.
- Represent the WFSF or its interests at appropriate meetings or other activities sponsored by various organizations.
- Encourage futures studies and the utilization of information from and about the future in all decisionmaking activities, being especially mindful of the desire to decolonize the future and to encourage anticipatory democracy in all aspects of human life.

The Secretariat endeavors to carry out these purposes by:

- Publishing and distributing to the members and others a lengthy newsletter on approximately a quarterly basis.
- Communicating with the President by telephone, telex, mail and/or in person on at least a weekly basis, and very frequently several times a week.
- Communicating with the Vice Presidents by telephone, telex, mail and in person as regularly as possible and as the need or opportunity arises. Communication with the North American Vice President, Magda McHale, via telephone and in person has been the most frequent. She in turn has been exceptionally helpful in communicating with others, not only in North America but elsewhere.
- Communicating in as non-bureaucratic and personal manner as time, talent, and finances permit with each of the members of the WFSF who are willing to engage in such communication.
- Receiving WFSF members as visitors in Hawaii, and arranging for them to speak publically whenever possible.
- Preparing for and participating in Regional and World Conferences and Courses of the WFSF. This is definitely the most time consuming and intensive activity of the Secretariat.
- Participating in other meetings and activities as appropriate.
- Providing information about the Federation and futures studies in general to a large and growing number of persons and institutions who request it.

The following are the main activities of the Secretariat since the May 1986 World Conference and General Assembly of the Federation which was held in Honolulu, Hawaii:

- June 1986, Course on the Future at the InterUniversity Centre for Postgraduate Studies, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia.
- August 1986, Conference on "Visions of Higher Education", Zurich, Switzerland, in cooperation with the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute, Stockton State College, and The European Association for Research & Development in Higher Education.
- November 1986, Conference on the "Future of Culture," in Cooperation with the Chinese Academy for Classical Learning, Beijing, China.
- March 1987, Course on the Future at the InterUniversity Centre for Postgraduate Studies, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia.
- August 1987, Conference on "Visions of Higher Education," in Dalian, China. In cooperation with the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute, Stockton State College, the European Association for Research & Development in Higher Education, and the Government of Lianoning Province.
- September 1987, Conference on "Technology of the Future and its Social Implications," Budapest, Hungary. Organized by the Futures Research Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
- March-April 1988, Course on the Future at the InterUniversity Centre for Postgraduate Studies, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia.

In addition, the Secretary General went to Beijing in July 1988 to help complete planning for the Xth World Conference. President Eleonora Masini visited Beijing in February 1988 to further plans at that time. The exceptional assistance provided by Federico Masini, of the Italian Embassy to China, must also be acknowledged. The amount and quality of his efforts cannot be over-emphasized.

The Office of the Secretariat also cooperated with the following:

- The Pacific Peace Seminars of the University of Hawaii, Summers 1986, 1987, and 1988.
- A Conference on "High Technology for Small, Remote Communities," sponsored by the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research, University of Hawaii, February 1987.
- Asia-Pacific Dialogue, sponsored by the University of Hawaii Institute for Peace, July 1987.
- Meetings with the Commission on the Future of the Government of Australia,

Melbourne, Australia, November 1987.

- Meetings with members of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, and others, Tallinn, Estonia, USSR, March 1988.
- A Conference on "The Futures of Development," convened by Johan Galtung at the University of Hawaii, May 1988.
- Conference on "Australia's Communication Futures," Brisbane, Australia, May 1988
- Conference on "Humans-Cultures-Futures" sponsored by Tenri Yamato Culture Congress, Nara, Japan, August 1988.

The Secretariat has also been visited by the following WFSF members, and arranged public discussions most of them:

- Richard Slaughter (October 1986), Arno Koeoerna and Aare Raid ( November 1986), Henryk Skolimowski (April 1987), Jerzy Wojciechowski (July 1987), Tom Mandel (November 1987), Mihai Botez (December 1987), Peter Moll ( December 1987).
- Andrew Tickell of the Australian Commission for the Future visited in July 1987, and Prof. Tuk-Chu Chun worked through the Fall of 1987 on the creation of a futures organization in South Korea.
- During the same period and subsequently, Glenn Paige has helped develop links to the WFSF with the Academy of Social Sciences of the People's Republic of Korea.

Financial and other Support of the Secretariat:

From the establishment of the Secretariat at the University of Hawaii in 1983, the University (especially Deane Neubauer, Dean of the College of Social Sciences; Don Topping, Director of the Social Science Research Institute; and the Department of Political Science) has supported the work of the Secretariat. This support has meant the provision at no charge of two furnished rooms in the SSRI, and financial assistance for some of the costs of telephone, telex, telegrams, and mailing by the Dean, SSRI and the Department of Political Science. The Office of the Dean supported the salary of a Graduate Assistant, and granted both teaching assistance and permission for frequent travel to the Secretary General.

With the support of the President of the University of Hawaii, Albert Simone; Vice President for Academic Affairs, Anthony Marsella; Vice President for Research, David Yount; and Dean Neubauer and Director Topping, in 1987 the Hawaii

Legislature funded for the first time the Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies (which had been created by the Legislature in 1971). The Office of the Secretariat was placed in the Center.

The funding by the Legislature was very modest—\$35,000 each for two years—and there was considerable delay both in getting the funds, and expending them. Nonetheless, the Secretariat found itself last year and is at present on somewhat more secure financial footing than before.

The funding of the Graduate Assistant was transferred from the Dean's Office to the Center. And a full-time Clerk Typist position for the first time since the Secretariat was transferred to Hawaii was funded and eventually filled. Money for supplies, communication, and equipment was also made available. It thus has just recently become possible for the Center to purchase its own MacIntosh computer and laser printer for publication of the WFSF Newsletter and other items. Before this time, the Secretariat had to borrow whatever other equipment might be available elsewhere during the rare times it was not in use.

Money was also made available for the first time in the last two months to support some of the travel of the Secretary General.

The Staff of the Secretariat through the Summer of 1986 was Anne Witebsky, Graduate Assistant, and María Roulstone, Graduate Intern.

María Roulstone then became Graduate Assistant, and first Takahiro Suzuki and then Salvador Valádez became Graduate Interns.

With the funding of the Center, María Roulstone continues as Graduate Assistant; Mitchell Cabral is Graduate Intern; and Donna Uyeda is Clerk-Typist.

#### A Comment on Funding the WFSF.

It is important that the members of the WFSF understand that their dues and other contributions fund an important, but very small, part of the total expenses of the Federation. The attached financial report concerns only the funds contributed by membership dues and a few additional contributions. Because of the fact that Secretariat expenses are completely mingled with those of other University entities, and because University contributions are often in-kind as well as financial, it is impossible to get a true picture of the cost of running the Secretariat.

In addition, the attached financial report reflects the transactions of the Secretariat in Honolulu only. Both the Office of the President, in Rome, and that of the European Liaison, in Switzerland, have received dues, made expenditures, transferred funds to the Secretariat, or (in the case of the President only) been reimbursed from the Secretariat in Honolulu. Some of these transactions are reflected in the accounts below, but others have been unreported to the Secretariat.

As is the case of the Secretariat in Honolulu, it is absolutely true that many of the WFSF-related expenses of the President and the European Liaison (as well as some of the Vice Presidents and others) are borne out of their own pockets, or those of their affiliated institutions, as a consequence of the generous support and permission of the same. □

#### Second meeting of the Executive Council, September 6, 1988, Beijing, China

Members Present: Ibrahim Abdel-Rahman, Uvais Ahamed, Igor Bestuzhev-Lada, Sam Cole, Jim Dator, Yehezkel Dror, Mahdi Elmandjra, Johan Galtung, Rolf Homann, Robert Jungk, Maria Kalas Köszegi, Mircea Malitza (for Olteanu), Mihailo Markovic, Eleonora Masini, Magda McHale, Radmila Nakarada, Odera Oruka, Linzheng Qin, Andrzej Sicinski, Bart van Steenberg

#### 1. Position of Council Chairperson.

The Council voted to create the position of Chairperson of the Council, and elected Eleonora Masini to it as soon as Jim Dator takes over the duties of President.

There was also considerable support for, but no formal vote on, the idea that at least from 1/3 to 1/2 of the present Council membership be replaced with new members the next time Council elections are held. This should be at the 1990 World Conference in Budapest.

#### 2. Secretariat.

The Council re-affirmed the decision by the General Assembly that, since the President is from the US, the General Secretariat should preferably be in a Second or Third World country. The hope that China could host the Secretariat was frequently voiced.

Mr. Qin said that there was considerable interest within China for hosting the Secretariat. Whether this could come about was mainly a matter of finding the financial backing in China. He said he would do his best to arrange it.

Because of this uncertainty, the Council and other Federation members are to continue to seek support for the Secretariat in other Second or Third world areas.

The pros and cons of having one General Secretary and several regional Secretariats was discussed. Rolf Homann asked that, because of his changed occupational situation, he be relieved of his duties as European Liaison. The Council honored this request, and asked the Hungarian Futures Research Committee to become the "European Secretariat" of the WFSF through the next World Conference.

Rolf Homann was thanked for his work on behalf of the Federation as European Liaison.

### 3. Next meeting of the WFSF in Budapest, 1990.

The Hungarian Futures Research Committee agreed to accept the duties of a European Secretariat, in part in recognition of the role it will play in serving as a host and organizer of the next World Conference.

A WFSF preparatory committee to assist the Hungarian organizers was chosen composed of Igor Bestuzhev-Lada, Sam Cole, Mihailo Markovic, Bob Jungk, and of course the President and Secretary General. Others may be added to this.

### 4. Dubrovnik Futures Course.

Discussion of this course was again deferred due to lack of time. A meeting of the course directors and some possible resource persons was held later the same day.

### 5. Other matters.

The question of whether or not the WFSF, through its General Assembly, should take positions on specific political, moral, ethical, or other issues had been discussed at the General Assembly. The question of whether the Council should do so was discussed at the Council meeting. It was agreed that the Council had the statutory ability to take a position on such matters in the name of the Federation between meetings of the General Assembly, most Council members agreed that they

believed the Council should continue to take positions on matters of high ethical and moral concern, but not on specific political issues.

Since, on January 18, 1989, it will be 4000 days until the Year 2000, there was discussion, but no formal resolution, concerning the idea that members of the WFSF should initiate, or participate in, celebrations of that day. Mircea Malitza suggested the slogan: "Awareness, Preparedness, Openness." □

October 15, 1988

To members of the Executive Council:

Over a month has gone by since the Conference in Beijing and I wish to send you some reflections on the past and the future of WFSF.

The Conference in Beijing was, without any doubt, one of the highlights of the activity of WFSF; it might even be considered a peak moment in its life. On one side, we had the support and the participation of the highest Chinese political authorities, Premier Li Peng and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Huang Hua, as well as Mr. Ma Hong and others. On the other, academics of world standing as Prof. Zhao Fusan, Vice-President of the Academy of Social Science, and Prof. Fei Xia Tong, Sociologist of enormous reputation. This is not to underestimate the participation in the "China Plenary" and in the groups, where all WFSF members were able to dialogue with Chinese colleagues on different matters, and capture some of the indications existing in the present and for the future of China.

The Chinese and international press in Beijing gave great coverage to the Conference. WFSF members and other future interested people from over fifty countries participated actively in the Conference and it was a challenge and a great experience for many of our colleagues to have the opportunity to witness China at this moment of decision and change, an opportunity which we can say was due to the efforts of WFSF in recent years. We left China with the assurance that futures studies can be of use to China today.

I wish to stress to all of you that WFSF has undoubtedly gone a long way from the group of people who met in Oslo and Kyoto, but it was indeed a very small group that worked between conferences. I hope you will allow me to recall that, when I received the responsibility of the Secretariat in 1975, I was handed a very small

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packet of xeroxed addresses by Peter Menke-Glükert (all of which were to be updated since, as we all know, the members of WFSF are very mobile and move continuously from one place to another).

It has been said that it is not enough to hold conferences, however international they may be, and I agree. But we must also remember that, in order to hold such conferences, it is necessary to build up credibility, support from different countries, as well as interest among members and participants, and this is not done overnight.

Yes, conferences have been held in many countries; moreover, the number of members has grown from 116 individual members and 16 organizational members in 1976, with the number of countries represented being 30, (in 1978 the countries were 43) to 346 individual members in 1982, with 43 organizational members and 55 countries being represented, to 500 individual members with 50 organizational members in 1988 with 80 countries being represented.

As many of you know, this spreading requires constant fostering, letter writing, the preparation and printing of newsletters, as well as traveling and meeting people. All this means time and energy. Thanks to this fostering, the international presence of WFSF has been felt, accepted and rewarded. In conclusion, in the last fifteen years we have built up on the international core that existed at the beginning and this is the great asset of WFSF. It is unique: no other organization working in futures studies, however prestigious in name, or rich in journals or business, has such an international presence to this day.

Over and beyond its international strength, WFSF has also concentrated on the young. Unfortunately not all the participants in the ten courses held in Dubrovnik could be at the General Assemblies; the younger generation of future thinkers is not necessarily present at conferences, not only because of finances, but mainly because they are caught in the "tunnel of life."

All activities of WFSF have had very special financial support: the activities of the Secretariat have been supported by the hosting country, the University of Hawaii, the Secretariat of Futures Studies in Sweden, etc. Conferences have been supported by host countries and international organizations, whether intergovernmental or private; the course in Dubrovnik is supported by the InterUniversity Centre or student foundations in Eastern European countries.

The fact of not depending financially on one specific source has been an asset for

## WFSF Business

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WFSF, which has paid off when requests were put to organizations for financial support for ad hoc activities. It was a known fact that when WFSF requested financial support for members from Eastern European countries or developing countries, the funds were used for that purpose and no other.

This is the situation of WFSF before Beijing and after. I think we should all, the officers and the Council, be proud of the achievement in a world in which much is done either through political affiliations or economic business-related power. This is one of the main reasons why our members from countries with such different political and economic backgrounds have been able, through the years, to participate and express their views in their personal capacity.

Let me now share with you some views for the future of WFSF, as I see it, at this moment, immediately after Beijing. The WFSF is in need of change. This was said at the Council and the General Assembly. I agree: all organizations need change, especially in a world in continuous transformation. This change will come. Jim Dator has his own views on the future of WFSF and he must be able to carry them out as President.

Much will depend on the choice of the Secretariat and, allow me to say it, on the person chosen as Secretary-General. There are two possible pitfalls: the loss of the international character of WFSF, should one part of the world be excluded, say Europe or Africa, with the Secretariat in China or Australia (if this were to prove a real possibility); a fragmentation of activity should too many secretariats be set up. Of course between the two extremes there can be various possibilities, which must be kept in mind, in the awareness that the world is still and should be diversified and that in looking at the future to be avoided is any emphatic presence of one part over the other, whatever that part of the world may be.

Among the possibilities open for the WFSF Secretariat, though not definite and hence still in need of probing, some are stronger than others. China and Hungary are two possibilities; other less defined possibilities are Finland and Australia. I think all possibilities should be probed, analysed, and the Council should be ready to evaluate the proposals. I wish to remind all that, by the statutes of the WFSF, the Secretary-General is elected by the Council. I agree on principle, (and I think many of my decisions in WFSF have shown the respect and importance I attribute to the future of developing countries), that the Secretariat should be in a developing country, especially since we have a US president. At the same time, the developing country in question must not find itself overburdened by responsibility, and will



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need to have a strong structural and financial support. A possible step towards the Secretariat of a developing country could be a regional secretariat in China.

The choice of the Secretariat is crucial, as are other decisions in the Council. A number of proposals were made at the General Assembly and I would also like to express my opinion on these at this specific moment.

On political standings by WFSF, I think that the Federation has always stood for basic ethical values and the respect of human rights, whatever the environment or circumstances, and maybe in ways that not all members remember. On issues which may lead to divisions in its membership, I believe that WFSF should not take a stand, since such issues are historically biased. This is of course only my personal opinion.

On the need for research and studies, I believe that WFSF is at this point strong enough: a number of studies have been carried out, as many of you will remember. The study of futures methodologies in educational issues prepared for Unesco; the Visions of Desirable Society prepared for UNU; and the book *Reclaiming the Future* for UNDP. The area of studies and research is without doubt an area to be developed in the future of WFSF; another area for development in this context is that of finalised courses, with a view to preparing the new generation. However, all this will be possible only if the international and independent characteristic, of which I have spoken, are safeguarded and remain specific to WFSF. And of course only if structural and financial support is offered to the president and secretary-general.

I also am very supportive of the idea that in two years time, when the Council is to be elected, 50% of its members should be changed. I ask all of you to think of younger persons for the next Council.

Finally, I wish to give you my unconditional support for the conceptual line of vision that WFSF has held from its very beginning and up to Beijing; the future of the world is one based on the human being and his or her values in relation to a just and equitable society, to be reached through constant dialogue and not through conflicts. This means that all men and women have the right to such a society and to participate in the building thereof. Hence, people from developing countries have the right to be respected and supported in their efforts for the attainment of a society that is just and equitable. Those who do not understand the importance of the contribution of the developing countries to the world's future, I am afraid fail to give the future of human beings a chance.

With these words, I wish all the best to WFSF, to its Council and its future.

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Eleonora Masini

P.S.: I have just received a letter from the Director General of Unesco, Federico Mayor, of which I am enclosing a copy. □

29 September 1988

Dear Ms Masini,

My colleagues who, on behalf of Unesco, attended the Tenth World Conference of the World Futures Studies Federation: "The Futures of Development," which was sponsored by, among others, the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for Unesco, have informed me of the great success of the meeting. I would like to express my congratulations to you and your colleagues of the International Steering Committee and of the National Organizing Committee on this outstanding achievement.

Please also convey my warmest wishes to Professor James Dator, of the University of Hawaii, on his nomination as the Federation's President elect. If, indeed, the secretariat of the Federation were to be located, in the future, at the Chinese Society for Futures Studies in Beijing, this would enhance even further the truly international and intercultural nature of the Federation's work.

As a contribution to strategies for development and to future-oriented studies in the areas of sustainable development will be an important dimension of Unesco's forthcoming Medium-Term Plan (1990-1995), I am looking forward to continued exchanges with the Federation and with the internationally renowned scholars who make up its membership. I share your view that the futures of development are a plural concept, a potential resource which needs to be considered within the framework of a rich variety of cultures and which needs to be debated by the international scholarly community in close cooperation and harmony with Governments and with representatives of citizen groups. I can assure you that Unesco, which stands at the crossroads of the currents represented by these three partners, is looking forward to such close co-operation with the Federation.

Yours Sincerely,  
Federico Mayor □

## FROM AND ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

From ANDRZEJ SICINSKI

On July 11, 1988 died JAN STRZELECKI born 1919, an eminent Polish sociologist and intellectual, deeply involved in future thinking. He was cruelly beaten and robbed two weeks earlier.

His death was a tremendous shock for many Poles, from different social circles and of different ideological and political orientations, as Jan was for many of us a symbol of good will and of "dialogue," so needed in contemporary Poland. His funeral on July 18 gathered no less than three thousand people, united by a feeling of a heavy lost for each of us as individuals and for our country. □

WENDELL BELL, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology, Yale University, received the 1988 Distinguished Alumnus Award from California State University, Fresno. Bell accepted the award and spoke at Commencement in Fresno on 21 May 1988. □

Please make every effort to attend—and even more to help students and young people to attend—the WFSF Futures Course, which will be held as usual at the InterUniversity Centre for Post Graduate Studies in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, April 3-14, 1989. The theme this year is "Visions and Praxis", which is a theme preparatory to the 1990 World Conference in Budapest (the Conference theme is, of course, "Linking Long-Range Visions with Present Decisions").

The course is being taught in cooperation with the Future Research Committee ISA. Course directors are Eleonora Barbieri Masini (WFSF), Mika Mannerman (Turku University); Miroslav Peculi (University of Belgrade), Andrzej Sicinski (Polish Academy of Sciences).

Resource persons: Sergio Andreis (Italy), Wendell Bell (USA), Bela Kadar (Hungary), Maria Kalas Kőszegi (Hungary), Pentti Malaska (Finland), Mircea Malitza (Romania), Pieta Slinsk (Poland), Allen Tough (Canada), Thomas Wallgren (Finland) Simon Nicholson (UK), Don Michael (US).

Scholarships are available for persons from Second and Third World countries. As

usual, there are very inexpensive accommodations in the Centre itself (Contact: InterUniversity Centre of Postgraduate Studies, Frana Bulica 4, YU-50 000 Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia; Telegraph: INTERUNIVERSITY; Telephone: (050) 28-666. Information about course registration and fees can also be directed to the Centre. Slightly more expensive, but still modest and entirely satisfactory, accommodations are at the Hotel Lero, I.Vojnovica 18, YU- 50 000 Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, Telex: 27588; Telephone: (050) 33-255 or 32-555 or 27-681). □

The CENTRE CATALÀ DE PROSPECTIVA is conducting an International Course and Seminar on Methods in Futures Studies April 17-28, 1989. Contact the Centre at Gran Via, 698, 8e, 08007 Barcelona, Spain. Telephone 302 4635. □

RUDOLF SIEBERT invites interested members of the WFSF to participate in the 13th international course on The Future of Religion: The Problem of Humanism, in the Inter-University Centre for Post-Graduate Studies, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, also from April 17-28, 1989. Siebert can be contacted through the program in Humanistic Future Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008-3899 USA. Or contact the co-director of the course, Prof. S. Vrcan, University of Split, Law School 58,000 Split, Yugoslavia.

Prof. Siebert also sent two book announcements: R. J. Siebert, *From Critical Theory to Communicative Political Theology: Universal Solidarity* (New York, Frankfurt, Bern: Peter Lang, 1989); and J. Reimer (ed) *Critical Theory and the Future of Religion: Religious-Marxist Discourse in Yugoslavia* (Lewiston: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1989), as well as an article by himself, "Hegel on the Dialectic of Civil Society: Alternative Futures," (*in Hegel-Jahrbuch* 1984-85, published by Germinal Verlag Bochum, 1988). The alternative futures of modernity which he attributes to Hegel are: "Future I—the mechanized and automated society; Future II—always more extended wars with always more abstract weapons, strategies and tactics; Future III—the reconciled society" which of course is Hegel's preferred future, which Siebert describes as "the socio-moral totality, the organic state of reason, the community of nations, the realm of freedom, the realization of a rational and free humanity." □

GUNNAR ADLER-KARLSSON and ROLF HOMANN issued a call for papers and an invitation to participate in a conference on the "Fragmentation of Knowl-

## From and About Our Members

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edge", June 17-22, 1989, at the Capri Institute for International Social Philosophy, Box 79 (Via Migliara 74) I-80071, Anacapri, Italy.

According to the announcement: "The fragmentation of knowledge is an aspect of the fragmentation of society which, paradoxically, takes place within a process of social integration. In the coming decade one of our most serious challenges may be how to overcome those tendencies, if we want to avoid slipping into chaos."

Among the topics to be discussed are the following: Who gains and who loses from fragmentation? The Information Society—a modern myth? Can "System Approaches" overcome the fragmentation? Is there a future of "holistic wisdom"? □

CONTACT is a national, interdisciplinary scholarly conference that brings together some of the nation's foremost anthropologists, other social and natural scientists, science fiction writers, space scientists, artists and futures researchers to exchange ideas, explore possibilities and stimulate new perspectives about humanity's future. Our goal is to encourage disciplined and creative speculation about the future guided by the principles of science.

The first CONTACT Conference was held in Santa Cruz, CA in 1983; subsequent CONTACT Conferences have convened in Santa Cruz, San Jose and Sacramento (twice). Two special Bateson Projects have been conducted at annual meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology (1984, 1988).

CONTACT VI will convene Thur 27 - Sun 30 April 1989 at the Embassy Suites Camelhead, 44th and McDowell, Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

CONTACT VI will include six simultaneous tracks of activities; these are:

I) THE SYMPOSIA: Interdisciplinary forums in which professional scientists, writers and artists present scholarly papers for publication and for discussion with the audience.

CONTACT VI will include eight symposia sessions. The Symposia are being organized by CONTACT founder, James Funaro, Department of Anthropology, Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA, 95003; (408) 497-6301. (Sessions 1 & 2 are being reserved for Bateson Project key-note symposia.)

II & III) THE BATESON PROJECT: A seminar of invited experts each year

## From and About Our Members

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address a selected topic of academic and public interest relating to our future on earth and in space. Previous Bateson Projects have addressed issues of culture contact and change as these might result from contact with an alien sentient specie, from space development, and cultural evolution through the year 2020.

CONTACT VI will feature two Bateson Projects: "Space Development through the Mars Colony" and "Southwest 2039." Each Bateson Project may include a session of key-note papers, as many as seven "fishbowl" seminar sessions, integrative feedback sessions, and a general summary session on Sunday morning.

"Space Development" is being primarily organized by Greg Barr, 1434 Potomac Ave. SE, Apt#1, Washington DC, 20003. (202) 544-4984. Greg is former Executive Director of the L-5 Society, Tucson, and recently with the National Space Society, Washington, DC.

"Southwest 2039" is being primarily organized by the Az Chapter, World Future Society (Mary Ann Maher, President) with assistance from the Arizona Department of Transportation building on the ADOT "Arizona Futures" symposium and publication of 1988. %5302 E. Poinsettia Dr., Scottsdale, AZ, 85254. (602) 951-2618.

IV & V) CULTURES OF THE IMAGINATION (COTI): An experiment in creation, the original Bateson Project, in which participants design an integrated world, alien life forms, their histories and cultures, and simulate contact with a future human society -or other alien culture. The two teams work, isolated from one another, on the construction of these worlds and their cultures throughout the weekend. They work in private, and present progress reports to the audience toward the end of each day of the Conference. Then on Sunday morning the two teams meet in a spontaneous episode of culture contact. The episode of contact is dramatized by team members and performance artists.

The COTI simulation for CONTACT VI will involve two alien, and no human, teams. This departure from tradition has been introduced in response to "the Pogo Paradox"; recall "We has met the (alien) and he is us." We have found that the alien team can not know what to expect of the human team. (COTI teams are organized on a first-come, first served basis, and limited in size by space and team coordinator's ability to organize team participants. A normal lab fee may be charged to defray cost of art materials.)

VI) Workshops: Educational mini-courses directed by professionals provide

theoretical background and "hands on" experience in world construction, bioform design, culture building, inter-cultural contact, and methods of futures research.

CONTACT VI will offer three workshops:

- 1) a set of eight 90 min. sessions presented by members of the World Future Society Professional Section on methods of futures research,
- 2) a workshop in concept realization art conducted by the participating professional artists for students interested in depicting images of the future, and
- 3) a workshop in performance conducted by Dr. Joan Keali' inohomoku and Cross-Cultural Dance Resources, Flagstaff, AZ. Participants in this last workshop will participate in the dramatization — and mythologization — of the alien contact episode as part of the Sunday morning climax of the conference.

College credit will be available for these workshops: #1 & 2 %Mary Ann Maher, Scottsdale Community College, Scottsdale, AZ., and #3 %Dr. Joan Keali' inohomoku, (Northern Arizona University), Cross Cultural Dance Resources, 518 S. Aassiz, Flagstaff, AZ, 86001.

VII) Business Meetings: Time and space will be made available for scheduling business meetings of Professional Section, World Future Society; AZ Chapt. World Future Society; Cultural Futures Research Executive Committee; and CONTACT Board.

General Program arrangements are being organized by REED D. RINER, Department of Anthropology, Box 15200, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, 86011.

Accommodations (room reservations): directly with Embassy Suites Camelhead, (800) 447-8483 or (602) 244-8800; indicate CONTACT for Conference rate.

CONTACT intends to publish the proceedings of CONTACT VI in three volumes: the Symposia papers, and the proceedings of each Imagination, a non-profit scientific and educational corporation, retains first right to publication of all Conference Proceedings including artwork, etc. □

TO: "Prep 21" Advisory/Planning Committee and Friends  
FROM: MICHAEL MARIEN (November 15, 1988)  
RE: Memo #4 (update to progress reports of 11/20/87, 2/11/88 and 6/3/88)

During the 1990s, Prep 21 (Preparing for the 21st Century: An 11-year International Project) seeks to identify and encourage post-secondary courses and programs in futures studies in every country, and to promote excellence in such activities, whether at colleges, universities, or in other settings for adult and continuing learning. (Note broadened definition to include structured activities outside of the formal educational system. Although adult and continuing education was implicit in the previous definition, it deserves to be made explicit, in that much of the most exciting futures educational activity is likely to be found in this non-traditional realm.)

At the recent conference of the World Futures Studies Federation in Beijing, ten of us met for two hours (Jungk, Kim, Marien, Markley, Mettler, Michael, Reiff, Sandi, Sulc, and Tough). All were agreed the Prep 21 is a worthwhile notion to pursue, and that a support group for teachers is needed. Hans Rieff of UNESCO reported that his organization is now supporting some futures courses at European universities, and may be giving some support to Prep 21. I also had informal conversations with another ten or so people at the conference who were sympathetic to the Prep 21 idea, but unable to attend the meeting. Eight new people have agreed to initiate country surveys, in addition to the two studies already underway in Canada and the US. Because of the burgeoning list of surveyors, advisors, and friends, I have prepared a new roster with a restructuring of names. I have taken the liberty of designating myself "Acting Coordinator," until such time as someone is found who can carry this project forward in a better way than I can. Regrettably, the time that I can invest in this project is limited, as illustrated by the lag in preparing this memo. Any suggestions or self-nominations?

Prep 21 Sessions at WFS Assembly, July 1989

All of our attentions should now be devoted to the four Prep 21 sessions to be held at the World Future Society's Sixth General Assembly in Washington, July 16-20, 1989. To my knowledge, this is the first time that any session on futures studies education has been held at any WFS Assembly. (Why have we ignored this important subject for so long? Too obvious?) Here are the official dates and times, with the names of those who have graciously volunteered to chair the sessions:

- 1) Tuesday, July 18, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM.  
"Prep 21 Country Surveys of Postsecondary Futures Education"  
• Chaired by Gary Gappert (Director, Institute for Futures Studies and Research, Univ. of Akron, Akron OH 44325).  
• Reports on surveys in US, Canada, and several other countries or regions.

## From and About Our Members

2) Tuesday, July 18, 10:30 AM-12 Noon

### "Teaching Futures Studies Courses"

- Chaired by Allen Tough (Prof. of Adult Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1V6, Canada).
- Reports on the pleasures and problems of teaching individual courses, and general discussion on how to get futures studies accepted in academia.

3) Wednesday, July 19, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM

### "Programs in Futures Studies"

- Chaired by O.W. (Mark) Markley, (Studies of the Future Program, Univ. of Houston at Clear Lake City, 2700 Bay Area Blvd, Houston TX 77058).
- Reports on the UHCLC program and other programs, and discussion of difficulties in starting up.

4) Wednesday, July 19, 10:30 AM-Noon

### The Future of Futures Studies Courses and Programs

- Chaired by Magda C. McHale (Director, Center for Integrative Studies, SUNY-Buffalo, Buffalo NY 14214).
- Summation of first three sessions, presentations on the importance of futures studies education, and discussion of how to promote quantity and quality through Prep 21.

Please write directly to the individual chairs of these four sessions (Gappert, Tough, Markley, McHale) if you wish to make a presentation at any of these sessions, and to be listed in the Assembly program. I hope that many of you will also attend the other sessions and participate spontaneously as audience members.

Post-Assembly Prep 21 Meeting, July 21. The WFS Assembly ends at noon on Thursday, July 20. This will be followed by a Professional Members Forum from 2-5PM on Thursday, and 9-3PM on Friday. Prep 21 will hold a general session immediately following this Forum, for interested persons who were unable to attend the four sessions during the Assembly.

Prep 21 "Newsletter" Starting Up. Allen Tough (OISE, Toronto) has volunteered to compile information on futures studies courses and programs, and to pass it on for publication in Futures, Futures Research Quarterly, The WFSF Newsletter, and any other interested futures periodicals. Please send him information on what you are doing in the classroom, and/or interesting things that some of your friends and colleagues are doing.

## From and About Our Members

Prep 21 Selected Syllabi. A pamphlet or small book of selected futures studies syllabi to be edited by Gary Gappert, possibly along with Keith Wilde, will probably be published in Spring 1989. Send course syllabi to Gappert for possible consideration.

The Next Memo to You. Memo #5 will probably be sent out sometime next spring, bringing news of how the four sessions at the WFS Assembly are shaping up. By then we will have gone public in the futures journals, and we may have some sense if anyone out there is interested in joining in with us. I hope to see all of you in Washington next summer. m.m.

### Prep 21 Surveyors, Advisors, and Friends (Nov. 15, 1988)

Prep 21 (Preparing for the 21st Century) seeks to identify and encourage courses and programs in futures studies in every country, and to promote excellence in such activities.

- Acting Coordinator. Michael Marien, Editor of *Future Survey*, Webster Road, LaFayette NY 13084 USA.
- Acting Newsletter Editor. Allen Tough, Prof. of Adult Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2Y2, CANADA.
- Surveyors. The following individuals are undertaking a survey of postsecondary futures studies education in their respective countries, or are planning to do so. (If you are not planning some survey, please find someone who will do the work, or let us know that you are inactive or not interested.)

• Australia. Rick Slaughter, Centre for Applied Research on the Future, Univ. of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Aust.

• Canada. Keith Wilde, Strategic Planning Officer, Environment Canada, 351 St. Joseph Blvd, Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3, Canada.

• Czechoslovakia. Ota Sulc, Institute for Philosophy and Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 110 00 Praha 1, Jilská 1, Czech. [May also report on Eastern Europe.]

• India. Satish C. Seth, Head, Technology Forecasting and Futures Studies, Dept. of Science and Technology, Director's Bungalow, Bal Bhavan Campus, Kotla Road, New Delhi-2.

• Italy. Eleonora Masini, Casella Postale 6203, Rome-Prati, Italy. [Will also coordinate other studies in Western European countries not listed here.]

## From and About Our Members

- Romania. Ana-Maria Sandi, International Center of Methodology for Future and Development Studies, Univ. of Bucharest, 14 Academiei St, 70109 Bucharest, Romania.
- South Korea. Tae-Chang Kim, Prof. of Political Philosophy and International Relations, Chungbuk National University, Cheong-Ju, Chungbuk, Republic of Korea.
- United Kingdom. Graham H. May, Principal Lecturer, School of Planning and Environmental Studies, Leeds Polytechnic, Leeds LS2 8BU, England.
- United States. Gary Gappert, Director, Institute for Futures Studies and Research, Univ. of Akron, Akron OH 44325.
- West Germany. Rolf Kreibich, ILT, Stanffenbergstr. 10, Berlin 30, FRG and/or Peter H. Mettler, Institut für Arbeit und Technik, Glockengießerwall 20, 2000 Hamburg, FRG.

## "Prep 21" Advisors and Friends

- Wendell Bell, Prof. of Sociology, Yale Univ., Box 1965 Yale Station, New Haven CT 06520 USA.
- Kenneth E. Boulding, Institute of Behavioral Science, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder CO 80309 USA.
- Harlan Cleveland, Dean Emeritus, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN 55455 USA.
- Jim Dator, World Futures Studies Federation, Univ. of Hawaii, Social Science Research Institute, 2424 Maile Way, Honolulu, HI 96822 USA.
- Hugues De Jouvenel, Association Internationale Futuribles, 55 rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris, France.
- Yehezkel Dror, Prof. of Political Science, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem, Jerusalem 91905, Israel.
- Mahdi Elmandjra, President, Association Internationale Futuribles, P.P. 53, Rabat, Morocco.
- Katrin Gillwald, Social Reporting Working Group, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Reichpietschufer 50, d-1000 Berlin 30.
- Walter A. Hahn, 8350 Greensboro Drive, McLean VA 22102 USA.
- Rolf Homann, Institute for Economic and Social Studies, Gotlieb Duttweiler Institute, CH-8803 Rüschlikön, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Robert Jungk, Internationale Bibliothek, Imbergstrasse 2, A5020 Salzburg, Austria.
- Hidetoshi Kato, 5-13-39 Shiroganedai, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 108, Japan.
- O.W. Markley, Studies of the Future, Univ. of Houston at Clear Lake City, 2700

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Bay Area Blvd, Houston TX 77058 USA.

- Peter Moll, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, Suffolk Terrace, Univ. of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, England.
- Magda C. McHale, Director, Center for Integrative Studies, SUNY-Buffalo, 108 Hayes Hall, Buffalo NY 14214 USA.
- Donald N. Michael, 1472 Filbert St (#511), San Francisco CA 94109 USA.
- Hans Rieff, Bureau of Studies and Programming, UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75015 Paris, France.
- Don Toppin, Chairman, committee on Toronto/2000, Suite 2000, 390 Bay St, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2Y2, Canada.
- W. Warren Wagar, Prof. of History, State Univ. of New York, Binghamton NY 13901 USA.
- Pierre Weiss, Bureau of Studies and Programming, UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75015 Paris, France. □

## Teaching About the Future ALLEN TOUGH

A project to foster worldwide learning about potential futures is rapidly gaining momentum. Focusing on the total range of futures studies learning beyond the secondary-school level, it includes colleges, universities, workshops, and adult education.

Spearheaded by Michael Marien, the project is called "Preparing for the 21st Century," usually abbreviated to "Prep 21." Surveys of what is already being taught in various countries are in progress; their findings will be reported at a session at the World Future Society's general assembly in July 1989. Three other sessions there will focus on teaching futures studies courses and workshops, programs in future studies, and the future of Prep 21 itself. An additional Prep 21 meeting will probably be held on July 21 at 3:30 pm.

At an informal Prep 21 meeting in Beijing, I agreed to collect news items about courses and workshops dealing with futures studies, alternative futures, priorities for a desirable future, future-oriented policy studies, and so on. As a result of approaching 35 people, I received the news items reported here. Additional items are certainly welcome: if you are teaching about the future, please send a news item to Professor Allen Tough, OISE, University of Toronto, 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Canada, M5S 1V6.

## From and About Our Members

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Warren Wagar teaches four futures courses at the State University of New York at Binghamton. Using lectures, films, and fiction as well as nonfiction, two of his courses attract a total of 700 students a year. They are called "The History of the Future" (an introduction to futures studies) and "World War III." Smaller courses focus on the history of ideas of the future and on student research into alternative futures.

At Chungbuk National University in the Republic of Korea, Tae-Chang Kim teaches a course called "Man, Peace, and Future." After examining human nature and the value of peace, the main thrust of the course is to cultivate a future-oriented way of thinking. Teaching a single futures-oriented course in a university can lead to feelings of loneliness or isolation: instructors need support and encouragement from futures studies colleagues around the world.

In the Department of Sociology at Yale University, Wendell Bell teaches a seminar on "Social Change and the Future." He also participated in sessions on "The Future of the Caribbean" research program at the 1988 Caribbean Studies Association meeting.

From Brisbane, Australia, Tony Stevenson reports that the School of Communication in the Queensland Institute of Technology teaches the concepts of futures studies and alternative futures in a post-graduate course on communication policy and planning. The School also convened a 1988 symposium at which industry leaders, government policymakers, academics, and students discussed the future of communication. This led to the formation of a continuing network of interested persons.

Harlan Cleveland has sparked two meetings of a selected group of 28 experienced people from around the world to rethink international governance. This project is sponsored by the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. The meetings and papers have focused on such changes as biotechnology, information flow, climate, explosive power, and governance of the global commons.

In Canada, Don Toppin and Stephen Ross have organized a monthly series of "Toronto 2000" foresight seminars. About 70 people attend these seminars, which usually focus on images for a positive future. One of the speakers is Eric McLuhan, who is continuing the work concerning law as of media. Sessions are videotaped for future use.

## From and About Our Members

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A new required core course has been created in the University of Houston-Clear Lake graduate program in Sstudies of the Future. Called "Qualitative Futures Research Methods," it will cover four methodologies (issues and intelligence; forecasting and scenario development; planning and public policy; and human and organization development) for strategic development.

In France this academic year, the University of Paris VI has introduced a master's-level program in "sciences, technologies, and the world problematique." Three other universities in Europe may soon inaugurate a similar program.

A variety of scenario-based futures workshops and local "anticipatory democracy" exercises have been led by Clem Bezold and others from the Institute for Alternative Futures (Alexandria, Virginia). These are in addition to their many trend reports and scenario studies.

In addition to my usual graduate courses on potential futures and on intentional changes, I am teaching a new course this year on "Nuclear Weapons and Human Learning." These courses are taught at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, which is a graduate department within the University of Toronto as well as an autonomous R&D center. □

James Robertson calls WFSF members to join with him and others in creating a New Economics by the Year 2000. Robertson's proposal appeared in the September 1987 issue of the "New Economics" newsletter. The project will aim to:

"1. identify a set of targets for achievement in ten year's time, 2. show what changes in economic policies, institutions, procedures, concepts, attitudes and other aspects of current economic practice and thought would have to be made before those targets could be achieved, 3. suggest what can be done by whom to get those changes made, and 4. show what obstacles and resistance to the changes are likely to be met, and what can be done to overcome them."

The proposal cites some of the work that has already been done which can be drawn upon and lists the following as "other areas in which we have begun to consider what targets should be defined...":

"a) a guaranteed basic income b) resource accounting and energy accounting in reformed national accounts c) local economic and social development d) systematic

## From and About Our Members

public discussion of technology choices e) ways of giving economic value to enabling people and communities to be more self-reliant f) social investment as a significant aspect of public, corporate and personal economic activity g) the introduction of conversion strategies, eg. to healthier, more socially useful, more locally based, more peaceful, etc. production patterns, and to new industries for communities dependent on declining economic activities such as coal-mining and ship-building h) the implications of the 'information economy' i) shifting the tax burden away from work and on to: 1. the use of energy and resources and 2. pollution, damage and nuisance j) a more self-reliant national economy k) the encouragement of repair, reuse, reconditioning and recycling as major sectors of economic activity in the 21st century economy l) new models in science, linked with clarification of the typical questions that the new economics aim to answer and the typical categories and variables it uses as contrasted with those used by the conventional economics m) the economic teachings of the great religions."

WriteNew Economics Foundation, 27 Thames House, South Bank Business Center, 140 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 4NB, U.K. (Phone 01-720 8674).

Or James Robertson, The Old Bakehouse, Cholsey, Near Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 9NU, U.K. (Phone: (0491) 652346) □

I.N. TEIXEIRA  
P O Box 713  
9009 Funchai-Codex  
Portugal

### Peace for South Africa

The conflicts among populations of different cultures, living promiscuously in the same territory, are getting worse and more complex with the differences of race, religion, language, social class and ideology.

However, of these six factors of conflict there are two which may be eliminated through radical decentralization of the settlement and the public power, combined with a new system of taxation, as the manifesto "Blueprint for Real Peace" states. This is a new doctrine of social order for all the world, putting an end to the poverty of most populations to finish the conflicts caused by social class differences and by two antagonistic ideologies currently named communism and capitalism. It must

## From and About Our Members

be noted here this antagonism is now becoming less tight, mainly since Gorbachov published "Perestroika."

The elimination of these two factors will be enough by itself to reduce considerably the intensity of the conflicts originated by the other four differences above mentioned. Moreover that kind of decentralization has theoretical implications allowing us to advance into the solution of the Apartheid-proper question. Because it proposes the establishment of very many autonomous communities, not too large, in separate territories and integrated or united in national condominiums. Should each one of these communities be homogeneous enough in what concerns race, religion, language and culture, there will be no undesirable promiscuity, no sources of conflicts of this kind.

Most of these communities will live in urban networks which will result of the urban growth transfer to the edges of the roads, as it is explained in the BRP manifesto. This is the most economic and ecologic way to get an area of urbanized territory large enough to allow and ensure every family to live with the dignity of human beings and to keep a domestic economy, in order to be, in some extent, independent of professional employment. This is one fundamental condition of Peace and extinction of the Apartheid.

Those communities, autonomous and associated in condominiums, will be more or less populated. However, those with no much more than 50,000 people will be perhaps more democratic than those of more than 500,000 as there will be some in the primary urban networks. But this will be rare, and the tertiary networks, with no more than 10,000 each, will support the majority of the many new communities, all autonomous in their separate territories.

The average prices and the rents of the lots of land will be lower in the less populated and less built-up networks. The higher average prices and rents will be found in the primary urban networks, formed by the nuclei of big cities with the urban corridors linking them. For many years there will be many lots of land offered for sale or rent, because it will be difficult for the owners who will possess many, in the beginning of the future regime, to hold them unused for long time paying the new foreseen taxes. Thus, land market speculation will not cease completely but it will be kept within reasonable limits.

As many lots of land will be available for sale or rent, there will be a vast movement of people migrations in all directions and senses. Beyond the constitutional chart



which will define the autonomous communities and the National Condominium (with their powers or competences) the laws about zoning and dividing the zones in lots, residential, industrial, commercial, etc., and those about the regime of tribulation, will be sufficient to cause the desired, progressive, spontaneous and peaceful guages, religions and cultures.

In these conditions, each homogenized population will have its network for residence and public administration, but there will be free circulation and conviviality of people of different races, at least in the public and work places. Thus, the conflict will give place to the harmony, as if each homogeneous population lived in its own nation with open borders. None of them will dominate or subjugate any other. All will be free enough because, for the first time in the course of History, the National Condominium plus autonomous communities will substitute the old organization of government, hierarchical and centralized, symbolized by the pyramid.

One conclusion:

The doctrine capable of solving the question rised by the apartheid is the same which enables to free civilized mankind from its worse enemy: an old system of government aged about 5,000 years, which kills, defrauds, corruptes, confounds and confuses all men (white, black or yellow) although and while it appears to love, help and protect them, or be indispensable for the process of civilization.

That coincidence must not surprise because world order, condition or the true peace, is not divisible and all its aspects are interrelated and connected making one unity. But it may happen what has never been foreseen:

People of subjugated races, victims of apartheid, may come up to play the role of liberators to free their "masters" from a servitude which they didn't know they were subject to. □

## MEMBER'S PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

In a far-reaching valedictory address on "Sociology and the Future" for the 17th All Indian Sociological Conference (December 1984), YOGESH ATAL, Unesco Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, makes the following points, among many others: "I submit that there is no single orientation to future. We still have people who think of a strategy for future essentially in terms

of improvement from the present in order to 'look alike' the 'present', or even the 'past' of some other successful societies. There are also those who would like to see their society different from others, and therefore, would like to return to the corridors of their cultural past to reintroduce forgotten values, revive religious beliefs, and estalish a distinctive cultural identity through closure of apertures and installation of insulators. There are those who perceive what is going on, and on the basis of their assessment of prevalent trends suggest either a clinical approach to treat the disease or prescribe a prophylactic treatment to forestall a pathological encounter. There are those who accept the current trends as inevitable and irreversible and commend the need to retrain ouselves to meet the future needs. And of course there are those who would like to take on the role of a modern 'Manu' and prepare new 'Smritis'.

"In many ways, the question of 'values' assumes special significance in an intellectual exercise on future, because socialization for future requires some indoctrination and some skill formation. It seems hard to arrive at a consensus on a desirable future. It is quite possible that the features that appear shocking and demeaning to some may incite quite a different reaction among others. Even if there were a consensus for a desirable future and people succeed in fashioning such a future, it remains open for criticism by the coming generations for whom we will be building it. Our right choices may be regarded as wrong by them who will have the benefit of hind sight to unravel our mistakes, as we are doing now vis-a-vis our predecessors."

Atal's address concludes with the following question:

"Should we treat our present as an inheritance from our ancestors, or as something that we have borrowed from our yet-to-be-born great grand children?"

[An excellent question. But, in the case of the US, in any event, the word might better be "stolen" or "misappropriated" or perhaps "colonized" rather than merely "borrowed". It will be very difficult for our grandchildren to reclaim their futures, whatever their preferences might be, from the mortgaged mess we seem to be leaving them.] □

The global scope and magnitude of that mortgaged mess is made excruciatingly clear in an article written by RASHMI MAYUR, which appeared in the *Sunday Daily Magazine*, August 14, 1988. It is titled, "Forty Years of Freedom and Miles to go...". Ninety-five percent of the article is as bleak a description of India's present and future as is imaginable.

While presently "more than 35 per cent of our urban population lives in slums amidst unimaginable squalor and filth," India's overall population is growing at the rate of 99,000 a day, and 17.5 million per year ("more than the entire population of Australia" on an area "1/3 the size of Australia"). Moreover, the urban population is growing at twice the overall rate.

Environmental conditions presently are horrifying. Sulphur dioxide levels are already three times, and carbon particulates four times, higher than those considered "tolerable" by the WHO. "The march of desertification continues uncontrolled." "At least 70% of our population is without safe, dependable and sufficient water" presently. But "by the year 2001 AD, India will require double the amount of available water." "But the real crisis is on the food front."

"Our elitist, 'developed' population is even more gravely imperilled than is the rustic counterpart. The fault here lies in its insatiable thirst for 'commercial energy.'" Yet "All the world's oil wells are expected to run dry by 2040. Our own domestic reserves, meagre as they are, will dry up by the turn of this century."

What can be done? While some scientific and technological "breakthroughs" can be hoped for, Mayur concludes that "through decentralisation people must take over the destiny of society. At the local level, there should be people's futures committees to decide about the future of their neighbourhood in relation to the habitat and the country as a whole. They must control the development process which today is in the hand of politicians and bureaucrats. . . . All our development must harmonise ultimately with nature. Remember that trees and plants, creating life-giving prana, are still our best friends. The day they go, we will have to pack up."

[We will have checked out—or been thrown out—whether we've packed our bags or not, long before the last of the trees and plants are gone, unless we assume our responsibility "to govern evolution."] □

Regular readers and long-time members of the WFSF know that another person in India who has long and tirelessly been trying to help that country take control of its future is SATISH SETH. A recent issue of the *Indian Review of Management and Future* (Double Issue, 2 & 3, 1988), of which Seth is Honorary Editor-in-Chief, is devoted primarily to various aspects of India's future.

The lead editorial recounts futures developments at the global level (including mention of the WFSF Beijing conference). But it is especially useful because it

indicates the present scope—failures as well as successes—of futures activities in India today. While praising the 150 Awareness and Thematic Futurology Workshops conducted by the Department of Science & Technology of the Government of India, the editorial notes that "assuming that 30 odd participants attended each of these workshops, even then, it is obvious that, in a population of 800 million people, the message of Futurology has reached only less than 5000 odd enthusiasts, drawn from the educational, governmental and industrial sectors. This obviously is not enough."

The editorial concludes "It is our belief that a deliberate, healthy and widespread futures consciousness in the world of the Indian industry, education and governance, at all levels, alone can establish a new 'vision' and 'optimism' to enable us to achieve the 21 century miracles for India. In a sense, 'Future is Today' verily, therefore, Futures Networking, perhaps, is the most important need of the hour."

Reports of national and regional Seminars on Futurology, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology during 1988, occupied about one third of this issue. □

TAKAHIRO SUZUKI has been especially helpful in assisting members of the Federation understand some of the changes underway in Japan. He is helping us again by virtue of a publication he sent titled, "The Policy Recommendations on 'Structural Adjustment of Economies of Japan, U.S. and Asian NICs'", of the Japan Forum on International Relations, March 1988. The thirteen recommendations were submitted in the name of fifty-two very prominent Japanese who are members of the Forum, chaired by none other than former Cabinet Minister SABURO OKITA.

Some of the recommendations are restatements of fairly well-known themes regarding the economic changes and tensions between the US and Japan. These include the need for the US to reduce its fiscal and trade deficits and for Japan to stimulate its domestic demand. It is said to be "imperative to correct the unilateral flow of funds from Japan to the United States, thereby restoring a mechanism under which investment funds would flow into LDCs where growth potentials remain uncultivated." The rise to global economic prominence of the Western Pacific Developing Countries is also stressed. At first glance, nothing new here.

But there are some very important twists to these virtual platitudes. It is recognized that while the US must reduce its deficits, this very likely will lead to a global

## Member's Publications and Activities

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recession unless someone immediately replaces, at the same level or better, the US as the world's leading importer of consumer goods. Thus "Strengthening the role of 'Absorber' by Japan" is recommendation Number 5.

In effect (though not in bald statement), the point seems to be: the US probably is soon going to sink into a substantial economic recession. In order that this not bring down the rest of the world—or at least the Western Pacific Rim—Japan must take over the role of major importer of consumer products that the US has had for the past fifteen years or more.

In order to assist in that, the comparatively revolutionary recommendation is made for the "acceleration of the acceptance of foreign nationals into the Japanese labor market," and for Japan to "recognize the emergence of a new form of division of labor in the Western Pacific" and thus for Japan to abolish its present "self-sufficient scheme in industrial structure" so as to "enhance the compatibility of her economy in a global context" by viewing positively (and not negatively, i.e., as "hollowing out") the "relocation of production sites" from Japan to other "countries in the Western Pacific region."

Recommendations concerning the special role of the Asian NICs (Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan), the ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand), and China are made. On the latter point, the final recommendation of the Forum is that the "designated special economic districts in China should form a part of the regional linkages comprising the Western Pacific growth center. The parties concerned should recognize the concept of China being an indispensable member of the Asia Pacific sphere."

[So, folks, you read it here first. When the US economy collapses in the early 1990s, Japan is preparing to take over, and to move the balance of economic power to the Western Pacific. Another alternative (which the Forum seems to reject by virtue of urging, as we quoted above, that Japanese funds flow to LDCs and not to the US) is for Japan to try to keep the US economy afloat, since Japanese investments and foreign real estate acquisitions are so heavily tied to the continued growth of the US economy. The Forum's recommendations, however, imply [I believe correctly] that it is better for Japan to cut bait and run.

And what about the possibly rising economic force of the United States of Europe as yet another alternative? The Forum's recommendations do not mention Europe or any European nation at all. Not once. No where in the 46 page report. Looks like

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it's a "Pacific Century" or "No-Century".] □

*Recovering the Future* (Published in 1988 by the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia 3168. Price: A\$25 plus A \$8 airmail shipping. ISBN: 0-86746-667-7), by RICK SLAUGHTER comes very, very close to being the futures text we have all been waiting for—or writing.

Much of it—ten out of twelve chapters—will be familiar to many WFSF members. You will have seen it in the WFS Bulletin, Futures, or from other publications and informal distributions from Slaughter. But the older material has been edited and updated, and it is all organized into one very neat package.

Slaughter takes a "Critical Futures" perspective which derives from Habermas and other critical/hermeneutical perspectives. He applies this most creatively to various popular images of the future. Indeed, one of the two new chapters, number 4, "The Machine at the Heart of the World—Technology, Magic and Futures in Children's Media," is excellent. I would love to have someone like Magda McHale take a look at it—and come up—as I certainly would—with a very different interpretation of "Transformers" (whether "The Movie" or the Real Things), "Zoids," "He-Man," and "Thundercats." Indeed, I'd like to get his two sons, Rohan James and Lorien Mark (to whom he dedicates this book) together with my two sons, Tad and Mack, along with Magda and anyone else attuned to "technology" in popular media and culture, and see what they would have to say about the items Slaughter discusses.

But at least Slaughter discusses them. He cares about what children think, and what they are encouraged to think with and about. And, more than most WFSF futurists, he engages images of the future in popular media, rather than only those emerging from Serious Think Tanks, Stodgy Academia, or Boring World Conferences. Consider his Chapter 6: "Metafiction, Transcendence and the Extended Present—Three Keys to Post-galactic SF" which originally appeared in *Foundation 35*, Winter 1985/86.

Slaughter is primarily an educator. And a third of the book is devoted to "Futures in Education" which he subtitles, intriguingly, "A Quiet Revolution?" There are many good statements here about what futures is in relation to education; hints (from his other excellent work in this area) of "how" to bring futures into any curriculum; and a model futures curriculum; per se. While most of this work is focussed on elementary and secondary education, it is relevant to higher education as well, and

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Chapter 11 is devoted entirely to that level.

What Slaughter began with a bang of Habermasian Hermeneutics, he ends with a wonderful whimper of science fiction. As he says in his introduction to it, "Delicate Immortal Meanings," (the title of the story, and the final Chapter 12) "is a story about the very beginning of [a] journey of discovery. It is fictional in one sense, yet true in another since it reflects aspects of our lives and world which have been widely under-valued and overlooked. The story is a practical embodiment of suggestions made in earlier chapters, particularly chapters 1 and 6. It attempts to contrast two modes of consciousness and to evoke a sense of interconnectedness. It recapitulates the central theme of the book by looking into the abyss—and then beyond it towards the recovery of vision which our culture so clearly needs."

Read it. And weep. And then clear your eyes.

*Recovering the Future* was published to serve as the main text of a seminar series which Rick Slaughter offered on "Alternative Australian Futures" through the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Monash University, in June/July 1988, under the general coordination of FRANK FISHER.

Other texts used in the seminar were Fisher's *Sustaining Gaia*, which we have reviewed in the Newsletter previously, Berman's *The Reenchantment of the World; Perspective on Australia's Future* of the Australian Commission for the Future; Macy, *Despair and Personal Power in the Nuclear Age*; Wilber, *Eye to Eye: The Quest for the New Paradigm*, and Wilber, *A Sociable God*. □

One is sorely tempted to reprint in its entirety the July 1988 Newsletter of the International Center of Methodology for Future and Development Studies (ICMFDS), of the University of Bucharest, Romania. Every item in it would be of interest to members of the Federation.

The Editorial, by IONITZA OLTEANU, is "A Challenge to Futures Studies"—specifically the WFSF—to concentrate more on the development of theories of social structure and change. "Shouldn't a gnoseology and an epistemology of futures studies start with a survey of the mechanisms of change?" Olteanu asks.

"In my opinion," he says, "there are two aspects that are promising in investigating change phenomena; 1) promotion of a real interdisciplinarity, stimulated also (a) by the need to investigate processes and phenomena with an increased complexity

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and interdependence as well as (b) by the specificities of an increasing globality; 2) the possibility and the necessity to utilize, to a higher extent, the recent discoveries of modern gnoseology and epistemology that are able to provide new openings to futures studies through modification of their 'hard core'".

The interdisciplinarity which Olteanu emphasizes is between economics, sociology and technology. The epistemological perspective he suggests takes more seriously the reality of interdependence, synergy and uncertainty.

The role of uncertainty in futures studies is the topic of an article by ANA MARIA SANDI. As she says in the opening paragraph, "Generally, futures studies reflect man's constant search for finitude and certainty in the world around him. 'Heavy' long-term tendencies, invariants, regularities, constants are pervading futures research, while uncertainties, signs of chaos and infinitude are carefully avoided."

Sandi distinguishes between subjective uncertainty and objective uncertainty, and between partial objective uncertainty ("corresponding to the statistical manifestation of necessity") and total objective uncertainty. She boldly (and I believe correctly) suggests that futures research should incorporate in its theories and methods all forms of uncertainty, even total objective uncertainty.

S. Lanescu has an article on "Ageing and the old in a future perspective" which urges that we create more positive, inspiring images (and realities) of ageing than we presently have. Retirement, for example, may not be "social death," as A. M. Guillemard calls it, but it certainly is a "social amputation," he notes. With so many countries, such as Romania, ageing so rapidly, new images and realities for ageing are essential.

Finally (and unfortunately omitting many other interesting items), there is a review of a new book on forecasting in education by George Vaideanu. "The book has an anticipatory, comparative and synthesis character. In the first part, the aim is to point out features and trends of contemporary education and to identify open problems. Educational experiences from Denmark, Japan and the USA are analyzed; and UNESCO work in the field is also presented."

"In the second part of the book, the emphasis is laid on projects, on efforts to model the education of tomorrow, presenting both the main features of some models and the methodologies used in elaborating them." "The book offers a rich bibliography and notes and has an extended summary in French."

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[For more information about any of the above, write ICMFDS, University of Bucharest, Str. Academiei 14, Bucharest 70109, Romania] □

Readers of the Newsletter will recollect several items about the conference on Technology of the Future and its Social Implications, which was held in Budapest, September 8-10, 1987. It was convened by the Future Research Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with the WFSF. Ninety persons from eighteen countries, almost entirely from Europe and especially Eastern Europe, participated.

The Committee has now produced a volume in English, with the same title as that of the conference, which includes summaries and abstracts of sixty-eight of the papers which were given. They are arranged in the following categories: Opening Lectures; Technology-Society-Economy; Technology—Regional and Global Relationships; Technology—Politics, Values, Consciousness; Main Directions of Technological Development; Technology—Human Factors, Quality of Life; Methodological Questions of Technological Development; and Technological Development and the Micro Sphere.

The volume does not indicate how it can be purchased or ordered, but the editor is Erzsebet Novaky, who is Secretary General of the Hungarian Future Research Committee. The address is Karl Marx University of Economics, Department of Economic Planning & Modelling, Dimitrov ter 8, Budapest H-1093, Hungary. □

The June 1988 issue of "Zukunftsforschung" announced that the new President of SZF (The Swiss Society for Futures Research) is Dr. Christian Lutz, Director of the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute. The names and titles of fifteen new members were also given, indicating that the SZF is still continuing to grow at a very rapid pace.

Among many other interesting items are a notice, from "The Economist" of 12 March 1988, of three scenarios for Norway 2000, one of which "may help to indicate whether Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland's cabinet, in which women hold half of the seats, marks the start of the evolution in Norway of Europe's first state matriarchy, with women dominating politics, higher education and the public-sector services—and doing less dusting."

[The "Three Scenarios for Norway Towards the Year 2000" are more conveniently found in *FUTURES*, October 1988.]

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A book on "Die Zukunft der Bundesrepublik", published by Verlag Rasch und Röhring, Hamburg 1988 for 26DM, has chapters on the present situation with two scenarios each on the futures of energy, the environment, work, industry, social security and freedom.

Issues Nr. 3/1988 (September) lists eleven more members in the SZF. Among the many interesting items noted in this issue is a book by Peter Saladin and Christoph Andreas Zenger titled "Rechte künftiger Generationen" (Helbing & Lichtenhahn, Basel, 1988). The following are "der Rechte künftiger Generationen":

1. Ein Recht auf Leben;
2. Ein Recht auf nicht-manipuliertes, d.h. nicht durch Menschen künstlich verändertes menschliches Erbgut;
3. Ein Recht auf eine vielfältige Pflanzen-und Tierwelt;
4. Ein Recht auf gesunde Luft;
5. Ein Recht auf gesunde und hinreichende Gewässer;
6. Ein Recht auf einen gesunden und fruchtbaren Boden und auf einen gesunden Wald;
7. Ein Recht auf erhebliche Vorräte an nicht erneuerbaren Rohstoffen und Energieträgern;
8. Das Recht, keine Erzeugnisse und Abfälle früherer Generationen vorfinden zu müssen;
9. Ein Recht auf 'kulturelle Erbschaft';
10. Ein Recht auf physische Lebensbedingungen, die ihnen eine menschenwürdige Existenz erlauben.

There is a fascinating chart on page 16 of ten "major traditions of planning theory" from 1789 to the present, not one of which seems to involve futures studies.

[The source of the chart appears to be *Planning in the Public Domain*, by John Friedmann, Princeton University Press, 1987]

A recent book edited by RÜDIGER LUTZ is *Plädoyer für einen menschliche Zukunft*, (Weinheim, 1988). It contains several articles by Lutz, as well as OSSIP FLECHTHEIM, ERICH JANTSCH, AL CHUNG-LIANG HUANG, HAZEL HENDERSON, ELISE BOULDING, ROBERT JUNGK, Amory Lovins, Murray Bookchin, Fritjof Capra, and others. □

MARC NERFIN has done it again. Issue 67 of *IFDA DOSSIER*, September/

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October 1988, has an exceptionally important series of statements on "The Image of Africa." It discusses varying perceptions of the 1984/5 food crisis in Africa, contrasting those of various Africans, with various Europeans—governments, NGOs, media, ordinary people.

Among the many important differences observed were that the crisis was viewed as a process, and not as an event, in Africa, whereas it was viewed as some kind of a "strange" event in Europe. Missing also in the European view were "the efforts made by the Africans themselves to deal with the situation." The motivations in back of aid offered by European donors was often humanitarian. But because the donors sought to solve the event-crisis, rather than acting earlier and differently in order to restructure the process, the actual impact of aid on the African recipients appears to have been much more negative than positive. Much the same can be said of the treatment of the situation in Western media as well.

The consequence of all this is not only to make matters somewhat worse in Africa itself, but, equally importantly, the image that Westerners have of Africa "will be only our own, further and further away from the real Africa, a continent brimming with life and culture."

Also in the same issue are exceptional articles by MADHI ELMANDJRA on "UN Organizations: Ways to their reactivation," and by Hans-Peter Dürr, "New Paths to Global Cooperation: The Global Challenges Network and the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity."

In Issue 68, November/December 1988, Wolfgang Sachs sharply criticizes The Gaia Atlas, the Worldwatch Institute's various reports, the Brundtland Commission's reports, and others of this ilk for adopting all too uncritically the very worldview they purport to reject.

While Sachs believes they correctly identify the problem—a global survival crisis because of modern processes of industrialization and development—their proposed solution—resource efficiency—is inadequate, if not actually a further contributor to the problem. Says Sachs:

"I will not doubt the necessity of this approach nor will I quarrel with the soundness of the alternative solutions suggested. But I would like to draw attention to a hidden reductionism which turns ecological politics from a call for new public virtues into a set of managerial strategies. As with a pair of pliers where pressure is relieved by

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yielding the grip on both parts, there are two possibilities to move out of the dangerous squeeze between growing demand and insufficient means: to consider an enlightened restraint of demand on the one hand and to deal diligently with the available means on the other. The world watchmen, however, highlight only the second alternative and allow the first alternative to sink into oblivion."

"Yet, disregard for the first alternative—to consider an enlightened restraint of supply-oriented demands—traps the world watchmen into the economic world-view."

"Throughout the Worldwatch papers, one frequently meets persons of a particular virtue. The utopia of a sustainable world appears to be populated by a fairly recent version of homosapiens, the efficiency-conscious individual. When it comes to collecting glass-bottles in separate containers, to replacing open fires with stoves, to introducing minimum tillage in place of soil-breaking plowing, or to installing drip irrigation instead of canals; all these suggestions, as reasonable as they may be, propagate the gospel of efficiency."

"Certainly, interpreting the state of the world chiefly in terms of 'resources,' 'management' and 'efficiency' may appeal to planners and economists. But it continues to promote development as a cultural mission and to shape the world in the image of the West."

[Well and good. But Sachs does not demonstrate very convincingly that his preferred other strategy—"an enlightened restraint of supply-oriented demands"—is any less utopian, rationalistic or "Western". But his point is nonetheless well taken.]

In the same issue of the *Dossier* Hilka Pietilä, Secretary-General of the Finnish UN Association, has a provocative article, "Women's Voice in the North /South Dialogue—Strategies for Independence and Solidarity," which, among other things, calls for a new economics on the basis of HAZEL HENDERSON's well-known "Three-Layer Cake with Icing."

The bottom layer of the cake is Mother Nature's original bounty. The second is that provided free, mainly by women at home. Then comes a comparatively thinner underground economy, a thick public sector, a private sector only slightly thicker than that of the underground economy, and the extremely thin icing on the cake—"the official market economy: all cash transactions."

Pietilä says, "the essential fact is that the top layers rest on the lower layers: they

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could not exist without the base, comprising Mother Nature and the unpaid work of her daughters in delivering, nurturing, and providing the basic care for young and old, male and female human beings."

Towards the end of this Issue, the *DOSSIER* reports on "an exchange within the UN" in which two well-known but un-nameable UN officials comment on an article in *DOSSIER 64*. One is quoted as saying:

"I do not know how seriously one can take it but I not only hope that it is correct; I am inclined to think that in a longer view of history it is the kind of response one should expect. People take their destinies in hand when they are allowed to, and they are no fools. The western-styled state has been a disaster and it is probably an obstacle to development in many cases. We are too focussed on what governments do—I am becoming more oriented towards 'another development' the more I learn, although it is late in life. I am warming up to NGO's all the time."

[Please warm up faster. It may be late in the life of the planet as well.] □

MICHEL GODET sent a stack of his publications and papers which are exciting indeed. "From Forecasting to 'La Prospective'; from Technological Mirage to Social Breakthrough," was presented at an International Meeting on Forecasting and Assessment in the Field of Science and Technology, Rio de Janeiro, May 1988.

In the paper, Godet helpfully distinguishes several terms used about the future. In summary, they are:

- Conjecture—probable hypothesis;
- Projection—extension into the future, or a variation, of past trends;
- Prediction—statement of fact before the event (Delphic oracle);
- Prophecy—prediction by divine inspiration;
- Prospective analysis—all-embracing, qualitative and quantitative, voluntarist, multiple scenarios (largely a Latin concept);
- Forecasting—assessment with a degree of confidence; quantitative, deterministic;
- Futurology—all aspects of research on the future (an Anglo-Saxon concept);
- Scenarios—coherent series of assumptions;
- Planning—consists in conceiving a desired future and the practical means of achieving it (this last is attributed to Ackoff).

Endorsing "la prospective," Godet says that it is "a way of thinking which throws

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light on present action by looking at possible futures." It "does not claim to eliminate...uncertainty through illusory prediction but aims simply (and this is a lot in itself) to reduce it as far as possible, and to take decisions based as little as possible on hypothetical futures."

Godet also identifies "three types of managers facing the future: the ostrich, the fireman, and the look-out man," obviously favoring the third.

The paper gives the "ten commandments of 'la prospective'", which it elaborates in some detail:

1. Illuminate present action in the light of possible, multiple, and uncertain futures.
2. Adopt a global and systemic vision.
3. Take into account qualitative factors and the strategies of actors—the limits of modelling.
4. Make use of the lessons of the past and do not underestimate factors of inertia.
5. Interpret information in the light of power games.
6. Mistrust received wisdom.
7. Count on social change to allow technological change.
8. Change structures and behavioural patterns.
9. Mobilize the company's intelligence—the Greek Triangle [this is Anticipation, Mobilization, and Action].
10. Consider methods as tools of reflection and communication.

In a brief Appendix on "Crises as Opportunities," Godet also notes the "two classical forms of crisis": 1. the absence of established or adequate rules; 2. refusal by the actors to accept the new rules of the game.

Applying those forms to the present crisis, Godet observes: "The USA is no longer powerful enough to force its own rules, but is still strong enough to play a disruptive role and prevent the inception of new rules." "Energy-related and technological crises fall into [the second] category and will last as long as it takes the actors to learn the new rules."

[It appears that many of these points are elaborated in Godet's prizewinning book, *Scenarios and Strategic Management*, published by Butterworths in 1987 (00 408 02890 4. Hardcover 27.50 pounds)]

Readers will perhaps recall three other articles by Godet, recently published in *Futures*: "Ten Unfashionable and Controversial Findings on Japan," August 1987;

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"Worldwide Challenges and Crises in Education Systems," June 1988; and "Into the Next Decade: Major trends and Uncertainties of the 1990s," with Remi Barre, August 1988.

[Godet is Professor industrial prospective at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers (CNAM), 2, rue Conte, 75003 Paris, France. Phone (331) 40 27 25 30. □

HUGUES DE JOUVENEL has a significant article in *Futures*, October 1988, on "Europe at the dawn of the third millennium—a synthesis of the main trends." A section on "The Rise of the Third World" shows both the rise in population of the region (and the rapid comparative fall of the population of the EC area) and the rise of its importance for EC trade. The next section is titled the "decline of Western leadership," but in fact it is mainly an argument for the position that the US will be stronger in the future than the recent conventional wisdom has indicated, and that Japan and Europe will be weaker than is often currently projected.

Other sections are on the "change in production system" and the "crisis of systems of social security and social regulation." De Jovenel's concluding paragraph is:

"Faced with an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving economic and social situation, European societies will have to prove that they have unprecedented capacities of adaptation and innovation. This means, firstly, that they must stop clinging on to models of the past and acquired laws, and take on the challenge of the future. In order to do this, a new social dynamic must emerge. We can already see signs of this springing up. Let us hope that those responsible for social order do not quash them." □

The October 1988 issue of *Futures* had an insert advertising "Special Report 101" of Applied Futures, titled, "The Future of the UK 2010." It's price? \$3,180.00 or 2,200.00 Pounds. □

The following announcement was received by Association Internationale Futuribles:

A round table was held on Monday, September 26, 1988 about "L'avenir de la poste dans l'univers de la communication."

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Chère Madame, cher Monsieur,

D'aucuns ont cru pouvoir annoncer que l'explosion des moyens de communication sonnerait le glas de l'écrit. En réalité, la communication écrite a bien résisté et au contraire se développe, non sans qu'intervienne un partage nouveau entre les différents supports. Qu'en sera-t-il d'ici 15 ans?

D'autres ont cru pouvoir annoncer que la dérèglementation, la mondialisation et, plus près de nous, l'achèvement du Marché Unique sonneraient le glas des monopoles d'Etat et que notamment la poste serait durement concurrencée par les acteurs privé qui ne sont pas soumis aux contraintes du service public. En réalité, si de nouvelles exigences apparaissent, les opportunités de développement ne font pas non plus défaut...à charge peut-être pour la poste de bien se positionner.

Pour contribuer à l'indispensable réflexion qu'exigent ces problèmes, Futuribles International organise le *lundi 26 septembre 1988, de 16h30*, une table-ronde sur l'avenir de la poste dans l'univers de la communication. La réunion sera introduite par *Monsieur René MALGOIRE* Président de l'Institut de Recherche, d'Etudes et de Prospectives Postales (IREPP) et *Monsieur Armand BRAUN*, Président Directeur Général de la Société Internationale des Conseillers de Synthèse. □

The Institute for Social Inventions announced its Social Invention Award Winners for 1988. The overall winner was Professor Richard Scorer of the Department of Mathematics, Imperial College of London. He urges the establishment of a Council for Posterity, with scientists, ecologists and writers acting as Advocates for Posterity, "for the multitude of generations ahead of us."

In Number 13, 1988, of the Institute's journal, *Social Inventions*, there is a follow-up contest announced on how best to structure the Council:

"For example could it be simply an exclusive Rotary or Garter or Academie Française style club in each country, with one distinguished representative from each of the main professions, people with a track record of concern for the long-term future? Then you might have a QC for Posterity (called to give evidence at planning enquiries into nuclear power stations), an MP for Posterity (called on by the Speaker for relevant issues), even a Minister for Posterity, as well as an Architect for Posterity, an Engineer for Posterity and so on."

Dr. Thomas Lovejoy of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington won the Best



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Third World Social Invention award for an idea he first suggested in 1984: "Debt-for-Nature Swaps, whereby Western conservation organizations redeem part of a Third World country's debt, in return for that country providing funds to protect rainforests and other conservation work. Bolivia was the first country to give this idea a try: in July '87, the US-based Conservation International purchased \$650,000 of Bolivia's commercial debt from the banks at a discounted price of 15 cents to the dollar. The Bolivian government, in return demarcated 3.7 million acres of tropical forests as reserves, and established a \$250,000 fund to manage the area. Two other similar swaps have since been arranged, in Ecuador and Costa Rica, with many more in the offing."

The Institute awarded prizes in ten other categories of social inventions.

The Institute also announced that ten Nobel Laureates had, by June 1988, signed the "Hippocratic Oath for Scientists, Engineers and Technologists" which had been proposed previously [and reproduced in an earlier WFSF Newsletter].

Number 14, 1988, of *Social Inventions*, in addition to many other excellent ideas about social inventions, contains the sobering mention of a 1909 edition of an Encyclopedia for Social Reform which covered "everything from Abstinence to Women's Suffrage." "There are many instances of plus ça change, which modern reformers would do well to read and digest, before they rush in to repeat old mistakes." (The example of present attempts to privatize water supply was given as one such mistake which had been exposed in the 1909 publication).

The Council for Posterity idea received considerable discussion, including a Bill of Rights for Future Peoples, suggested by Henry Cox, and Professor Meredith Thring's statement of the main economic laws of the present which work against the future. These are "The Law of Irresponsibility," "The Law of Irreversible Luxury," "The Law of Vested Interest", and "The Law of Conquest." Until these are overcome, says Thring, there will be no Council for Posterity and little hope for a prosperous future.

[Contact: Institute for Social Inventions, 24 Abercorn Place, London NW8 9XP, UK. Phone 01 229 7253] □

We called your attention, above, to a proposal by JAMES ROBERTSON for "A New Economics by the Year 2000," and the fact that this appeared in the Newsletter

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of the New Economics Foundation. Issue one of that newsletter was March 1987, and we have now received newsletters through Number Seven, Autumn 1988.

There are many articles of interest to WFSF members: "Parliament and the New Economics," by Francis Miller; "Economists and the New Economics" by John Pezzey (these two were reports on the plenary sessions at the TOES Leeds conference in September 1986); "Investing with a Clear Conscience," by Peter Nicholson; "Re-inventing the Place of Work," by Charles Handy; "The Case for Credit Unions," by Pat Conaty; "New Indicators," by Victor Anderson; "New Economics of Information," by JAMES ROBERTSON; "Mapping out a Living Economy," by Paul Ekins; and "Proposing New Values," by John Davis, Clive Ponting and Duncan Smith.

Of special interest to me was "A Blueprint for a School of Economic Thought," by Anne Miller. What caught my attention was not only Miller's attempt (along with that of other New Economics devotees) to posit a framework from which one could develop "The Other Economic School of Thought," but also her list, with references, of what she considers to be the schools of economic thought, worthy of understanding as competitors, which exist at the present. These schools are: Neo-Austrians, Neo-Classicals, Monetarists, Keynesians, Post-Keynesians, Institutionalists, Radicals, and Marxists.

[Robertson, and TOES participants in general (as the titles cited above themselves indicate), desire a self-reliant, environmentally-compatible, human-scale, decentralized, resource-conserving, recycling, sustainable, dignified, healthy....economic system. This is certainly both attractive and in stark contrast to most of the economic policies derived from the other "schools of economic thought" which Miller mentions.

But do any of them, including the New Economics, address what I feel to be central for the economics of the future? The "New Economics" that I feel is needed would embody not only all, or most, of the New Economics values, including the economics of information, but also would deal with the fact that human labor is rapidly ceasing to play its traditional role. That is to say, not only is human labor less and less necessary for the production of all agricultural and industrial goods, but also it is less and less necessary for the distribution, maintenance, and/or repair of these goods, and, even more importantly, for the routine management and policy decision-making concerning the production, distribution, maintenance and repair of most agricultural and industrial goods and services.

On the one hand, this means that humans should have more of what is now called "leisure time" in the future. Hence, education and other (personal and social) goal-setting institutions and activities should stop making "work" or "having a job" the focus of the meaning of life and a pre-requisite to one's obtaining goods and services made without much human manual or mental labor involvement.

On the other hand, human labor will be needed to provide care (education, nursing, comforting), service (in the sense of making other people feel good by doing things for them; everyone in the world giving presents to, and pouring tea for, everyone else and otherwise making them feel good and important; all the world like Japanese society, in other words), and the repair and comfort of Mother Nature who has been devastated by 200 years of industrial madness, and 5000 years of agricultural insensitivity. And developing the economics necessary for the transition to the economics of such a society is an even more challenging task, I believe. What say the New Economists? What say the old?] □

This being, in some parts of the world, the Christmas Season, it seems appropriate to note that the cover of *In Future*, the magazine of the Australian Commission for the Future, July 1988, features a drawing of the Three Wisemen and, arguably, the baby Jesus in a cradle. The Three Wisemen are singing, "We three kings of Orient are, wise in R and R and R." To which the babe in the manger replies, "The three R's aren't enough these days, Wise Guys."

Reflect on that when next you hear the carol sung.

Not only was the adequacy or inadequacy of the "Three Rs" a hot topic of discussion at an April 1988 conference on "Skilling the Australian Community; Futures for Public Education," held in Melbourne (with the text of three of the keynote speeches given *IN FUTURE*), but also Denis Kenny discusses the importance of scientific and technological literacy as well elsewhere in the issue.

And in a nicely titled article, "The Sky is the Limit—Technology Assessment and Climate Change," Phil Noyce documents more information about the Greenhouse effect, the study of and preparation for which is one of the main projects of the Commission.

There is also a little "science fiction" piece which attributes the Greenhouse Effect to an imminent invasion of Earth by Venusians—since the post- Greenhouse Effect

climate of Earth will be much more like that of the Planet Venus presently. □

Also from Australia comes information about Knowledge Victoria which was recently established "to facilitate a Knowledge Export Industry for the State of Victoria in Australia." The "Principal Operational Elements" are given as Telematics, Technology Transfer, and Contract Research and Development. The agency consults with interested private, governmental, and educational groups in Australia in two modes, as provider and manager. "Consultancy Services include: Business Planning; Market Intelligence/Survey Reports; Strategic Planning; Management Information Systems; Decision Support Systems; Integrated Office Technology; Resourceful Human Management; Open Learning; Telematics; and Commercialisation."

Contact: Denis Bourke, Knowledge Victoria, 549 Royal Parade, Parkville, 3052, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. □

Leo Sanhueza, Executive Manager of *Futuro*, a "Foundation for Futures Research, Strategic Planning, and High Level Decision Making" at the University of Chile, in Santiago, visited the Secretariat on his return to Santiago from the Beijing Conference. The central objectives of *Futuro* are to "promote transdisciplinary studies in futures research..., to contribute to the improvement of decision making processes both governmental and private; and to spread prospective studies and promote them among different sectors within the country." They publish a quarterly journal, *Futurion*, and monographs on various methods used in futures research.

The contents of *Futurion*, No. 1, Vol. 1 include "The Challenge of the post-industrial society," by Sergio Melnick (who is the founder of the organization, and Minister of Planning for the government of Chile); "Population scenarios for 'Chile 2050'", by Rodrigo Báez; "The 'Pacific Basin' from a post-industrial perspective" by Hernán Acuña; "Education Challenged by the Future," also by Sergio Melnick; and "Present and Future of Biotechnology," by Margarita Carú, et al. Several books are reviewed, including Capra's *The Tao of Physics*.

Among the studies currently being undertaken by the staff of the organization are "Projections of Chile Towards the Pacific Basin," "Projections of Health Education Demands," and "Projections of Information Resources."

Contact *Futuro*, Universidad de Chile, Vicuna Mackenna 79. Deptos. 201-203. Santiago, Chile.

Sergio Melnick himself also mailed to the Secretariat one national and twelve regional monographs prepared in cooperation with the national office of planning on the future of Chile and its regions. Each monograph is different in substance, style and layout, reflecting the different visions of the future of the regions of the country themselves. In an accompanying letter, Minister Melnick stressed that the visions were truly locally generated, and not the result of central planning or directives. They each are very impressive, graphically and substantively.

[Contact: Sergio Melnick, Minister, National Office of Planning (ODEPLAN), Presidencia de la República, Santiago, Chile.] □

In his ever-growing "Futurist's Dictionary of Quotations," John Kettle quotes this from that well-known metaphysician, Erica Jong:

"Of all human activities, none is so useless and potentially destructive as trying to predict the future. The future is merely a shadow which blocks out the joys of the present and emphasizes the miseries of the past." (*FutureLetter*, June 1988).

However, in his "Oracles" section, Kettle quotes Charles Candor, head of the Department of Genetics of Columbia University: "About 1% of all human genes will be identified within the next five years, compared with the 0.1% that are currently known. The next 10% will be found five to ten years from now, and the remaining 90% will be discovered rapidly by the end of the century."

With the October 1988 *FutureLetter*, Kettle began a series on "How much civilization can the earth take?" Kettle says, "As I researched the series of reports that starts in this issue I became more and more gloomy about the prospects for civilization. For once The FutureLetter has no answers."

"It's as though the earth itself had caught a planetary form of AIDS and lost its ability to maintain and restore itself. The seas and rivers once coped handily with sewage. Fresh winds blew away factory smoke. You could hunt and fish and farm without fear of destroying species or soil. Until recently, when almost every human activity began to seem threatening." Runaway global population is the prime threat, Kettle asserts.

"Garbage is a modern problem" too, Kettle says in the June *FutureLetter*. "Older civilizations scarcely had any to worry about. But we produce it by the megaton, and much of it now is almost imperishable plastic." He lists ten novel things to do with it in order to reduce its production or to dispose of it.

In the meantime, Canadians, like the rest of us, seem determined to ignore even the near-future consequences of our actions. In the November *FutureLetter*, Kettle shows "Why [the Canadian] federal debt should have been an election issue." "The accumulated federal debt [in Canada] is now as bad as it was in the late years of World War 2—without the excuse of 'survival' the war gave." Moreover, in Canada as in the US, consumer indebtedness is great and growing as well. Kettle says, "If you think the consumer-driven recovery is running out of fuel then you will be alarmed at the way consumers are piling on debt. Measured in 1981 dollars, per-person household debt (including mortgages) is bounding. It was nearly \$1,000 higher in the third quarter of the year than in the same period a year before. People are going into debt faster, too." "Essentials (food, rent, and clothing) are declining as a share of all spending. Meanwhile the savings rate is plunging" "Once consumers realize their debts are zooming the question isn't when will everyone stop spending but when will they stop borrowing?"

In the October 1988 *FutureLetter*, Kettle says that when you hear the phrase "debtor-nation" said aloud, you realize that it sounds like what it really is: "detonation."

[Among other things, I suspect it is the realization on the part of Okita's Japan Forum on International Relations that deficit-driven consumer spending in North America cannot continue to fuel the Pacific Rim's industrial prosperity that lead the Forum to adopt the recommendations that we described above: Japan must try not only to replace North America as a consumer of the Asian NICs industrial output, but also must stop propping up the North American economy through loans and purchases as well.

A likely conclusion? Not only can the earth not take much more developed- styled "civilization," but also the global economy can't take much more of it either. Indeed it may be that (given our recently-observed intention of China, as well as North America and virtually all other parts of the world, to "develop" along the old industrial lines, utterly unconcerned with the inevitable future consequences) it will only be the collapse of the global economy that might save the earth.

But I may be too optimistic. In any event, I believe metaphysician Erica Jong's

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statement about the future is wrong; indeed, is part of the problem. It is imperative that we respond more responsibly to the "shadow" of the future and revel less in those "joys of the present" which we are stealing from the joys our children have a right to experience in their own future-present.] □

From another Canadian, FRANK FEATHER, comes news of something which might enable all of us to be more rightfully optimistic. Feather sent the outline and parts of some chapters of a book he is finishing, titled *G-Forces: Reinventing the World*, which is to be published in 1989 by Summerhill Press, in Toronto, Canada.

An announcement about the book says:

"In the great tradition of *Future Shock*, *The Third Wave* and *Megatrends*, this astonishing work of synthesis identifies thirty-three global driving forces of change currently at work in our world.

"In social, technological, economic and political spheres, the world is changing faster than it ever has before. It is easy to assume that we can't keep up, that there are limits to growth, and impossible pressures on the earth's resources. Frank Feather's important contribution to future studies can be summed up in a single word—optimism.

"Current concerns like population growth and pollution are not so much problems as opportunities; the forthcoming depression in Western economies will provide the necessary correction that will allow unprecedented economic growth over the next sixty year cycle.

"It's not what happens...it's what you do about it!"

We were sufficiently impressed with the material which Feather sent us (and some of it is also included in the special 32-page issue of Feather's, *Canada Tomorrow*, July-October 1988) for us to write the following "blurb" at Feather's request in connection with the publication of his book:

"If you believe, as I do, that the world is in the latter stages of the most profound transformation ever experienced, then you know how desperately we need a clear, compelling, and positive statement of, and response to, this challenge, if we are to survive and thrive. Frank Feather appears to have written the book many have been struggling towards. Read it, and join with others in re-inventing the world."

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If you would like to come to your own conclusion about Feather's contribution, contact him at: Frank Feather, Global Management Bureau, 5460 Yonge Street, Suite 303, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2N 6K7. □

HARLAN CLEVELAND makes substantial contributions towards the same ends in his "Theses of a New Reformation: The Social Fallout of Science 300 Years after Newton," which appeared in the *Public Administration Review*, May/June 1988. Cleveland, who was once President of the American Society for Public Administration, argues (in summary) that "the 'inner logic' of the Scientific Revolution is now in serious question, and a new kind of Reformation is seemingly at hand. Three hundred years after Newton, a prospect is emerging of a creative combination of human limits and opportunities. Rather than giving needed, sustained attention to vital global issues, however, American politics and public administration are mired in self indulgence and no little corruption. What science leads to is a primary business of public administration, but it is time to put behind us the idea that politics and administration of human endeavors are some kind of science" themselves.

Cleveland states six "theses" of the New Reformation, and ends by quoting Lao Tzu's sage, the wise public administrator, who "never tries to store things up. The more he does for others, the more he has. The more he gives to others, the greater his abundance." "That," says Cleveland, "is not scientific. It's not even rationalism. It's merely wisdom." □

A new Federation member, TAPAN MUNROE, sent two articles. One, "Electric Utility Competition: Lessons from Others," appeared in the *Journal of Energy and Development*, Vol. 12, No. 2, 1987. The second was Occasional Paper Number Two, International Research Center for Energy and Economic Development of the Department of Economics of the University of Colorado. It was co-authored by Andrew Zimmerman, and titled, "The Future of Oil: Managing Risk and Uncertainty." Both authors are in the Economic Review and Forecast Section of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Francisco, California, USA. In the second paper, the authors say:

"The last 15 years taught us that the world oil market is full of uncertainties. It pointed out the remarkable resiliency of...OPEC, the flexibility of demand adjustments, and the hazards of forecasting myopia. In the face of a wide range of uncertainties, severe limitations surround 'most likely' point forecasts of oil prices.

Often 'most likely' outcomes tend to be heavily influenced by current events. In a time of oil glut [such as the present], the 'most likely' forecast becomes a declining price forecast."

"In view of the difficulties inherent in point forecasts of oil prices, it is important to uncover and evaluate the uncertainties in forecasts, rather than place the effort on making forecasts more precise via larger models or more sophisticated models or developing more computer software or other 'technological fixes.' ... Effort should be directed more on 'how to use' forecasts in the planning process by anticipating and preparing for various contingencies. The goal should be to place the analysis of 'uncertainty' in the center, rather than placing all the eggs in the basket of 'forecasting.'"

After examining the wholly-unpredicted history of oil prices, supply, and demand over the past 15 years, the authors develop three different scenarios for the future.

Then they conclude:

"Despite uncertainty, businessmen will have to make decisions about the future. Reliance on an unambiguous, single-line forecast can be dangerous. The focus should be on improving strategic planning. The process should identify the uncertainties and risks, and develop a process that evaluates the impact on the company of the various scenarios."

"This type of planning exercise induces management to wrestle with realistic alternative visions of the future and encourages thinking in terms of contingencies. The other benefits of such an approach include recognition of uncertainty, testing of unpopular ideas or 'unthinkables' in a corporate setting, the need for managerial judgement in decision making, and the necessity for management to think through 'surprise events.'"

[These are very important statements. But I see little willingness either of "businessmen" in the Western setting, or of "development managers" in the Third World, to be willing to accept this "uncertainty." Most decision-makers seem to hire and hear people who utter only words of "blessed assurance" about the future. Not only is this the experience of most of us in our consulting activities at home, but, I felt, our major failure in the Beijing Conference. While the message of many WFSF speakers was, "don't 'Develop'; find a different path to the future," most Chinese were saying, "We are going to Develop whether you like it or not, and if you 'futurists' are to

have any utility to us at all, it will be in showing us The Way to the Development we desire—The method, The theory, The technique. If you can't or won't do that, then I hope you had a nice time here, but please get out of the way. We intend to Develop."

Am I wrong in feeling this? If not—even if so—the importance of the theme of our next World Conference, in Budapest in 1990, becomes increasingly significant: "Linking Long-Range Visions to Present Decisions." Even if Frank Feather, or you, or I, have 'the answers,' which we may or may not, will it do any good if decisionmakers insist on continuing to play the new game by the Old Rules, as Godet puts it?] □

The term "Postmodern" is of growing popularity in modern intellectual circles throughout the world. It is typically identified with the writing of Heidegger and especially Foucault. As such, it is thoroughly critical, constantly challenging all "privileged discourse" and asserting the partiality and incompleteness of, and therefore the liability to abuse through, all statements and positions—including its own. It seeks to be utterly deconstructive of all utterances.

But some people are attempting to put a new meaning on "postmodern" and to give it a constructive and revisionary outlook.

According to a recent book by David Ray Griffin (editor), *Spirituality and Society*, (State University of New York Press, 1988) RICHARD FALK is seeking to strengthen the second meaning. "In Pursuit of the Postmodern," Falk says he seeks a spirit of the postmodern that is "reconstructionist, optimistic, normative. It does not repudiate the achieving side of modernism, but seeks to displace its negative features. A postmodern possibility implies the human capacity to transcend the violence, poverty, ecological decay, oppression, and injustice of the modern world." It "implies the rediscovery of normative and spiritual ground upon which to find meaning in human existence," namely in "a dispersion of spiritual energy that is associated with the sacredness of the whole universe and a related feminization of political life that finds power in relations rather than in capabilities for dominance and destruction, in earthborne more than skyborne energy."

Falk argues that we must find a way around "several pitfalls" of "false hope: the utopianism of muddling through, the utopianism of a technological fix, the fundamentalism of an assured true path, and the fundamentalism of an unavoidable

Armageddon." Yet Falk is wholly critical of what he calls "Disneyland Postmodernism" that is sometimes found in certain kinds of New Age perspectives which act "as a kind of opiate, promising an eventual salvation without any transitional unpleasantness."

The Postmodern Ethics he suggests has these among its features:

1. React to the intolerable.
2. Refuse to lie or manifest mistrust.
3. Regard personal relations as models for the good society.
4. The future is now. ("Within our zones of autonomous existence, we can live as if the desired future is here, and, by doing, help bring the desired transformation about".).
5. The primacy of conscience.
6. The journey to the future. (Just because we can model parts of the future now does not mean "that it is in place already." "It is not a specific project...but rather a perspective.... It is not an event but a process....")
7. Be receptive to the vibrations of feminized consciousness.
8. Develop the ideal of the citizen pilgrim ("who is on a journey in space and time, seeking a better country, a heavenly one. There are no illusions that the present is an embodiment of what is possible.")
9. There are no messiahs. □

If there is anyone who can write personally and poignantly about "postmodernity" it is SOHAIL INAYATULLAH. He has done so in "Painfully beyond East and West: Reflections on the transnational person and the future of culture", *In Context*, Number 19, 1988.

He also has an essay on "Alternative Futures for the Philippines" in *Futures*, AUGUST 1988, thereby furthering his reputation as one of the most prolific, as well as perceptive, young futurists around. □

O. W. MARKLEY sent a co-authored book and two articles which delineate his present interests. The articles are "Conducting a Situation Audit: A Case Study," in *Strategic Issues Management—How Organizations Influence and Respond to Public Interests and Policies*, by Robert L. Heath and Associates (Jossey-Bass, 1988); and "Using Depth Intuition in Creative Problems Solving," in *The Journal of Creative Behavior* Vol. 22, Number 2, Second Quarter, 1988. Since "creativity"

is always a concern to futurists—both as an aid to identifying emerging issues and to solving them and/or taking advantage of them—readers might want to take a look at the rather extraordinary things Markley has to say about this method.

*Information and the Future: A Handbook of Sources and Strategies*, is co-authored by Alice Chambers Wygant, and published by Greenwood Press in 1988 (ISBN: 0-313-24813-3). Markley is director of Studies of the Future at the University of Houston at Clear Lake City (Texas, USA) and Wlice Wygant is a reference librarian at the University. The book they have written is a practical and very helpful guide for persons wishing to link the theory and methods of futures research with sources of data and information about the future.

The categories of sources discussed are general reference works; abstracts and indexes; online resources; government agencies, officials, and documents; interest groups and networks, funding sources, and other media, experts, computer software, and unpublished sources. The book also has an example of how the various sources might be used to develop a scenario on "The future of economic development and quality of life in Mid-City."

The major drawback of the book is that it is restricted, in every way, pretty much to American sources and perspectives. But it is a great place to start, even though, as the authors state at the very outset of the book, "A guidebook to any field that is changing as fast as the information field is bound to be somewhat out of date, even before it is published. This handbook is no exception." □

THE INSTITUTE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUTURES, in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, continues its series on "Foresight Seminars on Pharmaceutical Research and Development." Recent seminars have been on "Alzheimer's disease and pharmaceutical development;" "Animal testing and new model systems;" "Ethical issues in genetic testing;" and "Economics of Genetic Testing, Disease Prevention and Treatment."

All of these are doubtless of interest to members of the Federation, but we found the ones on alternatives to animal testing, and on ethical issues in genetic testing, to be of special merit.

In the US, there is considerable public opposition to using animals to test drugs intended for human use. At the same time the public is increasingly concerned about

the negative side effects of "improperly tested" drugs as well as the effects on health of possible environmental toxicants—the harmful presence of which must be determined by some kind of testing. If you can't use animals—and you can't use humans—for such testing, what can you do? One hope might lie in computer modelling, initially on the basis of expert systems, but ultimately via artificial intelligence.

Genetics Professor Charles Candor was cited above to the effect that while we presently know only 0.1% of all human genes, by the end of the century we will know them all. What we know, we will eventually try to manipulate and control. First to "correct" genetic "abnormalities." Then to try to "improve" the genes. "A new eugenics is rising," the abstract from the IAF seminar says.

Robert Alson and Heather Kurent, associates of IAF, recently prepared a report on "Trends Shaping Architecture's Future" for the American Institute of Architects.

WALTER KRONER, Professor, and Director of the Center for Architectural Research, in the School of Architecture, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, USA, wrote the following letter to the authors about the work:

"I have read your Vision 2000: Trends Shaping Architecture's Future, prepared for the American Institute of Architects. Seldom am I compelled to write about the quality or significance of a book or article but this case is the exception. You are to be congratulated for what I consider an excellent work of writing, but more importantly, a document which must awaken in our profession the concept that the time has come to remember the future. The document is concise, clear, well supported, thought-provoking and aims straight at the heart of our professional responsibility to society and to the future.

"This document has to be on the reading list not only of every practitioner but more importantly educators, students and researchers in architecture. Once again our profession has been enlightened and I sincerely hope that for once they listen, act, and anticipate instead of waiting to see the future of the future.

"I am also extremely proud that The American Institute of Architects have sponsored this document. Indeed it is a contribution to the whole of our profession and the many industries and institutions which relate to it. I am awaiting with great anticipation how the AIA will use this "document-of-significance" and how it will shape the policies, lobbying effort, research support, and planning of the AIA."

The "trends" in the title of Olson and Kurent's work are social, technological, economic, environmental, political, and professional. Among other things, the authors expect the immediate future in the US to be an "era of rebuilding," a period of "energy transition" and a "materials revolution," which sees "the globalization of the economy" to which the US will "adapt or decline;" with "worsening environmental conditions," "growth of environmentalism," and an "intensification of the growth debate." There will be "an identity crisis of the traditional professions" and a "challenge to professional education" with "growing client sophistication" and "women's rise in the professions."

[While we agree with Kroner that "this document has to be on the reading list" of everyone concerned with architecture, it may not be on everyone's book shelf—the price is given as \$50 for an 81 page spiral bound document. It is published by The American Institute of Architects Press, 1735 New York Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20006 USA. ISBN 1-55835-013-6).

It would be interesting for non-American architects to review this book, since it is focused so extensively on the US. Indeed, I would say that might be its only important oversight. It may be too conservative about the changes going on outside of the US which will likely impact so heavily inside.] □

In many ways, Mark Satin's *NEW OPTIONS* to the US what Marc Nerfin's *IFDA Dossier* is to the world. And among other things, that means they are both chronically underfunded. In order to help *NEW OPTIONS* do an even better job than it already splendidly is doing, Lester Brown, WILLIS HARMAN and others have formed "Friends of 'New Options'" to which one can join by a donation of \$50 or more, in exchange for which one receives three gift subscriptions to "New Options" to give to friends for every \$50 received. Be a "Friend." Send \$50 or more to Friends of 'New Options,' PO Box 19324, Washington, DC 20036 USA.

Several recent issues of *NEW OPTIONS* have of course focussed on the US elections. Satin himself secured press credentials which enabled him to see the action on the floor of the Democratic National Convention. And he seems to have come away a shaken and changed man: "I'd thought that only social change groups fostered real inclusiveness and diversity, but the Democratic convention was more diverse than any social change group I'd ever been part of. I'd thought that only spiritual or humanistic-psychology groups were capable of establishing environments of real sharing, but the quality of listening in some of the state delegate

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caucuses matched anything I'd been exposed to in 25 years of Searching."

Nonetheless, Satin concluded that all three factions at the Democratic convention were unbalanced in the same way. All were based on the same assumptions, which were — "Economic growth should continue forever—despite the limited carrying capacity of the Earth — We should maintain an overly commercialized society in which getting and spending—not being and experiencing—is the be-all and end-all — We are superior to animals and other life-forms and should continue to dominate them for our own short-term benefit — The full-employment economy should continue indefinitely — even though many of the jobs we're paid for now could disappear without a trace, and much of the work we're not paid for is crucial — Our own citizens' wants are more pressing than the rest of the world's needs — Simpler lifestyles, gentler on the Earth, leaving us much more time for learning and sharing and growing, can hardly be a political goal."

Thus, Satin concluded, in the words of the headline to his account of the convention: "The Democrats Won't Save Us." (Issue 51, September 1988)

Other paths to "salvation" have been offered, but none get the media attention which for some reason is bestowed on the utterly obsolete ideas of the Democratic and Republican conventions. Issue 49 (June 1988) of *NEW OPTIONS* reminded readers of "a few good platforms" of the past and present: Friends of the Earth's "Progress as if Survival Mattered" 1977; The New World Alliance's "Transformation Platform" 1981; the Planetary Initiative's "Declaration on the World We Choose" 1983. And in 1988, the Institute for Policy Studies "Winning America: Ideas and Leadership for the 90s;" The Democracy Project's "Blueprints for America: Transition '89;" the Libertarian Party's "Platform;" "Blueprint for the Environment," presented by "18 of the nation's leading environmental organizations;" "The Peace and Environment Project," outgrowth of the Peace and Environmental Convention Coalition founded five years ago in San Francisco...; the "New Synthesis Think Tank;" and the "Strategy and Policy Approaches in Key Areas" of the Green Committees of Correspondence, of the US Green movement: all, apparently, utterly unnoticed by the American (and world?) press and TV.

Issue 52, October 1988, heralds GERALD and PATRICIA MISCHÉ's "Partners for World Alternatives" project [we think correctly] as the "world order movement's fourth stage."

And, according to Issue No. 51, the annual *New Option's* best Political Book award

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went to *The State of the World* 1987, of the World Watch Institute (while elsewhere in the same issue, *The State of the World*, 1988, is said to be "the boldest yet"). The three next books were Scott Peck's *The Different Drum*; Anne Schaefer's *When Society Becomes an Addict*; and Riane Eisler's *The Chalice and the Blade*. □

The July 1988 issue of TFG Reports (of the Futures Group in Glastonbury, Connecticut, USA) says that, in the US, home ownership, long a major part of "The American Dream" is rapidly becoming only a dream and not reality for young people. So is the dream of selling one's present home and moving up to something bigger and better.

The August 1988 issue notes the economic and related changes due to take place in Europe in 1992 and says, "Recognizing the potential for this opening market, The Futures Groups has studies underway for several American companies who wish to take advantage of these imminent changes. The key to success for US business is information."

Although not predicting it, much less advocating it, the September 1988 issue says that it makes good sense for businesses to contemplate and prepare for recession, and offers one such scenario, titled "Recession Risk."

"Managing the federal budget and trade deficits dominates the U.S. economy through much of the 1990s, leading to slower growth in domestic income and purchasing power, affecting consumer spending, producing moderate economic growth at best, and increasing the probability of a recession throughout the decade. We walk a risky, narrow line. High federal budget and trade deficits keep interest rates high and fiscal belt-tightening (required to reduce massive structural deficits) severely limits options by both the government and Federal Reserve Board to counter an economic downturn. Any worsening in the trade deficit causes a free-fall in the dollar and a flight of foreign capital, leading to higher inflation and interest rates. Slower labor force growth and a tight labor market push up wage rates. Discretionary consumer purchasing power is squeezed by higher inflation and higher tax burdens. Large debt burdens, financed at high interest rates, result in higher consumer interest payments. Price trends in such necessities as food, energy, housing, and medical care exceed overall inflation rates, putting additional pressure on discretionary income."

"The Brave New World of Food" is discussed in the November 1988 issue. By the



year 2000, food will be produced in different ways; there will be new food products; and consumers will purchase their food at new places, and will have different preferences from those of present consumers.

"Genetic engineering, biotechnology, and improved packaging techniques will give rise to new and improved food as well as longer shelf life for packaged food."

"'Designer' produce (fruits and vegetables with alternate colors, sizes, and shapes) and healthier red meat with reduced fat levels will become widely available. No- or low-calorie fats, sweeteners and flour substitutes" will exist.

"Time-pressured, dual-earner families increasingly need to substitute services for tasks such as cooking."

"The aging of America's population and rising consumer concerns regarding health and longevity will cause healthier and medically endorsed foods to become increasingly important to consumers." "Finally, greater exposure to other cultures...will spur increases in demand for ethnic foods, flavors, and condiments."

□

This trend towards new and newly-produced foods seems to be part of what Art Harkins calls "Artificial Cultures." In a letter to Minnesota Futurists (in the September 1988 issue of *Future Trends*, the Minnesota Futurists Newsletter) Harkins calls for the establishment of an "Artificial Cultures SIG" (Special Interest Group) within the Minnesota organization. Interested persons met on September 19, 1988 to view a video about Eric Drexler, author of *Engines of Creation*, [one of the most important recent books having implications for the future].

In the same issue, Hank Lederer has an article on "Culture and Nanotechnology" ["Nanotechnologies" are the "engines of creation" in Drexler's title]. Lederer explains that "manipulation of individual atoms and molecules is the basis of nanotechnology." "Any structure possible within the laws of physics can be 'grown' in this manner." Lederer gives three "basic" examples:

"A multi-ton redwood tree grows from a tiny seed using air, dirt, water and sunlight as its only materials and energy source. Using the same resources we could grow a completely furnished three bedroom house from an equally tiny seed with no human labor and have it ready a few months after 'planting' rather than many years.

"A natural steak is grown (via grain and cattle) using the same resources as a tree. An artificial steak, sizzling and medium rare, can be grown in a few hours from a replicating assembler seed without going through the grass or cow stages at all.

"Clothing made of cotton, wool and other natural (or most artificial) fibers can be grown from seeds; again using the same resources. This clothing would have the advantage of self-cleaning and mending since some of the trillions of microscopic computers used to control its growth (or assembly) would remain in the molecules of fabric for the follow-up jobs."

Lederer concludes: "Nanotechnology will revolutionize our lives. The culture needed to enable us to benefit, or even just handle, the potential increase in our material wealth and leisure time will be different in many ways from our culture today."

It is the exploration and invention of those new cultures that is, it seems, among the aims of the Artificial Cultures SIG Harkins proposes.

In the October 1988 issue, Harkins and George Kubik issue a proposal concerning Artificial Cultures. The lead sentence is "The Artificial Cultures SIG is being established to develop and evaluate the science and technology of Artificial Cultures (AC) as a discipline for assisting the evolution of intelligent artificial and natural entities towards cooperative, pluralistic interdependence."

Elsewhere in the "Proposal" they observe that "many near-future humans are at risk of being trivialized or superseded by artificial entities which express greater freedom and quality of choice in the use of intelligence as the generator of machine cultures. As the number and variety of machine cultures expands, human control over artificial entities may be less easy to maintain."

[Contact Art Harkins, Graduate Concentration in Anticipatory Anthropology & Education, EP&A Department, 275 Peik Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. Phone: (612) 624-5244.]

Like *FutureLetter*, *Future Trends* is full of futures quotes. Relevant to the above discussion might be: "Scandals are good for us. They remind us that there are some things computers can't replace," attributed to Gil Stern. And "It is always safe to be dogmatic about tomorrow," by Heywood Broun. [Nonetheless, safe or not, I think the quoted comments about Artificial Cultures and Nanotechnology have elements

of appropriate dogma that will not likely be squashed by anyone's karma.] □

## ELSEWHERE IN THE FUTURE

While we were both in China at the Beijing Conference, Yogesh Atal (Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) gave us the Report of a Regional Research Seminar, held in Bangkok, 20-24 July 1987, on *Perspectives on Asia's Futures*. The Seminar was held in accordance with UNESCO Major Programme - 1, Reflection on World Problems and Future-Oriented Studies, and was in two major sections: 1) Review of the Development Experiences of different countries and regions, and 2) Studies on the Year 2000 of different countries and regions.

Concerning the latter, "each country status-report was expected to accomplish two tasks: 1. Compilation of a comprehensive bibliography of literature on the year 2000, relative to the country concerned; and 2. A review of this literature resulting in a consolidated monograph highlighting the main trends in thinking."

Country monographs were presented at the Seminar from Australia (by Trevor Barr), India (by Iqbal Narain), Republic of Korea (by Sung-chick Hong), the Philippines (by Patricia B. Licuanan), Sri Lanka (by J. E. Jayasuriya), and Thailand (by Pasuk Phongpaibit). Regional scenarios on the future of the environment (by Nay Htun), education (by UNESCO/ROEAP), communication (by Archal Mehra), women (by Hema Goonatilake), and youth (by Luca Dall'Oglio) were also presented. Studies of Asia's economic futures and on science and technology were not ready for presentation at the Seminar.

The discussions on development experiences and futures forecasts led to four categories of scenarios: the Inevitable, the Possible, the Imponderable, and the Desirable.

Demographic patterns, growing urbanization, growing industrialization, continued exploitation of the environment, the information revolution, and both growing scientism and growing fundamentalism were considered as "Inevitable."

The Possible fell along either optimistic or pessimistic dimensions. Optimistic possibilities were stabilization of population growth rate at 1%; full literacy by 2010; new technologies to solve energy and environmental problems; the establishment of new international economic and information orders; and the movement of

of new international economic and information orders; and the movement of countries towards mixed economies.

Pessimistic possibilities were continued poverty; widening gaps between and within countries; rising arms race and local and global conflicts; rising religious fundamentalism; rise of narrow parochial loyalties; more inter-ethnic tensions; further decline in the status of women; growing unemployment (the latter two caused by new technologies).

The Imponderables included the behavior of nature, governments, and individual humans who can bring about good, or ill (for example, the oil crises were caused by politics, not geology, it was said).

The Desirables were "largely guided by one's ideological predilections. Some opt for a revisionist model, to revive the past and search for the future in the corridors of history; others suggest copying the 'present' of another society as the future of their own, or religiously accepting a prescription of an ideologue. There are still others who would like to paint their own version of a desired future."

In addition to the summaries of the papers mentioned above, given in the Report, Dr. Atal also gave us the full working papers on "China's Economic and Social Development Strategy, and Educational, Scientific and Cultural Development," written by Luo Zhao Hong and Shi Min; "Communication Structures in Asia and the Pacific: Present State and Future Prospects," prepared by Achal Mehra, et al., (the countries reviewed are Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Fiji, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan); "India in the Year 2000 AD," by Iqbal Narain and Surendra K. Gupta; "Pakistan: Review of Studies on the Year 2000," by the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO; and "Sri Lanka in the Year 2000," by J. E. Jayasuriya. [We will try to have the country monographs reviewed in a future newsletter]. □

One of the things that John Kettle did NOT suggest we do with our garbage was ship it to Third World nations. But in the Bulletin of the International Institute for Environment and Development (*IIED Perspectives*, No. 3 1988/2), Charles Secrett, international campaign coordinator for Friends of the Earth, shows that there is a growing international trade in hazardous waste. "The international waste trade is a scandal. Certain waste brokers are getting rich by exploiting legal loopholes and the

complacency of western governments to foist a toxic legacy onto the world's poorest nations." [The article was about Nigeria, but we have heard of similar situations on this side of the globe, in Tonga] □

*Panoscope* for July 1988, features "Prejudice, Race and Worldwide AIDS." The lead article, "The changing face of AIDS," says that the magazine this issue is drawn from *Blaming Others*, a new book written by Renee Sabatier and published by Panos in 1988. "'Blaming Others' paints a statistical and human portrait of the way in which AIDS is increasingly affecting, not only white homosexuals, globe-trotting businessmen and affluent tourists, but also the disadvantaged communities of the Third World. 'Blaming Others' documents another aspect of AIDS—the social epidemic of denial, blame, anger and disbelief which has followed the virus wherever it has appeared in the world, and which has slowed and damaged AIDS prevention campaigns."

While the US has 65% of all AIDS cases reported to WHO, other countries are worse off per capita. The rank of the top ten countries with AIDS cases per capita are: Bermuda, French Guiana, Bahamas, Congo, USA, Guadeloupe, Burundi, Haiti, Barbados, and Trinidad.

[A PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science of the University of Hawaii, A. J. Fortin, is writing on aspects of AIDS and the Third World for his doctoral dissertation. Recent articles he has written have included "AIDS and the Third World: The Politics of International Discourse," (for the XIVth World Congress of the International Political Science Association, 1988) and "AIDS, Development and the Limitations of the African State" which will appear in Barbara A. Misztal and David Moss (eds.), *Action on Aids* (Greenwood Press, 1989). His research reinforces and extends the perspective presented in *Panoscope*.] □

Michel Batisse (President, Mediterranean Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre, Place Sophie Lafitte, Sophie Antipolis, 06560 Valbonne, France) sent a copy of an editorial he wrote for *Environmental Conservation*, Spring 1988, on "A 'Blue Plan' for the Mediterranean Region." In an accompanying note, Mr. Batisse said that the Plan "is now reaching completion, and constitutes an important example of futures studies."

The editorial says that "The Blue Plan is not really a plan in the usual sense of the

word but rather a study of possible futures of the Mediterranean region as a whole from the viewpoint of environment-development interactions."

"For this ambitious goal, a methodology was required. What they chose was the methods of scenarios—a method of analysing systems which is commonly used by economists [?!], and which consists of building-up possible images of the future for the whole Mediterranean Basin according to consistent sets of development hypotheses. For each scenario, an attempt has been made to formulate the interactions between the major components of the environment..and the main economic sectors.... For each scenario, images have been built for two time-horizons, namely the year AD 2000 horizon, which is very close to the present, and for which the stage is already almost set, and the AD 2025 horizon, which may seem to be far ahead and very uncertain but which is closer than it looks, especially when we consider the time-lag that is necessary for obtaining significant effects from environmental action."

The scenarios "are of two kinds, based on highly-contrasted development types: on the one hand, trend scenarios assuming a development with higher or lower growth-rates, but continuing in the direction of current trends; and on the other, alternative scenarios based on a deliberate search for a sustainable, balanced, and environmentally sound, development with a more accentuated cooperation between the northern side and the southern and eastern sides of the Basin."

Batisee points out that the "scenarios indicate that, up to the year 2000, the situation which is experienced today appears to be more or less manageable in most countries.... But the situation is likely to deteriorate considerably thereafter towards the year 2025." Thus energetic policies need to be decided and implemented in the present in order to manage the important Basin resource. For this, "regional solidarity and public support [is] needed." □

The Office of Strategic Planning of The Social Security Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services, distributed "2000—A Strategic Plan" in January 1988 as "SSA's vision of the future that touches the life of virtually every American." It appears that an impressively large number of persons working for the SSA participated, and that the work of several well-known futures groups was also surveyed. It also seems that several alternative images of the future might have been considered. But only one survived and was chosen as "the most desirable scenario."

It is a heroically conservative view of the future. Nothing in it would cause the most devout believer in Voodoo Economics to raise an eyebrow. Indeed, the document

alternates between appearing to be boldly innovative in its use of "futuristic" theories, methods, and sources, and yet excessively concerned that the product may thus appear to be frivolous and airheaded.

For example, The title of Chapter 3 is "A View from the Year 2000: A Scenario for SSA." The title is affixed with a footnote which warns: "This scenario is written from the point of view of an observer looking back from the year 2000 at the changes to SSA between 1987 and 2000. What for the reader is a proposed future, is described in the scenario in the present or past tense."

Thank God that was made clear!

Although the first substantive chapter of the document quotes Kenneth Boulding's well-known statement that "the world today...is as different from the world in which I was born as that world was from Julius Caesar's," considering the tiny amount of change assumed by the SSA by the year 2000, not only will Boulding feel uncomfortably familiar with the future then, but old JC himself would not feel out of place: while the Roman Empire will have vanished, the American Empire is fully intact. □

There may be other possibilities. Even one which some Americans are able seriously to contemplate. The semi-underground journal, "Synthesis" (first published in 1975), has become *Green Synthesis*, in September 1988, and is slated to become the journal of the Committees of Correspondence of the American Green movement.

Contact League for Ecological Democracy, PO Box 1858, San Pedro, California 90733. □

*Daybreak* is a journal of "American Indian World Views." Vol. 2, Issue 4, Autumn 1988 had informative articles on "Ecomyopia—Pollution and Prophecy," and "Mother Earth Fights Back." "The earth is angry at the people for all the pollution," stated one Iroquois elder. Many Indians believe that a time of reckoning is at hand for generations of abuses to the land, air, and waters." "Many American Indian cultures have stories of a time Mother Earth will react to the disrespect that people show for the gifts of the Creation." "Almost uniformly they have predicted what we in our time call an ecological disaster, which will result in a 'purification,' a time

when life on earth will be purged or partly purged. Some of the prophecies predict more fires, more earthquakes, a more winds, and more human suffering."

The articles call for the reduction of fossil fuel consumption, among other things. But, one notes, "decreased energy consumption in developed nations would impede development in poorer countries. It may be a blessing in disguise because the Third World may be moved to develop alternative lifestyles to the style of consumption that is currently the foundation of the process which is destroying the environment."

Other articles in *Daybreak* noted that a problem has arisen with people who purport to be American Indians. Dr. Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, an anthropologist with the University of California, was cited as one who has claimed to be a member of different Indian tribes at different times, and to be a special spokesperson for Indians. Yet, according to the article, she may have been born into a poor white family in Oklahoma (or maybe Texas). Several tribes have specifically disclaimed her.

And in the review of a book, *Return of the Bird Tribes*, the author, Ken Carey, is severely rebuked by the reviewer: "The New Age Movement has produced a series of writers, lecturers, and 'shamans' that tell the 'true understanding' of Native spirituality. Carey is the new star on that horizon, focusing his writings on his 'channeling experiences', which were tape recorded and transcribed for this latest book." "This work attempts to convince us that Indian religion is not completely understood by Indians, and that the great spiritual leaders of the past have chosen Carey to set the record right. He fails miserably...."

"If this is an example of channeling," says the reviewer, "it is time to change the channel."

*Daybreak* is also interesting because of the kinds and varieties of advertisements in the journal. While apparently attempting to remain true to authentic Indian images, practices and artifacts, it often appears to have adopted "the white man's" notion of these images and artifacts, and certainly "the white man's" ways of selling them.

One advertisement refers to "Tribal Sovereignty Associates" with offices in Canada. It offers a line of research, development, and consulting services very much like those listed for Knowledge Victoria, above. And recommends a book, *The Power Within People*, which, the ad says, "deals with the need for personal

empowerment through the liberation of our minds and feelings. It focuses on ethnostress—the stress associated with being a native person today.” □

### FUTURE SURVEY Update, August 1988 - December 1988

MICHAEL MARIEN'S *Future Survey*, published monthly since 1979 by the World Future Society (along with annual cumulations), reviews a wide variety of futures-relevant books, reports, and articles—the ideas that are shaping or ought to be shaping our future. Contents of FS from Sept. 1987 through Feb. 1988 were outlined in Issue #48 (pp.45-48); contents from March 1988 through July 1988 were in Issue #49 (pp.72-77). Here are some “idea clusters” from recent issues, arraying alternative views on critical issues:

*Future Survey*, 10:8, August 1988  
(General Theme: Worldviews, Debt, and Development)

Building a New Worldview: Key elements and stance include democracy and participation, a Global Humanist framework, the “One World/Many Worlds” concept to accommodate unity and diversity, a Western view of passage to a human world of widespread wealth, and an Eastern view of a more Confucian and inward-looking world.

More Views on Development: Adding to the 18 keys to development (FS 10:4, April 1988) are additional factors: the service economy, the mal-development model that inhibits inner-directed economies, privatization, grassroots development projects, Global Humanist values, and alternative views on the debt problem (create new institutions, more cooperation, or delinking). Can anyone ever get it all together more or less holistically, or are we doomed to piecemeal analysis?

*Future Survey*, 10:9, September 1988  
(Economic Revival, Work, and Infotech)

12 Keys to US Economic Revival: Proposals include a vision of humanistic economics, more attention to sweeping changes around us, a vision of a Gaian economy, cutting the deficit, a rationalized banking system, more coordination of economic policy, rethinking poverty, national service, and a \$1 gas tax. Also see ten additional proposals in the Dec. 1988 issue (10:12).

5 Economic Imbalances: We all know about the US budget deficit and the trade

deficit, but there are also growing imbalances as the US imports more and more foreign capital, as inequality grows, and, in the future, between funds and claims in the Social Security Trust Fund.

11 Impacts of Infotech: Consider IT as the central nervous system of the world economy and creating potential for an “informed organization;” on the downside, information is being commodified, there is a loss of conversation and participation, and new systems are vulnerable to major disruption.

*Future Survey*, 10:10, October 1988  
(World Order and US Politics and Agendas)

Global Turn Toward Peace: There is a discernable global move toward peace as economic concerns overtake militarism, and an end to the Cold War is envisioned. Proposals seek a more collaborative international strategy, a major reduction in the US military, new myths for the US Army, dealignment in Europe, a non-aligned Canada, and greater focus on the need for the emerging “common security” paradigm.

Improving US Democracy: Proposals include voter registration reform, a better system for choosing nominees for President, and more planetary awareness.

20 Agendas for America: “National Planning” in the US is diverse, decentralized, fragmented in focus, episodic, and highly competitive. Some 20 new agendas, blueprints, and programs are listed or abstracted, appealing to conservatives, progressives, environmentalists, libertarians, and bipartisans. And still more to come in early 1989. Does anyone listen?

*Future Survey*, 10:11, November 1988  
(Rethinking Health, Drugs, Education, and Organizations)

Restraining Health Costs: Health care costs in America continue to grow faster than GNP; future restraint will come in any or all of at least 9 ways: more investment in health promotion, more research in problems of aging and addiction, imposing standards of proven care, rationing medicine, shifting responsibility to the individual, more emphasis on self-help groups and families, greater use of paraprofessionals, rethinking care for the disabled and elderly, and rethinking drugs.

Legalized Drugs Ahead? Right now, it's thinking the unthinkable for many. But consider the numerous costs of illegal drugs, and the major expense of a serious war

on drugs, which could well prove futile. Rather than escalate supply-side and demand-side measures at a time when America can ill-afford a losing war, a small but growing number of leaders favor the completely opposite policy of ending this era's Prohibition. We could face a very emotional debate in the near future.

School Reform: Crisis in education is a worldwide phenomenon, as rising demand for quantity and quality outrun capacities. School reform is a global concern; in turn, global civic culture and global responsibility are emerging as desirable curriculum adds.

Strategic Planning in New Organizations: The growing pace of change forces more and more organizations into rethinking planning, and planning that leads to rethinking. Change is turning organizations into information-based networks, pushing them into strategic issues management, forcing them to gather strategic information, and demanding new leadership. Several case studies illustrate the new planning.

*Future Survey*, 10:12, December 1988  
(The US and World Economy: New Trade Patterns and Pollution Costs)

More Signs of an Emerging Global Economy: growing trade, more talk about economic cooperation, and enormous growth of the World Bank. Many observers remark on the loss of America's dominant position, and the success of "enterprise-intervention" economies in the new era.

10 More Keys to US Economic Revival: in addition to 12 proposals in the Sept. 1988 issue, consider ideas for a MITI-type planning agency, more discriminating entitlements, taxing financial speculation, better labor-management relations, more international cooperation, stimulating Third World markets, adjusting to a post-European world, or (conversely) quickly getting into the new Euromarket.

Europe 1992 and Beyond: The bold initiative for a unified common market by the end of 1992 has quickly emerged as a hot topic. The EC may grow from 12 to 18 nation-members, and it has stimulated thoughts about a North American Common Market, free trade with Japan, and more East-West trade. Will all nations be trading more freely with each other in the 1990s, or will new partnership patterns result in new protectionist barriers against non-partners, with little or no net global gain?

Pollution Costs Coming Due: One outlook has yet to change: virtually all who consider the global economy and US economic renewal in outmoded terms of

industrial era economics fail to acknowledge mounting costs of pollution. Yet this could prove to acknowledge mounting costs of pollution. Yet this could prove to be the greatest of all economic and global issues of the 1990s. Rough initial estimates are beginning to be made of the costs of global climate change (hundreds of billions worldwide), threats to the ozone layer, air pollution, toxic waste cleanup (\$100 billion in the US), and radioactive waste cleanup (another \$100 billion for the US). Continued reality evasion will simply add to the costs that will sooner or later be paid in some way.

ACCESS: Individual back issues of *Future Survey* are available for \$5.50 each from the World Future Society, 4916 St. Elmo Avenue, Bethesda MD 20814, USA (301/656-8274). Subscriptions (including 12 monthly issues and the *Future Survey Annual* cumulation) are \$59 per year for individuals and \$89 for institutions/libraries. □

### NEW MEMBERS

PATRICIA L. ANVARIPOUR joined the World Futures Studies Federation in September 1988. She is a Planning Associate at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. She has been working on a futures vision in nursing. The objective of the futures project is to give Mount Sinai professional nurses a better sense of the future of health care and nursing. She is just beginning the process of integrating the vision statement into the fabric of the organization. She has a CNAA (Certification in Nursing Administration Advanced) from the American Nurses Association, a MPA from New York University, New York in Hospital/Health Care Administration, a BA from the State University of New Jersey, and a DIP from Norwegian Lutheran Deaconesses Home and Hospital Brooklyn, New York. Her Publications and Research include, "Promoting an Image of Professionalism in Nursing," "Speakout to Vice President, Nursing," "Building the Nursing Image: An Award for Excellence," "Evaluation of Compressed Workweek," and "A Consideration of Current Clinical Thermometry." She is also a contributing author of a Brochure for Parents and Children: Pediatric Services at New York University Medical Center, University Hospital. □

ROBIN BRANDT, a new member of the World Futures Studies Federation since June 1988, received her BA in Political Science from Willamette University, her masters in Political Science and Economics for Public Policy from the University of Hawaii and is currently working on her PhD in Political Science at the University of Hawaii. Her publications include *World Energy Markets: Coping with Instabil-*

## Missing Members

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ity, *World-Wide Refining Capacity Data Base*, and "Capacity, Complexity, and Flexibility: The Evolution of Global Refining, 1970 - 1986." □

TAPAN MUNROE became a member in July 1988. He is the Chief Economist at Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in San Francisco, California. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, his MA from the University of New Hampshire, and his BS in Mathematics-Physics from India. He has written numerous presentations and publications on energy and utility economics, competition in utilities and other topics. □

GAIL KUHN WEISSMAN joined the World Futures Studies Federation in October 1988. She is Vice President for Nursing at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, Associate Director-Inpatient Services at the Mount Sinai Hospital, Dean of the School of Continuing Education for Nursing at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Care Management at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and the Director of Nursing at The Mount Sinai Hospital. She has a Ed.D from Columbia University-Teachers College, New York, New York, in the Nurse Executive Doctoral Program, a Certificate from Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, in Program for Health Systems Management, a MA in Nursing from Columbia University - Teachers College, New York, New York, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt University of Nursing, Nashville, Tennessee. She co-authored the book, *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Nursing*. "Implications for Nursing for Today and Tomorrow," "Nursing at the Mount Sinai Hospital in the Eighties," "Nursing Autonomy and Implications for Hospital Policy," "Planning and Implementing the Collaborative Program," and "Impact of Nursing Shortage in Clinical Practice - Challenges and Opportunities" are a few of the numerous articles she wrote. □

## MISSING MEMBERS

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## Afterword

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BRITA SCHWARZ, The Economic Research Institute, P O Box 650, S -10465 Stockholm SWEDEN. □

## AFTERWORD

### WHEN THE TOURISTS FLEW IN

The Finance Minister said  
"It will boost the Economy  
The dollars will flow in."

The Minister of the Interior said  
"It will provide full  
and varied employment  
for all indigenes."

The Minister of Culture said  
"It will enrich our life...  
contact with other cultures  
must surely  
improve the texture of living."

The man from the Hilton said  
"We will make you a second Paradise:  
for you it is the dawn  
of a glorious new beginning."

When the tourists flew in  
our island people  
metamorphosed into  
a grotesque carnival  
-a two-week sideshow

When the tourists flew in  
our men put aside  
their fishing nets  
to become waiters  
our women became whores

## Afterword

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When the tourists flew in  
what culture we had went out the window  
we traded our customs  
for sunglasses and pop  
we turned sacred ceremonies  
into ten-cent peep shows

When the tourists flew in  
local food became scarce  
prices went up  
but our wages stayed low

When the tourists flew in  
we could no longer  
go down to our beaches  
the hotel manager said  
"Natives defile the sea-shore."

When the tourists flew in  
the hunger and the squalor  
were preserved  
as a passing pageant  
for clicking cameras  
- a chic eye-sore

When the tourists flew in  
we were asked  
to be "side-walk ambassadors"  
to stay smiling and polite  
to always guide  
the "lost" visitor...

Hell; if we could only tell them  
where we really want them to go.

C. Rajendra

(In *IFDA DOSSIER 68*, November/December 1988, and Contours, Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism, Bangkok, Thailand, Third Quarter 1983, and Satyodaya, N°103, January 1984, Kandy, Sri Lanka). □



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