

Global Concepts

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

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MANNY'S CORNER

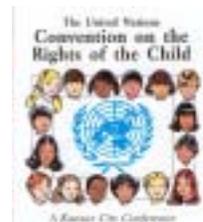
The United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development

The recent World Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa was to honor the commitments made in the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and build upon a secure social and economic planet. The mission for delegates to the summit was to find solutions to economic growth without environmental degradation. One hundred and four world leaders and 9,000 delegates, over 8,000 NGO's, 4000 members of the press and interested participants comprised 40,000 who attended this 10-day conference. The five major goals included reduction of poverty and unemployment, clean drinking water, health, sustainable energy and to save planet resources and its agriculture. Various international reports have accurately documented over half of the human population lives in countries where their average income is less than a dollar a day and human suffering is limitless, while a small rich minority enjoys the best of existing economic prosperity. More than one billion people around the world who consume unsafe drinking water, combined with lack of sanitation, has created enormous international health related issues. The conference provided a number of new commitments, particularly in the area of reducing biodiversity and improving the management of ecosystem. These are issues of urgency that cannot be resolved without partnership and commitment by the international community as a whole, particularly nations with both economic and

technical know how. As Mr. Kofi Annan, the U.N. Secretary-General, pointed out the availability of resources and wealth in rich countries and declared: "They have the wealth. They have the technology. And they contribute disproportionately to global environmental problems."

The Second Kansas City Conference on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child

As these pages are written, we are approaching the September 13th conference date. Two nationally known children's advocates are the keynote speakers for this one-day conference. They are Ms. Jo Becker, Director of Children's Rights at Human Rights Watch and Mr. Martin Scherr, Director of International Office –Child Welfare League of America. In addition, Norma Keller, Executive Director, Centre County (Pennsylvania) Youth Service Bureau, who attended as participant in our first conference, will be leading a session on education and advocacy. Ms. Keller has become such an advocate in children rights, that her presence will be a testimony to the success of our 2000 conference and its three-day educational forums. If you are still interested in participating, please use G.A.M.E. Web site: www.kcglobalconcepts.org to look at the program and complete the registration form. The completed registration should be immediately faxed to (816) 960-1546.





Book Review

George McGovern, *The Third Freedom: Ending Hunger in Our Time*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2002.

George McGovern, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture, has written a short 160 page book on a very crucial issue of our time, World Hunger.

Mr. McGovern's background is very impressive, with a Ph.D. from Northwestern University, a pilot and bomber during World War II with Presidential Medal of Freedom, eighteen years as U.S. Senator from South Dakota, a Democratic Presidential candidate and much knowledge of the international community. Third Freedom is a take off from Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "freedom from want" or what Mr. McGovern calls a moral imperative to end poverty and hunger. He is very clear when he writes that "no war in all of history has ever killed so many humans and spread so much suffering and disease in any year as world hunger now does annually"

A major ingredient of Mr. McGovern's solution includes the use of American farmer's surplus production to provide food for the hungry people around the world. His two-fold practical approach is undertaking a universal school lunch program to feed every child with a nutritious balanced school lunch and American special supplemental food for women, infants and children.

To end hunger, developing countries need to improve their own production. Mr. McGovern places much emphasis on American surplus, while he recognized the importance of the United Nations particularly the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. FAO is the oldest and largest of U.N. Specialized Agencies, combined with World Health Organization working to "improve the purity and safety of food and

drinking water by setting international food standards."

Food for Peace Program is also a cornerstone of Mr. McGovern's vision and he calls it "the world's most exciting and dynamic food assistance program."

Hunger is also an American problem. There were over 25 million hungry Americans as demonstrated by CBS television program in 1968. Hunger in America, Mr. McGovern states, has not been recognized by media, ignored by politicians and misunderstood by the American public. The cutback in social welfare has had much effect on domestic hunger and negative impact in many ways. The chapter on "women and girls" proclaims "there is clear evidence that educated girls pass on the benefits of their education to their children." The vicious circle of hunger in developing countries will not end without participation of educated women who should be enlisted to participate "in development of their countries". But to end hunger, there are a number of conditions, most important among them these countries need "responsible government," and some measure of "democracy." Moreover, there must be an end to national, ethnic, religious and tribal conflicts.

In my view, if there are any weaknesses in this book, it is the author's repeated emphasis upon mainly American solutions. As an example, he strongly recommends such American and Western approaches as scientific farming and genetic food production. This is an issue with fundamental importance to some developing countries with long historical, national, traditional elements opposing genetic foods as demonstrated by some nations refusing to accept American food for its genetic production

However, the book leaves no doubt about the importance of the United Nations agencies in alleviating world hunger. "America should continue to take the lead in working through



Upcoming Events

Local And National Upcoming Events

September 13, 2002, . "A World Fit for Children" 7:30 am to 5:00 p.m. University of Missouri at Kansas City. Pierson Hall, 5100 Rockhill Road For information and registration visit: www.kcglobalconcepts.org.

October 5, 2002, Heartland Sustainable Homes Tour with focus on efficient use of energy and alternatives. Contact Darla Duggan at: Darla32@juno.com

October13, 2002, United Nations Sunday Service, 11:00 a.m. All Souls Unitarian Church, 4501 Walnut, Kansas City, MO

October17, 2002, The Next Wave: Cultural Proficiency 9:30 am-1:30 p.m. Kansas City Downtown Marriott. Contact bobbie@projectequality.org

October 20-22, 2002, National Forum on contaminants in Fish and Advisory Programs. Radisson Hotel, 60 Battery Street, Burlington, Vermont. For information and registration contact Jeff Bigler at: bigler.jeff@epa.gov.

November 8-10, 2002, Peace Colloquy: Toward Economic Justice... Community of Christ . Contact Andrew Bolton (816) 521-3077.

November, 14, 2002, . Annual United Nations Dinner.UMKC, Pierson Hall. Contact: Willadee Wehmeyer wwehmeye@mnu.edu

International Events

September7-11,2002, Alexandria, Egypt. Youth Employment Summit. Contact: Poonam Ahluwalia,United Nations.

September 11-13, 2002, . Grahamstown, South Africa, The Role of Higher Education in Sustainable Development. Contact: BigTree@intekom.co.za- U.N.

November 27-29, 2002, Graz, Austria,Third Meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy. Contact Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl.U.N.

"The World Food Program is the world's most exciting and dynamic food assistance program.

When there are natural disasters, droughts, hurricanes, earthquakes--it moves quickly to provide food relief. When there are man-made conflicts--wars, insurrections, ethnic struggles--the World Food Program is there to help the innocents bystanders. When multitudes of refugees stream across the land, homeless and hungry, the World Food Program is there."

From George McGovern: Third Freedom



"The peace we seek, founded upon decent trust and cooperative effort among nations, can be fortified, not by weapons of war, but by wheat and cotton, by milk and wool, by meat and by timber and rice."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

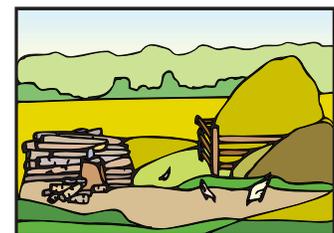


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the United Nations," Mr. McGovern keeps telling his readers. Such emphasis upon the role of United Nations agencies

clearly reflects Mr. McGovern's understanding of this international institution and the reality that the hunger problem has no national, racial or religious boundary. It is only with international cooperation through the United Nations and its specialized agencies that the end of world hunger can become a reality.

M.P



Maya's Musings by Maya Beswick

When I began writing this piece, I wanted to focus on the orphanages in Afghanistan, to look at the ways they needed help, and what could be done to provide that help. What I learned was that most of the orphans in Afghanistan are not even in orphanages, and that many of the children actually in the facilities have families who cannot afford to take care of them. I learned about an entire generation of children who don't have any concept of what it means to go to bed at night knowing they will wake up in the morning.

I tried to imagine myself as one of the mothers, forced to choose which one of my four children to give away, which one to sell, which one to send off to fight, and which one to feed by begging. But I couldn't even imagine it. We would like to believe that the situation is better than it was, that jobs are available and these mothers suddenly have the skills and resources available to care for their children, but they don't. In fact, according to the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (**RAWA**), in places isolated from a foreign presence, the conditions have changed very little. Women are still beaten for showing their faces, still denied work, and still not allowed basic human rights.

I tried to imagine myself as one of the children. Had I seen my father killed? My mother tortured? Had I been sold to a skin trader? Had I watched troops force my best friend across a minefield to test it? Did I live in a refugee camp? An orphanage? On the streets? Did I actually have a home somewhere that was still standing? I tried to imagine what it would be like to laugh and play and have fun in an environment like the one that has been in Afghanistan for the last quarter of a century, but I couldn't. Today, one in three Afghani children is an orphan. All of them have known war as long as they have known life.

So, I have had to write this from my own perspective. The perspective of a middle-class American mother sitting at my computer, waiting for my children to come home from school. I am torn between feeling guilty about the new clothes and school supplies I just bought for my kids, and being grateful beyond belief that I was able to do it. I make donations to relief organizations, hoping it will make a difference, and I do what I can to raise awareness in others. Anyone interested can go to www.rawa.org to find out how to help. And yes, it is true, this lost generation of Afghanistan's children need shoes and blankets and school supplies and financial support, but what they really need money can't buy. What they really need is something *they* can't even imagine: Peace.



. Any comments or reactions to her articles should be addressed to "Maya" and sent to the Global Concepts address listed on the last page of this newsletter.

UN envoy calls for major investment in children and youth of Afghanistan

One of the best ways to secure a more promising future for war-ravaged Afghanistan is through a major investment in its youth, the United Nations envoy for war-affected children said in recent interview, in New York.

While the international donor community has responded generously to the situation in Afghanistan, Olara Otunnu, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, told a press briefing at UN Headquarters that he was appealing for donors to "stay the course" and invest significantly in the country's children and young people.

During his visit from 22 to 28 July, Mr. Otunnu said, he had been heartened by the extraordinary resilience and thirst for knowledge among Afghanistan's children and youth. He called on international donors and the Afghan Government to give top priority to ensuring investments in education, nutrition and basic medical care for Afghan boys and girls.

As he toured the country - including stops in Kabul, Kandahar and the Afghanistan-Pakistan border - Mr. Otunnu visited schools, orphanages, hospitals, prisons and camps for internally displaced persons. At every turn, he said, he sensed that Afghan young people were longing to participate more actively in the process of rebuilding peace and healing in their country.

In order to build on that palpable spirit of hope, and to bolster the children's agenda within the country as well as internationally, Mr. Otunnu announced that a national conference for the children of Afghanistan - a "children's jirga" - was being planned, in collaboration with the Government, UN agencies, and local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He voiced hope that the conference would take place before the end of the year.

Describing the high price they had paid during more than two decades of war, Mr. Otunnu noted that one third of the children had lost one or both parents, 50 per cent had suffered from chronic malnutrition and about half of the country's 200,000 landmine victims were youngsters. He stressed that empowering the country's youth through education was the best way to prevent manipulation and radical indoctrination by militant groups.

"It seems to me that investing in children and youth is one of the best ways to turn a new page in Afghanistan," Mr. Otunnu said.

Beginning with this issue of Global Concept, you can visit the Global and Multicultural Education Center's new Web Site for the organization's information

as well as our quarterly newsletter at:

www.kcglobalconcepts.org

Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today. Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

Membership form

Date: _____

Patrons \$ 30.00
 Organizations/schools..... \$ 25.00
 Family \$ 15.00
 Individual \$ 10.00

Name _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: Work: _____ Home: _____.

I would like to contribute an additional \$ _____ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

We thank you for your support.

Our Mission Statement: *G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity*

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