

WORLD
FUTURES
STUDIES
FEDERATION



NEWSLETTER

Meditation is power

*some of us it got upright
and
others even off the ground*

*But those who stood
on all fours
disliked it and were dismayed*

EDITORIAL

The WFSF Newsletter is published four times a year from the WFSF Office of the Secretariat. A yearly subscription to the Newsletter is US\$20.00. Subscriptions are included in the yearly dues for WFSF members. Requests for further information may be addressed to

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Editor Pentti Malaska
Managing Editor Anita Rubin

The fall was busy at the WFSF administration with new planning ventures. That is the reason why you are getting this last issue of 1990 only now. Some of the on-going activities you can learn of from the minutes of the so called mini-Council meeting held in Turku in October, the other meeting was in Barcelona in December and will be reported in the next issue.

The mini-Council is a new informal gathering of the Council members *in situ* by an invitation from the Chair of the Council, President or the Secretary General to discuss the current WFSF business matters and offer consultative advice to the officers of the Federation for their measures. It has no authority for decision making nor any organizational status. The mini-Council meeting is held whenever we have an occasion to get together for any other particular reason as for example in Turku, when we were invited by Unesco to discuss the Clearing House program or in Barcelona, when we were invited by the CCP to prepare the World Conference. Many members have sent their proposals, reports and other material to our office, and if relevant they have been acknowledged and discussed at the mini-Council meeting. Please continue this practice.

The Barcelona World Conference has aroused much anxiety and even annoyance because of the high price of the local accommodation facilities. The possibilities, however, have expanded since that, and new cheaper hotels and accommodation will be available. Please reserve time in your calendar and wait for new information in the second announcement of the conference which will come in March. The topic of the conference, *Advancing Democracy and Participation*, is on the cutting edge of issues in the world just now. There are many directions to be studied and many gaps to be filled, and experiences to be shared with others – there is plenty of room and need for your contribution as a futures activist.

Two other conferences will take place in the spring with WFSF cooperation, as mentioned already in the previous issue of the Newsletter. The first one is in Prague in May 6-7, on "*Designing the Future in Europe - the Situation in 1991*", organized by the Civic Futurologie Society in Prague with Milos Zeman as a board member of the Society. The other one is the Sofia conference in June 3-6, "*Alternative Futures for Eastern Europe*", organized by the Bulgarian Futures Society with Alexander Tomov. Both conferences will have WFSF representatives attending but those of you who are interested in coming along please make your interest known to the organizers.

Two other activities deserve your thoughtful attention in this Newsletter. One is a new joint effort - initiated by Unesco - for a Clearing House of futures studies and allied activities and identification of expertise in the field. WFSF is going to sign an agreement with Unesco on cooperation for the Clearing House program, and we are searching for people who are interested in joining the program as a WFSF representative working for the project. You will learn more in the next issue, but here you can get the idea and see if it is of interest to you. If so, please let me know.

The other one is advance in the Future of Cultures project initiated and conducted by Eleonora. She has supplied a report of the Future of Cultures project for our information.

And last but not least in the activity field, there is a report about every day work for the Dubrovnik course given by Course Leader Wendy Schultz. We can only admire those talented and devoted people who every year make it anew - without almost no other resources but a gathering of other devoted, talented people. This year we have a promise from Unesco to get a bit more money to help to finance the participants from developing countries. The office sent a letter to each of the Eastern-European centers of the Soros Foundation, asking them to consider positively any application to the Dubrovnik course. We have received so far a kind reply from Czechoslovakia from Mr Petr Pajas, who welcomed the applications from the participants of his country. Please make the course and these support possibilities known to your students and researchers. The present political situation, while confusing, doesn't so far affect the Dubrovnik course. The course will be arranged as usual and if you have planned to participate, please don't hesitate to continue with your plans.

How would the world of today look like when seeing it through someone else's mind? This issue offers us a possibility to foresee the Gulf crises and beyond through the mind of MAHDI ELMANDJRA, and explore the future with our muslim colleagues. Both texts were delivered to us by Mahdi.

And, finally, I have to share with you my inspiring visit to Hawaii and meeting there with a group of futures researchers and other nice people. I also happened to listen to a brilliant lunch speech, given by Jim to marketing researchers in a conference among other things he urged them to learn soon how to sell chips to robots. Another serious business was my visit to the OTEC station on the Big Island where they are developing real future energy technology - ocean thermal energy conversion. Combined with hydrogen as fuel it will be the final solution with no environmental discharges, because burning hydrogen produces pure water. My love to all - Robin, Jan, Richard, Wendy, Mac, and

Aloha until the next time,

and lets be careful with the real world, maybe it isn't any longer what we so carefully planned it to be.

Pentti

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1991 Futures Workshop "Inventing Milieux, Cultures of the Future"

6-19 May 1991

INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE DUBROVNIK YUGOSLAVIA

COURSE DIRECTORS

Uvais Ahamed Lagos Nigeria
 Mihailo Peculic University of Belgrade Yugoslavia
 Leena Maija Salminen Turku School of Economics Finland
 Wendy Schultz University of Hawaii at Manoa USA

People are remarking themselves constantly with social, mechanical and biological innovations. This iterative reconstruction works also on historical cultures, transforming them, changing the social landscapes within which we all live. These changes will generate the futures of cultures in existence now.

But what of the evanescent cultures emerging from human change? The mutable boundaries of human activity continuously define and reconstruct communities of interest within which microcultures form. These micro-cultures may well be the seeds of the human cultures of the future. Examples include the culture of the international information networks, of the international corporate community, of the international environmental movement, of the growing population of "global citizens" and of possible extraplanetary societies.

How far along are these cultures in formation, what are their characteristics, idiosyncracies and peculiarities, what are their manners, mores and arts? Join us for two weeks of discussion and imagination-stretching exercises.

Students, faculty and all other interested participants are warmly welcomed. Students, please note, scholarship funding may be available from either the World Futures Studies Federation itself or through the Inter-University Centre. Please contact the IUC or one of the Course Coordinators.

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WORK IN PROGRESS

MINUTES OF WFSF MINI-COUNCIL MEETING

(preparatory and consultative to the Council meetings)

Monday, 19st November 1990
Turku, Finland from 9 a m to 4 40
p m

Chair Eleonora Masini
Present Jim Dator, Robert Jungk,
Pentti Malaska
Secretary Anita Rubin
Experts Torsti Kivisto, Sirkka
Heinonen, Iris Hamalainen (FSFS,
§§1,5), Mika Mannermaa (WFSF,
§§1,3,5,6), Michael Marien (WFSF,
§1), Misael Medina, Pierre Weiss
(UNESCO, §§1,3,5)

1 § Cooperation with UNESCO The Clearing House Project Sunday, 18 November

The preparatory meeting of the
UNESCO Clearing House Project took
place on Sunday, 18th Nov from 10
a m - 8 p m, with Jim Dator, Pierre
Weiss, Michael Marien, Misael
Medina, Robert Jungk and Pentti
Malaska present Eleonora Masini
joined the group after arrival at 7
p m

The situation of futures studies was
widely discussed and the need of a
novel effort like a clearing house
under UNESCO's "umbrella" was
supported with keen interest of

different participants (such as World
Future Society/Michael Marien, the
Salzburg International Futures
Library/Robert Jungk, World Futures
Studies Federation /Eleonora Masini,
Jim Dator, Pentti Malaska,
Futuribles, UNESCO's Latin
American and other regional agencies
/Pierre Weiss, Misael Medina)
recognized OECD's futures network,
run by Mr Michalski, and the
Euroscio of the Finnish Society for
Futures Studies were added on the
list of interests recognized

Pierre Weiss was charged to prepare
a draft of a concrete project proposal
for the next meeting on Monday the
19th

Monday, 19 November

Pierre Weiss outlined the objectives
and tasks of the Clearing House
project under UNESCO's umbrella for
the next three to four years, starting
in 1991, and called the invited
participants, Michael Marien/WFS,
Robert Jungk/Salzburg Library,
Eleonora Masini, Jim Dator and
Pentti Malaska/WFSF, Futuribles,
and UNESCO Latin America/Misael
Medina to cooperate as would be
separately contracted by UNESCO

The participants agreed on the
common aim as outlined by Pierre
Weiss and the step-by-step plan of
execution included

Pierre Weiss will deliver the text of
the agreement and information on
the terms of the contracts to the
parties involved, and they will
forward them to their decision
making bodies to be considered

After that discussion the meeting
continued as the mini-Council
meeting of WFSF, following to the
agenda

2 § Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda which had been sent to
all the Council members was
approved (encl 1) and it was
recorded that the following Council
members had made comments on the
agenda or informed not being able to
attend the meeting Clare
Degenhardt, Katrin Gillwald, Hugues
de Jouvenel, Maria Kalas-Koszegi,
Magda McHale, Tony Stevenson,
Allen Tough, Bart van Steenberg
Mini-Councils are held to take the
advantage of members meeting and
have two functions

a) information,

b) day by day decisions to help the
Secretariat and Secretary General
and President

The main decisions are made by the
Council and the Council members get
the Minutes of the mini-Councils on
which to react

It was decided to discuss first the
matters dealing with UNESCO while
Pierre Weiss was present

3 § Reports to UNESCO

a) The office of the Secretary General
mailed the report of the Budapest
Conference 1990 (enc 2), and the
Dubrovnik course 1990 (encl 3) to
the Unesco representative Pierre
Weiss who informed that he has
received and hereby approves them
(Copies of the reports available at the
Secretariat on request)

The record of the Dubrovnik course
1990 by Wendy Shultz (encl 4) was
distributed and it was decided that it
will be published in the next
Newsletter

b) The report of the Dubrovnik
Evaluation group (encl 5) set by the
President of WFSF in August was
delivered to the meeting by Mika
Mannermaa Pierre Weiss recognized
its meaning as a source of positive
new information to UNESCO for
considering its support

4 § The Beijing Proceedings

As agreed with Pierre Weiss and Jim
Dator, the Beijing Proceedings will be
published soonest in the new series
of UNESCO (following the blue series
of UNESCO), and Jim will provide
him with PC diskettes including the
processed material

5 § Financial Support from UNESCO

5 1 XII World Conference in Barcelona

Michael Marti informed the meeting
that the Spanish UNESCO office has
made an application to UNESCO,
UNESCO-Finland and UNESCO-Italy
for financial support about the same
amount as before He was urged to
send a copy to Pierre Weiss

5 2 Regional Conference in Sophia

Pierre Weiss informed that the UNESCO support for Sophia may possibly be only symbolic because the negotiations did not get under way in time. He advised Professor Tomov to turn to the Office of UNESCO of Economic Development and Social Sciences, and to the External Relations office and make contact with Mr Usakov/UNESCO as soon as possible.

The meeting considered it extremely important to get support to the Sophia conference which was agreed by the Council already in Budapest. The program of the conference was enclosed to the Minutes in order to inform the Council members and recommend them to attend or support their colleagues to attend (encl 6).

5 3 The Prague Seminar

Professor Petrasek's letter to the Secretary General (encl 7) was distributed and discussed. The Secretary General tried without success to contact Mr Zeman at his office to clarify the plan and its connections to other activities. Additional information to the meeting promised by Prof Petrasek wasn't available.

Pierre Weiss informed that it is impossible to get support to Prague at this time of the year because it would have required notification and application much earlier.

Robert Jungk suggested that he will try to contact Mr Zeman to discuss the matter and ask more information during his journey to Czechoslovakia. In any case, the Federation has taken up a positive and sympathetic attitude toward advancing futures studies activities among its Czech

members, as agreed already with Mr Zeman and Alexander Dubcek.

It was decided that Professor Tomov will be informed by the Secretary General. It was also decided to discuss the matter further in Barcelona.

5 4 The Dubrovnik Course 1991

Pierre Weiss informed that the application for the Dubrovnik course 1991 can be made according to previous lines and that UNESCO can consider to increase its support up to \$4000-5000 because of the good experience recorded and the prospects presented in the report of the evaluation group.

At the moment, UNESCO is unable to consider supporting the other Dubrovnik type educational effort by the Federation, initiated by Tony Stevenson for the Pacific.

5 5 The Future of Culture -Project

It was decided to leave the item for further elaboration by Eleonora Masini and Pierre Weiss. Results will be brought to the Council in Barcelona 1991.

5 6 The XIII World Conference in Finland in 1993

Pierre Weiss asked to keep UNESCO informed of the conference and its requirements well ahead of the date of the occasion.

Brainstorming on the main topic of the Conference produced a tentative working title "Development or Growth - Accelerating Future". The title is still open for discussion and further suggestions. It was decided that the draft of the First Announcement should be ready by the Barcelona Conference in September 1991. The

FSFS will organize a Local Committee and WFSF an International Committee during the spring 1991.

6 § Information**6 1 Conference in Romania in September**

Bart van Steenbergen attended the conference and his report was distributed at the meeting (encl 8). It was decided that the report will be published in the Newsletter.

6 2 Report of the Dubrovnik Evaluation Group

The Dubrovnik Evaluation Group, set by the President in August and chaired by Mika Mannermaa, delivered its report (encl 5) which was approved with thanks to the group. It was decided that the report will be published in the Newsletter.

6 3 Futures Education Seminar

Allen Tough's report on the difficulties of arranging a futures education seminar in Canada was taken into account. The participants expressed their support to Allen to continue the effort in any possible way. "Prep 21 Bulletin" of the World Future Society was distributed to the participants by Michael Marien (encl 9) for further consideration.

6 4 The Budapest Proceedings (See Agenda, item 6e)

Maria Kalas-Koszegi has reported that the first part of the selection of the papers by the chairs of each session was completed. The first package of the papers from session one had been mailed to Andrzej Siciński and Mika Mannermaa for editing. The papers of other sessions will follow soon.

The printing costs are estimated to be about \$7000 for 1000 copies. The funds are still lacking, and Maria will

make an application to the Soros Foundation. The Secretary General has made a request for support to two Hungarian companies via Finnish trade relations.

6 5 Vision 2000 Program of the International Union of Architects

Jim Dator informed of the program (encl 10) and especially of Magda McHale's interest in it. They were asked to make a proposal of the role of WFSF in the program.

6 6 Newsletter 3/90 and a new print of the brochure of WFSF

Issue 3/90, the directory and brochure issue of the Newsletter came just out and was made available to the participants. The brochure of the Federation will be available to the members in a separate printing. Requests for several copies of the brochures can be made to the office of the Secretariat.

7 § Decisions**7 1 The Korean Conference**

Jim Dator told about the difficulties in getting the negotiations to continue and converge towards a joint Korean conference of WFSF in North Korea. The South Koreans are still eager to hold the conference in Seoul if not possible in Pyongyang. It was decided that Jim will renew the efforts to get the final decision from North Korea and then inform the South Korean members of the result. It was decided that the Federation is not able to be involved in arranging a regional WFSF conference without both Koreas also being involved in it. However, WFSF has no objections if either the South Korean or North Korean members decide to arrange a futures conference by themselves without the WFSF involvement. Any

WFSF member may attend the meetings on an individual basis, but not as a WFSF representative. It was left to Jim to conduct the negotiations and to inform the Korean members of the decision.

7 2 The Chiang Mai Regional Conference Future of Cities (See Agenda, item 6b)

Bart van Seteenbergen's report to the meeting (encl 11) was discussed. The topic of the conference coincides with the ongoing activities of the International Union of Architects (UIA) the Vision 2000 program in which the Federation has been invited to participate. Depending on what is decided concerning WFSF involvement in the UIA project, Jim and Bart will discuss this with the Chiang Mai organizers.

7 3 The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Information of the foundation was disseminated and possibilities to get funds for some WFSF activities were discussed. Jim was charged to contact the Japanese members of the Federation for more information and proceed with the negotiations with the foundation. The Chair expressed her doubts and awaits further information.

7 4 Europäischen Gesellschaft für Zukunftsforschung

The participants were informed about a recent plan to establish yet another European society for futures studies in Berlin. The initiation came from Professor Gunter Schlutow, Humboldt University, Berlin. Several members of WFSF are on the list of invited people to the founding meeting. WFSF has not, anyhow, been informed officially nor by its members of the plan.

It was decided that the President will ask more information from the members involved with the plan and objections of cooperation with WFSF (encl). The WFSF members on the list will be requested for information.

8 § The XII World Conference in Barcelona, from 17-21 September, 1991

The First Announcement had been mailed to the members of WFSF and it was found to be good.

The meeting was informed of Mr Felix Martí being nominated as new President of CCP.

Jim Dator told about discussions with Jordi Serra. The next step in the preparations for the Barcelona conference was discussed and the following list of items was put on the Agenda for the Barcelona meeting of the International Committee in 11-12 December.

- 1 Approval of the Agenda and other program for the days
- 2 Invitation sent to all International Committee Members. Recognition of replies, and those who are present.
- 3 Barcelona World Conference 1991 Program evaluation in general
 - main events
 - facilities
 - responsibilities
 - ceremonials, etc
- 4 Subthemes of discussions
- 5 Structure of the Conference, its working modes, time schedules, selection of papers
- 6 Proceedings of the Conference and summary reports of the sessions
- 7 Artistic program or futuristic presentations, if possible
- 8 Key note speakers, invited and/or call for key notes announced
- 9 Selection and inviting of the participants from the developing

countries, financing from UNESCO sources

- 10 East European participants
- 11 Inexpensive accommodation alternatives and child care facilities
- 12 WFSF office facilities during the conference
- 13 Other items

The time schedule for the December meeting

(a) Tuesday, 11 December, whole morning and afternoon, and Wednesday, 12 December, morning meetings of the International and Local Committees, arranged and organized by CCP in cooperation with Jim Dator, assisted by Pentti Malaska.

(b) Tuesday, 11 December, evening meeting of the WFSF mini-Council, CCP kindly asked to offer meeting facilities.

Jim Dator will arrive in Barcelona on Monday, the 10th at 2 pm and leave Thursday, the 13th. Pentti Malaska will arrive on Sunday, the 9th at 2 pm and leave on the 12th at 2 pm.

9 § Closing of the Meeting

The meeting was closed at 4 40 pm.

Approved 19th November, 1990

Eleonora Masini,
Chair of the Council
Pentti Malaska,
Secretary General

Seen

Jim Dator
President

ENCLOSURES

Enclosure 4

*WFSF 1990 Futures Workshop
Final Course Report*

Introduction

In prior years, participants have offered a number of suggestions for improving the richness of the Dubrovnik seminar. The following are perhaps the most frequently mentioned.

- achieve more of a balance between the number of resource people and the number of new participants,

- achieve more of a balance between the listen/discuss format and a small group activity approach,

- provide background readings for the specific topic and for futures studies generally to help new participants catch their bearings,

- publish proceedings / minutes / course report and mail to participants,

- organize travel grants for resource people and participants,

- establish an updated mailing list of futures workshop alumni.

In terms of the content of the course itself, the outnumbering of participants by resource people has been notable in previous years. While this made for an exciting, high-level "proseminar" or "master-class" for futures research professionals, it frequently bewildered participants who attended as an introduction to the discipline. And the format has been overwhelmingly one of "talking

heads" (excepting, of course, the participation of the late Simon Nicholson, who could be relied upon to move everyone out of their seats Or just move their seats) Requests for group imaging exercises and participatory projects have also grown more frequent

Distinct efforts were made to meet many of these demands in the design of the 1990 Futures Workshop Not all of these efforts were successful The course directors would appreciate it if the Executive Council, the President, and the Secretariat would continuously contribute for creating new goals and suggestions for the coming years

Course Design And Preparation

The course topic in 1990 was suggested by participants during the 1989 Futures Seminar, at that time, the initial list of prospective resource people was also compiled Also, it was suggested that the Workshop be held immediately preceding the '90 WFSF World Conference, in order that members might more easily attend both Because of this scheduling, the Workshop in Dubrovnik was shortened from its traditional two weeks to one week

During succeeding months, suggestions continued to trickle in to the US course coordinator Letters of inquiry were also forwarded to the US course coordinator Several past and prospective participants suggested keeping also entire afternoons open for scenario design and futures imaging exercises, given the proposed topic of "Multicultural Images of Alternative Futures" This was done, which also required streamlining the

presentation and discussion schedule to fit the one week limitation

With the help of the IUC staff (an excellent group), the US coordinator compiled a course description, a pamphlet on registration, and travel and lodging information In the meantime, the President was applying for a UNESCO grant to support travel expenses for some participants With the drafting of a letter of invitation for resource people, and a response for letters of inquiry, the process of advertisement, announcement, and participant organization began All letters mailed contained an RSVP postcard, which generally made monitoring prospective attendance by speakers and participants easier, and enabled those who qualified for scholarships to request further information

The application to UNESCO for support funds was successful, and a grant of \$2500 for travel expenses was forwarded to the Secretariat in Finland Upon completion of the Workshop, a further \$500 would be available for publication and support expenses In addition, The Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies was able to contribute \$900 towards the expenses of Eastern European course directors and resource people

By April, a tentative list of participants, resource people, and scholarship recipients was compiled In addition, a reading list of related articles had been chosen, and a coursebook compiled from these, of which 35 copies were made Travel arrangements and lodging were a slight difficulty as some participants were under the impression that lodging was arranged by the course coordinators In addition, the Hotel Lero had

begun keeping course files, but had not been notified of our course dates and director's names Last minute calls to the Lero staff and the IUC staff produced either hotel or private accommodations for everyone

Course Attendance And Activities

It would be hard to pin down which of the many changes and adjustments contributed to the increased attendance, but the 1990 Workshop was resoundingly successful on that variable alone thirty-one participants from sixteen different countries converged on the IUC to participate in discussions and activities about the future Countries represented included (in no particular order) Hungary, Australia, the Philippines, Italy, Pakistan, the U S A , W Germany, Norway, Costa Rica, India, Finland, Canada, Bulgaria, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Austria

The only drawback to this interesting variety was that many of those attending had planned presentations, which news had not always been relayed to the US course director Consequently, time for productive and creative workshop exercises dwindled rapidly On the other hand, those warm-up exercises and futures brainstorming sessions that did take place provoked a lot of discussion both in and out of the seminar room, and in this fashion perhaps found their own space and time Nonetheless, the success of these activities suggests that they should be championed, and their allocated time defended against encroachment by more static presentations

A summary of the substantive discussion was reported in the previous Newsletter

Final Comments

As is evident in comparing the preparations and activities against the list of shortcomings, some improvements were made Those snafus that did arise are due primarily to inadequate communication links between the four course directors - we even don't have resources to meet during the planning phase

In addition, the administration of the distribution of the scholarships has overloaded our small staff In the future, it is absolutely critical that only one office be responsible for applying for, administering, and distributing grants and scholarship funds for the Dubrovnik course Future course coordinators should not have to face this situation Finally, it seemed almost as if many people were spreading the good word about the Dubrovnik course a lot of misinformation was presented in terms of both scheduling and available support It would be ideal, of course, if the four course directors could actually meet about six months prior to the Futures Workshop That is a preferred future, but one toward which all the course directors would gladly work

Wendy Schultz

Enclosure 5 *Report of the Dubrovnik Course Evaluation Committee*

World Futures Studies Federation's President Jim Dator asked the following persons to form a committee for evaluating the courses in futures studies, which have been held in Dubrovnik

Mika Mannermaa (chair)
Eleonora Masini
Radmila Nakarada
Leena-Maja Salminen
Wendy Schultz
Andrej Sicsinski
Tony Stevenson
Kaoru Yamaguchi
Bart van Steenbergen

After hard work of some months the committee has decided to give the following report to the Council of WFSF

Basic ideas and general features of the courses

Dubrovnik courses are a part of the activities of the Inter-University Centre of Dubrovnik. This means that the courses should be focused to postgraduate students. In this respect there is, however, some degree of freedom, and also graduate students as well as other people could be given possibilities to take part in the courses which has been the case in the earlier years, too.

The basic idea of Dubrovnik courses is to educate young people to become involved in futures studies and in the activities of WFSF. Due to the general interdisciplinary nature of futures studies the courses should be organized in such a way that postgraduate students are able to follow the lectures and take actively part in the work no matter what their professional or cultural background is.

In the dimension of formality / informality we feel that a mixture of both is necessary with neither prevailing. Papers given by the resource persons as well as the students are desirable. The courses

should, however, not be places, where papers are read with a tight schedule. An ideal is a situation, where a good and thorough paper would be presented and after that enough time - one or two hours - would be devoted to the discussion.

The courses ought to be as interactive as possible, and time should be given to the presentations of the students, too. On the other hand it should be possible to take part in the course without having the stress to give a presentation.

The course can be characterized as being something in between a graduate level university course and an academic seminar.

It could be a worthy goal to try to prepare a written course report, too. It should be made by the students, not by the course directors or the resource people. This kind of a report might help the course participants to structure the results of the course in their minds after the course.

A written report would be helpful in the fundraising for the following courses as well as in the marketing efforts of the courses.

It should not be excluded that the courses could produce material worth of publishing in the future-oriented journals.

Course directors and resource persons

So far it has been considered to be important that the course directors come from different parts of the world. This seems as a good practice, which should be followed in the future, too. Because of this attempt

of getting course directors from all over the world the number of them cannot be less than three or four.

The division of labor is an internal affair of the course directors, but experience has shown that one of them should be a coordinator, who sees that things are going on.

WFSF's council could pay more attention to the selection of the course directors. A person chosen to be a course director should be willing and able to work for the course. The past experiences in this respect have not been solely positive.

The resource people should represent different disciplines and cultures, and they ought to come from different parts of the world. On the other hand they should have the common feature that they are futures researchers or clearly future-oriented researchers having done work in the field of the theme of the course. We want to stress that research merits should be emphasized. To be a lecturer in the Dubrovnik course of WFSF is (or should be) an honour to any researcher.

Financing and marketing

Both financing and marketing have clearly been the weakest points of the courses. Sources of funds have been scarce and more or less occasional. In the future, the aim should be that the courses would receive an essential part of their financing on a regular basis eg from UNESCO. Using the normal procedure of making applications to UNESCO every year is quite too time-consuming. WFSF's Council could negotiate with UNESCO on this matter.

Other possible sources of funding should not be forgotten. These include the IUC itself, European Cultural Foundation and the Soros Foundation. In the long run WFSF ought to develop a data bank dealing with the financial institutions, their procedures of applying money, etc. The financial wheel should not be invented once again every year.

Also, marketing of the courses has been more or less random and weak. Here, too, a data bank is needed. It should be updated and expanded all the time. It is actually a strange thing that this has not been done already years ago.

Themes

The themes of the courses or at least the actual contents of them have usually been wide and varied. This is probably desirable in the future, too. In every course, however, there should be a good theme, which forms a context for the presentations and discussions in the course. The themes should be selected among the most crucial issues in futures studies at the time at hand. At the moment such themes are eg the following:

- * Globalization processes in the world
- * Regional development processes (East Europe, Asia) and the future
- * The future of the North-South conflict in the world
- * The future of the Human-Nature conflict
- * Approaches in futures studies to cope with the crucial futures issues of our time

Some technical issues

It has been thought that Spring is the best period to arrange the courses. It

is easier and less expensive for the students. This seems to be true at the moment, too. It might be, however, wise to postpone the course a bit, to be held in May. It would make it even cheaper at least to the students from the Western countries. This is because the tourist season begins in May, which means a lot of cheap possibilities to take a trip to Dubrovnik.

Two weeks seems to be a good length of a course.

There has been much discussion whether the course should be arranged annually, or possibly biannually. We feel that, being a world organisation of futures researchers, WFSF should have enough resources to act on an annual basis.

Conclusions

According to our understanding the Dubrovnik courses are one of the most important activities of WFSF. They have the potential to become truly global interactive and creative futures workshops, where people from different cultures and professions exchange views of the future and will get involved in the global futurists community. So far the courses have created a lot of intercultural and interdisciplinary exchange between young and older futures thinkers. For example intensive East-West dialogue has been the case already for years, many years before the optimistic political atmosphere of today. On the other hand, the courses could be much stronger in many sense and much more widely recognized. Much work is still to be done. ♦

CLEARING HOUSE

Conclusions of the Meeting Held in Turku, Finland, 18-19 November 1990

Pierre Weiss

1 With a view to implementing the activity foreseen in para 15088 of Unesco's Programme and Budget for 1990-1991 (Document 25 C/5) - the setting-up of a clearing-house in Unesco's fields of competence - a meeting was held in Turku, the

headquarters of the World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF). The agenda of the meeting is attached.

2 The following persons attended the meeting:

- Mrs ELEONORA MASINI (WFSF and Club of Rome)
- Mr JIM DATOR (President WFSF)
- Mr ROBERT JUNGK (Internationale Bibliothek für Zukunftsfragen, Salzburg editor of "Pro-Zukunft")
- Mr PENNITI MALASKA (Secretary-General WFSF, Club of Rome)
- Mr MICHAEL MARIEN (World Future Society, editor of "Future Survey")
- Mr Misael Medina (Consultant to the Regional Adviser for Social Sciences in Latin America, Unesco, Caracas)
- Mr Pierre Weiss (Unesco, Bureau of Studies, Programming and Evaluation, Division of Studies and Programming, BPE/BP)

On 20 November some members of the Finnish Society for Futures Studies, headed by the Secretary-General, Mrs Sirkka Heimonen, participated in the discussions.

3 The strategy proposed in the agenda of the meeting was approved by all the participants. The details and modalities of their cooperation with Unesco were worked out as follows:

4 The Unesco clearing-house (FUTURESCO) will be established by stages from 1991 onwards, initially with the cooperation of four NGOs:

- International Library for Future Research (R Jungk, Salzburg)
- World Future Society (represented by Mr Marien, editor of Future Survey)
- World Futures Studies Federation
- Association Internationale Futuribles (Paris)

Unesco, within the framework of the transverse programme "Future-oriented studies", shall contribute to the setting-up and the functioning of the clearing-house through BPE/BP and the regional advisers for the social and human sciences in Asia and the Pacific (Y Atal, URSHAP) and Latin America and the Caribbean (G Abad, URSHSLAC).

5 During the 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 biennia, this nucleus of partners shall be increased so as to attract other institutions or individual experts to the project, in particular the National Commissions of Unesco's Member States.

6 Three "products" are expected from the creation of the clearing-house:

- An international bibliographical data base in Unesco's fields of competence,
- An international directory of institutions, research centres and individual specialists competent in the future-oriented field,
- A bibliographical bulletin.

7 The international bibliographical data base shall be set up according to the following modalities:

- Fields covered: adoption of the general descriptors used by Mr

Marien for "Future Survey" and reformulated in the following way: World Futures, International Economics (Third World Development), World Regions and Nations Peace research and education for peace, Energy (alternative sources and strategies), Environment and Resources, Society, Democracy and Human Rights, Spatial Affairs (cities),

Health (education for the prevention of AIDS and drug abuse), Education, Culture and Communication, Science and Technology, Methods to shape the future,

- Computerization of the data base utilization of the CDS/ISIS software created by Unesco, drawing-up by Unesco of a specific "thesaurus", adapted to the future-oriented field, this data base, which shall essentially concern the future-oriented work done as from 1988, shall be updated regularly.

- At the beginning of January 1991, Unesco shall draw up contracts with four NGOs or their representatives - the International Library for Future Research (Robert Jungk), Future Survey - Mr Marien (WFS), the WFSF and the Association Internationale Futuribles - with a view to supplying abstracts on future-oriented literature, these abstracts being drawn up according to a model with the following characteristics

a For each reference a summary shall be drawn up supplying information on the topic being treated, the main short-, medium- or long-term results or conclusions the author of the study has arrived at and, where applicable, elements relative to the methodology used,

b Each card shall be written in English, the title of the documents written in other languages shall be indexed in the original language and in English, Unesco will undertake the translation of the cards written in languages other than English,

c The notice concerning each reference of the data base shall be

signed by its author (e.g. M. Ma-FS for Michael Marien, Future Survey),

8 Access to the international bibliographical data base shall be free for Member States (Delegations, National Commissions, Ministries etc), for Unesco's partners in the project (WFSF, WFS, etc), as well as for Unesco staff members. Access will be available to other users upon payment of a fee

9 The international directory of institutions, research centres and individual experts shall be drawn up in stages with the help of the National Commissions of the Member States (a questionnaire has already been sent to them), as well as with the NGOs cooperating on the clearing-house

10 The bibliographical Bulletin, entitled UNESCO FUTURE SCAN, shall be published initially twice a year (No 1 June 1991, No 2 January 1992, No 3 June 1992), then three times a year (No 4 October 1992, No 5 February 1993, No 6 June 1993) in order to arrive, in a third place, at a quarterly publication. This Bulletin shall have three sections

"Abstracts" of the most pertinent works collected on the data base, these abstracts will be selected by the Editorial Committee of "UNESCO FUTURE SCAN", which will be composed of representatives of each NGO associated with the project and a representative of BPE/BP,

- *Synopses* of the results of the work undertaken in the future-oriented field. These synopses (about ten typed pages) will be written by each of the partners in the project

and will be circulated, before publication, among the members of the Editorial Committee with a view to harmonizing and coordinating them. The following topics have been selected for the first four numbers of 'UNESCO FUTURE SCAN'

- No 1 Education (deadline for receipt of synopses 1 May 1991)
- No 2 Environment (deadline 15 January 1992)
- No 3 Science and Technology
- No 4 Culture

- *Announcements* (or summaries) of major events of interest to the future-oriented milieu: conferences, seminars, etc

11 "UNESCO FUTURE SCAN" will appear initially in English, but from No 5 (February 1993) it is envisaged that it will be published in French, Spanish and other official Unesco languages

XII World Conference of WFSF

Advancing Democracy And Participation:

Challenges for the Future

17-21 September, 1991
Barcelona, Spain

Proposed Plenary Topics

- 1 Tuesday September 17
The Futures of Democracy & Participation in the light of recent changes and opportunities
- 2 Wednesday September 18
The Future of Democracy & Participation in the WFSF
- 3 Thursday September 19
Futures of Democracy & Participation in Everyday Life
- 4 Saturday September 21
What We Have Learned

Proposed Working Groups

Economy Politics Civil Society Information and Communication Education Youth Culture Population and Health Environment Science & Technology Futures Studies Cutting Edge Ideas

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All those interested in cheaper accommodation Please wait for the 2nd Announcement for more information!

*EUROPEAN HISTORY AND FUTURE IN THE PRESENT**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**17-19 JUNE 1991***Place** Municipal Training Institute Tuusula Finland**Joint conference** Municipal Training Institute with SCEPSTA (Standing Conference of European Public Training Agencies) and Finnish Society for Futures Studies

The conference is intended as a professional forum both for planners instructors and consultants in the field of public administration and also for futurologists. The aim is to stimulate discussion concerning the direction of change in the public administration of a Europe proceeding towards integration.

Steering group Lisa Tanskanen Head of Training Management Training (Municipal Training Institute) Olavi Borg Professor University of Tampere and Mika Mannermaa Researcher (Finnish Society for Futures Studies)**Themes**17 June

THE EUROPEAN HISTORY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE END THEREOF

- To what extent are societies led?
- Contemporary markets in ideologies in the European context
- What European public organizations have been forced to do since the second world war

18 June

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE IDEOLOGIES UNDER PRESSURE

- The need to redefine public and private
- The change of knowledge science and world outlook -- Futurologists as makers of the future

19 June

THE SOCIAL ORDER FOR A NEW PARADIGM OF SOCIETY AND ORGANIZATION

- The public sector in the new mixed society
- The coming workday for the communities of specialists planners instructors and research workers

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NEWS AND REFLECTIONS**EUROPE THROUGH ROMANIAN EYES***Bart van Steenbergens tells his impressions of a symposium on the Future of Europe, organized by ADIRI, Bucharest Sept 17-21 1990*

More than any other Eastern European country, Romania was closed off from the outer world until last year, to be precise until December 22, 1989 when the Ceaucescu-regime was overthrown. Over the last years almost no Romanians had an opportunity to meet foreigners let alone travel abroad and since the country had no borders with the west, the only other tv-option the population had for looking at the activities of Ceaucescu, which covered most of the three hours daily television time, was the Bulgarian tv which was not a very enlightening alternative.

For an outsider it still is almost impossible to understand how it is possible that at the edge of the 21st century in the middle of Europe a society was so completely isolated.

We now observe that the Romanians are almost desperately seeking contact with the rest of Europe and in that context it was a good initiative of ADIRI (the Association of International Law and International Relations), founded 25 years ago by Mircea Malitza, former minister of education, former ambassador to the

US and in his free time active in the WFSF, to organize a small symposium where some 20 Romanians and 25 non-Romanians discussed the future of Europe.

ADIRI proved to be a prestigious club the opening ceremony was held in the impressive Academy of Sciences, where speeches were given by big shots like the new minister of foreign affairs, the security advisor to the president, the deputy minister of culture, an MP for the liberal party who introduced himself to me as the leader of the opposition, the director of television, and not to be forgotten Silviu Brucan the former ideologue of president Iliescu's Front and now a sort of internal opposition leader, who probably is one of the most well-known Romanians outside his country.

There is no doubt that we deal here with the older generation. All of them had suffered under the former regime, especially during the last five or ten years, but a number of them had started their career as "Ceaucescuboy" and had occupied high positions in the former government. As someone explained to me

everyone who was somebody in Romania had to make compromises and in most cases has dirty hands too

If one looks at the titles of the 20 speeches, the word Europe appeared in all of them, but there was a great variety in the visions of how a future Europe should or could look like. Some made a plea for a confederation of a number of Central European states (Romania naturally included), the United States of Great Austria, a sort of revival of the former Habsburg Reich. Others were in favor of what they called a borderless Europe, by stressing the cultural identity of the different nationalities. Moreover there was some anxiety that in the new Europe the classical East-West division would be replaced by a North-South division which is a regional replica of the global North-South division. Needless to say that in this picture Romania would belong to the South.

One could also hear the fear that a united Europe would start in the West (the countries of the EC) and expand in an Eastern direction (by integrating Central European countries like Hungary and Czechoslovakia), but that it would take a long time, if ever, before Romania would become part of that integrated Europe.

Contrary to those mentioned countries Romania has no tradition of oppositional dissidents, consisting of urban and Western oriented intellectuals. It was only after the revolution of December 22 that such an intellectual movement arose, known as Social Dialogue. This movement slowly became the mouth-

piece of the extraparliamentary opposition.

It was a pity that no one from the Social Dialogue had taken the floor at the ADIRI meeting, although they were invited to speak. Later on I heard from one of the spokesmen, who had attended the opening session that this was regretted, but he added to this that this meeting made him aware to what extent on a deeper level these people still are the product of the old system, in spite of their conflicts and troubles with the Ceaucescu-regime. Nevertheless it was heartwarming to see what efforts the ADIRI people had made to make this a good and fruitful symposium, where a real dialogue could start. There was a willingness to open up for Europe and now it is the turn of the European community to promote such contacts and make them financially possible. During my stay the good news came that the ban on the EC aid which was installed after the brutal activities of the miners last June was lifted. This opens the possibility that in the near future Romania becomes an eligible country for programmes like TEMPUS, the exchange project of Western European universities with universities in Central and Eastern Europe.

I was also in Bucharest to explore the possibilities of a Romanian participation in the TEMPUS project on "European societies in transition". "my" Utrecht university is setting up with Sussex and Budapest and I was very pleased with the enthusiastic responses of my colleagues in the social science and economic faculties to my proposals.

It struck me that the reactions to that EC ban were contradictory. Some people (especially at the university) complained that they were punished twice, first by the miners who had beaten them up and after that by the ban from the EC but others emphasized that this was a correct signal from the outside world to show that such brutal activities which were supported by the government could not be tolerated in a country which struggles with democracy, but which has little experience and tradition on this point.

In Romania like in most Central European countries we see two forms of reaction to communism emerging. The first one is autocratic nationalism, which has deep roots in these societies and tends to close its doors for Europe and to emphasize national self reliance and the specific national identity. The second reaction is democratic Europe-minded and has roots in universal value systems like liberalism and social democracy. By organizing this symposium ADIRI has made an effort to strengthen the second reaction for which they should receive our support and sympathy.

Bart van Steenberghe

FORESEE THE COMING GULF CRISES AND BEYOND THROUGH MAHDI'S MIND

Interview with Prof Mahdi Elmandjra (Morocco) about The Gulf Crisis Radio France International (RFI) was broadcasted on 6 October, 1990

RFI

I want to ask you first about the Arab masses and political opinion. They seem to be behind Iraq to a large extent. To what do you attribute that?

M ELMANDJRA

- Your question is a sound one before looking at the present conjuncture and whatever is happening in the Middle East since 2

August, one should first take the trouble of making a broader analysis concerning the Arab world as a whole. It is a region where there is no respect for the "rule of law". There is not a single state where the rule of law is fully respected at the national level. One must bear in mind this point when one speaks of the respect for international law. The populations of the Arab world have suffered in terms of their daily life with respect to the violation of human rights and the lack of civil liberties. What do they see now? A number of Arab governments among those who have been the biggest violators of basic legal principles at the national level are those which are backed politically, economically and militarily by the West. These populations find a great deal of hypocrisy in this sudden defense of international law by the West which has never shown the same zeal for the violations in the occupied territories of Palestine.

R F I

To come back to the immediate problem of the Gulf, do you think there will be a military confrontation?

M E

- I think that there will be a military confrontation. Never, since the Second World War, have we seen such a deployment of strength and military force, particularly on behalf of the United States. There is a big change in the international system because the bipolar structure (USSR/USA) has been broken producing a kind of vacuum.

The United States does not intend to take advantage of this new situation as well as of the economic crisis which the Soviet Union is undergoing. It will therefore set foot and

occupy politically and militarily an important strategic part of the world with enormous oil reserves. We should not forget that while the United States represents less than 5% of the world population, it consumes more than 25% of the total world production of oil and that it imports about 50% of its needs.

I think that the deployment of forces we have witnessed in the Gulf, regardless of what Iraq does, will be used at one point or another. When will the conflagration start? What form will it take? Will it occur directly or indirectly, through whatever excuse by Israel? I do not know. I would love to be proven wrong, but I would be surprised if it does not take place.

Furthermore, the economic situation of the United States is quite bad - everybody knows it and the White House acknowledges it - independently of the events of the Gulf which are making it worse. There is a recession. The encouragement of the arms industry is one of the possible answers to this recession. We must also remember that, in the last few years, many new arms have been developed in the USA and have not yet been tested operationally because of the fear that the Soviet Union may learn about some of these new secret technologies. This problem no longer exists in the post-cold war era because of the holy alliance between the USA and the Soviet Union.

Finally, the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia in particular have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in the purchase of arms during the last 10 to 15 years. There is need therefore, like in the instance of the Iraq-Iran war, to have a military conflict in

order to use and destroy this hardware so as to be able to replenish it in the future.

I regret this pessimistic view but it is the only analysis one can make in the present situation.

R F I

Does this mean that the East-West rival conflict is replaced in a way by the North-South conflict?

M E

- This is exactly the conclusion I have reached and which I have exposed in an article published in *FUTURIBLES* (Paris, October 1990). It is a new form of North-South conflict with which we have entered into what I call the era of "post-colonialism". We have lived the colonial period until the 1960's, then the neocolonial period where the former colonial powers put into power people who continued to follow their directives.

With post-colonialism things are much clearer, more open and more direct because it is with the help of governments of the third world, and at their "request", that the West is not only occupying again territories in the South but it is doing so at the cost of the latter. The United States has been able to collect over 20 billion dollars in a few weeks of which more than 80% come from the Arab countries in the Gulf. Something never seen in the history of international relations. This post-colonial era is going to be a hard one for the South and it is likely to last at least until the end of the century if not more.

When you see things, in the long term, as I do being a specialist of

future studies, you discover that it is the end of an era and the beginning of a new one which can not last for very long because it is a self-defeating situation. You can not think of a peace problematic conceived for only 20% of mankind which is exploiting 80% of the material resources of the world, and at the cost and to the detriment of the well-being and dignity of four quarters of humanity. That is the problem. It goes way beyond the current events in the Gulf. It is an issue of a more equitable redistribution of power and material resources within an international system which can not go on preserving the status quo for ever.

R F I

To come back to the short term what will be the beginning of the confrontation? What will a military confrontation do to Middle Eastern economies and societies?

M E

- The economies and the societies of the Arab world are already in a bad shape. It is not because about 4% of the population of the Arab world has large oil incomes that one should think that Arab societies live decently. We should not forget that the total GNP of the Arab countries is less than half than that of France. The Arab world is presently poor but with a few small rich countries where the limited elite disposes of a great wealth. Most of their assets are deposited in the West (700 billion dollars - almost the GNP of France).

The average per capita income in the Arab world is around 1500 dollars so we should not be impressed by the statistics concerning the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar or Saudi

Arabia Broadly speaking the great majority of Arabs have practically nothing to lose economically Those who may lose something are those who made money in a very easy fashion, with much corruption and in close alliance with Western economic interests So, I am not very much worried about the economic implications of a military conflict for the common Arab It might even lead ultimately to a "new Arab order" with a redistribution of power and wealth and a greater respect for democracy and human rights

At any rate, already the Arab world is no longer what it used to be To go back to your first question, thanks to the American and Western occupation of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries there is now a real and total divorce between the Arab governments in power and their populations These governments have lost their credibility The only way they can regain any credibility has nothing to do with war *The democratic process, the respect of the rule of law and civil liberties is the only answer because it is the most important cause of the present dramatic situation*

It is this war against feudalism and authoritarianism that the West should join if it wants to help the Arab world and the South in general The least it can do is to leave the third world to fight this battle alone instead of backing the local oppressors For the moment, unfortunately, the Gulf crisis is showing us that the West has opted in favor of its immediate short-term material interests and is not at all interested in the quest of democracy which the populations of the third world are pursuing on every continent with great local and

international opposition People are closing their eyes on what is going on today in the Ivory Coast, Gabon, Senegal, Pakistan

R F I

When do you think that the embargo and the economic blockade will start hurting Iraq and its people? Is there any chance that it will force President Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait?

M E

- I think that the embargo has hurt from the very first day but that is not the problem We should examine the stakes It is not just the question of defending little Kuwait and its population of a few hundred thousand people We are watching the reliance on a number of scenarios concerning the occupation of the Gulf region which students of strategy and future studies have been analyzing during the last 15 years So regardless of what has happened, with or without the occupation of Kuwait of which I do not approve, the stakes are so big for the United States and the West, that the embargo can only be seen as the first step to justify other measures as part of a well orchestrated escalation leading to a military intervention

R F I

The Maghreb countries have been building an economic community or tried to build such a community Do you think there is hope for an economic community in the Middle East?

M E

- Even the recent process of integration at the level of the Maghreb is a quite limited one in which I do not greatly believe, be-

cause of how it is being carried out *Before you can build an economic community you must have one thing which, unfortunately, the Arab world, including the Maghreb, do not yet have - but which is likely to come about during the post-Gulf period - a common vision of a new society We lack vision The new economics teach us that no regional grouping of less than 150-200 million inhabitants has the slightest chance of making a dignified entry into the 21st Century*

In the meantime, the Arab world continues to be balkanized, at a moment when the two Germanies are reuniting and the European Economic Community is on the eve of its integration At a time where even North and South Korea are thinking about some form of reunification, for objective and not just subjective and sentimental reasons because survival calls for a minimum economy of scale

At this very same time the West, because of its narrow interests, will not allow any form of regrouping which may endanger the existing status quo

So, I think that whether it be the case of the Maghreb or of the whole Arab world, there can be no form of economic integration unless it is preceded by a real process of democratization, that is until the people concerned are given the right to speak their minds *So the big problem is one of democracy The last 30 years, following decolonization, instead of being used to forward democratization within the countries of the third world have been used instead to maintain in power systems and governments which do exactly the opposite That is the real crisis in North-South relations and what is happening in the Gulf is only a small episode in a new serial with many other episodes still to come* ◇

SOUTH ASIAN FUTURES THINKERS

Sohail Inayatullah informs us about Sarkar's ideas

"At Budapest, a group of us with South Asian ties met to discuss South Asia futures Hopefully these side meetings will continue our goal, among others, is to come out with a

series of articles on the region's future I am collecting these articles and ask interested writers to send me their ideas At present we want to create knowledge spaces in which the

regions future can be discussed without having to resort to partition talk (as I just did, such is the pervasiveness of history) or various forms of Orientalism. We want a range of discourse from technical this needs to be done, to cultural efforts of meaning recovery as well as critical attempts to discern the epistemes which give us our concerns. From here we hope to create a postmodern South Asian perspective if at all that modifier can be used"

He further addresses our attention to the work and activity of a great Indian thinker Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar who passed away in October. Sarkar was the founder and primus motor of Neohumanism, a spiritually based humanism with ecological di-

mension, says the magazine New Renaissance (*Weisenauer Weg* 4, 6500 Mainz 42). Sarkar's autobiographical account of his life was "I was a mystery, I am a mystery, I will remain a mystery"

Sayes Sohail about him

"While Sarkar remained unknown to many his invisible influence in this century will certainly become increasingly visible and pervasive in the centuries to come. As GALTUNG once remarked, Sarkar will probably stand out as one of the truly great in this century, so much deeper and more imaginative than most of Western narrow efforts to look into the future. I certainly concur" ♦

REFLECTIONS ON THE BUDAPEST CONFERENCE

Let s prepare ourselves for Barcelona by reflecting for a while on the Budapest meeting with Magda McHale

Much has happened since we all met in Budapest. Preoccupied with other problems in our discussions we had not anticipated that once again unresolved problems of the past would surface and inflict pain and suffering on the global society

I was very ambivalent and somewhat nervous about going to Hungary. Questions of what I might experience as a mature person in my own culture from which I was absent for half a century, a culture that I only carried inside myself no matter where I lived

At the best of times it is difficult to return to any place because the present experiences never match memories. To return then to one's own culture seemed to me rather terrifying. However, my long time involvement in the WFSF and the affection and friendship that I feel towards many of its members meant I was able to cast aside my fears and decided to go.

Upon my arrival Dr MARIA KALLAS-KÖSZEGI (a Hungarian Social Scientist) an old friend, member of the WFSF executive council, met me at the airport with a large bunch of flowers. As we embraced, crying and laughing, all my misgivings evaporated and I felt welcome. Now I remember the drive from the airport into the city only as a series of fleeting images and feelings, but clearly remember I found myself alone in my room at the Trade Union School Hotel.

As I sat down I thought, I am in Hungary again, and thought about the reasons for my trip and the conference that lay ahead of us. The conference title "Linking Present Decisions to Long Range Visions" confused me. Here I was trying to link my childhood memories to my adult experiences, visions of past, not visions of future.

The metaphor, visions, that I heard often from Eleonora Masini has always preoccupied my mind. What does it really mean? There are so many interpretations. Over the years at least for my purposes, it meant "the ability to perceive something not actually visible, as through mental acuteness, or keen foresight". It also meant force, or power of the imagination. I often recollected

proverbs "Where there is no vision, the people perish", or "Old men shall dream dreams, but young men shall see visions" (goes for women too). I don't know why I suddenly decided to analyze the title of the conference, except that it reminded me that the reason of my absence was because the present (past) decisions were linked to wrong visions. As I am writing these notes it's the end of August and the news from the Gulf countries is rather terrifying. It's strange that no matter how clearly we define the visions our penchant for wrong present decisions "pre-empt" the realization of a correct vision.

I recollect the opening ceremonies of the conference held in VIGADO, a beautiful building in the city. Newly renovated and obviously used for special ceremonies. We were very fortunate that this meeting attracted the largest ever attendance of our members and fortunate to be joined by many Hungarian colleagues and personalities from government and other institutions. But then it was "the spring" of 1990 in Europe. All of Eastern European countries attended in full force. It was indeed a good feeling amongst us all.

Driven to the opening session in buses crossing the Danube over the beautiful bridges my thoughts wandered into the past and I was trying to identify the once familiar landmarks, but reality was different from memory.

The content of the conference was exciting and I learned much, but what I remember most is the day of the outing. Our Hungarian hosts took us to spend a day in the country to visit Kecskemet, a beautiful town

one and one-half hours from Budapest. A true old Hungarian city. We were warmly received by the mayor. After a short welcome and refreshments we went to do some sight-seeing. After lunch we were entertained by a concert given by the Zoltan Kodaly Music School, named after that famed composer who hailed from Kecskemet. Pupils, ages ranging from 8 to 17 sang compositions of Hungarian composers, as well as some folk songs. A young pianist played, a perfectly kept organ accompanied many of the performers. I felt as if transported into other times. The school is well known through all of Europe - many famous musicians were, and are, trained there.

From there we drove to Bugacs Puszta National Park. The Puszta, equivalent of the Plains, is well known in Hungary. Through history into the present Hungarian horses roamed and supplied the various now well known regiments (the calvary, known to Hungarians as the Hussars). Much of the Hungarian cattle and Hungarian racka sheep were herded there. The tradition of the herders still remains and today this particular part of Puszta is a National Park and is used for attracting large amounts of tourists. We viewed the Hungarian domestic animals, the cattle, sheep and a beautiful horse show in traditional manner. The herdsmen (equivalent to American cowboys, but much more colorful) in their traditional attire performed the intricate riding and roping, skillfully with their special whips. A goulash dinner in the open air -- prepared and cooked in huge

stewpots, Hungarian wines and apricot brandy, and gypsy music played on old instruments. What a lovely way to spend a day.

But there was more. A Chinese colleague was learning to dance the Hungarian Csardas. Russian colleagues started to sing their folk songs. Soon spontaneously Spanish, Italian and many other countries' melodies filled the air. It ended with an unforgettable image - a Korean song sung by South and North Korean participants - clutched together in their raised hands, a bunch of red roses, in friendship. And I thought, maybe we are learning to love each other. Happy and tired, we boarded our buses to return to Budapest to continue next day with the conference.

For me, the conference was more than an intellectual and professional success. I hope that many of our members felt the same. The importance of people freely exchanging ideas about the problems that touch us all. Under the umbrella of what started as a very small organization, WFSF remains a hard working group of people who are a good example of how we all could, if we wanted to, make the difference to create the vision that is necessary for a multicultural and choice society.

MAGDA CORDELL MCHALE ◇

MEGACITIES AND THE FUTURE - OCTOBER 1990

Eleonora Masini

From October 22-25, 1990 I was at the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo to participate in the symposium organized by UNU and the UN Population Division of New York on the very important topic "*Megacities and the Future*".

Experts from both organizations took part in the symposium, plus external experts with special knowledge on the theme. The rector of UNU, Gurgolino de Souza, opened the meeting which was also attended by the vice rector, Roland Fuchs, Mr Fu-Chen Lo, also from UNU, Shunici Inoue, J Chame and E Bremen from the UN Population Division.

The experts included Sidney Goldstein from Brown University, T Macgee from the University of British Columbia, Allan Gilbert from the University College of London, J E Perlman and many other experts on issues related to urbanization processes and demographic trends. I was requested to present a paper on the impact of megacities on families and households.

Although the topic is one that has been discussed, not too much is known about it or, rather, not too much specific research has been carried out, especially in the

developing countries. It is of course an issue that is crucial to the future of the coming decades, given the rapid increase of such towns in the developing countries.

According to the UN Population Division, megacities have more than 8 million or more inhabitants. In 1950 there were only two megacities in 1990 there were 20, and by the year 2000 it is estimated that there will be 28. Of these, only 5 are in the industrialized countries: Los Angeles, New York, Osaka, Tokyo and Moscow.

Many important issues were tackled, over and beyond the quantitative information. Discussions took place on conceptual issues related to urban and rural definitions of populations in a society where migration and movements are very rapid and where such movements are reflected in the correct collection of data on their availability, on their relevance as well as on their comparability. Issues were also discussed in relation to different national definitions, classification systems and measurements, all very important for correct research. Many issues were also raised on the operational consequences of research, such as transport uses,

the value of land which changes with urbanization, the labour force and population mobility. Issues of welfare and the impact on social structures and on institutions, such as the family and education, are also very important in relation to the expansion of towns.

The very important contribution of the UN Population Division, in terms of data collection, with monographs on megacities was also presented and discussed.

Other interesting aspects were the regional differences of megacities, for example the differences between the megacities of Latin America, Africa and Asia, where cultural and

religious differences were underlined, over and beyond the political, social and economic differences.

A special contribution came from a very good Japanese interdisciplinary team of architects, sociologists, economists and managers who, with the vice-governor of Tokyo, provided information on various aspects of Tokyo as a megacity with some unique characteristics.

Especially in developing countries the issue of very large towns has to be taken into great consideration by futurists who must also utilize the analysis and data retrieved by various disciplines. This will be one of the great issues of the future.

ANNUAL LECTURE OF THE AURELIO PECCEI FOUNDATION

Eleonora Masini

On November 16 1990 the fifth annual lecture of the Peccei Foundation, created after Aurelio Peccei's death in 1984, was held in Rome at the Italian Senate in remembrance of Aurelio Peccei's future thinking and activity.

On this occasion the lecturer was the Director General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, who described the influence of Aurelio Peccei's thinking on UNESCO's activity. He also indicated the new lines according to

which UNESCO is starting to operate within a continuously changing environment. The ever-growing importance of the education issue in relation to North-South issues was also stressed by Federico Mayor.

The meeting was very well attended by authorities especially in the educational and scientific fields, as well as by students and the general public which in Italy is increasingly interested in such topics, particularly in the possible vision of a more just

world which emerged from the presentation.

The Peccei Foundation is chaired by UMBERTO COLOMBO, a long-time member of WFSF and President of ENEA, the Italian Organization for Alternative Sources of Energy (I am a member of the executive committee of

A Peccei Foundation) Previous annual lectures were made by Elisabeth Mann Borgese, Alexander King, Soedjatmoko and Mustafa Tolba.

January 1991

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE (ISSC)

Eleonora Masini was representing WFSF at the meeting

From November 28-30, 1990, the General Assembly of the International Social Sciences Committee (of which WFSF has been member since 1986) took place at Palma de Mallorca. It was preceded by a very interesting Scientific Symposium on the recently initiated project "The Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change", launched by ISSC in cooperation with ICSU, the United Nations University and UNESCO.

During the General Assembly various issues were discussed for the re-enforcement of Social Sciences and cooperation between social scientists, members of ISSC ISA (the International Sociological Association), IPSA (the International Association of Political Scientists), IPRA (the

International Peace Association), the International Association of Human Geographers, the International Association of Anthropologists, etc. During the same General Assembly I was nominated Individual Associated Member.

UNESCO's support was brought to ISSC by the Deputy Director General for Social Sciences, Francine Fourmier. The development of the very good journal *Social Sciences International* was re-enforced.

ISSC is chaired by Candido Mendez de Almeida, the Secretary General is Luis Ramallo and the Deputy Secretaries Stefan Mills and Evelyne Blamont.

The "Human dimension of the Global Environment" is a very interesting interdisciplinary endeavor involving natural and exact sciences, as well as social sciences, which must all contribute to the acknowledgement that global environmental issues must be analyzed not only in their essence, but also in their social causes and consequences. A report was presented in Palma, based also on various meetings held in different parts of the world. A framework prepared in 1990 was based on the following topics: social dimensions of resource use, perception and assessment of global environmental conditions and change, impacts on local, national and international social, economic and political structures and institutions, land use,

energy production and consumption, environmental security and sustainable development, conceptual and methodological developments required for the study of global environmental change. An ample part of the study has been devoted to clarification of concepts and necessary methodological agreements.

The study is coordinated by Prof Harold Jacobson. In having the cooperation of the United Nations University, it also has an active contributor in the person of Prof Roland Fuchs, as well as the support of members of ICSU. The project is a notable advancement, in relation to disciplinary studies, at a time in which issues and problems are more important than disciplines. ◇

Working Symposium

Designing the Future in Europe

The Situation in 1991

May 6-7 1991
Prague Czechoslovakia

Organizer

Civic Futurologie Society
Trziste 20 Prague 1-11843
Czechoslovakia

More information

Dr Frantisek Petrusek, Chair
Phones -42-2-532 846 (office of the society)
-42-2-268 741 -268 131 -268 174

THE ALGER MANIFESTO ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ISLAM

The text of the Manifesto, announced in Algiers on 7th of May, 1990, was made available from French into English by Seppo Sundeline and Ilpo Alvesalo

The first conference concerning the future of Islam (Islam futurology) was held in Algiers 4-7 May in 1990. That was arranged by the research institute of Islam futurology (founded in December 1989 in London) and the national institute of global strategies of Algiers. Avoiding the present absolute recommendations, as is generally done, the conference was content with presenting suggestions and ideas for the thinkers and decision makers of the Muslim world. The following 19 sections form the Alger manifesto about the future of Islam.

- 1 It will be necessary to develop futurological studies and to deepen their concepts in the specialized scientific institutions, and to set to their use needful facilities and to create circumstances, which give to them the possibility to attain a respectful status in the international scientific work.
- 2 The future of Islamic nation will depend greatly on how the Muslims can by their institutions, organizations and actions pay attention to great Islamic values in their measures and everyday life.
- 3 The greatest threat and danger concerning the Muslim communities

and their future is the spreading of injustice and the spreading of all kind of political, administrative and economic dictatorship. The first demand of Islam will thus be the achievement of justice and the fight against injustice and dictatorship at all forms and at all levels.

4 The mission of Islam is based principally on human values and ethics and their behavioral forms. The mission of the Muslim community is to revive these values and to imprint (root) them by all possible means.

5 The defence of people's freedom and their human dignity are the most important legitimate demands. Without those ideals life is without sense. The future of Islamic countries depends on the actions the states are going to undertake to defend freedom and to guard human dignity.

6 Underdevelopment in many areas of life and thinking retards the rise of Muslim community and prevents its path towards the future. So that the future shall be better, the community must get rid of political, economical, industrial, scientific, technological, social and cultural underdevelopment.

7 The status of Muslim women should be greatly improved, as it nowadays is considerably greatly beneath the recommendations of Islam Muslims generally and the Muslim movement especially are urged to accompany the rehabilitation of women's honour by giving them the status which belongs to them and by fighting against all those injustices they have suffered since there has been ignorance of the principles of Islam among the society. The Muslim communities must understand that the future of Muslim generations depends on which actions will be started and which guarantees will be given, that women can take care of their role of full weight, without restraints in the active life side by side with their husbands. Muslim women are also expected to recognize their role better and to take the responsibility in their own hands to be able to respond to the challenges which they are facing.

8 The danger of Zionism which threatens the Muslim community, does not concern only the occupation of the beloved part of the Muslim world, but also threatens the existence of Arab-Islam totally even the whole of mankind. It is the great challenge to the Muslim community at this moment and for the future and the Muslim community is able to get over this challenge only if it is able to respond to it.

9 One great challenge today concerning the Muslim world is the movement of Soviet Union Jews to Palestine. It is the conspiracy against the community and forms the new phase in the plans to occupy the Islamic world. It is regrettable that the reactions of the Arab-Muslim world restrict to the judgments and

repeating formal attitudes. The task of culture officers and Islamic movements is to warn Muslim people about the danger which comes from this invasion, and to start needful actions to restrict this danger at all levels and by all means.

10 The Muslim community has to take strict measures against the insult to human rights. This concerns the hindrances and persecutions in the practice of Islamic religion, from which Islamic minorities in East and West are suffering. The media in the Muslim countries must try to uncover the conspiracies which are planned around these minorities, expressing the hypocrisy of the Western countries concerning these minorities.

11 What happens in South-Sudan, does not threaten only Sudan, but the existence of Arab-Islam world in Africa. The duty of Muslim nations and leaders is to restrict this danger before it is too late.

12 The unity of Islam is an essential condition to the unity of the Muslim community. It is the duty ordered by Islam and the great asset, by which the community will be able to respond to the challenges it faces. The task of the community is to make this unity into the core of the civilization project of the future.

The concern of the purity for and development of the Arabic language as the most important language of the Muslim world is the main duty in constructing such a future which bases on the connection in civilization around thinking and the culture.

13 One of the most important duties of the Muslim communities and movements is to resist especially the plans of westernization and secularization by carefully re-examining development programs so that they could be released from all kinds of cultural dependencies and foreign influence.

14 Changes taking place in the world both in Eastern and Western Europe indicate the upheavals in the power schemes and in international alliances on which these arrangements were based. These changes and the dangers they bring forth force the Muslim communities and their leaders to confirm their positions in order to be able to make use of the new forthcoming possibilities.

15 In spite of a complete conviction that it is necessary to protect the mankind from all destructive weapons threatening its existence, and not forgetting that Islam is the religion of peace and mercy, the international reality and its threatening dangers to the future of the Muslim world compel the Islamic communities to purchase facilities with which they can defend and protect their threatened existence.

The task of the Islamic countries is to work in a loyal way with this in mind in order to strengthen their potential, while minimizing the efforts by the help of co-operation.

16 The great gap which is increasing between the industrialized and Muslim societies in science and technology and in the industrial adaptation of them is a great danger to the future of the community. There

is a good reason for all the Muslim communities to resist together this danger in all respects.

This danger compels the community to give the privileged status to technology and to the world of elaborating development strategies in all sectors. Muslim communities are able to develop only if they can get rid of all foreign dependence. Without this liberation one cannot talk about the future of the community.

17 A serious danger threatening the community is "brain drain". The duty of all Muslim countries is to take all necessary actions to prevent the emigration of abilities, to create the circumstances and to encourage the scientists and cultural persons to move back to their homeland.

18 One has to develop and cherish the aspects of the science of religion concerning at the same time concepts such as "unity" and "right to dissimilarity". Likewise, it is necessary to take advantage of the dialogue between all categories of the Muslim and non-Muslim communities. This dialogue is not only the precondition for predicting the future but also a spiritual duty which bases on the principles of Islam and its concept of justice.

19 It is necessary to hasten in improving the relationships between people and the leaders in the Muslim countries. One has to develop norms and courses of action for this kind of dialogue so that one will get rid of all forms of ignorance and confrontations which have benefited only the enemies of the community.

Algiers 7 5 1990

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LIVING CULTURES FOR THE FUTURE

Eleonora Masini

Aims

This project will focus on the emerging trends of living cultures in the present and in the foreseeable future. Such cultures may or may not have a history, but they all have the specificity of being alive. According to DENIS GOULET, it might be preferable to use the phrase 'a living cultural community which wields the effective power to define itself and its needs'.

Our search will focus on the co-existence or superimposition of plural cultures, with two or more overlapping identities, which might be their only possibility of survival.

It will deal with two regions: Latin America and Africa, although considering the cultural links with Europe whether past or emerging in the present and important for the future, in a sort of triangular exchange which should emerge at the end of the project as an indication of future developments.

The project will deal with the following issues and their complementarity:

1 Emerging global cultures

The study of the forces leading to a global culture will look at:

- whether we are witnessing the impact of a culture, based on the growing power of technology (especially communication and information technologies), and economic processes enveloping in different ways, all societies and bearing even globalizing political beliefs,
- whether these processes are linked to western society and basic western values or to different trends,
- the role of western culture in itself.

2 Resistance of cultures

The study will deal with why, and on what bases, some cultures resist and survive the attack of stronger cultures, by encroaching on the dominant cultures (including the emerging standardizing, technological, consumeristic, managerial culture) and in the process, assimilate it, in support of their own identity and values. It will investigate:

- whether cultures harmonize with the changing socio-economic and ecological environment,
- whether they have within themselves the material, psychological or spiritual forces, (for example, ecological balance, solidarity or other), that allow them to stand up to contradictory challenges,
- whether some cultures fail to resist, or resist unsuccessfully, and why.

3 Growing Differentiation of Cultures

The two previous two aspects of the study lead to the consideration, on the one hand, of the growing need of specific cultures to differentiate from other cultures, to be recognized in their identity in global trends and, on the other, of the emergence of new cultural configurations, based on existing differentiated ones and emerging from different cultural layers of influences. Groups feel the need to assert themselves, to resist and to capture a legal, political, or economic "turf", and, at the same time, to come to terms with the more potent cultures, by some kind of selective assimilation of the latter's values, behaviour, or modes of thought.

This will also involve looking at the limits beyond which a culture becomes another culture, as well as at the time dimensions of change.

and the emergence of new, regional, cultural entities, which extend beyond state borders and even ethnic groups. Alternative scenarios could be drawn.

Organizations and Modes of Operation

The previous points would be the content of two studies: one in Latin America, to which ANTONIO ALONSO CONCHEIRO, DENIS GOULET and RODOLFO STAVENHAGEN will contribute, and the other in Africa, to which SOGOLO, Elikia M. Bokolo and one other person will contribute.

Others will contribute at a later stage as discussants and evaluators.

The whole study will be coordinated by Eleonora Barbieri Masini, who will prepare an introduction and a comparative analysis. The study could lead to further developments and deeper analyses of issues.

Each paper will indicate possible action for UNESCO.

Timetable

- Request of papers (end of January beginning of February 1991)
- Presentation of Preliminary Papers (May 1991)
- Evaluating meeting, possibly in Paris (May 1991)
- Final contribution to UNESCO (September-October 1991) ◇

“ART AND ENVIRONMENT ARE NOT YESTERDAY”

Ray Lorenzo

The title of this article is a citation from Simon Nicholson, who passed away almost exactly a year ago

On January 18, 1990, Simon Nicholson died prematurely in Oxford UK. He was 55 years old. Environmental designer and educator, artist, futurologist, university professor – it is hard to decide which of these roles or titles best fit him. As Simon always espoused an anti-expert and anti-professional philosophy he probably would have rejected all of these

From 1973 until his death, Simon was on the Faculty of Technology of the Open University – chairperson of the Art and Environment course of study. He is probably best known to the readers of Children Environment Quarterly and all those interested in creating environments with and for children as the “inventor” (and this is probably the most fitting title for Simon!) of the “*Theory of Loose Parts*”. In his seminal piece published for the first time in Landscape Architecture in 1971 (*Theory of loose parts How not to cheat children*) Simon laid the basis of what has always been the leitmotif of his life's work: the idea that the direct involvement of people in the physical and conceptual transformation of environments is fundamental in the creative, healthy

development of persons and in the creation of more ecological futures

The university course *Art and Environment* which he conceived and chaired from 1974 until 1985 (the most popular and effective “learning experiment” which the Open University has ever offered according to a great many students and faculty members) developed a wealth of materials and experimental learning approaches for adults of all ages which should be present on every environmental designer, educator, or researcher's reference shelf. It was a rare example of a university level course in “environmental studies” which was based primarily on the liberation of individual's creative potentialities through direct contact with environments.

Since 1977, Simon had been primarily involved in developing projects and strategies aimed at involving young people in “inventing the future”. The “*Community Participation by children in futures Project*” which we developed together (with the Open University's sponsorship) in Oxford and Naples in 1977 was the first step in this process. He

published and presented the results of these studies in journals and conferences around the world

For the past ten years Simon had traveled frequently to all the globe's corners (Greece, Yugoslavia, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Hawaii, China, Costa Rica, etc) activating the participation of many thousands of children in imaging the future, participating in the World Future Studies Federation (of which he was long-term, active member) seminars and congresses and running marathons (his other passion!)

He often compared the conventional Perugia, Italy, 2 July 1990

processes of environmental development and design to “*driving into the future with the windscreen blacked out looking exclusively into the rear-view mirror*”. He proposed, among other things, that we “*clear the windscreen and let the children do the driving*”.

I am sure that he would not want us to look into the “rear-view mirror” and be saddened as many of us are, by his death but that we rather reconsider and playfully adapt the ideas and projects which he has left us. If we do so, the future will certainly be a better time/place.

Construction Beyond 2000

— *Future of Construction* —
Construction of the Future

First International Symposium of CIB Working Commission W82
Futures Studies in Construction

June 15-18, 1992
Espoo, Finland

THE AIM OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The symposium is intended both for the construction field (e.g. managers of the construction industry, authorities, planners) and the scientific world (e.g. researchers, scientists, teachers). The symposium is also planned for the policy makers (e.g. housing and construction ministers) who are dealing with long-term strategic decisions and plans in the field of construction, housing, building and planning.

THEMES

1) Global And Local Megatrends 2) Development of Construction Resources 3) Cities And Constructed Areas of the Future 4) Buildings of the Future 5) Session of Euroconstruct Short-Term Forecasts of Construction

INFORMATION

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NEW MEMBERS

JOSEP Ma BLANC RIBAS is Professor of Psychology and teaches Social Psychology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Catalunya (Spain). Director of a research project called *Catalunya 2010*, he also involved in planning a project on women's unemployment.

MERCÉ BOTELLA MAS is a researcher in the project *Catalunya 2010*, and he works as a researcher at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Catalunya (Spain). He is planning a research project on trends in labor market in Spain.

MARTHA JEAN GARRETT received her PhD in Zoology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, USA. Presently she trains study teams doing 21st Century Studies on longterm national futures at the Institute for 21st Century Studies, Molndal, Sweden. She is also a member of the editorial advisory board of *Futures*. One of three organizers of an international workshop on *The Future of African Cultures* Ibadan, Nigeria, she has been asked to assist with the training of several teams planning to do national Futures studies in Eastern Europe.

VALTR KOMÁREK is Doctor of Economy since 1962 and Doctor of

Social Sciences since 1984 from the University (Economic Institute) of Prague, Czechoslovakia, working presently as Professor for Politeconomy at the same institution. During the last five years, Prof Komarek headed a broad prognostic research devoted to questions concerning the future of the Czechoslovak society and economy. He has been Manager to several research projects of socio-economic character and Author of many publications on the area. Head of the Parliamentary Council for International economic relations, he is planning a research project on the main economic and social problems of the transition from dictatorship to Democracy in his country.

FÈLIX MARTÍ AMBEL, Centre Català de Prospectiva, Barcelona Catalunya (Spain)

MIQUEL MARTI SOLER, Centre Català de Prospectiva, Barcelona, Catalunya (Spain)

MISAEEL MEDINA is Doctor of Economics and he works in the field of international and regional cooperation for UNESCO in Caracas Venezuela. Deputy Director in PLANAGRI (Inter-Governmental Commission of Venezuela), he has conducted several studies of regional

cooperation in Latin America. In addition, Dr Medina is interested in searching and training in prospective research of technology, communication, food, health, and education.

MARTÍ OLIVELLA SOLÉ is a coordinator in the Joan Bardina Future Studies Center in Centelles (Osona), Catalunya (Spain). He is planning a research project on new models of monetary changes.

ARCADI OLIVERES teaches Economics at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Catalunya (Spain). Expert in peace and disarmament subjects, he is Promotor at the International Peace University, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona.

STEFANO PUDDU CRESPELLANI is an expert in alternative models and works currently as a researcher in the economic team at the Joan Bardina Future Studies Center, Catalunya (Spain). Member of ECOCONCERN, he is planning a research project on children's participation in social change.

JANA SEREGHYOVÁ received her PhD from the University of Economic and Political Sciences, Prague, Czechoslovakia and presently she is Head of the Department for forecasting developments in the world economy and in Czechoslovak international economic relations at the Institute for Forecasting of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague. Involved in futures studies since the late 70ies, Dr Sereghyova has participated in several research projects on forecasts of longterm development in Economy. In addition to teaching Economy, she is planning various research projects on the implications of

the recent and on-going changes in West and East Europe due to the transition phase to market economy.

JORDI SERRA DEL PINO, sentimentally Catalan and legally Spanish, received his degree of Master in Law from the University of Barcelona. During the eight years of service at the Centre Català de Prospectiva, he has taken part in several projects, seminars, courses, conferences, lectures, etc organized by the institution. Presently he works as Vice-Secretary of the CCP. Jordi Serra is planning research project on Democratization of futures studies and on futures studies of ordinary life. As other fields of interest and activities, he mentions Alternatives to the formal structures of participation, and *"Future and Youth, Future of the Youth, Future for the Youth, Is Youth the Future?"*

Institutional Member

THE INSTITUTE FOR FORECASTING OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Prague, Czechoslovakia



Regional Conference of WFSF

Alternative Futures for Eastern Europe

Sofia, Bulgaria
3-6 June 1991

Organizers

World Futures Studies Federation together with The Bulgarian Future Society,
Centre for Strategic Business and Political Studies

Information

Centre for Strategic Business and Political Studies
11 Aksakov St Sofia 1000, Bulgaria
Phone (359)658 366 Director General -658 411 Managing Director and staff
fax (359)265 7590

A CONTEST

The organizers of the conference will arrange a contest of projects *The Best Scenario for the Future Development of Eastern Europe as a Whole or and Eastern European Country*

The researchers willing to participate in this contest but not in the conference should present their visions of the most probable developments in the region or in a country in the 90s in no more than 5 pages

The basic requirements/criteria for evaluation of projects are the following

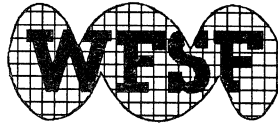
- pragmatism (the projects should include very specific recommendations for decision-making)
- feasibility (the projects should be adapted to the peculiarities of the separate countries)
- originality (the projects should suggest new creative ideas and recommendations for decision-making)
- logic and consistency of the successive steps and events

The deadline for sending the projects to the National Organizing Committee is 15 04 1991
address 11 Aksakov Str Sofia 1000 Bulgaria

In parallel with this contest there will be another one for those willing to participate with the most improbable or even absurd scenarios for the future development of the region and each East European country. The received projects will be discussed and evaluated by an international jury that includes eminent scholars advisors and decision-makers representatives from all Eastern European countries and members of both the National and International Organizing Committees

The result will be announced 5th June 1991 and the awards to the best three projects are

First Price 1000 U S Dollars
Second Price 500 U S Dollars
Third Price 250 U S Dollars



WORLD FUTURES STUDIES FEDERATION

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