



Theodore W. Kheel.

C. Gerald Fraser covers NGO forum. **3**

Theodore Kheel launches essay contest. **4**

Editorial: Why this Summit matters. **6**



# THE EARTH Times

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### From Rio to Copenhagen, covering news

BY PRANAY GUPTA

**A**nother town, another conference. But what a place, this lovely Copenhagen, and what an event, this Social Summit. Superlatives are already being bruited about freely—biggest summit ever, most glamorous conference ever, and maybe most expensive. Most meaningful? That remains to be seen, of course.

For The Earth Times this was not a story to be missed—a first-time effort by the world community to obtain global political commitment to eradicate poverty, generate jobs and promote social integration.

And so, in keeping with our tradition of covering every major United Nations-related global conference since we came to life just before the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, we scrambled around for resources and turned up in this town.

It wasn't easy getting here. The big foundations—notwithstanding their concerns about eradicating poverty—did not seem terribly interested in springing for funds. Support from large multilateral agencies? Barely this side of decent. Corporate sponsorship? The typical response: "Not another talkfest!"

• • •

Only a couple of donor-country aid agencies committed themselves in any significant fashion to backing the cause of a free and independent press. (Our supporters for the Denmark editions are listed on Page 6, and we thank them warmly.)

The Earth Times will thus be able to publish a daily newspaper during the Social Summit. We've teamed up with Dagbladet Information, one of Denmark's most prestigious newspapers, and The New York Times Fax, which will supply articles from one of the world's greatest papers.

It has been a long way for us from Rio

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# OPENING DAY FOR SUMMIT

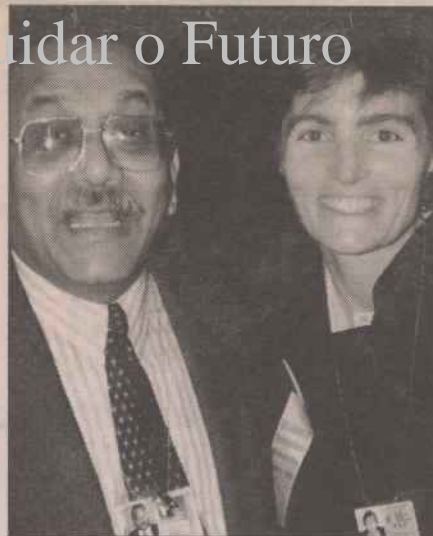
## What this *Instituição Cuidar o Futuro* Conference is really all about

BY SUSAN J. TOLCHIN

**T**he Pakistani cab driver holds a bachelor degree in math and physics, but couldn't find a job back home, so he's been working the downtown Copenhagen route for eight years. "The Conference is just a bunch of politicians talking," he scoffed. "Just good slogans. My government did nothing to help me get a job. And please don't use my name because I'll get in trouble."

In a nutshell, that's what this Conference is all about. Figuring out a way to get this cab driver a job; to help his country provide jobs so that people don't have to emigrate; to reverse the cynicism of people like him to believe that UN Conferences make a difference; and to make the world the kind of place where you don't have to fear reprisals for talking freely to the media.

"Listening to people is our highest



JACK FREEMAN / THE EARTH TIMES

Nitin Desai of the UN, left, and Susan Davis, NGO activist, at Bella Centre.

priority," announced Juan O. Somavia, Chile's permanent representation to the UN and chairman of the Summit preparatory committee. Intelligent, realistic and eloquent, Somavia continued to spell out the most formidable challenge: how to get

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Leaders gathering in record numbers

BY JACK FREEMAN

Though much remains to be done, the World Summit for Social Development has already won approval of its central objective: a commitment by the governments of the world to work toward the elimination of absolute poverty everywhere.

But this commitment is only a first step. During the next seven days, the largest gathering of world leaders in history will also take on the key issues of unemployment and social exclusion.

As if that isn't enough, world leaders, diplomats and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will also consider the questions of international debt and the role of The World Bank and International Monetary Fund, gender equality and international labor standards.

Monday's opening session will be addressed by UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who has been in Copenhagen for several days conducting consultations. He is expected to remain at the Summit until its conclusion March 12.

Summit attendance by world leaders will almost certainly break records, but several heads of state have canceled. The most recent official list of participants contains 116 names, down

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## New invasion in Denmark

BY ELIZABETH BRYANT

**C**openhagen is no stranger to invasions. Over the past few centuries, this picturesque city has been ravaged by Swedes, British, Germans and two successive fires. Sunday's invasion was a friendly one.

Thousands of delegates and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) thronged the Bella Centre's blue-carpeted halls and packed the NGO Forum, intent

only on conquering poverty, debt and unemployment. Thousands more filled city streets.

In all, some 20,000 participants are expected to attend the World Summit on Social Development and its NGO counterpart.

Despite a few logistical glitches, Copenhagen seems prepared.

The city has beefed up its police force to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



**INTERNATIONAL DATELINES****Barings knew**

LONDON—High-ranking executives of Barings P.L.C. were aware that a trader in Singapore had made an extraordinary financial bet at least two weeks before the company collapsed as losses mounted from that gamble, officials in Singapore said Saturday.

A Barings official from London and the head of the firm's Singapore office told the Singapore International Monetary Exchange on Feb. 8 that the company was aware of large investments made by Nicholas W. Leeson, its futures trader in Singapore, and had enough money available to cover them, officials said at a news conference. Barings's managers, have contended that they did not learn of the size and riskiness of the gamble until Feb. 23 or 24, just before the losses on the investments forced Barings into bankruptcy last Sunday.

**Hunger strike?**

MONTERREY—Former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari is in his second day of an on-again, off-again hunger strike.

A government official said Salinas had not eaten any solid food for more than 36 hours but was drinking water.

Salinas says he will not eat until the Government clears his administration of suspicion of causing the economic crisis and obstructing the assassination of a presidential candidate last year.

**US budget battles are just heating up**

WASHINGTON—From the committee rooms of the House to the floor of the Senate, there was a clear sense on Capitol Hill this week that the battle over the nation's fiscal and spending priorities was fully joined.

After two months when the Republicans seems to dominate the political agenda almost effortlessly, the Democrats are finding their voice as a minority party. They realized almost warily that they could win one, on occasion, with the Senate's rejection of a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget, although the Republicans

immediately moved to blunt that victory.

And the underlying terrain is changing: the Republican leadership is headed inexorably toward a series of spending and budgetary decision that they acknowledge will be hard, a test of unity that they have shown on more politically palatable issues.

"As we look over the next four weeks, I expect that the rhetoric will be much higher, the issues more difficult," Representative John A. Boehner of Ohio, chairman of the House Republican Conference, said in an interview. "But we'll continue to succeed."

—ROBIN TONER

**New pluralism in Russia**

MOSCOW—The gangland-style murder this week of a prominent television journalist and executive, Vladislav Listyev, is a tragic but important sign of the rapid development of Russian television. Big new money and markets have attracted graft and crime, but they are also creating a new pluralism that undermines the strict control of the state.

In the last two years, the once-firm grip over television broadcasts by the central Government has been significantly weakened by the creation of new, privately-owned and relatively-independent networks like NTV, or Independent Television, and Moscow's TV6.

Both are run by professional journalists who left the huge, bureaucratic, state-owned Oostankino channel in disgust over low pay,

commercial corruption and bad journalism. Both are expanding quickly, signing up local stations and moving into satellite transmission.

NTV in particular has created an internationally respected Russian model for quality television news, while making money on broadcasts of foreign entertainment dubbed in Russian. TV6 is now broadcast in 55 cities and will state its own daily news program in September.

Control of television was one of the last parapets of Soviet dictatorship to crack.

"This new pluralism means less state control," said Eduard M. Sagalev, the president of TV6 and former general director of Gosainfo. "With more choice, television will become better, no worse."

—STEVEN ERLANGER

**BRIEFS****Chinese dissidents to be ignored**

■ BEIJING (Reuters)—The spokesman for the National People's Congress said that it would ignore petitions for greater political freedom filed this week by several prominent dissidents.

In a news conference ahead of the Parliament's annual session, which begins on Sunday, the Parliament's spokesman, Zhou Jue, also questioned the motives of the dissidents in making their appeals public.

**AIDS said to be rising in India**

■ MELBOURNE, Australia (Reuters)—India will overtake Africa as the "epicenter of AIDS" in five years, an expert on the disease said Saturday.

Roger Short, a professor of biology at Monash University in Australia, warned that more people in India are likely to be infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, than in the rest of the world combined.

**Sanchez Vicario upended**

■ INDIAN WELLS, Calif.—Fourth-seeded Natasha Zvereva upset No.1-seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (7-5), 6-3, Saturday in an Evert Cup semifinal. Zvereva of the former Soviet republic of Belarus jumped out to a first set 3-0 lead but Sanchez Vicario, the world's top player, battled back to take a 4-3 lead.

Zvereva broke Sanchez Vicario's serve in the eighth game to tie it 4-4 and broke the Spaniard's serve again in the 12th game to win the set. Zvereva, ranked ninth in the world, said she had to fight to keep her composure as she neared victory.

**RICHARD F. SHEPARD****For NGOs, a time for gravitas**

It is truly the most global of villages. If you were in Rio in '92, you wandered through its subtropical palm-speckled streets browsing in the stalls displaying the most noble causes on earth (among others that may have been considered less so). And then, in '94, there was the village, like some extraordinary civic transplant, thriving in Cairo, a bazaar hawking the elixirs that could help cure the terrible human blights of environmental disrepair, poverty, economic imbalance, political repression.

And, now in Copenhagen, amidst the well-preserved architecture of a former Danish naval base, here is the same village, its towns people bundled against the frigid, relentless winds blowing in from the narrow strip of sea that separates Denmark from Sweden, Baltic from the North Sea. This time the village is called NGO Forum '95, and although the name is slightly different, many of the inhabitants are the same.

Actually, the Forum experience starts on the No. 8 bus, which starts from Radhus Pladsen in downtown Copenhagen. The NGOs who have trotted the globe in all climes huddle in a storefront waiting for the bus. Unlike government representatives, NGOs use public transportation and whatever time they put in during a day goes into transit

**DOWN TO EARTH**

overtime. There is a man from Nigeria, bundled up, because he has been to conferences in New York. There are two Brazilians, fresh from Carnival in Sao Paulo, shiver in the cold, but shake their feet in rhythm with the Brazilian dancers performing across the street in the open square. Latin rhythm is even more warming in the frozen north than in torrid tropics.

The bus arrives, makes several stops and is jammed with NGOs. All languages, with English as the lingua franca between Arabs and Asians, Danes and Africans. Here is part of an Egyptian NGO delegation, its members sharing a seat with a mature Danish woman who is apologizing for the weather, as though it were her own personal ineptness that caused it, and distributes very sweet Danish chocolates as good-will offerings.

Inside the Holman base, the NGO Forum spreads itself generously over the

grounds, installed in former machine shops, mess halls, all serviceably but not lavishly adapted to the cause of international betterment as propounded by the world citizenry. Old friends materialize. Aziza Hussein, doyen of NGOs from Egypt, is walking with the large NGO delegation from her country. She was well-known from PrepComs in New York and in other summits, but this time she has been asked to attend as a friend of the "grandchildren" spiritual, not familial, she stresses as befits an activist in women's and population causes—no, not a sightseer as is suggested, but a consultant. In the building labeled "Steel Works" are the booths that one has wandered through on other continents. Help the hungry. Fight repression. Transform economies. Even a booth new and local at NGO venues, a group that wants Denmark out of the European Community. No, they are not against Danish participation in world social programs, quite the contrary. They regard the EC as limiting rather than liberating.

Hiromi Ashoka, of Waseda University, is tending the Japanese NGO Forum booth. Sixty Japanese are in that group, she said, and the NGOs played a role in persuading the Japanese prime minister to attend the social summit. Originally, that was not in the card, she said, because

"March is a busy month" in Japanese government obligations. But persuasion prevailed. The flow of NGOs surges through the Forum. It's too cold for the panoply of native dress that chromatically enhanced warmer Forum manifestations. But the spirit is no less compelling. Even as we sat down to write, M. S. Sivakumar, an Indian development analyst who lives in Cambodia, asked for help on how to

**Policymaking should not be prerogative of diplomats alone, say many NGOs.**

notify a press conference by his six-member delegation: "It's the first time we've ever had an NGO delegation from Cambodia. After the recent elections there, we have new hopes, new aspirations."

# Rich countries pay insufficient attention to South, say NGOs

BY C. GERALD FRASER

The secretary general of the NGO Forum said countries of the South see an "uncomfortable lack" of attention paid by Western European and North American governments to social problems in their own countries.

Jan Birket-Smith, the NGO Forum '95 secretary general, said that from the South's perspective there is "an uncomfortable lack of focusing on the responsibilities of Western European and North American vis a vis their own problems."

Birket-Smith added that he recognized "that it is difficult to compare poverty in a country like Denmark and poverty in any African or Latin American, or Asian country."

But he said the North has not "sufficiently elaborated concern and focus on what's happening in our own society and the political consequences not only nationally but internationally."

In a news conference yesterday,

the third day of the NGO Forum, Birket-Smith also said that for the thousands of NGOs who registered and have come here there appears to be three main aims.

These are to influence the positions taken in the final document, to plan for activities after the Social Summit, and to raise the public debate on the issues of poverty, unemployment and social integration.

Members of NGOs who are also members of national delegations would bear the weight in carrying out the first of these objectives. And the caucuses—such as the women's caucus, the development caucus, and the African caucus—would lead the lobbying campaign. Although the caucuses would "link up" at meeting of nations at Bella Center, Birket-Smith recognized that there would be no overriding political unity.

And he added that activities would not end with the Social Summit, this is the beginning of a

## Post-Summit process will be monitored.

process." On Monday the African Caucus met to, in the words of Chief Bisi of Nigeria, "brainstorm and determine the key priorities" which caucus members would take to Bella Center. Chief Bisi is co-chair of the Women's Environment and Development Organization and vice-chair of the African Caucus. Yesterday, she wore a dress made of African fabric and imprinted with the slogan, "Job Creation is the [key] to Poverty Elimination." The word key was represented by a picture.

The caucus's strategy, she said, would be "to give African delegates the "confidence and backing to talk boldly." The chair of the caucus, Mazide Ndiaye, said

there are more than 400 African NGO members here from 36 countries.

Another caucus, the International Network of Small Island Developing States, is concerned, said Pauulu Kamarakafego, with the now-classic developing nation issues: structural adjustment programs, debt, and development, as well as an issue particular to them: an inadequate supply of drinking water, which has its social consequences, for example migration.

Typical of NGOs concern about their own issues was a comment by Peggy Kerry of the Margaret Sanger Center of Planned Parenthood of New York. She is here to make sure, she said, that there is "no slippage" in the document's language on women's health and reproductive rights. P.N. (Bawa) Jain, co-chair of the Values Caucus, said that some NGO members, contending that there was an "elitist attitude" that gave higher status to some.

## HERE AND THERE

# Access is demanded by scribes

Susan Tolchin, a reporter for The Earth Times, led a protest late Sunday against UN policies restricting access of the press to delegates attending the Summit.

"You are failing to serve two important needs: the need of the press to cover the story, and the need of delegates to get their views heard and reported." Tolchin told Susan Markham, the Summit press chief. Other journalists in the room applauded.

Markham agreed to consider a change in the policy—which basically restricted reporters to the press area of the Bella Center and forced them to rely on press releases put out by the UN's Department of Public Information.

"We don't want an unhappy press," Markham said.

One woman reporter attending Sunday's press briefing at the Bella Center was incensed by what she described as an example of "blatant sexism" demonstrated by the speakers on the dais.

During the question-and-answer session, Susan Markham, referred to the man sitting next to her, Under Secretary General Nitin Desai, as "Mr. Desai." A moment later, he referred to her as "Sue."

The reporter, who asked to remain nameless, said she found that patronizing and insulting.

But another female journalist said she thought the different forms of address reflected the difference in their status within the UN rather than sexual discrimination.

Not everything was ship-shape on the day before the Social Summit began. Despite smiling Danes, neat information kits and free, shiny white umbrellas, the Bella Center's transportation system was a few paces behind.

# Values for society are stressed

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

## NGOs, at forum, emphasize development and morality

BY C. GERALD FRASER

The issue of values is getting more than usual attention at this summit.

The seven-month-old Values Caucus, concerned "that we must identify and choose to live the values which will assure a better global future for an interdependent and culturally diverse world," is geared up for

attendance at its first summit.

And the "Group of Reflection," a collection of religious leaders along with scholars and members of NGOs, is sponsoring sessions, at the NGO Forum.

The caucus's co-chair P. N. Jain, known as Bawa, came to the NGO Press Center to hand out his group's mission statement and to promote several Values Caucus events.

Richard Butler, Australia's UN ambassador, and Peter Ustinov, the actor, will participate in two caucus meetings. Butler on Wednesday, Ustinov on Friday.

On Thursday, Jain said, the Caucus will present a statement at Bella Center.

The Values Caucus statement says the group will participate in UN conferences by, among other things, "suggesting value related concepts and languages for documents and lobbying for their inclusion" and "developing a global network of participants."

Sister Joan Kirby, executive

director of the Temple of Understanding, handed out a 13-page document which dealt with the responsibilities of the world religious community, the UN member states, the UN, and NGOs. The document also had a "call for action" for each group.

The document, "Toward Deeper Values and Fuller Development," emphasizes "the critical need to articulate and bring into action" what it called the universal values including compassion, love, tolerance, justice, peace, harmony, beauty, and unity."

# Touring feminism Feminism touring

On **March 8th**, International Women's Day, go on a guided tour of feminism in Denmark

### Tour 1/Karen Blixen (9.15 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

A visit to The Karen Blixen Museum at Rungstedlund, followed by an introduction to the world-famous author and other prominent Danish women writers and artists. The tour moves on to Christiansborg, the Danish Parliament, where you can meet Members of Parliament Margrethe Auken and Ingrid Rasmussen, who is also the Director of the Danish Equal Opportunities Council. After lunch the tour goes to KVINFO, the Danish Centre for Information on Women and Gender.

### Tour 2/Tuborg (1.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.)

The Tuborg Breweries were among the first to introduce equal pay. After a guided tour, there will be an introduction to the history of the Breweries, highlighting the achievements of its female workers. The tour moves on to KVINFO, and a discussion of the sexual division of labour in Denmark. Christiansborg is our next stop, where you can meet Members of Parliament Pia Gjellerup and Elisabeth Arnold. Dinner included.

Both tours will be in English. It is essential to book in advance, at the latest March 7 at 3 p.m. Each tour costs DKR 100,-. Please call for further information.

**KVINFO, the Danish Centre for Information on Women and Gender, Nyhavn 22, 1051 København K. Tel: 3313 5088 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.)**

## Kheel's essay contest

BY HEATHER MILLAR

More than \$100,000 will be awarded for the best essays on the continuing clash between the goals of environmental protection and economic growth, the Earth Pledge Foundation (EPF) announced Sunday.

Theodore W. Kheel, the foundation's president, said the contest aims to promote a worldwide dialogue on whether or not sustainable development is the most viable way of resolving the conflict between industry and the environment.

The foundation's contest will run for one year beginning April 10, 1995.

Fifty interim prizes of \$500 each will promote the dialog. A grand prize of \$25,000 will be awarded for the very best essay submitted during the year. Runner-up prizes of \$10,000 will be awarded in each of four categories: general public; educators; journalists and scientists; industry and non-governmental organizations; and youngsters under 18 years of age. Four prizes of \$2,500 each will also be awarded to children 12 years old and less who may submit art work or an essay.

Interim awards will be made during the course of the contest with the winning essays and the opinions of the judges made available for public discussion on the Internet via the EPF World Wide Web Server.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has agreed to have its regional offices receive submissions by mail and to forward them to EPF. This will enable those without Internet access an opportunity to participate. Kheel was founder of The Earth Times, and left as publisher early last year.

## OPENING

# Social Summit opens after heavy preparation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

from an earlier list's 134. At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, 108 world leaders who took part.

Major leaders will not show in Copenhagen, including President Bill Clinton of the United States (although he will be represented by Vice President Al Gore Jr.), President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom.

Others cancellations include the leaders of: Angola, Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Congo, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Togo, Venezuela and Zambia.

There is an irony in the absence of both Clinton and Yeltsin, considering that Juan Somavia of Chile, chairman of the Summit's Preparatory Committee describes the Summit as "the formal end of the Cold War." Such a meeting, Somavia, at a Bella Center press briefing yesterday, said the Summit would have been impossible 10 years ago because of ideological differences between East and West.

Somavia also has reason to be disappointed in the no-show status of his most important neighbors in South America. Somavia told the briefing that the Summit is needed to correct the shortcomings of "the market" as the engine of development. "The market is cruel," he said, "and we must deal with that."

Nitin Desai, the UN's under secretary general for policy coordination and sustainable development, told the briefing that the Summit's aim is "to define a role for public policy in a rapidly changing world." Its unifying theme, he added, is "a massive effort to define a shared vision of a good and just global society." Desai said the Summit represents a "new type of political process, trying to shift from a donor-recipient perspective to shared responsibility" for development.

Poul Nielsen, Denmark's minister for development cooperation, told the briefing the Summit carries a risk that at least one aspect of international cooperation might suffer a setback: the pressure to ratify the labor-standards conventions of the International Labor Organization. He also described the host country as one "where few have too much but even fewer have too little." Somavia and Desai both spoke of the Summit's need to deal with what Somavia called "the growing problem of multilateral debt." Desai said the Summit will have to



ANNA GROSSMAN

Ambassador Juan O. Somavia of Chile.

## Critics charge event is both expensive and irrelevant.

reach agreement on new initiatives on debt relief.

Money is also on the minds of some critics of the Summit. London's Sunday Mail ran a story yesterday headlined, "Must they talk about poor people in the £17 million lap of luxury?"

The story said the Danish government is spending the "staggering" amount of £17 million, or roughly US\$24 million, "to hold the biggest beanfest ever held on its territory."

"What is worse," the story adds, "is that £12 million (about \$17 million) will come directly from its overseas aid budget." The Summit's cost to the UN has been reported at \$1.8 million. In addition, the Danes are projecting that each of the 20,000 participants in the Summit will be spending an average of \$378 per day for food, lodging and entertainment. Over five days, that adds up to almost \$38 million.

## Danish capital is festive for occasion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

3,200 officers, provided free bus rides from the airport and solved the daunting problem of housing, according to Henning Klestrup, manager of DIS Congress Service, a private Danish company hired to organize logistics for the Summit.

While the town's 135 hotels are almost completely booked--some 10,000 rooms in all--there are still scattered rooms available, Klestrup said. For those with leaner purses, rooms at private and dormitories are also available.

"I really hope that everyone will like Copenhagen, and will come back in the summer," he said. "I hope that they will understand that in a small town like Copenhagen it's possible to have a big conference."

The few delegates in the still sparsely-populated Bella Center hugged old friends and engaged in earnest conversations yesterday. Colorful drawings by children from around the world lined one wall, accompanied by their thoughts of underdevelopment.

"Poverty has made me aimless," wrote James Bassey from Ghana, one of the artists. "I have a bleak future."

At a wind-blown tent nearby, participants stood in well-ordered lines to get accreditation to attend the Summit, or sat, sipping cups of coffee.

Only 600 out of an expected 2,600 participants have received accreditation to date, according to Sonia Lecca, a UN information officer. Roughly 2,000 others are expected to arrive later this week, Lecca said.

### Tough Remedies - Silent Tragedies ? Conference on Structural Adjustment Programme Impact on Women and Food security.

Wednesday the 8.th of March  
9 a.m - 5 p.m at NGO-Forum, Holmen,  
conferenceroom G,2,39

Attendees include: Per Pinstrup-Andersen, IFPRI, Dr. Vandana Shiva, India, Leena Kirjavainen, FAO, Minchau Nguyen, The World Bank, Robert Chambers, UK, Rachel Polestico, Philippines, Samir Amin, Senegal and Knud Vilby, Danish Association for International Cooperation.

**MSO**

Workshops:

7.th of March : **Marginal or "mistress"?** From the Slums of Nairobi to the Streets of Copenhagen.  
11 a.m - 3 p.m NGO-Forum, Conferenceroom: C,2,08

9.th of March: **HIV-Positive Women - The Right of Motherhood?**  
1 p.m - 5 p.m, NGO-Forum, Conferenceroom: C,3,21

10.th of March: **Social Mobilizing and Rehabilitation: The Role of Adult Education.**  
MS, Landgreven 7, Kantinen, 9 a.m - 2 p.m

# World Bank, criticized, defends itself vigorously

BY DANIEL J. SHEPARD

Claiming it is the largest single spender on health and education, the World Bank vigorously defended its development policies at a briefing for journalists Sunday.

"We're delighted to see the stress on the importance of people," said David de Ferranti of the World Bank, speaking at the World Summit for Social Development. "Investing in people is crucially important."

The Bank has come under withering criticism during the course of preparations for the Summit for its structural adjustment policies. Critics charge that these bank policies have caused further deterioration in social development because social programs are among the first to be affected by

the domestic budget cuts mandated by the World Bank.

The criticism has not stopped. Bella Abzug, of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, told the briefing that structural adjustments have caused more women to live in poverty.

De Ferranti agreed that initially the adjustments were not as sensitive to social issues as they should have been.

"We hadn't quite realized what the effects of structural adjustment would be on social issues," De Ferranti said, adding that the Bank is now in the process of putting in "social safety nets" to protect the poor. "We've learned from our mistakes," he said.

He said that bilateral debt, owed to other nations, accounts for 61 percent of total debt and is a problem.

# Hillary Clinton to attend Copenhagen Summit

BY DANIEL J. SHEPARD

US first lady Hillary Clinton has announced that she will join Vice President Al Gore Jr. in leading the US delegation to the Social Summit.

The first lady is expected to take part in the Summit's opening ceremonies. She will also address nongovernmental organizations Wednesday, at a meeting marking International Women's Day.

With the exception of Russia and the United Kingdom, every European country will be represented by a head of state.

While Hillary Clinton is expected to attend the first few days of the Summit,

sources say Gore will restrict his attendance to one day, Sunday, when he is scheduled to address the plenary.

When the Summit opens this morning, Denmark's Prime Minister Nyrup Rasmussen is expected to be elected president. He will preside over the Summit's plenary sessions, at which government ministers and other high-level officials will make speeches on social issues.

The chairman of the Summit's Preparatory Committee, Juan Somavía of Chile, is expected to be elected chairman of the Main Committee, which will attempt to hash out agreements on the remaining bracketed text within Summit papers.

## SERVICES

The capital city of Copenhagen, always hospitable to visitors, has made special preparations to accommodate some 25,000 conference participants and tourists on hand during the Social Summit and the NGO Forum.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The Danish government is providing free transportation from the airport to the Holmen Centre and downtown Copenhagen from 6 AM to 7 PM during the conference. Taxis and city buses are available during other hours. A city bus ride costs about 35 Kroner, approximately \$7.

**BANKS:** Den Danske Bank has set up a branch in the registration tent of the Holman Center. Other banks will be open from 9:30 AM- 4 PM.

**INFORMATION:** Information kiosks are scattered throughout town, providing brochures on conference and cultural events. Other information offices are located at the airport, tourist offices and local hotels. For more

information, call: 32-47-28-72.

**THE COPENHAGEN CARD:** Allows participants free access to all the city's buses and trains as well as the Tivoli Gardens, the zoological gardens and 59 different museums and cultural sites. You can get one by registering at the NGO Forum or at Bella Centre

**CULTURE:** The Tivoli Gardens, will be opened Friday and Saturday, from 10 AM to midnight. Don't forget to visit the Gardens' bakery to sample Social Summit cookies! Other cultural attractions will be held every night between March 3-12, including concerts, dance, theater and museums.

**RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS:** During the summit, many shops will stay open until 7 PM. Most restaurants will be open until midnight: some will remain open 24 hours a day. Many department stores have established hospitality suites.  
—PARAG KHANNA

# Invitation

## DID YOU EVER

*participate on an AFS program as a student or a host family member?*

## DID YOU EVER

*send your children on an AFS program or are you planning to do so?*

## DID YOU EVER

*as a teacher have an AFS student in your class room?*

## DID YOU EVER

*get in contact with AFS due to your professional work?*

## WOULD YOU LIKE

*to meet other former AFS participants and friends of AFS?*

## IF YES

*AFS Intercultural Programs and Dansk AFS invites you to an informal reception at the Danish AFS House*

**TUESDAY, 7 MARCH, 17.00 - 19.00**

*A bus will depart from Holmen Tuesday at 16:45 to take you to the venue.*

*The meeting place at Holmen will be in front of building A (The Check-in office).*

*The bus will return after the reception to Rådhuspladsen (The Town Hall Square) in the city centre.*

*Our address is*



*Dansk AFS  
Nordre Fasanvej 111  
2000 Frederiksberg  
(phone 38 34 33 00)*

*Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday!*

AFS Intercultural Programs, formerly known as the American Field Service, is an international, not-for-profit organization which operates a variety of international, intercultural learning programs for students and adults in nearly 60 countries. The mission of AFS is education in the broadest sense - education that reaches beyond the classroom to promote intercultural learning and understanding through the person-to-person exchange of ideas and life experiences.

AFS Intercultural Programs was founded in 1914 as a volunteer ambulance corps to serve the wounded during World War I in the battlefields of Europe. After serving in World War II, the ambulance drivers initiated AFS as a multi-lateral, secondary school student exchange organization in 1947. Since then, AFS has involved nearly half a million students, families and teachers in its programs. AFS is volunteer-based and volunteer driven. With a volunteer force of nearly 100,000 worldwide, AFS is one of the world's largest volunteer organizations.

## EDITORIAL

## After two years of preparation, the Summit

**T**he World Summit for Social Development—the Social Summit—that begins on Monday, March 6 in Copenhagen, will be a unique event. A "people-centered" meeting designed to draw on the experience and ideas of the entire world in addressing the ancient and pervasive problems of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration, the meeting reflects the particular approach to this monumental task of its two major leaders: Juan Somavia, Chilean Ambassador to the UN and Chairman of the Conference; and Nitin Desai, UN Undersecretary General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

They have opted for a gathering that is general, wide-ranging and open. Unlike the other global meetings included in the UN-sponsored series of 50th Anniversary World Conferences, the Copenhagen Summit will not be primarily concerned with producing a specific "plan of action" for member states to adopt. Rather it will invite all concerned parties—including nongovernmental organizations—to come forward with their best thinking about the most difficult and most disruptive of the world's problems. Moreover, they will be encouraged to do so in a "Town Meeting" atmosphere, with total freedom to speak their minds and hearts.

The subject matter of the conference are the one billion of Earth's inhabitants who are desperately poor. The goal is to come up with ways that can begin to change this situation. The pressure is that the problem generated by poverty constitute a "time-bomb" already ticking away towards greater social disintegration, increasing violence and the breakdown of order around the world.

These phenomena vary in intensity from society to society and from country to country, but there can be no doubt that the ultimate problem is global in nature and effect. Somavia and Desai are correct in sounding the alarm now, before it is too late.

Given the full dimensions of the problems to be addressed in Copenhagen, the criticisms of the Summit as being too general, too amorphous, too "intellectual," pale in comparison to the realities with which the world is presented. And it would seem that most of the UN's



## THE EARTH Times

member states are aware both of the seriousness of the situation and the need to begin doing something about it. At least 130 heads of State and Government have indicated that they will attend the Copenhagen Summit, a number which would make it the largest gathering of world leaders in history.

Some have already indicated that they will not engage in discussions about the North and the South or the rich and the poor; the industrial nations have already rejected such notions as debt relief for Africa; still others have made it clear that there will be no pledges of money to fund any projected programs that may emerge from the Conference. The United States—which has been the principal supporter of the UN conference series, and crucial to the successful meetings in Vienna and Cairo—will not take a leading role in Copenhagen, primarily reflecting Bill Clinton's change of fortune in domestic politics. But Vice President Gore's presence will indicate that the world's sole superpower and the UN's premier member is still functioning within the international community.

**E**ven lacking the excitement of a fight over a divisive issue as in Cairo, or the push of Great Power interest in taking a step toward greater protection of human rights as in Vienna, the Social Summit—like its major predecessor, the Rio Summit on Environment and Development in 1992,—should be able (with its all-star cast) to achieve the principal goal of all UN world meetings, namely focusing world attention on common global problems.

Those who have worked so hard to bring off this Summit (including the Government of Denmark) deserve plaudits for both their commitment and their persistence. Copenhagen will be an historic event, if only because it will be the first meeting of its kind in history. Let's hope it also produces some worthwhile views about addressing the great scourges of humankind and the great need for common action to meet the threat of world social disintegration.

Godspeed to all who are participating in this pioneering Social Summit.

—ROBERT S. HIRSCHFIELD

## EDITORIAL

## The NGOs have a stake, too

**A**s the World Summit for Social Development gets under way here, all of Copenhagen seems to be going out of its way to be hospitable to Summiters, UN staffers, those representing nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), even the pesky media.

Yet this gathering is about more than hospitality. Serious questions persist about the upcoming top-level discussions about some of our planet's most pressing social problems.

Some of these problems might be effectively addressed in the seven days ahead, but don't count on it. Don't give up either.

Critics still carp that this gathering is no more than a "talking shop," that little concrete action will come out of the gabfest. They say the participants' true commitment to solving the problems of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion can be measured by the amount of new money they seem willing to commit for the purpose: zero.

Even Juan O. Somavia, chairman of the Summit's preparatory committee, still feels the need to insist "This is not a Summit of hopelessness."

But Somavia knows that it will be a challenge to back up that statement. As he says, "The question now before us is how to turn words into action, declarations into policies and commitments into realities."

Many members of the NGO community have already written off any possibility of meaningful action emerging from the Summit. They are determined to hold what amounts to a counter-Summit and approve their own declaration and program of action—one filled with calls for meaningful and large-scale programs to solve all of the problems.

The effort grows out of a very real and understandable sense of frustration and disillusionment with the Summit process, but many people feel that such a mock Summit can only be counter-productive. Somavia told the opening session of the NGO Forum Friday night: "You must be the conscience of the World Social Summit, engaging governments and all other social actors in dialogue and debate on the new national and international priorities that are needed to really put people first."

It is a role that NGOs have played in the past—and most effectively. But if the NGOs reject the Summit as a failure, and seal that rejection by staging a "Summit" of their own—unburdened by the governments' need to face up to political and economic realities—they would only be hurting the process. Such an outcome would mean the NGOs have abandoned their role as conscience. That could well condemn the NGOs themselves to irrelevancy, now and for the foreseeable future. And that would be a pity.

## VOICES

## 'What are your expectations for this meeting?'

## DAVID SANDERS

South Africa  
International Peoples Health Council

As a representative of South Africa I am severely aggravated by the structural adjustments. We hope the Summit will be able to impose control on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund who control those structures and bypass the North-South divide that exists in Africa on these issues.

## NAGLAA SALAH

Egypt  
Egyptian Youth Council

Before the International Conference on Population and Development, Egyptian people were not in contact with any NGOs and now we work together extensively and have access to tremendous human resources and great organization. The problem which remains is one of economics.

## RIKKE GRALINA CARISSON

Denmark  
Denmark-Cuba Friendship Association

The people of Cuba have their own idea of democracy and want their right to their own way of living. The Summit is an opportunity to continue the tremendous pressure being placed on the US, from many positions including American businesses, to lift the embargo.

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# 'VELKOMMEN'

The many creative ways the city of Copenhagen greets its Summit visitors

On the street



Fireworks and jugglers: A festive spirit.

Public squares



A sculpture: "Leaders Work for Peace."

In store windows



The Summit "C" prominently displayed.

## ENCOUNTER

# The poor have a separate fate

BY HELEN ABBY BECKER

In Greece we say that every poor person has a 'separate fate.' What we mean is that they are really on their own. The state can help, but not forever." Teresa Ampatangelou is visiting Copenhagen for the first time, accompanying her husband Fortis on a business trip. He promotes and sells Danish medical products and pharmaceuticals. Made aware of the Social Summit now in session here, Teresa Ampatangelou said that in a small country of 10.5 million people such as Greece, the formal number of 500,000 unemployed probably does not include the people from other nations who have arrived only during the last four years. They do not have work permits, and escape official scrutiny.

"Although many are poorly paid when they first arrive," added her husband, "the Albanians, Turks, Yugoslavs and others who receive work permits demand higher wages after a time, and they get them. I am talking about the men and women who are crafts people, or who work in hotels and shops and restaurants. They send money home; some of them go back, but if they stay they become desirable citizens."

Teresa Ampatangelou added, "But the illegals who have no work permits and who can't get work bring criminality with them.

Every two days there is a death from an overdose of drugs." Greece is instituting a methadone treatment plan for addicts. "Methadone is free--free to anyone who wishes to enter the program. We hope this will help to stop the deaths and to lessen addiction, and to lessen the number of crimes. Methadone is cheap. All hard drugs are cheap, but because they are illegal, the value is high, and addicts steal so they can buy them."

Ampatangelou runs a small school in the town of Patra, some 200 kilometers west of Athens. Here, English is taught privately to

teenagers on an intensive basis. The average Greek child spends 12 years in elementary and high school; all universities are free, with entrance examinations required. "What do you do with a university degree in archeology or law when there are no jobs in these fields?" she asked. "Right now there is a need for biologists and physicists, but that is not what they study." She reflected, "Why aren't we brave enough to close the law schools for a few years? It is us, not the state, who think that everyone must go to a university, and it is parents who think their children must be lawyers."



## CALENDAR

### Monday

**10:00 AM**  
Bella Center, Plenary Hall  
Inaugural Ceremony for the Summit  
Opening of the "General exchange of views"

**2:30 TO 6:30 PM**  
Bella Center  
Business Forum on Job Creation

**3:00 TO 6:00 PM**  
Bella Center, Meeting Room 2  
Opening of the Main Committee negotiations

### NGO Forum

**10:00AM**  
Christian Aid  
Social Summit demonstration

**9:00 TO 10:45 AM**  
Room D, 2, 34A  
Action Group for Social Development

**9:00 TO 12:45 PM**  
Room C, 4, 33  
The Family, Multiethnic music show

**9:00 TO 8:45 PM**  
Room C, 2, 16  
World Assembly of Youth, Youth Causes

—JEAN K. LEE



## Questions raised about why Bill Clinton decided not to come

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

from here to there.

In his view, we've "moved from the ideation of poverty" to a more practical step; in fact, for the first time, speakers use the words "practical" and "vision" almost interchangeably.

Concepts like the "flow of equity into the development process" really mean taking resources from places like investing in new bomber aircraft and moving them into job development, health, education, and all the goals that now rest in and out of brackets in the Conference papers.

"Let's dispel the myth that we don't have the resources," he stressed. "We [the world] have sufficient resources to deal with the problem of poverty. The priorities are just not there."

A sea change here in Copenhagen, a nation of seafaring folk, is that concepts like this used to be radical, almost Marxist. Now they've almost

reached the status of conventional wisdom.

Except for the United States, where the political focus has returned to the late nineteenth century and politicians from both parties compete with each other to find new classes of poor from whom to eliminate benefits.

That's why Clinton isn't here. In this era of new populism, he can't afford to consort with the kind of philosophies now associated with fuzzy-thinking liberals, who are now blamed for their nation's crushing debts and deficits.

"These are issues on which you lose or win elections," added Somavia.

We know now why Clinton isn't here; why isn't Yeltsin? More evidence, perhaps, of the world moving on beyond the bipolar debate that fueled the Cold War for so long.

Also absent from the Conference—at least in a visible sense—are corporations who could answer the question raised by Inge Kaul, Director of the

Office of Development Studies at the UN Development Programme: "How can we finance social development through the private sector? Or, how can private capital be made available to the poor? We have been patient with trees; now let's give time to social issues."

Bella Abzug, co-chair of Women's Environment and Development Organization provided an answer.

"Just slice the pie up

## Reduction of poverty needs to be priority.

differently," she said. Where is the pot of money that set up the World Bank and IMF in the 1940s? Elevating social issues; challenging leaders in the private and public sectors; and creating energy is what this Conference is all about. Only then can the Pakistani cab driver go home.

## Letter from Editor: Why we came here

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

to Copenhagen. Ours is the only independent nonpartisan international newspaper on environment and sustainable development and such interrelated concerns of the global system as population, women's and children's issues, trade, education, science, human rights, and health.

As many of our readers know, The Earth Times is published twice a month out of New York. The paper's circulation is international—and growing. Articles from the paper are syndicated worldwide by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate; and articles are also available on several computer on-line services such as Econet, America Online, Apple eWorld, TogetherNet, and HRNet.

The Earth Times is now also available at newsstands in the US and several other countries.

Publishing every two weeks is always a challenge. But publishing daily at global conference is even more daunting, especially when

publication is away from one's home base.

That is where the support of all becomes so important to the enterprise; that is where the hospitality of hosts is so important.

Several Danish families have put up our staff members in their homes, and we are grateful to them. We feel especially privileged not only because of this opportunity to cover this Conference but in getting to know

## Copenhagen is latest stop on road from Rio.

first-hand wonderful people in a wonderful land. Not too many professions give you the opportunity of sampling cultures, having fun, and making lasting friendships. That is the special joy of journalism.

## Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

# \$100,000 ESSAY CONTEST ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Earth Pledge Foundation is sponsoring an international competition beginning on April 10, 1995 with \$100,000 in prizes for the best essays on the continuing clash between the goals of environmental protection and economic growth. The aim is to promote a worldwide dialogue on whether or not sustainable development, a concept endorsed by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), is the most viable way of resolving or ameliorating the conflict.

The contest and dialogue will be conducted on the Internet via the Earth Pledge Foundation's World Wide Web server. The URL is <http://www.earthpledge.org/>.

A grand prize of \$25,000 will be awarded for the very best essay. Runner-up prizes of \$10,000 will be awarded in each of four categories: general public; academics, scientists and journalists; industry and nongovernmental organizations; and youngsters under 18 years of age. Twenty prizes of \$500 for children's artwork will also be awarded.

A novel system of 50 interim prizes of \$500 each has been designed to promote the dialogue. These will be awarded during the course of the contest with the winning essays and opinions of judges made available for public discussion.

The United Nations Environment Programme, which has entered into a strategic alliance with the Earth Pledge Foundation, has agreed to assist contestants without access to the Internet by having its regional offices receive submissions by mail.

Price Waterhouse LLP, the accounting and consulting firm, will review operating procedures of the contest.

The essays should not exceed 2,000 words. Guidelines and questions to consider will be available on the server by April 10.

In composing their essays contestants should bear in mind that the word "sustainable" in the phrase is intended to address environmental concerns; the word "development" to endorse the need for and encouragement of economic growth; and the combination of the two words the hope and expectation of drawing the environmental and business communities together.

The winners will be announced at an awards dinner in New York City on Earth Day, April 22, 1996. A book of all winning essays will be published and distributed.

The Earth Pledge Foundation was formed in 1991 to promote the United Nations Earth Pledge and to create awareness of and interest in the Earth Summit. It has continued since Rio to promote sustainable development as well as the Earth Pledge.

Starting date: April 10, 1995

### EARTH PLEDGE FOUNDATION

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