

Many to Many

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“Many to Many” under the aegis of Operation Peace Through Unity is a communicating link between “we, the peoples” of all nations, races, creeds and ideologies offering in the spirit of the preamble of the United Nations Charter an instrument for the furthering of better relationships based on deepening mutual understanding and the aspiration to promote unity and cooperation beyond all differences.

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I. Ceasefire

The escalating violence and indiscriminate loss of lives in the Middle East has been evoking a universal call for an immediate halt to all hostilities and the beginning of peace talks between Israel and Hezbollah.

And while the world anxiously watches this place of ancient, unresolved and relentless conflict, other violent eruptions between humans are raging within most of the world's other nations.

It is evident that the longing and clamouring for peace will not be bringing peace to un-peaceful places; nor will forced ceasefire, or peace agreements signed under outside pressure, mean much between enemies who deeply mistrust each other. Real and lasting ceasefire must come to mean more than the laying down of weapons upon command. Beyond the killing and through the smoke and debris of war, we need to see and acknowledge each other as part of one human family.

During World War I, at the dawn of Christmas Day in 1914, after thousands upon thousands of men had been killed or wounded on France's Western Front, the British soldiers unilaterally ceased fire, raised 'Merry Christmas' signs over the trenches and began to sing carols. Soon the German soldiers joined in singing Heilige Nacht. Ignoring their officers' commands, the German and British soldiers left their trenches and met in the middle of no-man's-land, exchanging sweets and cigars and even having a game of soccer. Returning to their respective trenches neither side felt willing to fire the first shot, and the war resumed only after any future "informal understandings" with the enemy would be viewed as an act of treason and punished accordingly.

Despite today's intricate web of power alliances vying for control over the world's assets, and although violent eruptions between different races, cultures and tribes seem never to end, the cry for enlightened peace and justice is reaching and stirring the hearts of people across all borders. There is an almost tangible and visible change of direction in all human affairs and relationships.

About two thousand years ago, a man living within the Middle East region, spoke of the deep inner struggle between the material and the spiritual within every human being, exclaiming: "*For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do*". Each one of us is caught up in this seemingly endless struggle and striving to do 'the good that I would', only to ending up doing that 'which I would not'. It is this inner battlefield which causes trenches to be built, the notion of enemies to be perpetuated, and which is allowing a culture of dividedness, fear and mistrust to dominate interrelationships.

But at the core of the universal cry for the end to all hostility there is a growing will to do that which we know to be good and true. Like the soldiers on that dark winter morning in 1914, we too are leaving the many trenches running through our neighbourhoods and greeting our brothers and sisters on common ground.

It is in this meeting place that pacts of enduring friendships can be written. Not on paper but in our hearts, where good is known and truth resides.

II. Energy Revolution.

There appears to be a cross-current perception of the issue of energy: while the world is clearly running out of fossil fuel and unable consistently to meet electricity demands at a time when our collective energy consumption is at an all time high, we are also increasingly becoming aware that – in our universe – energy is in reality all there is. We are at a point in evolution where, as the Master Djwhal Khul expresses it, “*every Kingdom on earth is encumbered with shock – animal, vegetable, mineral as well as human. This disturbance is a phase of promotion. There are crashed areas of released energy causing forces to be freed, which again can and will be used for reconstruction*”.

‘Sustainability’ is, as the word suggests, a question of balanced and mutually beneficial relationships – a concept hidden, albeit not forgotten, in our modern consumer society. There is now a real upsurge of the inherent entrepreneurial spirit, tempered with greater understanding of right and respectful approach, which is providing the world with will to overcome the prevailing sense of foreboding and to turn today’s challenges into opportunities for establishing new cooperative relationships with our environment.

Regarding water, this two-way trend of collapsing and emerging energy seems evident: while climate changes and global warming is causing rapid melting of the Artic/Antarctic ice and the oceans to rise and hurricanes more violent than before, water is becoming scarce the world over and desertification spreading. Statistics reveal that 1.2 billion people today do not have access to safe drinking water; that a third of the world’s population live in areas where water is overused, leading to falling underground water levels and drying rivers; and that water crises, hitherto seen as a problem of the poor, are now affecting even the wealthiest countries.

The International Water Management Institute warns that water shortage can become the most serious social and political issue of our time as people seek to control and protect their water resources and says that, “people and their governments will face some tough decisions on how to allocate and manage water”.

Despite the grim picture painted by an overwhelming amount of statistics, there are also researchers who see real possibilities for reducing water scarcity, feeding people and addressing poverty, but they stress that *‘the key trade-off is with the environment’*.

Vast new investments are needed in the recycling of water and innovative small-scale water treatment processes will have to become a common practice.

The rising oceans are themselves becoming a focus for exploration into new ‘trade-off’ relationships. It is estimated that our oceans contain 90 per cent of the planet’s living biomass, and that only now are the scientists beginning to come to grips with the wealth of natural resources, the myriad of life forms and eco systems existing in the marine world, of which to date only 10 per cent has been explored.

There is also increasing interest in exploring the potential for meeting future energy demands from ‘renewables’, such as ocean currents, tides and waves, biomass, wind power, or sun powered energy, and governments as well as private companies are beginning seriously to invest in finding ‘green’ alternatives to replace dependency on fossil fuels in the future.

But while it is vital that all human entrepreneurial skills are rising to the task of finding renewable energy technologies to cover future needs, it is equally important to realize that an ever increasing number of non-governmental organizations, groups and individuals throughout the world are also being found at the forefront of this joint enterprise of bringing real and constructive changes to the way we on an individual basis relate to the environment. In a changing world nothing can remain the same.

III. Eco-Peace Leadership Centre – Seoul.

An example of such initiatives for change is the new centre in Seoul, launched 17 August this year under the name: The United Nations Environment Programme Eco-Peace Leadership Centre (UNEP-EPLC). Twenty civil society representatives from 7 countries in Asia Pacific, government officials and representatives from institutions and private sector attended the signing ceremony.

The Eco-Peace Leadership Centre was established as a collaborative effort of universities, civil society organizations, government and enterprises to promote a healthy environment and peaceful community in Asia Pacific. It will provide a 'platform where civil society in Asia Pacific can constructively engage and exchange information', says Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP.

Among the EPLC objectives are:

- To provide support for a regional civil society network in the field of the environment in the Asia Pacific region;*
- To support capacity building for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) through education and re-education of professional environmental activists;*
- To implement a scholarship programme to train NGO activists in the field of environment and sustainable development*

Some of the Centre's many functions are to:

- Implement the plans for talent cultivation, scientific research and international conferences as set by the Foundation;*
- Participate in regional environmental assessments, particularly in the civil society dimensions of this;*
- Assist the decentralized sub-regional civil society networks in the five sub-regions of the Asia Pacific, viz. Northeast Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and the Pacific;*
- Conduct research and organize seminars and workshops on global and regional environmental issues;*
- Provide research results to UNEP, and offer scientific and technical advice for global and regional environmental protection, peace and environment cooperation, urban ecology environment, water and dam management recycled energy, combating desertification and deforestation, local community revival, and environmental culture.*

**For more information e-mail: maur@un.org or eplc2006@hanmail.net
Website <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/>**

IV. The Clean Up the World Campaign

In 1989 the Australian yachtsman Ian Kiernan began the Clean Up campaign by organizing a clean up of the Sydney Harbour. It is estimated that over 46,000 pieces of plastic litter are floating on every square mile of ocean today. In the Central Pacific, there are up to 6 pounds of marine litter to every pound of plankton.

Since its inception the Clean Up Campaign has become a global community-led environmental campaign in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with over 30 million volunteers throughout the world, committed to cleaning up, repairing and conserving the environment.

In September each year a Clean Up the World Weekend is being held to highlight the aim of the campaign, and in 2006 the event will take place on 15-17 September.

The campaign's Founder and World Chairman, Dr. Ian Kiernan, has expressed his delight with the response to the forthcoming weekend, especially from the developing countries: *"It certainly looks like economic hardship and civil strife in some countries do not equate with lack of community and environmental action, and we applaud groups working in most difficult conditions"*. Africa will have the highest participation this year, with 28 countries and 171 organisations already having registered their activities. Countries like Argentina, India, Mexico, the Philippines and Spain have also registered in record numbers for the 2006 Clean Up the World Weekend.

In a Press release, dated 1 August 2006 (Sydney, Australia) Ian Kiernan states that *"hundreds of communities across the developing world see the connection between the health of their environment and their own wellbeing. By joining Clean Up the World, they become agents of change for their community instead of bystanders."*

Groups, organizations, businesses and communities around the world are invited to register with Clean Up the World. Members will receive information and material to assist with the promotion and implementation of environmental activities.

Write: word@cleanup.com.au or visit their website: www.cleanuptheworld.org

V. Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Deep Waters and High Seas

A 60-page report, entitled *Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Deep Waters and High Seas*, was launched by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), at the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, held in New York June this year.

The report asks that the many lessons learnt on conserving coastal water should be adapted and applied right across the marine realm and come to include the areas beyond national jurisdiction which makes up over 60 per cent of the marine world. Says Ibrahim Thiaw, Acting Director General of IUCN: *"Governments must urgently develop the guidelines, rules and actions needed*

to bridge this gulf. Otherwise we stand to lose and to irrevocably damage unique wildlife and critical ecosystems, many of which moderate our very existence on the planet”.

In a complementary statement, the report’s author Kristina M. Gjerde, High Seas Policy Advisor to IUCN’s Global Marine Programme, says that: *“Throughout the oceans, shipping, military operations and seismic exploration have intensified with growing impacts on deep water and high sea ecosystems and biodiversity. The spectre of climate change and its impacts such as ocean warming and acidification underscore the need to reduce direct human impacts, because healthy ecosystems are better able to respond to changing oceanic conditions”.*

The report highlights the many ways fisheries, pollution and other stresses are impacting and affecting the marine world and offers several pages of “Fingertip Facts” which underscores the issues raised in this document. It also stresses the importance of governments as well as civil society to develop and deliver management systems for the deep seabed and open oceans before it is too late, mentioning in particular the need for current systems related to marine areas beyond national jurisdictions to be updated to:

- Reflect ecological boundaries not just political boundaries;
- Incorporate modern ecosystem-based and precautionary approaches;
- Address the full range and cumulative effect of potential human activities and impacts;
- Ensure a higher level of protection for vulnerable species as well as for biologically and ecologically significant areas;
- Make possible a precautionary system of marine protected areas on a representative, biogeographic basis for a suite of reasons, including as insurance to protect libraries of yet unknown or poorly understood biological diversity;
- Provide effective mechanisms to secure compliance and enforcement; and
- Enable sustainable use today and thus respect the rights of future generations to enjoy and prosper from the same ocean bounty.

According to some of the ‘fingertip facts’ regarding fishing:

- *around 3.5 million fishing boats use the world’s ocean. 1 per cent of these are classified as large, industrial vessels, which have the capacity to take around 60 per cent of all the fish caught globally;*
- *catch from high seas bottom trawl fishing in 2001 was worth an estimated US\$300-400 million, equal to approximately 0.5 per cent of the value of global marine catch; and*
- *the worldwide value of illegal, unreported and unregulated catches is estimated between US\$4.0-9.5 billion. Up to 30 per cent of illegal fishing occurs beyond national jurisdiction.*
- *In the last 42 years, capture of wild marine fish for human consumption increased from 20 million tonnes to 84.5 million tonnes.*

The report warns that without cautious management and effective regulations, deep sea fish stocks will quickly be depleted and their seabed habitats and ecosystems destroyed.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is today the largest international, multicultural and multilingual, environmental knowledge network, bringing together 81 countries, 120 government agencies, more than 800 NGOs and some 10,000 scientists and expert in a unique worldwide partnership. IUCN has its headquarters in Switzerland. Website: www.iucn.org

IUCN's mission is: *'to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable'*.

Electronic version of this report and other documents are available at www.unep.org and www.unep.org/regionalseas E-mail: unepub@unep.org

VI. Our Children

The 2006 Report by UNICEF, entitled "State of the World's Children: Excluded and Invisible", is endeavouring to raise the awareness of us all to the plight of hundreds of millions of children who are suffering from severe exploitation and discrimination. Says UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman: *"Meeting the Millennium Development Goals depends on reaching vulnerable children throughout the developing world. There cannot be lasting progress if we continue to overlook the children most in need – the poorest and most vulnerable, the exploited and the abused"*.

The report highlights ways in which children can become invisible and forgotten and among these are:

- The children – more than 50 million of them – who are not registered at birth and therefore not acknowledged as members of their society;
- The tens of millions of children who live on the streets, exposed to abuse and exploitation;
- The some 171 million, who are working in hazardous conditions, with 8.4 million working in the worst forms of child labour, like prostitution and debt bondage. Every year, says the report, children disappear into 'underground and illegal worlds', forced into dangerous and degrading forms of work.

To meet the Millennium agenda for children, including the 'excluded and invisible', the 2006 State of the World's Children outlines what is required:

- A massive push is needed to boost access to essential services for those children and their families currently missing out. This includes immediate interventions, dubbed 'quick impact initiatives' - that can provide a vital kick-start to human development and poverty reduction.
- Longer term initiatives that are rooted in a human rights-based approach to development – many of which are already underway – must be stepped up or launched at the same time as the immediate interventions, helping to ensure that the latter are as effective as possible. Building up national capacities, through strategies led by national governments and local communities, is the best way to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives over the longer term.
- Deeper approaches must be taken that give special attention to the most vulnerable, This requires the participation of governments – through legislation, budgets, research and programmes – along with donors, international agencies, civil society, the media and the private sector to reach the children who are most at risk missing out on the Millennium agenda.

(www.unicef.org)

On Friday 8 September the Redlight Children Campaign and Priority Films will be launched at this years' UN Department of public Information and Non-Governmental Organization Conference.

This campaign is a worldwide grassroots human rights initiative which is promoting awareness and practical action to reduce the number of sexually exploited children, more efficient legislation with stronger enforcement. It is gaining increasing support and cooperation from international and national NGOs and the aspiration is to make a real and lasting difference to the plight of children worldwide.

(www.redlightchildren.org and www.priorityfilms.com/k11)

Declaration on Violence against Children

This Declaration was developed during a global consultation convened by UNICEF and Religions for Peace (Toledo, May 2006) and later formally adopted on 28 August at the Eighth World Assembly of Religions for Peace in Kyoto. More than 800 senior religious leaders from every region of the world and all major faith traditions, attended this assembly to address the power of religious communities to confront violence and advance shared security.

The Declaration states: *“We find strong consensus across our religious traditions about the inherent dignity of every person, including children. This requires that we reject all forms of violence against children, and protect and promote the sanctity of life in every stage of a child’s development. We believe that religious communities must be part of the solution to eradicating violence against children, and we commit ourselves to take leadership in our religious communities and the broader society.”*

James Cairns, Director of the Advocacy and Action for Children programme at Religions for Peace, stated that: “Religious communities are uniquely positioned to apply their areas of strength to confront and prevent violence against children. These areas include consciousness raising, the empowerment of children, and inter- and intra-faith actions”.

This Declaration will be presented to the United Nations on the 9 October when UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s Study on Violence Against Children will be presented to the UN General Assembly. (http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/japan_35441.html)

The UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence Against Children

In 2001 the Un General Assembly asked UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to prepare a comprehensive global study on violence against children. This study, led by Independent Expert Paulo Pinheiro, in cooperation with UNICEF, WHO and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will be including information from submissions from around the world and be presented to the UN General Assembly on 9 October this year.
(<http://www.violencestudy.org/a405>)

VII. Lest we forget ...

A living tribute to fallen friends

Three years ago on the 19th August the UN headquarters in Bagdad was bombed, killing 22 people working there. Among those who died on that day were Sergio Vieira de Mello, Nadia Younnes, and Leen Asaad Al-Quadhi, an Iraqi member of the UN team.

The following is UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's message to UN staff on the third anniversary of the bombing:

“Three years after the UN's darkest day in Baghdad, our hearts remain heavy.

We pause again to recall irreplaceable colleagues and unforgettable friends

Iraq, which suffered its deadliest period of conflict last month, needed people like Sergio and his team. Others have now bravely taken their place. Because we can best honour the memory of our fallen heroes by carrying forward their legacy, by continuing their work, and by seeking inspiration from their example.

Their death marked the UN's loss of innocence. This Organisation had been attacked before, and it has been targeted since. But the Baghdad attack dealt a fatal blow to the illusion that wearing a blue helmet, or hoisting a UN flag, placed us above the fray. It undermined the belief that international civil servants could assume that their impartiality would be accepted and respected by all parties to a conflict.

Today, more than ever, UN staff confront direct and deadly threats to their safety.

My first responsibility as Secretary-General is to take care that no staff member's life is needlessly or recklessly endangered. Let me therefore assure colleagues here, and all those in the field, that I will continue doing my utmost to ensure that UN staff have the training, protections and policies they need to carry out their vital work in the service of humankind.

Were they with us today, I believe our murdered colleagues would be immensely proud that, despite the dangers, the difficulties, and the near unbearable grief, our work for peace continues, undeterred and undiminished, whether in Lebanon, in Darfur, in Timor-Leste, Haiti or Iraq.

This is our answer to their loss. This is our living tribute to fallen friends.

This attack, followed by another a month later, resulted in some 600 UN staff being withdrawn from Iraq, and the work of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) being continued from a base in Amman, Jordan, with hundreds of UN backed projects being forwarded in spite of the danger involved.

Among these was a UNICEF and WHO supported project, implemented by Iraq's Ministry of Health and involving 20.000 health workers, who managed to administer the first round of polio immunization to 95 per cent of the 4.8 million children nationwide. This was done by going from house to house. Other projects are also continuing in areas such as agriculture, environment and natural resource management. However the lack of security is continuously affecting the work of all organizations, including the UN.

Since the occupation in March 2003, more than 40,000 Iraqis have been killed, and in July 2006, the most deadly month of all, some 3,400 lost their lives, either through sectarian violent or bombings or shootings.

Ashraf Qazi, the UN special envoy to Iraq, firmly believes that the people of Iraq want to make the political transition a success, and that the Iraqi people still have faith in the role that UN can play in helping to build a better country for all.

VIII. Second People's Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace

“They came by plane, bus, car, ferry and on foot. Sixty men and women, representing diverse cultures, nations, ages and languages, travelled to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada held on June 19 – 22, 2006.”

This was the beginning of a report from the Summit and I was one of those fortunate people when I was given the opportunity to represent Operation Peace Through Unity at this event. In fact there were two events, one after the other. The first was held at Days Inn Waterway Hotel in the suburbs of Victoria. This workshop, facilitated by Kai Brand-Jacobsen of Transcend in Romania, set the scene and gave us very valuable background material. It was also a chance to meet with the other delegates who turned out to be a very committed group of people from very diverse backgrounds.

Having a singing lesson every morning was a great way to start the day, followed by a short meditation. Our singing teacher, Shivon Robinsong, was adamant that everyone was able to sing – “just listen to the person next to you” – and she was proved correct. We were able to sing a four part 16th century round. It is quite true what is said that “singing together in harmony is a vital source of energy and connection.”

The purpose of the Workshop was to look at what could be learned from peacebuilding and conflict resolution which had already taken place. When considering these examples, the best practice was identified. This was followed by sessions covering the infrastructure for peacebuilding. I found this a fascinating series of explanations complete with diagrams which will be useful to others. Perhaps the most important message from this part of the workshop was that conflict is always with us, in our everyday life as well as in international disputes. How this conflict is resolved can lead to good for everyone concerned. This gives hope for the future. An additional set of material was presented on Non Violent Communication which, if put into practice from a very young age, will help us all to change our thinking to a more peaceful paradigm. This was extended into giving more thought to what we say and how we describe people. If we attach labels to people, it becomes very easy to devalue them; then, a step further is to depersonalize them and from there it is no time at all before they can be demonized. This way of thinking makes violence and war seem ‘the only answer’ to solving problems. In fact, people are people – human beings who live and breathe, have needs and desires, and an expectation of being treated fairly – the Golden Rule. It is interesting to note that the military are becoming involved with their ‘rebel’ counterparts in the Phillipines to attempt to try a different way to solve their differences. The workshop sessions were a mixture of information sharing and group discussion, the results of which have been shared with all.

I tried to summarise the steps we might all try to take to change our way of thinking:

- Listen carefully to the other party
- Identify your needs and communicate them clearly
- Avoid the use of labels
- Avoid the use of military language as this leads to violent thinking
- Ask questions instead of using logical argument to achieve your goals

We tried to develop a road map or action plan to lead to the establishment of Ministries or Departments of Peace. While interesting and giving some ideas to work on, I did not feel this objective was achieved.

We were given a First Nations welcome with chants and explanations of some customs and history. This concluded the Workshop part of the gathering.

The second part of the programme was the Summit itself, which was held at Royal Rhodes University. The setting may have been a little ironic as this used to be the Canadian Military Academy. However, a more beautiful setting could not have been wished for – the rooms themselves, (with visitors passing by during the sessions), the magnificent grounds in which we ate our lunches, the immaculate gardens which exuded peace and serenity and the view over Puget Sound.

The Summit's purpose was to bring people up to date with progress on national campaigns, or at least current events, to establish Ministries or Departments of Peace. Each country presented a paper outlining its position and expectations for the near future. Obviously some countries were more advanced than others, with the Solomon Islands and the Philippines already having a government department in place. Although small numbers may be involved, the commitment and will to succeed was not to be doubted. Several delegates were young men and women who gave us a picture of what life was like in their countries, eg Nepal and Uganda.)

OPTU's contribution was probably slightly different from most in that it was emphasizing the need to start at grassroots level and build momentum from there. OPTU sees this process as a long term objective, based on the 1999 UN resolution and leading to the Ministry for a Culture of Peace to act as a watchdog over the government's legislation as well as promoting peaceful living. Their position was very clearly outlined in a paper presented as part of a panel discussion organized by the Wellington Branch of the UNANZ in May 2006 (full copy available on OPTU website: www.peacethroughunity.info). Perhaps the easiest way to summarize this position is to quote OPTU's five point plan for a Ministry for a Culture of Peace:

1. identifying root-causes of conflict, disharmony and hostility within and between peoples, cultures and nations;
2. actively promoting the employment of conflict-resolution, mediation, negotiation and other peacebuilding/peacemaking skills, and encouraging that these skills become common practice;
3. acting as a focal point for comprehensive, consistent and constructive cooperation and consultation between government (and its various departments) and interest groups within the various parts of society (education, health, environment, industry, unions, science, arts, culture, law, media, police, military, volunteers, local government etc.)

- ensuring that the legislative process of formulating any specific law takes into account the effect it may have on the community in its entirety;
4. forming working partnerships with international institutions and co-workers for the building of a culture of peace worldwide;
 5. keeping the government and the general public aware of the UN resolutions, which our Government has committed itself and us all to implement.

This position is further explained in the brochure produced by OTPU entitled “Ministry for a culture of peace”

The rest of the time was spent on trying to decide what to do next and where to go from here. The structure of the group and its objectives, as well as how to achieve them were discussed. Common themes emerging were:

- the need to involve young people at all stages – many of these people are fully committed and have enormous energy
- an emphasis on education at all levels, although perhaps for the long term nature of the goal, the message needs to be promoted from an early age
- sharing resources and experiences with each other and learning what could work in your own country’s situation
- developing and making full use of networks

Further work is needed on the structural nature of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace. To this end, several working party groups were set up to work through until the next Summit which will be held in Japan in 2007. I am representing OPTU and New Zealand on the Communications Working Party Group, and look forward to sharing the outcome of deliberations with you later in the year.

Attached is the communiqué from the Second People’s Summit. I am very grateful to OPTU for giving me the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of people from all over the world. Appreciation is also given to the extensive research and background assistance provided by OPTU before I left and the support given by them since my return.

I have been given various opportunities since to promote the work of the Global Alliance and OPTU. These include, presenting a report to the UNANZ Wanganui and Wellington branches and to local Rotary clubs. These occasions are stimulating and give people the chance to consider changing their way of thinking to fit a conflict transformation style.

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Communiqué from the
Second People’s Summit for
Ministries and Departments of Peace

Victoria, BC, Canada – June 19-22, 2006

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace gathered at Royal Roads University, Victoria, Canada, to advance the establishment of ministries and departments of

peace in governments worldwide. Government and civil society delegates from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States united to develop an effective global and national architecture for peace.

In plenary sessions and working groups, Summit participants established the foundations for local, national, regional, and international campaigns that will work towards conflict resolution and peace-building. “The role of governments in this initiative is crucial, in partnership with civil society,” said

Franklin Quijano from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the Philippines. Fred Fakari’i, undersecretary in the Department of Reconciliation, Unity, and Peace in the Solomon Islands, noted that “Together we have the capacity to build the architecture that will make peacebuilding effective.”

The Global Alliance calls upon governments of the world and civil society organisations everywhere to:

- Develop necessary resources and infrastructure for resolving conflicts effectively by peaceful means
- Establish, train and develop civil peace services and the human resources and capacities for peacebuilding and conflict transformation
- Incorporate conflict resolution and peacebuilding into school curricula from primary schools through university
- Actively engage youth, women, and all communities to participate as equals in peacebuilding, to ensure participation and representation of all
- Support and encourage coordinated efforts to gather lessons learned and best practices from peacebuilding experiences around the world.

The Global Alliance is committed to partnership and cooperation with governments, organisations, and institutions nationally and internationally working for the achievement of these goals and the promotion of peace by peaceful means. Governments such as those in the Philippines and Solomon Islands who have already established secretariats and departments for peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and reconciliation are pioneers and examples to the world.

“Collectively, the youth at the Summit call for a global youth cooperative network of the diverse local movements towards establishing departments and ministries of peace. We are excited to be able to offer a ‘fresh’ perspective for peace,” said Tara Yip-Bannicq, Youth Delegate to the Summit.

“Everyone assembled here,” said Dr. Saul Arbess, Summit host and Canadian Working Group delegate, “is determined to provide the energy, skills and momentum to realise these goals, working in concert and in harmony with peace workers worldwide.”

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IX. International Day of Peace – 21st September

Individuals and groups throughout the world are commemorating this day, each in their own way but all with one focus – on peace. To date over 800 events in 170 countries have been registered, who will be sending a thought-wave embracing our planet with pledges, songs and prayers for a peaceful and non-violent global neighbourhood.

Among the many international initiatives are *the International Peace Vigil* (<http://www.idpvigil.com/commitments/addForm.php>) coordinating a day-long vigil, suggesting also a 12 Noon local time moment of silence for peace; and a special 24-hour meditation Vigil for a Culture of Peace is being focalized and organized by *UN Days & Years Meditation Initiative & Intuition in Service* (<http://www.unmeditation.org/intuitionVigil.cfm>)

We, The World, who organizes the Eleven Days of Global Unity (11-21 September each year) invites peoples and organisations throughout the world to sign the Global Declaration of Interdependence, which in its Preamble states that: “*In acknowledgment of the many existing documents and efforts that promote peace, sustainability, global interconnectedness, reverence for life and unity, We, The World hereby offers the following **Declaration of Interdependence** as our guiding set of principles for moving forward into this new millennium. It is inspired by the Earth Charter, the essential values of which have been culled from the many peoples of the Earth*”. For full text of declaration and signing: <http://www.wetheworld.org/wtw2/index.php4>

All these websites are connected to many other international day of peace initiatives, connecting people everywhere in a united commitment to bring about a peaceful, fair and healthy world community.

X. The Great Invocation in Maori, English and French

TE INOINGA NUI
Na te maramatanga kei te
Ngakau o Te Atua
Kia koha te maramatanga ki te
Ngakau o te tangata
Kia koha te maramatanga ki te ao

Na te aroha kei te ngakau
O Te Atua
Ki horapa te aroha ki te
Ngakau o te tangata
Kia hoki mai ano te Karaiti
Ki te ao

Na te mauri o Te Atua
Kia marama te haere a te tangata
I te huarahi o Te Atua

Na roto mai I te Tangata
Ma te maramatanga me te aroha
Tatau e arahi
A ma tenei e pa kuaha ki te Kino

Ma te Maramatanga,
Ma te Aroha,
Ma te Kaha e whakau
Te whakaaro nui te ao

THE GREAT INVOCATION

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men
May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men –
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the plan on Earth.

LA GRANDE INVOCATION

Du point de Lumiere dans la Pensee de Dieu
Que la lumiere afflue dans la pensee des hommes.
Que la lumiere descende sur la terre

Du point d'Amour dans le Coeur de Dieu
Que l'amour afflue dans le coeur des hommes.
Puisse le Christ revenir sur terre.

Du centre ou la Volonte de Dieu est connue
Que le dessein guide le faible vouloir des hommes,
Le dessein que les Maitres connaissent et servent.

Du centre que nous appelons la race des hommes
Que le Plan d'Amour et de Lumiere s'epanouisse,
Et puisse-t-il sceller la porte de la demeure du mal.

Que Lumiere, Amour et Puissance restaurent le Plan sur la terre