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NEWSLETTER NO. 95

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2002

Dear friends and co-workers!

This is the last newsletter of 2002 and we are writing it at the beginning of 2003. It is a good time to take stock of the IPS latest developments and to outline a few important aspects of our work in the past year.

In a sense, the Institute continues to expand. Several people and organisations in various countries have expressed an interest in our work and in acting either as our representatives or contact points. The IPS Advisory Council elected at the 2002 Triennial General Assembly, in which all branches and contact points are represented, now numbers 25 persons from 17 countries. To this we must add our representatives at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America (Nila Tadic de Ossio), for Western Asia (Ghaleb Barakat) and for Asia and the Pacific (Made Dharsana Polak). A new branch has been opened in Angola, the IPS Cabinda, headed by Kyabenga Shabani. The latest version of the blue IPS folder, which lists all the IPS branches and contact points, now includes 6 branches and 17 contact persons and groups. Several other requests are under study.

Expansion also brings challenges. The first is to maintain the unity of our group organism while honoring the diversity of its different members. We are united mainly by our recognition of the Spiritual Hierarchy of the planet and by our commitment to help in the accomplishment of the divine Plan of spiritual evolution for humanity and the planet, to the extent we can understand it. In particular, we have committed ourselves to making known the five spiritual values to live by: love of truth, personal responsibility, sense of justice, constructive cooperation and selfless service, and practicing them in daily life and in the fields of activity represented by the 10 seed-groups: telepathic communication, enlightened observation, healing, education, religion, science, psychology, finance and economy, creativity. This is

the heart of our group organism, what gives it its life and purpose. To be a member of the IPS is to be animated by this life and committed to this purpose, and to use in daily life the triangle of meditation, study and service.

However, the Aquarian Age is characterised by decentralisation, autonomy, interdependence and personal responsibility. We are all different and the ways in which life and purpose manifest in different individuals and groups varies according to life circumstances, cultures, tradition, local needs. Our branch in Congo, besides organizing conferences on the spiritual teachings and group meditations, also distributes vegetables from its garden to the needy and has recently embarked on a project for testing natural therapies for AIDS in Kinshasa (Congo) and Harare (Zimbabwe), in cooperation with the Compassion Response Network of Australia (<http://www.nw.com.au/~keane/healing>). Our contact in São Paulo, Brazil, the Willis Harmann House, works to promote new paradigms in business, education, science. Our Russian branch promotes the Danish free school system in Russia, besides organizing conferences on a healthy way of life and education to world citizenship. Our co-workers in Bolivia organise seminars on the spiritual teachings. In this newsletter you can read a paper prepared by Nila Tadic de Ossio for their seminar on death.

We are studying ways to promote a decentralised interaction between our various members. One possibility is to revive the use of the IPS meditation for synthesis. We are enclosing it with this newsletter and would ask all of you who are experienced meditators to propose any suitable modifications. When the IPS was created, the proposal was to practice this meditation every day, some time between 12 and 2 p.m. Now we would propose that it

be practiced at least once a week, preferably in the morning on Monday, the seventh ray day. But you are free to use that meditation any time that is suitable to you.

Our expansion has also attracted many requests for support to various group endeavours. "To strengthen the hands of the New Group of World Servers" is one of the hierarchical means and has always been one of our objectives. We have recently been asked to support the creation of an International Peace Film Festival in India, the first of its kind in the world. We have accepted to host the Geneva office of the World Peace Association, which organises the Festival, and to designate its founder, Prakash Sharma, as one of the IPS representatives at the UN. This is only one example among others.

Another way to promote the interaction among our members is our website. We have inaugurated an interactive page of links which enables people to propose their names and addresses for inclusion in the page of links. This is not limited to people and groups with web pages and e-mail addresses.

Another challenge is allocation of resources. The material base for our group work has remained much the same, in spite of its expansion, as you can see from the attached financial balance for 2002. Running costs for the IPS office in Geneva amounted in 2002 to about 3000 CHF per month, one third of which is for rent. These costs have been entirely covered by donations from a maximum 20 persons, most of them Swiss, and by a generous grant (10,000 CHF) from the Gaia Foundation in the UK. Almost half of the total expenses were covered by two persons only. All the work is done by volunteers, of which only one, Rudolf Schneider, our Secretary-General, can work full time. This includes mailing, correspondence, administration, website maintenance, translation into five languages (English, French, Spanish, German and Russian). We would like to extend here our heartfelt thanks to our co-workers in Russia and Bolivia who ensure the translation of the newsletter into Russian and Span-

ish, the two languages we cannot cope with at the IPS office in Geneva.

Another challenge that is facing us in the near future, as some of you already know, is the need to find a new office in the next one or two years. The house where we have been located for the past 8 years is due to be sold and demolished for development of a new block of flats. This will probably considerably increase our monthly rent, as the housing market is extremely tight at the moment in the Geneva region. An alternative solution would be to buy a convenient location. However, this requires in Switzerland a down-payment of at least 20% of the total selling price. At present real estate prices, this would require a minimum of 200,000 CHF, which we do not yet have. We have decided to cut our expenses as much as possible, to save for that eventuality, and to look for other sources of funding. Any help would be welcome. In the near future, therefore, it is unlikely that we will be able to support financially any other groups.

Finally, maybe the most important development of our work this year: our cooperation with the United Nations. This has mainly taken the form of our participation in two NGO Committees of the Conference of NGOs with Consultative Status at the UN (CONGO): the Committee on the Freedom of Religion and Belief and the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (the former Spiritual Caucus in Geneva). We have also participated as observers in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (Rio +10) and in various events organised at the UN in Geneva.

The world is going through a time of crisis, in which the Dweller of the Threshold has taken a threatening, visible shape. Greed, fear and separateness are rampant. However, let us remember that the Angel of the Presence is not far, whenever the Dweller appears. Let us remember the promise of the World Teacher to return whenever lawlessness rules.

THE IPS GENEVA GROUP

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Certainly creative thought will regenerate the world. The king of thought creates evolution. Thus We can move the human consciousness toward progress. We create by thought.

Humanity, verily, must realize the significance of thought! The Teaching, verily, must be assimilated by sensitive thoughts! Thus, each striving thought can impel the spirit to an achievement. Hence, We value so highly the crystallization of thought. Each great thought blends with the Chain of Hierarchy. Thus evolution is created. Agni Yoga, paragraph 664

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GROUP MEDITATIONS

Virgo, Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius Full Moon meditations with the Arcane School Group in Geneva

UNITED NATIONS STAFF PEACE MEDITATION GROUP

10.09.2002	Purity of the Soul	19.11.2002	Happiness for everybody and everything
17.09.2002	Virgo, a note from the heart	26.11.2002	Letting in the light
24.09.2002	Awakening the Spirit of Active Good Will	03.12.2002	Joyful Love for All
01.10.2002	We are responsible creators of divine beauty	10.12.2002	Dance of the Soul
08.10.2002	Water, Health and Happiness	17.12.2002	Forgiveness among nations and kingdoms of nature
29.10.2002	Light, Love and Peace to all, mind and soul		

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IPS ACTIVITIES IN GENEVA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

IPS 10 Seed-Group Documentation Centre - We have upgraded the page of links to the activities of the 10 seed-groups on the IPS website. It is now fully searchable and interactive. Anyone may propose new links, or even only the name, address and description of a group or organisation which they would like to be included in the link page. Instructions on how to proceed are given in the webpage. It already contains links to about 200 groups throughout the world and in many languages.

18 September 2002 - We received at the Geneva office the visit of Prakash Sharma, who shared with us his project of an **International Peace Film Festival** to take place in Mumbai, India, at the end of 2003 (6-17 December 2003). He invited us to sponsor the project. Enclosed we are sending a sheet with information on that project. We encourage everyone who is interested in this field to work together with Mr. Sharma to make this a successful event.

19 September 2002 - Dan Winter's visit. Dan Winter developed a program and machine to measure and develop coherence in heart waves, thus providing a sophisticated feedback system to create harmony and peace. His product is called the HeartTuner, and it has applications in corporate consensus processes, conflict resolution, group meditation, healing and prayer. He has also founded the Science of Peace University to teach the skills necessary to create peace and harmony. Centres of the University for Peace have already been created in Sweden, Germany and the USA. Information on the HeartTuner is available from the website <http://www.heartcoherence.com>, and the Science of Peace University at <http://www.scienceofpeace.org>.

21 September 2002 - Course on the Seven Rays, Lucern, organised by the Foundation Unity of All Life and moderated by Rudolf Schneider of the IPS Geneva.

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18-20 October – Seminar: “Death – The Great Adventure”, based on Alice A. Bailey’s book and the teachings of the Tibetan, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, South America.

Death is something we are all going to encounter sooner or later. There is no doubt about that. Nevertheless, it is an event put aside by many of us, with the hope that it will just pass by and forget about us. We are so submerged holding on to our material assets, never willing to let them go, that life passes by, without leaving us its gifts of plenitude and meaning.

Since the dawn of time, the forces of materialism have enforced on us an unexplainable fear about death. Fear is paralysing, and humanity submitted to fear can be nullified and dominated. We have been led to thinking that when there is nothing to cling on to, there is nothing left for us – just darkness. We have been led to believe that the reason why we are living in this planet is to be able *to have, to get, to achieve*, and the words *“to be”* seem empty and meaningless. If you simply *“are”* – what can you grab onto? In India, this is called *“makara”*, a word meaning alligator, or the claws of an animal or man’s five fingers grabbing onto something...or someone... For a long time, humanity has remained in the *“makara”* state, but it is beginning to realise that whatever it has been grabbing onto is simply not fulfilling its expectations.

The Great Buddha said that ignorance is the cause of our suffering. How right he is! Our fear of death is the outcome of our total ignorance of who we really are. There is much more than our physical body, our thoughts or emotions. It seems that we have been holding on to the wrong end of the line. In this mental age, we have made our aim to achieve more information, to acquire a more prolific education (that’s good, it’s evolution) but we forget that SILENCE can be the source of new horizons. Do we know who we really are? Any step forward we achieve in the realms of science, politics, the arts and so forth is spirituality, if we don’t ignore its transcendental meaning. We are spiritual beings with a

vehicle – energy living in energy - a soul submerged in matter, whose highest purpose is the correct and wise handling of that energy. Here is why good will and right human relations are so important. Doing to others as we would like them to do on to us is simply using our energy fields in a selfless and correct way. It is actually helping the tides of energy display an orderly and harmonious flow.

Yes, there is such a thing called DEATH. But how can spirit be killed? How can this endless ocean of energy which we are part of be abruptly ended? Our fears rise from the utter ignorance of what we really are. Death exists only when our living values cease to be, death comes when we feel no hope; death is the outcome of a selfish, materialistic society.

The Tibetan so wisely says: "death is only an interlude in a life of steadily accumulating experience...it marks a definite transition from one state of consciousness into another". (From Bethlehem to Calvary, p. 242). Then he adds: "Resurrection is the keynote of nature; death is not. Death is only the antechamber of resurrection". (Esoteric Healing, p. 469)

6-9 November 2002 - International Conference "Dialogue of Civilisations", Shchelkovo, Moscow, Region, Russia.

Organizers: Russian Chapter of the Association for World Education (Moscow, RF), Institute of Scientific Information on Public Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, RF), Institute for Planetary Synthesis (IPS, Geneva, Switzerland), Association for World Education (AWE, Denmark), Association of Gymnastics and Sports Clubs (DGI, Denmark), Municipal Secondary School No.6 (Shchelkovo, Moscow region, RF). The conference is part of the international movement "Culture of Peace" announced by the UN in 2000. The conference started in Moscow at the Institute of Scientific Information on Public Science of the Russian Academy of Science under the aegis of Russian Ministry of Education and the Committee of Education and Science of the State Duma. The purpose of the conference was to consolidate creative potentials and co-ordinate projects for peace on Earth. Danish colleagues of the DGI held a seminar for youth on youth leadership. Rudolf and Alice Schneider, of the IPS Geneva, contributed a welcoming speech. The text of this speech is available upon request from the IPS Geneva.

Discussion themes:

1. Science - "Role of Science in Saving the World".
2. Education - "Education is a Means of Developing Democracy in the Society".
3. Medicine - "Healthy Way of Life".
4. Religion - "Unity in Diversity".
5. Business - "Business is a Means of Economical Development".

About 100 persons participated. The participants highly appreciated the conference because of its openness and good psychological atmosphere.

They noted that this was the 10th annual conference in the series of "education for world citizenship" and only now we learned to listen to each other, to hear and to understand each other, to be tolerant. We defined four levels of cooperation: local/individual; regional (Ufa-Tuimazy, Bashkortostan); interregional (Youth Programme); international: Tuimazy – Russian AWE Chapter – Danish Association of Free Schools; Russian AWE Chapter – Danish Association of Gymnastics and Sports Clubs.

Various ways of cooperation were identified: through formal education (Tuimazy, Chernogolovka, Moscow State University); through informal education (summer camps, festivals, workshops, etc.); through conferences, seminars, courses (adult education); through network of Folk (Peoples') Universities (lifelong education, popular enlightenment).

DECISIONS:

- To involve more young people in the conference. Rudolf Schneider remarked that we should invite them to define their own topics for discussion.
- To take part in the following events: conference on ecology (April, 2003, Ukraine); conference on religions (April, 2003, Moscow); festival (June/July, 2003, Ufa – Tuimazy);
- To create a data base on different fields of our activity.
- To spread information and the decisions of the conference "Dialogue of Civilizations".
- To develop the project "Health Through Education" (Ufa-Tuimazy).
- To develop the project "Youth for Dialogue of Civilizations and for Saving Life on Earth" (Russian AWE Chapter, INION RAS, IPS-Geneva).
- To invest in video audio-internet information.
- To develop the project of network of Peoples' Universities (Russian AWE Chapter-Danish Folk University).
- To develop the project "Temple of Peace" (Spiritual Centre "Ascending").
- To support the proposal of Mr. Stutz to apply to the UN (Geneva) to create an art competition "From Childhood to Maturity"; to offer a disquette with a collection of art "From Childhood to Maturity" by the Phillipov-Stutz-Kurbatov dynasty of artists to the organizers of the project for computerising Russian village schools; and to ask Russian NGO's to reply to the invitation by the Swiss Association of "Creativity and Communication" to form a joint Creative Centre in their regions;
- To create a joint Centre in Chernogolovka .

Scientific Secretary of the Conference: Lidia Shkorkina, Central Post Office Box 361, Zhukovsky 140180 Moscow region, Russia, tel./fax: (07 095) 556 86 15, e-mail: rawe_lida@serpantin.ru, or Vladimir Gerasimov, tel./fax (07 095) 128 57 80.

19 December 2002 - Day of reflection organised by IPS-Cabinda, on the occasion of the Sagittarius Full Moon and to mark the first anniversary of IPS-Cabinda in Angola. The program included group discussions on the activities of IPS-Cabinda, group

meditations, a lecture on "Spirituality and Medicine", by Dr. João Mangovo (in Portuguese), and a closing speech by Mr. Kyabenga Shabani, founder of IPS-Cabinda. Contact address: Mr SHABANI Kyabenga.

c/o Dr PONGE Mutuza, caixa postal 77, Cabinda, República de Angola, fax: 14356035300, e-mail: falpcongo@yahoo.fr.

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GROUP CONTACTS AND ACTIVITIES

11 September 2002 - Prayers for Humanity: Geneva Spiritual Appeal, St Pierre Cathedral, Geneva. Representatives of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Orthodox and Protestant communities invited the people of Geneva to meet and pray for all victims of violence. September 11 cannot stand as a day of remembrance for American victims only: the equally unacceptable violent events that took place in Chile on September 11th, 1973, were also recalled. This commemoration gave the opportunity to relaunch the "Geneva Spiritual Appeal", a solemn commitment made by many civil and religious leaders on United Nations' Day in 1999. The following persons read sacred texts and the Appeal in several languages: Ruth Dreifuss, Federal Councillor (Geneva Spiritual Appeal in French); Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Abbot Pierre, Klaus Schwab, Cornelio Sommaruga and Alfredo Sfeir-Younis. The Spiritual Appeal can be signed on the web site: <http://www.geneva.ch/appelgeneve/welcome.html>. For further information, contact Rev. Dr. William McCormish, Dean of St Pierre Cathedral and President of the Geneva Spiritual Appeal Forum, tel. +41-22-319.71.99 or +41-79-456.05.25.

24 September 2002 - Information Session of the World Federation of United Nations Associations on the report "We the Peoples: A Call to Action for the UN Millennium Declaration". Bruna Molina Faidutti, Director of the WFUNA Geneva Office, presented the report and WFUNA. WFUNA was founded in Luxembourg on 2 August 1946 and is one of the oldest NGOs associated with the UN and the only NGO established with the unique aim to nurture the widest popular support for the United Nations and its programs. Its purpose is to inform, sustain and energise a global network of UN Associations. Its members are located in almost 100 countries and it represents views of people from a variety of political, economical and social strata. It publishes a bimonthly newsletter, "UN Connection", carries out projects such as Model United Nations conferences, the creation of teaching manuals and the organisation of youth exchanges, as well as the creation of a parallel youth network. Contact addresses: Geneva Office, Room E4-2A, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, tel. +41-22-917.32.39, fax +41-22-917.01.85, e-mail: wfuna@unog.ch; New York Office, 1 United Nations Plaza, Room DC1-1177, New York, NY 10017 USA, tel. +1-212-963.5610, fax +1-212-963.9447, e-mail: wfunany@wfuna.org; website: <http://www.wfuna.org>.

4 October 2002 - Gathering in honour of Dadi Janki, Co-Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris Spiritual University, who spoke on "Spirituality in Working Life". She is one of the "Wisdom Keepers", an eminent group of spiritual and religious leaders convened at the Rio Earth Summit and Habitat II to advise political leaders on the spiritual dilemmas underpinning current worldwide issues. At the age of 86, she continues to travel to inspire audiences with her wisdom and knowledge of the science of spirituality.

8-11 October 2002 - Conference on "Youth and Human Values - an inter-generational dialogue", organised by the International Society for Human Values (54-56 rue Montbrillant, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland, tel. +41-22-730.02.01, fax +41-22-730.03.54, e-mail: ishv@iprolink.ch, web site: <http://www.humanvalues-is.org>). The plenary sessions and workshops dealt with three main themes: "youth and changing times", "youth and social responsibility" and "youth and violence".

10 November 2002 - meeting of Sponsoring Committee of Alcor Institute. News about the present activities of Alcor were shared with the participants: seminars on morphopsychology, science of the soul, astrology, and research groups on innovative fraternity, vital energy, the seven rays. The past and future numbers of the newsletter were also discussed. Cédric Dumas then presented his experiences with antigravity, based on the example of a "lifter". The program of activities of Alcor may be consulted on its website, <http://institut.alcor.free.fr>. For copies of its excellent newsletter, write to Institut Alcor, 5 Chemin Pré de Lug, CH-1258 Certoux/Genève, Switzerland or B.P. 50182, F-63174 Aubière Cedex, France, e-mail: institut.alcor@free.fr.

22 November 2002 - Seminar on "Switzerland in the United Nations", University of Bern, Switzerland. Organised by the Swiss Association for Foreign Affairs, Forum Suisse de Politique Internationale and Swiss Association for Wilton Park. Speakers: Jenö Staehelin, Swiss Ambassador at the UN, on "Switzerland in the UN: what has changed", followed by questions and panel session. In the afternoon, Bruno Bischof from Economy Swiss spoke about the priorities of the economy, former State Secretary Edouard Brunner shared with us his reflections and the meeting concluded with a parliamentary panel and a discussion with the public.

25 November 2002 - GCSP/HEI workshop of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP and Graduate Institute of International Studies on the 30th anniversary of the launching of the CSCE Process (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe). This one-day workshop included lectures by professors of the University of Geneva and ambassadors from Russia, Poland, Austria, Switzerland and Armenia, as well as high-officials of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which succeeded the CSCE. They talked on the following subjects: Soviet objectives and goals in the CSCE process, Western and American perception of Soviet objectives and goals in the CSCE process, the perception of the neutral and non-aligned countries of Soviet objectives and goals in the CSCE process, the philosophy of the CSCE process, including the recognition of universal values, and a panel on the OSCE as the successor institution of the CSCE and its future in tomorrow's

European security architecture. For further information, contact the Program for the Study of International Organizations, Graduate Institute of International Studies, 132, rue de Lausanne, P.O.Box 36, CH-1211 Geneva 21, tel. +41-22-908.57.45, fax 738.35.82, e-mail: psio@hei.unige.ch.

2 December 2002 - Talk on "The Johannesburg Summit and its results for the future", by Gordon Sheperd, Director International Policy, World Wildlife Foundation International, Geneva.

8 December 2002 - annual Christmas party of the Geneva Brahma Kumaris Meditation Centre, with entertainment, songs and story telling, a light vegetarian supper and a meditation for world peace.

12 December 2002 - Invitation to participate in the official welcome of Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey, new Federal Counsellor of Switzerland.

COOPERATION WITH NGO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON SPIRITUALITY, VALUES AND GLOBAL CONCERNS

On 30 October 2002, the Spiritual Caucus at the United Nations in Geneva merged into an official committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), entitled **Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns**. Membership of the Committee is open to NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN and members of CONGO. Participation is open to NGOs, government officials, UN civil servants, UN missions, organisations and individuals that are willing to include the spiritual dimension in their lives, work and the broader area of global public policy. The contact address of its secretariat is info@spiritualcaucus.org, tel. +41-22-738.28.88, fax +41-22-738.28.89.

In spite of its transformation into a Committee of CONGO, the CSVGC will continue to work closely together with the Spiritual Caucus in New York. For information about Spiritual Caucus meetings in New York see: <http://www.SpiritualCaucus-UN.org> or email info@SpiritualCaucus-UN.org.

11 September 2002 - Seminar on "Self-realisation as a challenge to expand inner peace to humanity". Speakers: Werner Peter Luedemann, International Association for Human Values; Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Astrid Stuckelberger, and Peter von Kohl, President of the European Academy of Human Rights, Strasbourg,

He teaches the Sudarshan Kriya, a powerful breathing technique aimed at eliminating stress and re-establishing harmony between the physical and mental bodies.

20 September 2002 - Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony in honour of International Day of Peace, at the United Nations Peace Bell, with Junei Nakada, Shingon Priest, and Honsenji, Shinagawa-Dera. After the bell ringing ceremony, moment of silent reflection at the Sacred Site, where trees have been marked for peace, in memory of all the victims of inner and outer violence.

1 November 2002 - Peace Candle Ceremony on Place des Nations, to call for an end to all forms of violence in the world.

19 November 2002 - Lecture and ceremony organised in honour of the departure of Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, special advisor of the Committee, on "Spirituality and Global Public Policy: A New Path for Globalisation", and to launch a new series of seminars on "The Spiritual Dimension in Global Public Policy". The text of this lecture can be requested from the Committee's Secretariat

26 September 2002 - Private meeting with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the International Art of Living Foundation and the International Association for Human Values, after a talk at the University of Geneva on "Living Human Values in the XXI cen-

21 November and 4 December 2002 - Meetings to elect the Office of the CSPVG and to discuss its mission statement and program of activities.

COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF

Meetings on 27 September 2002, 10 October and 18 November 2002 - Discussion of current activities, on follow-up of Madrid International Consultative Conference on School Education in relation with Freedom of Religion or Belief, Tolerance and Non-discrimination, on the NGO Forum on Religious Intolerance during the Durban World Conference against Racism. The contact e-mail for the Secretary of the committee is: echap-pee@bluewin.ch.

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

7 October 2002 - Meeting with presentations by Mr. Alfredo Sfeir-Younis and by Ms. Marla Bustelo, Gender Focal Point on Gender Policy and Programme Strategies of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. Also summary reports on Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, preparatory meeting for Tunisia 2005 World Summit on the Information Society, ILO Annual Conference, UN First Social Forum and NGO Prepcom, UN SubCommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human rights, CONGO Board Meeting and Civil Society Forum organised by Mandat International. The NGO Committee on the Status of Women has published a leaflet on its activities, available in English, French and Spanish from its Secretariat, E2, NGO Lounge, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, tel. +41-22-917.4735, fax 917.0181, e-mail: ngocsw@iprolink.ch. The Committee has the following working groups: jumping the fence - the missing link; women in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe; women's employment and economic development; environment; the girl child; health and human rights;

nutrition; peace; refugee women; traditional practices; and project Bangwe.

3 December 2002 - Task force: "Jumping the Fence - the Missing Link". Guest speaker: BK Jayanti Kirpalani, Regional Coordinating Officer of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University in Europe, and representative at the UN. In October 2000, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women invited Mr. Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, special representative of the World Bank Group to the United Nations, Geneva, to give a talk entitled "A Coalition for Gender Equality". In his rich and dynamic presentation he set us a challenge - to move forward from the old ways of doing things, to change our perspective and vision, and create a new paradigm - to "jump the fence". In response to this challenge a "reflective group" or "think tank" was formed. Through discussion and reflection the group explores the values that guide our work, the obstacles that we face, and the solutions that we can find. Our aim is to promote peace, truth, equality and justice in order to create a new social environment based on our values and beliefs.

PARTICIPATION IN UN MEETINGS

9 September 2002 - Live videoconference of the opening session of the 55th Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations entitled "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: a Shared Responsibility". This conference, which was held in New York from 9-11 September 2002, featured speeches by Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information; Mary Robinson, in her last address to the NGO community as High Commissioner for Human Rights; Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Han Seung-soo, President of the 56th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; as well as Donald Treimann, Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee; Renate Bloem, President, Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and Sherrill Kazan Ivarez de Toledo, Co-chair, Conference Planning Committee.

ENCLOSURES

IPS Financial Balance 2002
IPS meditation outline for planetary synthesis
Calendar of forthcoming group activities
International Peace Film Festival
Magic Points

IPS FINANCIAL BALANCE 2002

OPENING BALANCE 31 DECEMBER 2001

	Assets	Liabilities
Cash	0.00	
Bank account: UBS no. 333.820.00C	762.32	
CCP account no. 1213453-5 in Switzerland	574.28	
CCP no. 3273 85-433 in Germany	728.34	
Cash in Germany	14.22	
Retention 1981-1994		1'430.22
Retention 1995		-212.89
Retention 1996		63.38
Retention 1997		91.59
Retention 1998		1'834.60
Retention 1999		3'307.05
Retention 2000		-2'569.93
Retention 2001		-1'864.86
Total	2'079.16	2'079.16

RUNNING ACCOUNT 2002

	Expenses	Income
Account fees	130.15	
General Assembly	554.70	
Literature for library	270.90	
Membership fees	290.00	
Miscellaneous	64.00	
Office rent	12'000.00	
Office equipment and furniture	255.00	
Photocopies	3'669.05	
Postage	4'140.00	
Refund of loan for office equipment	10'000.00	
Stationery	126.60	
Swisscom telephone	645.25	
Swisscom fax	331.95	
Sunrise 022-7336649 (phone,fax,internet)	482.65	
Abalone (phone, fax)	209.75	
Withholding tax on credit interests	4.00	
Travel and conference fees	6'005.20	
Web site	670.75	
Expenses through German account (CHF1.50 = Euro 1)	214.57	
TOTAL EXPENSES	40'064.52	
Donations in Switzerland		31'355.65
Credit interests		11.50
Loan for paying office rent		12'000.00
Donations into German CCP account		105.00
TOTAL INCOME		43'472.15
CREDIT BALANCE		3'407.63

CLOSING BALANCE 31 DECEMBER 2002

	Assets	Liabilities
Cash	-	
Bank account: UBS no. 333.820.00C	3'003.77	
CCP account no. 1213453-5 in Switzerland	1'850.03	
CCP no. 3273 85-433 in Germany	577.85	
Cash in Germany	55.14	
Retention 1981-1994		1'430.22
Retention 1995		- 212.89
Retention 1996		63.38
Retention 1997		91.59
Retention 1998		1'834.60
Retention 1999		3'307.05
Retention 2000		- 2'569.93
Retention 2001		- 1'864.86
Retention 2002		3'407.63
Total	5'486.79	5'486.79