



INSTITUTE FOR PLANETARY SYNTHESIS

UNIVERSITY FOR PLANETARY SYNTHESIS

P.O. BOX 128 - CH 1211 GENEVA 20

Email: ipsbox@ipsgeneva.com, site: <http://www.ipsgeneva.com>

Tel. +41-022-733.88.76 Fax +41-022-733.66.49

NEWSLETTER NO. 93 JANUARY – APRIL 2002

Dear friends and co-workers!

Humanity runs like a madman towards an abyss. Many voices have been raised throughout the XX century warning of the danger and calling it to stop, but it has continued on its mad course. Too many material interests were at stake.

Warmongers now control the information system of the Earth in order to make sure that people's minds and hearts remain out of touch with the reality of the suffering and death of invaded populations. This could awaken our feelings of compassion and brotherly love. Even the soldiers in the invading armies are kept out of touch with reality by the interposition of highly sophisticated technical systems whose main purpose is not to achieve high accuracy but to keep the soldiers from directly experiencing the death of their victims, so that no feeling of compassion may be allowed to arise in their hearts. If to that is added the fact that most of those combatants, and even some of our world leaders, have grown up playing unreal war games on a video screen, it is no wonder that they can bombard real targets on a video screen without ever realising the horror of what they are doing.

In this way, those who feed on our fears can continue to control us. They have declared worldwide the four fears: fear of want, fear of war, fear of differences and fear of death and disease. This is their response to Roosevelt's four freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion or belief, freedom from want and freedom from fear. They do not want a world based on freedom but a world ruled by fear. People who live in fear can be easily manipulated. See, for example, Israel. First a situation of artificial want is created by an unjust sharing of vital resources: land, water, access to work, education, health care. This leads to revolt and finally to desperate violent action, which in turn feeds the fears of the Israeli population. In their fear, they accept a

policy of terror which further escalates the violence on both sides. And while Israelis and Palestinians slaughter each other, fear and resentment spread wider and wider, involving the region and the whole world. The same tactics can be observed in many other areas in the world where problems have been festering for decades because of a lack of goodwill to really tackle them: Kashmir, Tchetchenia, Colombia, Congo, to name but a few. Demagogues that promise security by placing the blame on this or other ethnic group, or proponents of violent action, are then able to lure the frightened populations. Attention is directed again and again away from the real problem: the concentration of wealth and power within the hands of a minority through a perverse economic and monetary system based on speculation, debt and inflation, and the ruthless and reckless exploitation of our mother Earth with all its natural kingdoms: mineral, plant, animal and human.

We have let in scorpions, crabs and reptiles who devour us from the inside. How can we expel them from our hearts and minds?

First of all, let us keep calm and patient, say our friendly Indian and indigenous guides. A disease that has taken years to develop also takes time to heal. Miracles happen, but do we really want to suddenly change our entire lives, our entire social and economic structure? To drop our old habits? Could we withstand it? Maybe this is why there are so few miracles. Most of us cannot stand sudden change. This is what happens when the I AM in us takes over our lives. And if ultimately we cannot stand being visited by our own Inner God, would death not be preferable? It would free us from our old incrustated habits, like dirty clothes after a long sweaty day, which we are happy to drop before going into the shower.

Superior virtue is not conscious of itself as virtue, and so really is virtue. Inferior virtue cannot let go of being virtuous, and so is not virtue. Superior virtue does not seem to be busy, and yet there is nothing which it does not accomplish. Inferior virtue is always busy, and yet in the end leaves things undone." Lao-Tzu

Let us stop pitying ourselves, let us stop feeling afraid. Let us receive pain like a messenger from the battlefield, not like the enemy. Pain is not the same as evil. It only shows from where evil is coming. If we put on narrow shoes, our feet hurt. Would we take a painkiller to stop the pain, when taking off the shoes would be enough? Let us recover our own innate goodness and common sense. Let us recover our

trust in the I AM in us. This is God inside every one of us. This is the spiritual world, the kingdom of souls that is only waiting for us to open our hearts and minds so that they can help us. Let us meditate from the centre of trust in ourselves, not from within our fear. The more people can free themselves from fear, the more powerful will be our collective ability to heal our common body.

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In order to perceive the success of life in an expanded consciousness, one must already possess a tested spirit. People are so accustomed to base their lives upon objects of earthly destination that even the foundations of the existing cannot be accepted as long as man remains in his usual circumstances. It means that conditions of life have to be built by unusual means. There is no rule for this unusualness. The life of the spirit determines the everyday conditions. The misfortune of families lies in the fact that the life of spirit does not enter into their daily existence. Life may be adorned and the flow of spirit uplifted through loftier soundings. But there exists a certain manner of living which becomes a beast's lair.

Having lost the bridge to the higher world, people not only harm themselves but also their surroundings. Their dogs are full of harmful habits, and their animals and their birds and their vegetation are unfit for evolution. To man must be pointed out: "See what thou createst around thee!" The dead or living principle rests upon the surroundings of one's entire life.

(Agni Yoga, § 446)

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GROUP MEDITATIONS

On 20 March 2002, meditation on global inner peace with the Spiritual Values Caucus at the United Nations in Geneva, and meditation on planetary synthesis in Kinshasa, held by IPS Congo, on the occasion of Planetary Vision Festival, a worldwide event organized by the Club of Budapest

FULL MOON MEDITATIONS

Aquarius, Pisces, Aries and Taurus full moon meditations with the Arcane School group in Geneva
Aries full moon meditation with the World Service Intergroup in Tokyo
Taurus full moon meditation at the IPS headquarters in Geneva, during its General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS STAFF PEACE MEDITATION GROUP (Tuesdays 12:30 at the United Nations Office in Geneva)

08.01.2002 With our thoughts we create the world	all divine qualities
15.01.2002 Angels and their golden light for the whole planet	12.03.2002 I am a being in a body
22.01.2002 The path of the Inner Light	19.03.2002 The immediate path ahead
29.01.2002 The pure energy of the soul	02.04.2002 The human being is a divine being
05.02.2002 The flame of the heart	09.04.2002 Forgiveness for ourselves and others
26.02.2002 Liberating humanity in Aquarius through group service and synthesis	23.04.2002 Infinite love: meditation dedicated to the people of Palestine and Israel
05.03.2002 I am a spiritual being with a body and	30.04.2002 Letting in the Light: The Law of Group Endeavor

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GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Seminar series: An Exchange on Development, World Bank Group Office in Geneva

18 January 2002: "Transition: The First Ten Years, Analysis and Lessons for Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union", with Johannes Linn, Vice-President, Europe and Central Asia Region

18 February 2002: "Cooperation or Confrontation: Can The World Bank Ever Work With NGOs?" with William Reuben, Director, Civil Society Unit, the World Bank

7 March 2002: "Evaluating the Global Dimensions of Development", by Robert Picciotto, Senior Vice President and Director General, Operations and Evaluation Department-

Spiritual Values Caucus in Geneva

21 January 2002: Meeting to plan future activities.

23 April 2002: Meditation on Inner Peace – World Peace, followed by a debate on the role and responsibility of the individual, with the participation of Dr.

Charles Graves, Interfaith International (sponsoring organisation), H.E. Mrs. Nora Ruiz de Angelo, Ambassador of Costa Rica, Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, World Bank Group, Geneva, Dr. Astrid Stuckelberger, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Dr. John Taylor, Secretary of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Pirjo Svensson, and Alfredo Fava, Falun Gong.

The Spiritual Caucus is an initiative of NGOs with a threefold objective:

- 1) to share information about the various religions and spiritual traditions;
- 2) to participate in the work of the United Nations and in international conferences by encouraging a spiritual perspective within the international community and making written contributions for inclusion in UN declarations and programmes of action; by promoting the right to lead a spiritual and religious way of life in full respect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; by developing and implementing programmes relating to spirituality; and by creating a global network of participants;
- 3) to organise public events in order to initiate dialogue between religious and spiritual dignitaries, speakers from UN agencies, UN missions, NGOs, civil society, private sector, the media.

Participation is open to NGOs, government officials, UN civil servants, UN missions, organisations and individuals. Contact person for further information is Werner Peter Luedemann, tel. +41 022 738 28 88, fax 022 738 28 89, e-mail: info@spiritualcaucus.org.

21 January and 7 March 2002 – Meetings of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (Geneva), Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations with Consultative Status at the United Nations. Its aims are to protect and promote the freedom of religion or belief through the United Nations' mechanisms and instruments, in particular the final declaration of the Madrid Conference (International Consultative Conference on School Education in relation with Freedom of Religion and Belief, Tolerance and Non-discrimination). Contact address: echappee@bluewin.ch.

21 January 2002 – Premiere of the film "Beyond Hitler's Grasp", in the presence of its director and producer Nitzan Aviram. Part of a program of cultural events at the United Nations in Geneva aimed at promoting understanding and peace, within the context of the "Year for the Dialogue between Civilizations".

29 January 2002 – 3 February 2002: World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Here are the impressions of Simone Ramounoulou, coordinator of Willis Harman House in São Paulo, Brazil, who participated in the World Social Forum on behalf of the Institute:

Porto Alegre was a beautiful experience, for which I am very grateful. I would like to share with you some thoughts with an open heart, which is already a first step towards change.

Porto Alegre transformed and heightened my perception, my awareness of this sector which I knew only partially until now. I have never been so involved in a social and political process. Until today, it was only an intellectual experience. To see from nearby, to participate, changed everything. This immersion in the Forum for 6 days was deeply lived and felt, changed my vision of political and ideological processes. It does not allow any more talks and controversies. It changed my sense of responsibility, made me think and reflect more on the possible and necessary actions in this moment we live now. If this is a macrotransition, it has never been so macro, never so deep.

To discard once and for all arrogance, manipulation, violence on all levels, including the verbal level, and intolerance. To be positive and pro-active. To strengthen our respect for differences, to improve our relationships, to open a space for dialogue, to be inclusive, to recover the most simple human values which penetrate our daily life, our social and professional activities.

What needs to be done to bring about this change? Goodwill, right action, cooperation among individuals and groups, inclusiveness, convergence, cooperation for common purposes. To remember at every moment that we are responsible human beings in our social context and that we must work within, for and through this context.

I am sure that our purpose at the Willis Harman House of convergence and synthesis is correct and appropriate. We work in the most obvious sectors of the present times: business people, educators, scientific and religious researchers

It was interesting to note that in Porto Alegre **everybody believed that a better world is possible**. Ethics was the most used word, and when speaking of ethics even the principles of the French Revolution of 1789 were recalled: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, which are more relevant than ever in our century. Education was a priority for all; for youth because they are the future and in a few years will be the world leaders (10000 youth were expected in the Youth Forum, and 15000 turned up), for adults because they feel the need to change, sense the power of the moment but often do not know how to act, where to start, how to discriminate.

What is more than urgent is to take care of our planet. Water is the greatest challenge. Many groups have been created all over the world, giving the priority to its conservation and to education about its correct use. Respect for life also, because without it soon our "planetary house" will no longer be able to shelter us. Recovering the feminine (which does not mean feminism), strengthening the United Nations... we are faced with many tasks. Among the many documents issued during the Forum, and which can be downloaded from the Forum website (<http://www.worldsocialforum.org>), we recommend the paper prepared by the International

Forum on Globalization (IFG) entitled "A Better World is Possible! Alternatives to Economic Globalization", which may be ordered from the IFG (The Thoreau Center for Sustainability, 1009 General Kennedy Avenue #2, San Francisco, CA 94129. Tel.: 415.561.7650. Fax: 415.561.7651. E-mail: ifg@ifg.org) or downloaded from their website (<http://www.ifg.org>).

30 January 2002 – Roundtable "A World in Transition – the Call for Quality Education", with Kwasi Asante, Editor of "Pearls of Peace", journal of the International Poetry for Peace Association (IPPA, 1A, rue du Beulet, CH-1203 Geneva, Switzerland, e-mail: kwasi.asante@ties.itu.int) and Anthony Strano, Director of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University's Centres in Turkey and Greece, English language teacher. Organized by the Swiss Association for Living Values, e-mail: livingvalues.ch@freesurf.ch, <http://www.livingvalues.net>, tel. +41 022 731 12 35, fax +41 022 731 12 70.

4 February – 31 May 2002 – Exhibition of crafts by rural women, "Vision of Women – rural women's creativity". Part of a program of cultural events at the United Nations in Geneva aimed at promoting understanding and peace, within the context of the "Year for the Dialogue between Civilizations". Proposed by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF, P.O. Box 2001, CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland, tel. +41 022 738 66 19, fax +41 022 738 82 48, e-mail: wwsf@iprolink.ch, <http://www.woman.ch>), who presented on the same occasion the six winners of the 2002 "Prize for rural women's creativity".

9 February 2002 – Lecture and debate: "Experiences and Role of a Small State in the United Nations", with Romain Kirt, advisor to the government of Luxembourg, at the Polit-Forum, Käfigturm Bern, Switzerland. Offered by the World Federalists/Switzerland (P.O.Box 820, CH-3000 Bern 8, <http://www.wfm.org>, e-mail: daniel.schaubacher@span.ch), as part of its Annual General Assembly.

21-22 February 2002 – Seventh Annual Humanitarian Conference organized by Webster University, Geneva, under the auspices of the Government of Geneva: Humanitarian Values for the Twenty First Century, with the support and participation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations. Keynote speakers: Ruud Lubbers, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Paul Grossrieder, Director General of the ICRC and Yves Sandoz, Director of the Center for International Humanitarian Law. One of the objectives of the conference was to discuss the relationship between humanitarian values and other political, religious and moral principles and beliefs. Webster University, 15 route de Collex, CH-1293 Bellevue/Geneva, Switzerland, tel. +41 022 959 80 00, fax +41 022 959 80 13 or 959 80 61, <http://www.webster.ch>.

5 March 2002 – GIMUN (Geneva International Model United Nations). On the occasion of GIMUN, a model United Nations held every year by students of the Institute for International Studies of the University of Geneva, Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, special representative of the World Bank to the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, delivered a speech on "Can the Youth of Africa Take Charge of Their Own Future?"

Lectures organized by the Swiss Forum for International Affairs (FSPI)

C.P. 135 Champel, CH-1211 Geneva 12, e-mail: fspi@bluewin.ch or Alain Nicollier, Coordinator, 16, rue des Granges, CH-1204 Geneva, tel. +41 311 24 24, fax 022 311 25 56, email FSPI@bluewin.ch, <http://www.geneve.ch/chancellerie/protocole/news/fspi.html>.

6 March 2002 – "How can the ICRC fulfil its mandate in the present conflicts?" with Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

6 March 2002 - "The September 11th Events and their Impact on the International Security System: A Romanian View", with Ioan Mircea Pascu, Minister of National Defence (Romania)

7 March 2002 – Farewell reception offered by CONGO (Conference of NGOs with consultative status at the United Nations) to Vladimir Petrovsky, outgoing Director General of the Office of the United Nations in Geneva.

8 March 2002 – International Women's Day celebration at the International Labour Office. Introductory remarks by Juan Somavia, ILO Director-General and Ruud Lubbers, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Guest speakers: Ziata Filipovic, now 21 years old, began writing a diary in September 1991, shortly before her eleventh birthday, in which she movingly chronicled life in Sarajevo as the city came under attack. Her diary is now a best seller worldwide published in 35 languages. Latifa was born in Kabul in 1980 and wrote a book as a record of how her life changed under the Taliban regime. Chékéba Hachemi, 27 years old, has been involved since 1996 in humanitarian work in Afghanistan and is the founder and President of Afghanistan Libre, a humanitarian organization dedicated to improving access to education for women in Afghanistan.

The ILO launched a new website on gender equality to promote information exchange and enhance knowledge on gender-related issues (in English, French and Spanish). To access the site, go to <http://www.ilo.org>, then choose "gender equality" under "quick access".

20 March 2002 – Meeting on "Spiritual Education as a Human Right", Geneva, sponsored by International Association of Educators for World Peace, Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation, the Global Open University, Tribal Link Foundation, the

Institute for Planetary Synthesis and the Spiritual Values Caucus. Guest speakers: Ambassador Shambhu R. Simkhada, permanent representative, Mission of the Kingdom of Nepal to the UN; professor T.Y.S. Lama Gangchen, Chancellor, founder of International Association of Educators for World Peace and Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation; Helen Sayers, representative of Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University at the UN in Geneva. Chairperson: Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, special representative of the World Bank.

The meeting was held on the occasion of the 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights and inspired by Article 26(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace." How can we use our inner knowledge and values to guide our educational system on a global level and create a collective paradigm based on values of intercultural understanding, justice, equality and inclusion at the formal and non-formal levels, in order to integrate respect for human rights and promotion of peace into mainstream education?

21 March 2002 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Panel discussion organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on "Young People Against Racism: The Road From Durban", with the participation of Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Kalamandeen, Rights of Children (Guyana), Sheryl Wong, Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia, Aline Nkuzimana, Association des Jeunes pour la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme (Burundi), Monica Aleman, MADRE (Nicaragua), Alexandra Raykova, Forum of European Roma Young People (Bulgaria), Prof. Pierre Binette, Groupe de recherche sur le racisme de l'Université de Sherbrooke (Canada), Jens Dalsgaard, National Coordinator of UNESCO's Transatlantic Slave Trade Education Project, Tsatsu Dawson, Chairperson, OHCHR.

22 March 2002 – Briefing with Arjun Sengupta, Independent Expert on the Right to Development, offered by the Information Service of the United Nations in Geneva, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the occasion of the 58th Session of the Commission on Human Rights.

26-30 March 2002 – Conclave of the World Service Intergroup, Tokyo, Japan

The WSI is an international network of Ageless Wisdom groups committed to developing intergroup contact, cooperation and synthetic, subjective work. We have been meeting each year since 1996 during one of the Three Spiritual Festivals in various locations around the world, including the five planetary

centres of New York, London, Geneva, Darjeeling and Tokyo. The purpose of WSI is to generate a focused, conscious and deliberate intergroup effort to specifically assist the externalization of the Hierarchy and the reappearance of the Christ. Contact address: <http://www.synthesis.tc>, or Center for Visionary Leadership, Gordon Davidson, Director, 3408 Wisconsin Avenue N. W. Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20816, tel: 202-237-2800, fax: 202-237-1399, e-mail: cvlcdc@visionarylead.org, <http://www.visionarylead.org>.

The specific purpose for the 2002 Conclave was to stand as a worldwide intergroup presence at a high level of receptivity, focused sensitivity and one-pointed purposefulness to receive the inflowing divine energies and ideas. To circulate the energies of the second ray, especially the linking, blending and fusing aspects of the second ray, combined with the fourth ray, creating harmony in the region. To meditate on the three principles for the new civilization (goodwill, unanimity and essential divinity) and seed humanity's mental field with these divine ideas.

Besides group meditations, sharing of insights and rituals, the group visited the office of the World Peace Prayer Society in Tokyo and the Atami Centre of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo Izunome spiritual group in the vicinity of Tokyo.

14-21 April 2002 – Group meetings in Belarus

Rudolf Schneider met with representatives of political, spiritual and educational societies of Belarus. His trip started with visits to the Barrow of Glory and the Stone Garden, the most interesting archeological monument in Belarus, in particular a monolith in the form of a cross with the image in relief of the Divine Mother with a child.

The first meeting was held at the Writer's Union, with some known Belarus writers (O.M. Ipatova, V.T. Yakovenko) and other intellectuals. The general theme of the meeting was: "Globalization and the problem of world development - the role of non-governmental organizations in this movement". On the same day, a meeting at the Byelorussia Fund of the World was held, with representatives of state structures and public movements. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare for a large public event for peace, in Brest. Later, Rudolf met the director, students and teachers of the Faculty for International Relations of the State University. The theme of the meeting was: "Moral values in policy, economy, social sphere". During a meeting with representatives of some esoteric groups of Minsk, questions related to the principles that rule relations between the members of group were examined in detail.

On Wednesday, April 17, 2002, round table with participation of the teachers of philosophy and culture on the theme: "Ethical principles in politics and in economy", followed by a meeting with Vetochin Sergey Sergejevitch, Vice-Director of the Republican Institute of Higher Schools, to discuss prospects of cooperation between academic institutions in Switzerland and the RIHS.

In the evening, meeting with Byelorussian business people. We discussed moral principles and the financial sphere. On Thursday, 18 April, we met representatives of spiritual groups and movements at the Palace of Youth in Minsk, the ambassador of Taiwan to Belarus and the Sobor Committee "White Russia".

On Friday, April 19, at Raubichy, a suburb of Minsk, meeting with ecological organizations, to discuss prospects of cooperation with various credit institutions. On Saturday, 20 April, several meetings with intellectuals and spiritual leaders took place.

The visit of Rudolf Schneider had a very positive overall influence on many integration processes. Continuing on the same impetus, the open public system "Helios" was created after his departure, along the same lines as the Institute for Planetary Synthesis, enriched by local contributions. Its contact address is: tel. (017) 509-31-27; e-mail: nvpminsk@yandex.ru.

Triennial General Assembly of the IPS Geneva 27 April 2002

After Rudolf Schneider welcomed the participants and opened the General Assembly, the gathering started with the Taurus Full Moon meditation and a presentation of the participants. We were ten: Maria Cristina Amaral (Brazil), Alice Boainain-Schneider (Brazil/Switzerland), Sylvia Böhler-Pauli (Germany), Sally Curry (Canada/Switzerland), Claudette Falatakis-Müller (Switzerland), Ketchara (Brazil), Jean-Marie Mauler (Switzerland), Marion Remus (Germany), Rudolf Schneider (Germany/Switzerland) and Vida Vidmar (Slovenia/Brazil). About 20 people excused themselves.

Rudolf then read and discussed the sections "Ongoing activities" and "Highlights" of the Secretary-General report. He emphasised the work we have been doing in co-operation with various Caucuses (groups of NGOs) at the UN to introduce a spiritual orientation into UN policies and documents. These Caucuses are the Spiritual Values Caucus, the Earth Values Caucus, the Education Caucus and the CONGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief. These Caucuses also include some officials from intergovernmental organisations who share our concerns, although they may not participate in these meetings in their official capacity.

Another important development in the past 3 years has been the creation of an IPS website. Alice talked about her idea of making a directory of groups and organisations available on the web so that we could make more widely available the wealth of information we have collected over the years on groups and organisations working all over the world in the fields of activity of the 10 seed-groups. A start has already been made, and a list of about 200 groups sorted according to the 10 seed-groups is already available on the IPS website, but thousands of others could still be added.

Of course, another use the website is to facilitate the distribution of publications, especially with the constant increase of mailing costs. The IPS newsletter is already available on the website in English, French, German, Spanish and now Russian, as well as all the other introductory information, but we could also place all the IPS studies on the website. It would only be necessary to input and format them appropriately.

The activities of the IPS branches in Moscow and Congo were also discussed. Lida Shkorkina and Vitaly Yegorov, who created the IPS department in the Interregional Association for Education in Moscow, sent a summary of their activities that was included in the Secretary-General report. They have translated or compiled most IPS publications into Russian, they organise annual international conferences on education for world citizenship, participate in various meetings and conferences in Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus on behalf of the IPS, and help with Russian correspondence. All this in addition to their work to bring teachers from the Danish free-schools to Russia in order to train Russian teachers in the free-school pedagogical system.

The past 3 years have shown that our work of planetary synthesis and the new hypotheses in the fields of politics, economics, science, psychology, healing and education are much appreciated in Eastern Europe. Many educational institutions in Eastern Europe have approached us because of our project of a University for Planetary Synthesis for the study and practice of the science of man. The academic world in Eastern Europe is not so closed to spiritual ideas as in Western Europe, since many Eastern European scientists have been studying and exploring for a long time already the science of "energo-information", as they call it, and the noosphere. Rudolf Schneider has followed several times invitations to travel to Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Siberia), the Ukraine and Belarus.

Another region where the demand for spiritual teachings is very large is Africa. The IPS branch in Congo is one of our most active branches, although in the past years the civil war and generalised corruption have created many obstacles to their work. We have contact groups in several African countries and an IPS branch is now being planned in Angola (IPS-Cabinda), which will work mainly in Portuguese. This brings us to the third region in which the IPS has expanded over the past 3 years: South America. Thanks to our co-operation with Nila Tadic de Ossio in Bolivia, the newsletter is translated and distributed in Spanish. Marion Remus has helped with her numerous contacts in that continent. Three groups in Brazil work with the IPS Geneva: the "Unidade de Serviço para Educação Integral", led by Maria Cristina Amaral in Rio de Janeiro; the Ashram Vida in Bahia, led by Vida Vidmar, and the Willis Harman House, led by Simone Ramounoulou in São Paulo.

Both the Unidade de Serviço in Rio and the Ashram Vida in Bahia are involved in projects to develop

centres for healing. Vida Vidmar described her project of a healing centre in her farm in the South of Bahia. She also plans to found a branch of the IPS in Bahia. The financial basis for the healing centre in Bahia would be a holiday resort that she is starting to build in her farm.

The group in charge of the project in Rio, for the moment called Flamboyant, meditates in order to develop a healing centre based on the Tibetan's teachings, but which would outwardly not declare itself to be a spiritual or esoteric group. The idea is to run the centre as a phytotherapeutic spa, as a research centre on the properties of plants and to produce plant medicines.

After the lunch break, we started the afternoon session with the meditation on planetary synthesis. Alice then presented the financial report for the past 3 years and the assembly discharged the executive committee. Brigitta Andermatt has acted as auditor and thoroughly checked all our accounts every year, so that we could present totally orderly and transparent accounts to the fiscal authorities. We sincerely thank her for that precious service!

Elections followed, and the executive and consultative committees were unanimously re-elected for the next 3 years, with a few modifications. Marcia Wochner has withdrawn from the executive committee. Ellen Krühsman, one of the IPS founders, and José Maria Casas Simorra, our co-worker in Barcelona, Spain, have died. Sergey Fedorov (Russia) and Gitanjali Dash (India) have stopped working with the IPS and have therefore not been re-elected. Instead, four new members, all from Brazil, have joined the consultative committee: Vida Vidmar, Maria Cristina Amaral, Simone Ramounoulou and Ketchara, a young man who works with Vida to create a school for spiritual studies.

We then spent the rest of the afternoon discussing various themes. We recalled the history of our project of a University for Planetary Synthesis, which started with much impetus in the beginning of the 1980's, thanks to the help of Dr. E. Krishnamacharya. He developed a study program for the science of man based on the 10 seed-groups, in consultation with various European groups. With his death in 1984, however, the development of the UPS was stopped, although we tried several alternatives. One of them was to propose a series of lectures to the University of Geneva, with spiritually oriented university teachers and professionals active in the fields of the 10 seed-groups. From the beginning, the idea was to introduce the science of man into existing universities, so that students following any normal

study program in an University, such as sciences, medicine, economics, psychology, education or others, would be able to receive a training in the science of man, which is the basic knowledge of what is to be a human being. Most Universities, however, were and still are wary of any spiritually-oriented concepts, especially since the sect problem has come so prominently to the forefront in recent years. Ketchara said it is important not to give any names such as astral, mental, causal, or to use much esoteric or spiritual terminologies, because these are forms to which we become attached and which block the energy flow. That is why in his project of a school of spiritual studies he plans to use normal language that is acceptable to everyone.

Maria Cristina Amaral raised the point that when we work for the reappearance of the Christ, we are working for what is new. The Christ is always the next step ahead in evolution and is always what is new. We cannot base ourselves on what already exists, because this is old, it is the past. To prepare the way for the reappearance of the Christ is to meditate to open ourselves to what is new. The internet, globalisation, these are already manifestations of the Christ spirit within humanity.

Sally Curry reminded us of Krishna's saying, "when lawlessness rules, I return". We have come to that point. The reactions to the events of September 11 show that civilian populations have no real legal protection from military attacks or violations of human rights.

Ketchara replied that we could only continue to do our work, to do what we must do. Rudolf commented that we couldn't go against evil because this only reinforces it. We must work for what is good and help the human beings to develop their consciousness and then they will automatically choose what is right and good. There exist civilisations on other planets where the entire technological and economical development is based on the common good. Only what is beneficial for the human physical, emotional, mental and spiritual welfare is produced or developed. Our modern civilisation is far from this ideal yet.

We concluded the General Assembly with a short meditation. We then held hands in a circle to take leave of each other and before departing, spent some time in lively discussion in small groups.

The report of the Secretary-General and the detailed protocol of the General Assembly are available upon request (in English only) from the IPS in Geneva.

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ENCLOSURES

Fazenda Vida – Resort e Condomínio

[Geneva Spiritual Appeal](#)

[Declaration for All Life on Earth](#)

[Values of a New Civilization](#)

[Earth's Code of Conduct: an Overview by the Earth Values Caucus](#)

[The Earth Charter](#)

CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING GROUP ACTIVITIES

Further Civil Society events can be found on website http://www.haguepeace.org .	
For meditations and other resources in support of UN Days and UN Year, see website of Intuition in Service, http://www.intuition-in-service.org , P.O.Box 58, Paekakariki, New Zealand, e-mail: info@intuition-in-service.org .	
The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity - Creative Meditation - A Planetary Service in Support of the Work of the UN. Information: http://www.aquaac.org/un/medmtgs.html	
23 May – 23 June 2002	Online forum on Adult Basic Learning and Education in Developing Countries (ABLE). To join, send a blank e-mail to join-adultlearning@lyris.bellanet.org . Information: http://www.bellanet.org/adultlearning .
13-15 June 2002	Second Berlin Conference for Innovative Energy Technologies, parallel event to the fair "Solar Energy 2002". Information: Binnotech e.V., c/o Andreas Manthey, Bleibtreustr. 4, D-10623 Berlin, Tel. +49-030-312.31.19, Fax +49-030-312.66.92, E-mail: info@binnotec.org , http://www.binnotec.org .
21 June 02	International Peace Day, Plage de l'Espiguette, Grau du Roid (Gard), France: http://www.144000.cooperation.net
27-30 June 2002	Symposium "Regionalising a global economy with neutral money", Lebensgarten Steyerberg, Ginsterweg 3, D-31595 Steyerberg, Tel. +49-5764.2370, Fax +49-5764.2578, E-mail: lebensgarten_ev@t-online.de .
6 July – 15 August 2002	The Art of Chi – Tai Ji Quan (Stevanovitch method) Summer course, Simiane La Rotonde, Haute Provence, France. Information: Centre International Vldy Stevanovitch, Domaine de St Quentin, F-04110 Oppedette, Tel./Fax +33-04.92.75.93.98, E-mail: stevanovitch@tantien.com , http://www.tantien.com .
7-20 July and 21 July – 3 Aug. 2002	Ayurveda cures in Montagnola/Lugano, Switzerland, with Dr. Varghese Franklin, an ayurvedic doctor from South India. Information: Foundation Unity of All Life, E-mail: foundeal@bluewin.ch , Tel./Fax +41-041-420.05.88; Secretariat: Mettenwylstrasse 5, CH-6006 Lucerne, Switzerland.
8-20 July 2002	Second Summer Course on International Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy – Geneva, Switzerland. Information: International Institute of Humanitarian Law, VILLA ORMOND, Corso Cavallotti 113, I-18038 SANREMO (IM) – Italy, Tel. +39 0184 541848, Fax +39 0184 541600, E-mail: sanremo@iihl.org et La Voie Creuse 16, CH-1202 Genf, Schweiz, Tel. +41 22 9197930, Fax +41 22 9197933, E-mail geneve@iihl.org , http://www.iihl.org .
14-19 July 2002	World Civil Society Forum, Geneva . Information: WCSF c/o Mandat international, 31 chemin William Rappard, CH-1293 Bellevue, Switzerland, fax +41-022-959.88.51, e-mail: admin@mandint.org , http://www.mandint.org/forum .
22-24 July 2002	"First International Conference on Organisational Spirituality, Guildford, Surrey. Contact Amanda Brown, Conference Secretary, School of Educational Studies, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH, U.K. Tel. +44 1483 689760, Fax +44 1483 686191, E-mai: amanda.brown@surrey.ac.uk , http://www.hprg.org/livingspirit
26 July – 3 Aug. 2002	Young General Assembly, Kazincbarcika, Hungary. Secretariat: PEACEWAYS, 151 North Ellsworth Avenue-Suite 6, San Mateo, California 94401, USA. Tel/Fax: +1 650.340.8940, e mail: peaceways@igc.org .
28 July – 2 Aug. 2002	31 st World Congress of the International Association for Religious Freedom, "Religious Freedom: Europe's Story for Today's World", Budapest University. Information: ARF Congress office, Kende u. 13-17, H-1111 Budapest, Hungary, tel. +361-2096442, fax +361-3869378, e-mail iarf2002@conferences.hu , www.conferences.hu/iarf2002
29 July – 1 Aug. 2002	Annual International Youth Dialogue, Melaka, Malaysia. International Youth Centre, Jalan Dr. Yaacob Latif, Bandar Tun Razak, 56000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel.: +603-91732722. Fax: +603-91736011, mobile: +6013-3930312. E-mail: hq@worldassemblyofyouth.org or dtc@pd.jaring.my , http://www.worldassemblyofyouth.org
5-14 Aug., 19 Aug. – 6 Sept. 2002	Summer University on "Love – the power of survival", Portugal. Information : Healing Biotope, Tamera, Monte do Cerro, P-7630 Colos, Portugal, Tel. +351-283-635 306, Fax +351-283-635 374, E-mail : tamera@mail.telepac.pt , http://www.tamera.org .
6-13 Aug.02	Prophets Conference: Solace, Renewal, Understanding. Oxford, UK.: www.greatmystery.org/oxfordconference.html
16 Aug. – 6 Sept. 2002	International Peace Camp "Peace in Palestine and Israel", Tamera, Monte do Cerro, P-7630 Colos, Portugal, Tel. +351-283-635 306, Fax +351-283-635 374, E-mail : tamera@mail.telepac.pt , http://www.tamera.org .
21-25 Aug. 2002	Yogaliving International 2002, Staffalp bei Thun/Bern, Switzerland. Information: Maya Kaufmann, E-mail: arunachalamaya@ticino.com .
26 Aug. – 4 Sept. 2002	World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa. Organisation: Johannesburg Summit Secretariat, United Nations, Major Group Relationships, 2 United Nations Plaza, 22nd Floor, New York, NY, 10017, tel. +1-212-963-8811 or 963-7255, fax +1-917-367-2341 or 367-2342, http://www.johannesburgsummit.org .
9-11 Sept. 2002	55 th Annual Conference for Non-governmental Organisations in Cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI): "To reconstruct societies emerging from a conflict: a common responsibility". Information: NGO Section, DPI/NGO Resource Centre, U.N., Room L-1B-31, New York, NY 10017, USA, Fax: +1-212-963.2819.
11-15 Sep02	Youth Employment Summit (YES), Alexandria, Egypt. Information: http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org .
29 Sept. – 3 Oct. 2002	17 th IAVE World Volunteer Conference – Volunteering, Reaching Out for Reconciliation & Peace, Seoul, Korea. Secretariat: 2 nd Floor Korea Saemaul Undong Center Bldg., 1008-4 Daechi 3-dong, Kangnam-gu, Seoul 135-851, Korea, tel. +82-2-6205-2600-1, fax-2602, E-mail: iaveseoul@iaveseoul.org , http://www.iaveseoul.org .
October 2002	Beginning of a 3-year course on "La Science de l'Âme", Paris, France. Information: Institut Alcor, 5 Chemin Pré de Lug, CH-1258 Certoux/Geneva, Switzerland. E-mail: institut.alcor@free.fr , http://institut.alcor.free.fr .
3-6 Oct. 2002	AWID's 9 th International Forum on Women's Rights and Development, "Reinventing Globalization", Guadalajara, Mexico. AWID 96 Spadina Avenue, Suite 401, Toronto, ON Canada MSV 2J6, tel. +1-416-594.3773, fax +1-416-594.0330, www.awid.org .
5-7 October 2002	Seventh ESCEF Global Conference 2002 - Divine Alchemy: Spiritual Practice and Study in the Modern Age, Adelaide, South Australia. Information: 7th ESCEF Global Conference 2002, 49 Avenue Rd Cumberland Park S. Australia 5041. Tel: +61 8 8371 1880 Fax: +61 8 8371 1260. Email: escef@internode.on.net , www.escef.org.au
7-11 October 2002	Meeting of the Education for Peace Globalnet On "Building a Planetary Culture – Peace and Global Citizenship", São Paulo, Brazil. Secretariat: Building a Planetary Culture -Willis Harman House, Rua Lisboa, 328 - Cep: 05413-000 - Phone/Fax: 55 11 3064.4630, São Paulo - SP – Brazil,E-Mail: redepaz@redepaz.org , http://www.redepaz.org .

Except when indicated otherwise, these events are **not** organised by the IPS.
For further details, please contact the organiser of each activity at the address given.