

MILLENNIUM *Young people's* CONGRESS



millennium workbook

HAWAII
OCTOBER 25-29TH 1999
- ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR THE
21ST CENTURY

PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL & GREEN GLOBE
& Y.M.C.A. HAWAII

INTRODUCTION

HAWAII AND THE SEARCH FOR SUSTAINABILITY

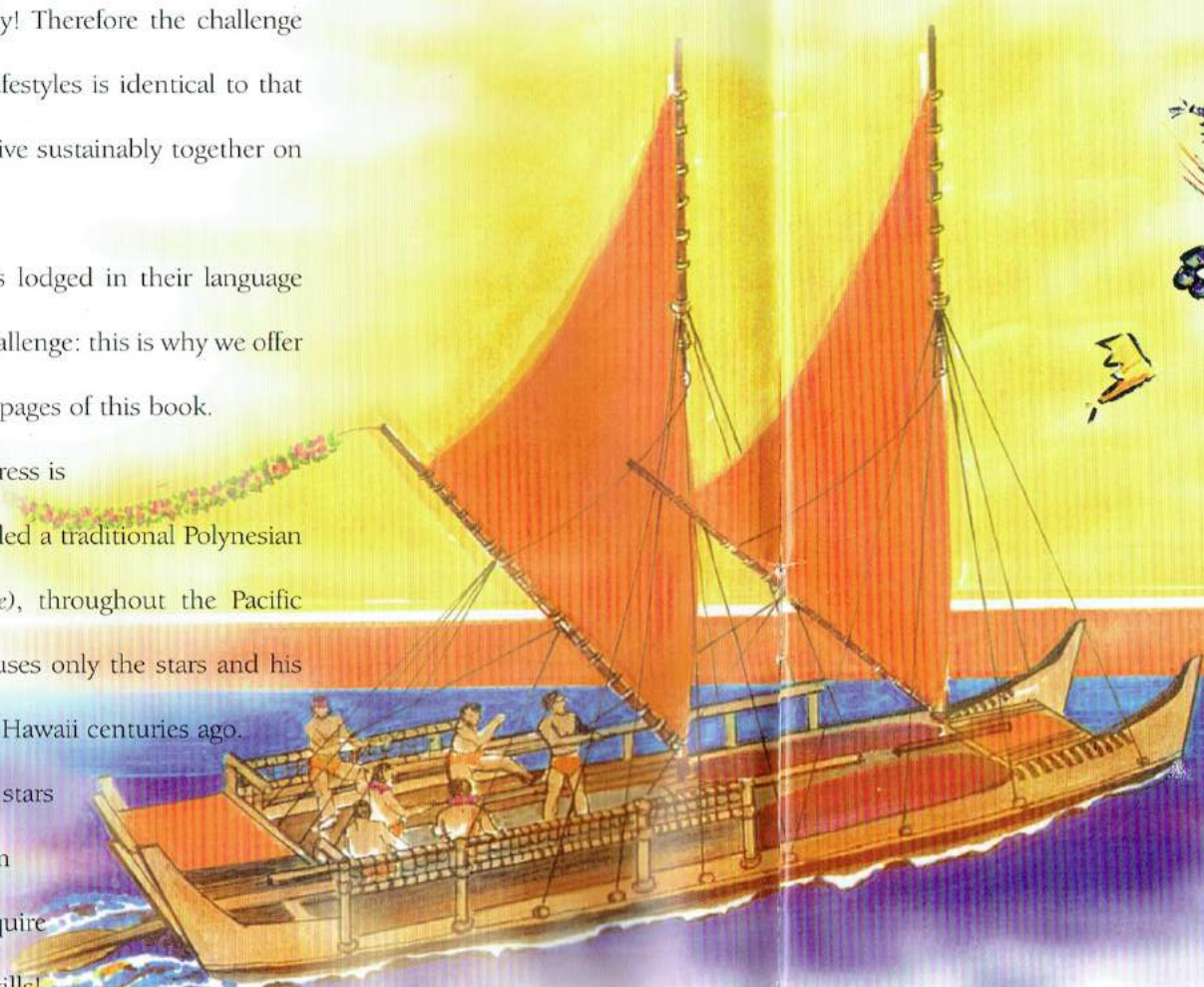
Over the next Millennium, we have to learn to live on islands - whether small island states like Hawaii or the Polynesian islands that face extinction when sea levels rise as a result of global warming, or the larger island, our planet that floats peacefully in the ocean of space.

To support every person on our planet to live the lifestyle of the average North American, scientists calculate we would have to import resources from another one and a half planets. By 2050, we would need another two and a half. Impossible - obviously! Therefore the challenge faced by Hawaiians to rediscover sustainable lifestyles is identical to that faced by all of us as we seek to find a way to live sustainably together on our island planet in the next millennium.

Hawaiians have some wonderful ideas lodged in their language and their culture that can help us rise to this challenge: this is why we offer you some of their most evocative words in the pages of this book.

Also one of the great inspirations for this Congress is Nainoa Thompson - a "wayfinder" who has sailed a traditional Polynesian double-hulled canoe, the Hokulea (pictured here), throughout the Pacific without using a compass or instruments. He uses only the stars and his intuition - like the Polynesians who discovered Hawaii centuries ago.

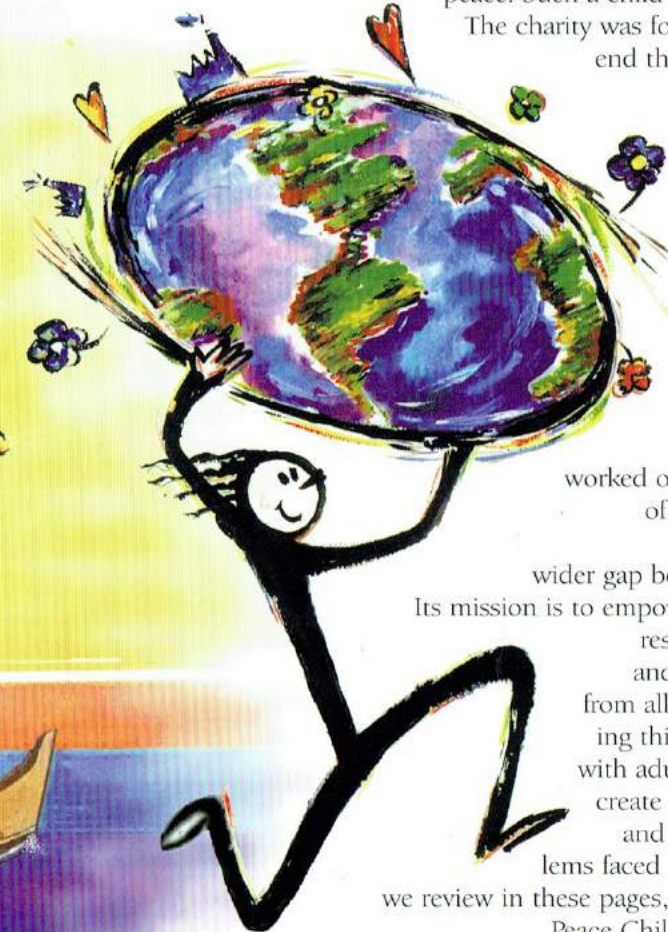
Finding the way to a tiny island using only the stars and intuition is not unlike finding our way from the year 2000 to 3000 - a journey that will require a similar mix of faith, intuition and scientific skills!



PEACE CHILD

Mana:
the Hawaiian word for spirit - the power of the spirit.
Leaders have Mana - meaning presence, dignity, a sense that they are worthy of respect and reverence. Works of art have Mana - a sense that within the brush strokes, the weave of a tapestry, or the lines of a poem, a greater power is at work. Nainoa Thompson says that his double-hulled Polynesian canoe, the Hokulea, has great Mana - meaning that by surviving the voyages across the open ocean, by carrying its passengers safely home, it has acquired a spirit much greater than the simple boards and cords out of which it is built.

Peace Child International gets its name from a tradition practiced in Papua New Guinea: when warring tribes made peace, they exchanged a baby. The two babies would grow up with the other tribe and if, in the future, conflict threatened, the tribes would send out the two children to negotiate peace. Such a child was called a Peace Child.



The charity was formed in 1981 to work to end the Cold War between East and West through developing youth exchanges. In 1986, it succeeded in bringing the first Soviet children to the United States on a youth exchange, breaching a hole in the Iron Curtain that helped, eventually, to end the Cold War in 1989. Since then, it has worked on promoting the concept of sustainable development and bridging the much wider gap between North and South. Its mission is to empower young people to take responsibility for our planet and its future. Young people from all over the world are creating this congress in partnership with adults, just as young people create the educational materials and run the office. The problems faced by our generation, which we review in these pages, may seem daunting, but Peace Child starts from the premise that they can be solved. It is our generation, in partnership with the wisdom and experience of elders, that must find those solutions, and decide which must be found first. Thank you for agreeing to join this search with us.

W E L C O M E TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Aloha! - the Hawaiian word for welcome, and also the defining word of Hawaiian culture. The literal translation is the presence of the breath of life: 'alo' is presence or the front of a body; 'ha' is a sacred word meaning 'breath'. [Hawaii' actually means 'breath on the waters!'] Over the years, Aloha has to come to reflect the tolerance and mutual respect at the heart of Hawaiian culture. Nainoa told us: It has a lot to do with loving, a lot to do with caring, a lot about selflessness and integrity. Aloha is about the way we live our lives if we live it in a good way.

For many - maybe most - of our planetary family, the millennium means nothing at all. It is an accident of the Christian calendar, adopted by the Western world. However, it is a unique moment that may be likened to reaching the top of a ridge on a long walk: it is a moment to pause - to look back at the landscape we have travelled across, and to look forward, mapping out paths across the landscape of the future.

Looking back over the last thousand years, we have much to celebrate!! Gandhi was right - tyrannies may look unassailable but, in time, they all come to dust. Slavery has been all but eradicated; Human Rights are acknowledged if not delivered; a flat earth has been discovered to be round and space travel has begun. From the printing press to the internet, human beings have ways to communicate with each other and preserve their heritage of ideas and technology. Life expectancy has doubled in the last fifty years. Travel and Tourism has brought us face to face with most of our brothers and sisters on this earth. All this may be celebrated.

But we have awesome challenges to overcome if humanity is to be around a thousand years hence. We list some of those challenges in this booklet but the major challenge is **sustainable development** - how to increase everyone's material prosperity without destroying our planet's fragile environment. This was the central idea to come out of the Rio Earth Summit which is why some people are calling our Congress the Young People's Earth Summit. We need a new Agenda but we can't write it alone. You have to decide what the priorities are to sustain life in your part of the world.

Your Job: This Congress will deliver a new Agenda 21 listing priorities as young people see them. These will be published in a colourful book edited by young people for general readers. (*It will be presented to every Head of State!*) We invite you to work with us to create it, to be sure your country's priorities are included. Assemble the priorities as you see them on the attached card, and send to us it along with reports, case studies, poems, cartoons and paintings.

LOCATION: HAWAII

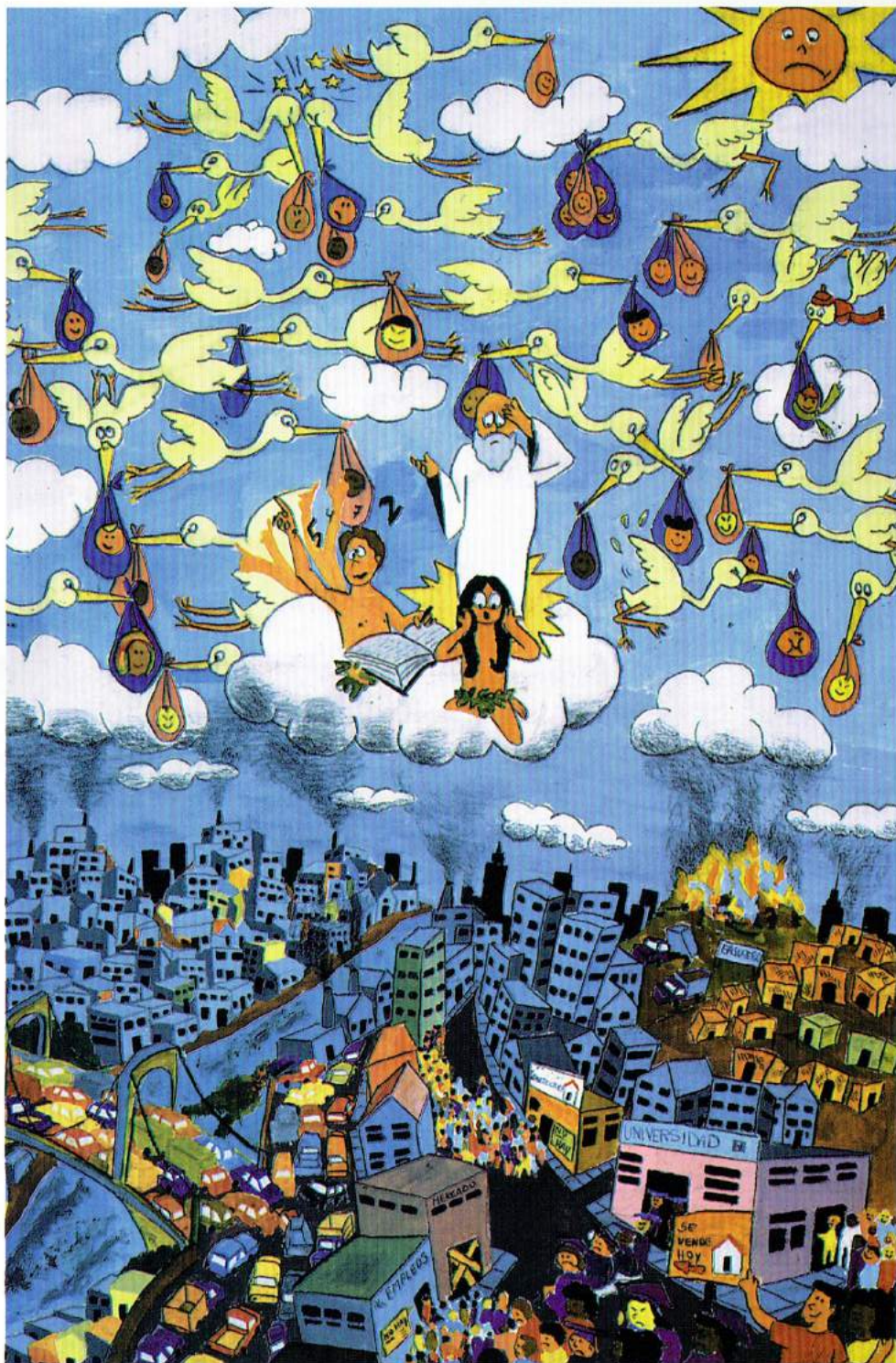
Hawai'i - an island of swaying palm trees and long, crescent beaches - a surfers paradise of sun, sea and endless vacations!! All true: tourism is its number one industry. But there is another Hawai'i, the Hawai'i that recognises itself as a small island state seeking to find a sustainable life-style - an island laboratory where oriental, western and island cultures met and mixed and learned to live together in peace.

It is also a place rich in history of kings, princes, traditions and festivals. It has many lessons which the rest of the world would do well to learn. Its population of about one million know what it means to be a family and solve their internal problems: they have to! Their island, like our planet, is all they have got and if they squabble, they will end up losing it - as we will lose our planet unless we learn to live peacably as a family. "We have to learn how to live on islands," says Nainoa Thompson, the navigator who sails the seas using faith and intuition rather than relying on modern instruments.

Hawaii is part of the United States, and thus a part of the most technologically advanced society on earth. Yet most Hawaiians know how much they have to learn from their indigenous ancestors whose culture is drawn from the largest continent on earth. This is Polynesia, stretching from New Zealand in the South West, to Easter Island (Rapanui) in the South East to Hawaii in the North. Indigenous skills cannot offer complete solutions, but the language and the instincts can provide signposts in the mind - just like the road signs across the islands of Hawaii almost all of which use the indigenous Hawaiian names, point towards the indigenous history.

And breathing through the palm trees and the pineapple plantations, in the smiles on the faces and the serenity of life, is the simple spirit of Aloha! It is a spirit that transcends tolerance (there is no word for Tolerance in the Hawaiian language!) - it is a smile that wants to be sure that you are happy for unless you are happy, there is no way that I can be. To us that spirit is beyond price. It is the essence of sustainability.

CHALLENGES



So what are the challenges? What are the rocks on which our little ship, "The Future" might founder?? At some level, we all know them: we hear about them on TV or read about them in newspapers; parents and teachers sometimes talk about them with long faces. In reminding you what they are in this booklet, we want to encourage you to seek the bold solutions - to do what politicians do not dare to do. Serious problems require serious solutions - and we, the youth of the planetary family, have to let our minds and spirits run free to imagine the boldest and yet the most practical solutions.

Your priorities may well lie in other issues - possibly related to these but quite possibly not related at all. Raising those issues is the whole point of this Congress so you may like to write down your priority issues before you have your thoughts shaped by the issues as we see them. But once you have thought about the priority issues for you, in your part of the world, think about these issues which we, as a planetary family, have to resolve if we are to make it to the end of the next millennium.

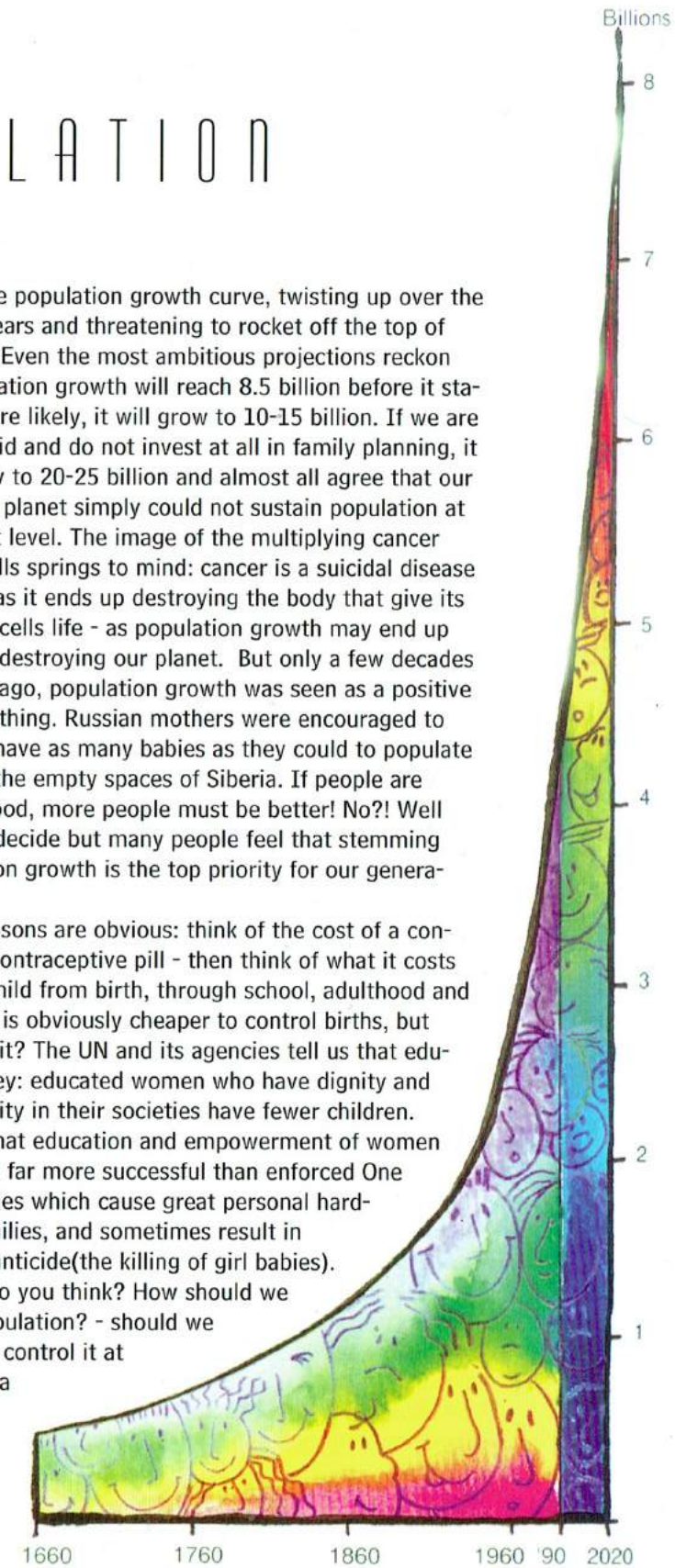
POPULATION

Look at the population growth curve, twisting up over the last 100 years and threatening to rocket off the top of the page!! Even the most ambitious projections reckon that population growth will reach 8.5 billion before it stabilises. More likely, it will grow to 10-15 billion. If we are really stupid and do not invest at all in family planning, it could grow to 20-25 billion and almost all agree that our small planet simply could not sustain population at that level. The image of the multiplying cancer cells springs to mind: cancer is a suicidal disease as it ends up destroying the body that give its cells life - as population growth may end up destroying our planet. But only a few decades ago, population growth was seen as a positive thing. Russian mothers were encouraged to have as many babies as they could to populate the empty spaces of Siberia. If people are good, more people must be better! No?! Well you decide but many people feel that stemming population growth is the top priority for our generation.

The reasons are obvious: think of the cost of a condom or a contraceptive pill - then think of what it costs to rear a child from birth, through school, adulthood and old age. It is obviously cheaper to control births, but how to do it? The UN and its agencies tell us that education is key: educated women who have dignity and responsibility in their societies have fewer children. They say that education and empowerment of women has proved far more successful than enforced One Child policies which cause great personal hardship in families, and sometimes result in female infanticide (the killing of girl babies). But what do you think? How should we control population? - should we attempt to control it at all?? Is it a priority?



Malima:
the Hawaiian word for caring but with a deeper sense of treasuring, cherishing, caressing; Malama a'ina - means caring for the earth - the environment, but with that deeper sense of treasuring and caressing every thread of life within its fabric.





INEQUALITY

20 percent of the world's population own 80 percent of its wealth. 80 percent of the population thus have to make do with 20 percent of the wealth. Is that fair? Is it fair that there are 420 billionaires in the world while 1.5 billion live in absolute poverty on less than \$1 a day? Is it fair that women get paid less for the same work than men? - that they do three times as much work about the household as men and are not paid for any of it? Is it fair that minority and indigenous peoples do not have the same rights as the majority population? Is it right that five of the world's nations have the right to veto any decision made by a majority of the other 181 in the United Nations?? Is it just that poor nations do not have the same free access to trade and global resources as rich ones??

Inequality drives fissures deep into the heart of our planetary family, fostering jealousies and resentments that could all too easily break out into open warfare. Can we really continue with a global society where the average African family is forced to live on less than the average American cat?!

But what do you do about it? When communist regimes forcibly tried to re-distribute wealth in the name of the people, the results were a political and economic catastrophe!! Dictators, driven by a blind faith that they are doing the best for their country, always seem to end up murdering people. So what is the answer? Should there be some kind of global tax to re-distribute wealth from the richer nations to the poorer ones?? Given the supremacy of the nation state, is that remotely possible?? - Or even desirable??



ENVIRONMENT

Again, the image of the cancer cell comes to mind: by tearing down the rain forests, by polluting the atmosphere and the seas, we are destroying those features of our planet that give us life. It's dumb!! Stupid!! We are consuming the resources of the planet far faster than we are replacing them. We are never going to find those spare planets to enable us to sustain consumption at current levels!

What to do? - clearly we have to learn to live in a more sustainable way - consuming less, recycling more, saving and conserving our environment and its resources. But many economists point to another truth: that while the environmental doom-sayers have been promoting the fear that soon we shall find the planetary resource cupboard bare, in fact the amount of available planetary resources has risen in the last twenty years. Amid all the fears that minerals, oil, coal, gas etc. would run out, we find ourselves with more of them now, and lower prices than ever before. Also, the problem of hardwoods, so popular for building and furniture, seems to be being solved by the discovery of fast-growing breeds.

So are there perhaps technical fixes to all our environmental problems? If so, should we not be investing far more of our planetary resources to finding out what they are? How do we deal with the problem that new environmental technologies are developed in the North and are too expensive for the countries of the South?? Should the United Nations have an Environmental Security Council to ensure that our planetary family lives within its environmental means?? Should it be able to resort to force and punish those who break its rules??

How can we find and promote those technologies that enable us to increase our prosperity while at the same time healing and conserving our planetary resources?

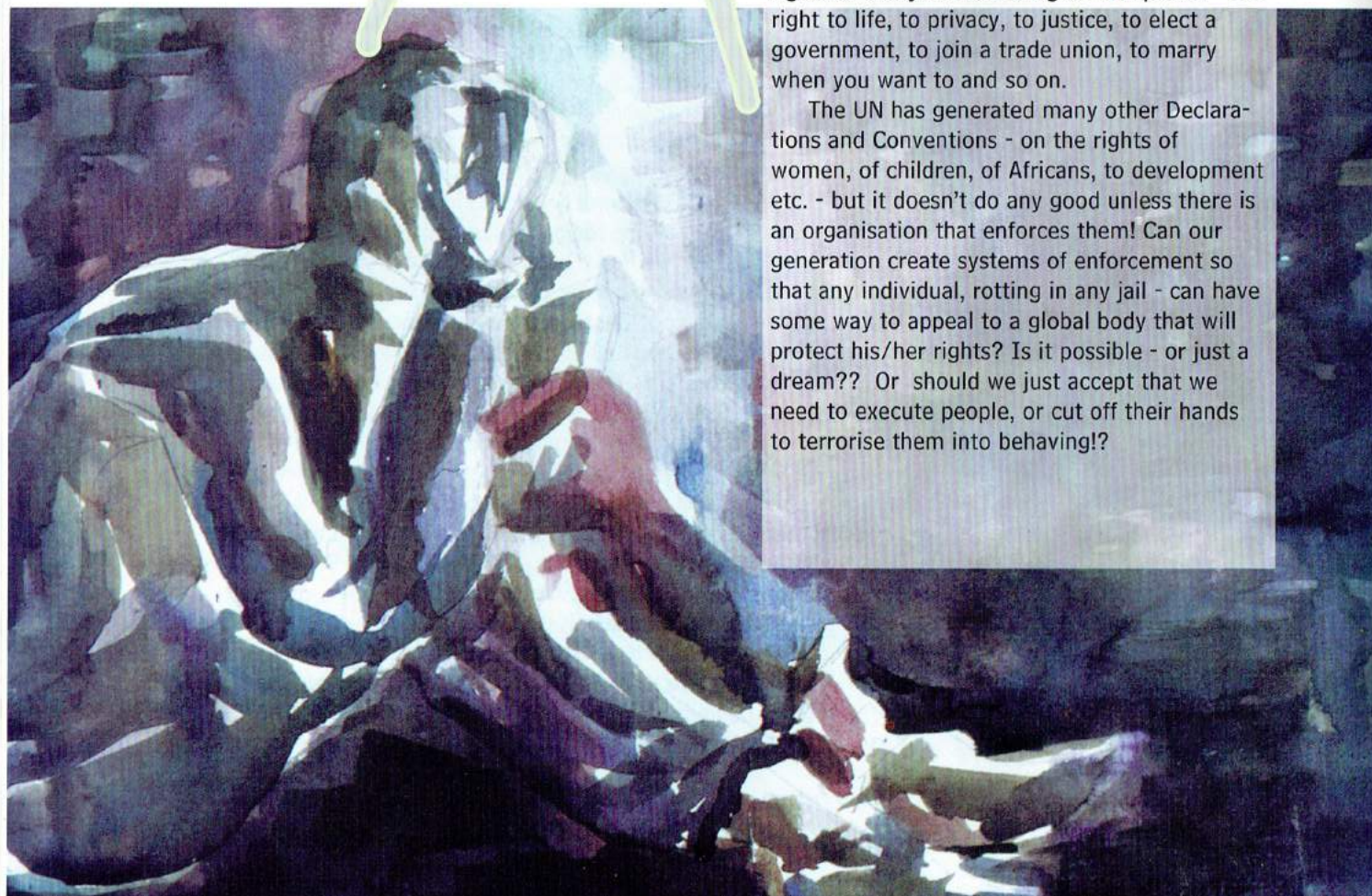
Akakai: the Hawaiian word for kindness which contains within it an over-arching sensation of tenderness. Akakai is the glue which holds families and friendships together - it is forgiving, compassionate, profoundly loving. It is a kindness that can be extended to all living things - dogs, cats, horses, fishes, trees, forests. We should all have more akakai at the heart of our lives;

HUMAN RIGHTS

This is the most sickening side of human life and it makes you wonder: if our planetary family continues to torture, maim and enslave so many of its members is it really worth preserving? Slavery may have been abolished, but 200 million children in our world are still enslaved - many as prostitutes, many bonded to factories with debts so huge they will never be free. There are 100,000 child soldiers, forced to carry weapons and obey orders to kill - sometimes even members of their own families. Many, many governments are guilty of appalling abuses of human rights - more than half the world's governments reserve the right to imprison people without trial; all reserve the right to go to war and kill people if invaded.

The great hope here is that we have all agreed what human rights should be: we therefore know when we are abusing them. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed on 10th December 1948, is probably the greatest single document ever created by humanity - a simple rule book of 30 articles laying out the rights of every human being on this planet - the right to life, to privacy, to justice, to elect a government, to join a trade union, to marry when you want to and so on.

The UN has generated many other Declarations and Conventions - on the rights of women, of children, of Africans, to development etc. - but it doesn't do any good unless there is an organisation that enforces them! Can our generation create systems of enforcement so that any individual, rotting in any jail - can have some way to appeal to a global body that will protect his/her rights? Is it possible - or just a dream?? Or should we just accept that we need to execute people, or cut off their hands to terrorise them into behaving!?

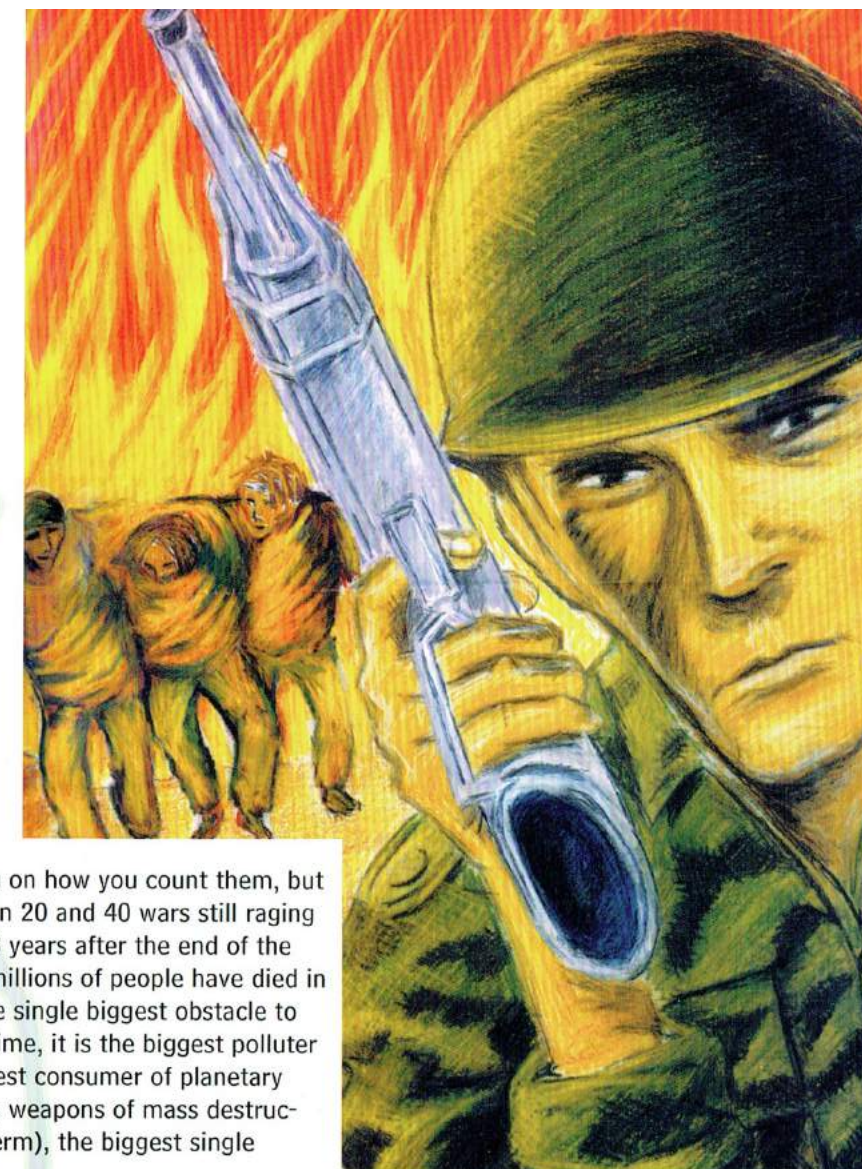


PEACE

Peace figures vary depending on how you count them, but there are somewhere between 20 and 40 wars still raging on our small planet today, 53 years after the end of the Second World War. Tens of millions of people have died in these wars and war is still the single biggest obstacle to development. Even in peacetime, it is the biggest polluter of the environment, the biggest consumer of planetary resources and - in stockpiling weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and germ), the biggest single threat to humanity's survival.

So how can we abolish war? How can we eliminate our addiction to the military that has firttered away so many lives and resources in the last century? Is it true that human beings are essentially warlike?? A recent study by psychiatrists suggests that we are not - our instincts are essentially peaceful. War is a distortion.

But, any police or justice system requires the existence of force to enforce its laws. The question is: how should this force be organised? By national governments or by global or regional authorities, like the European Union, or the United Nations?? For years, individuals have been proposing that the UN equip a rapid deployment peace-keeping force to stop conflicts before they start. National governments resist this threat to their sovereignty like the plague! Some visionary thinkers would like the UN to act like an insurance company: governments would pay the UN a premium then, if they were threatened by external or internal aggression, the UN peace-keeping army would come in to protect them. This would cost a fraction of the current system of National armies. But where would your priorities lie? How would you ensure that the next millennium is a millennium of Peace? (- or do you feel, like some early thinkers, that war somehow brings out the best in people, and reflects their noblest qualities?)



'Olu'olu: Agreeable - nice. One of the first things that strikes you about Hawaiians is their cheerfulness. Initially, you think it comes from living in such a beautiful place, but soon you realise it comes from something deeper - in their hearts, there is a real desire to be pleasant to one another. It is impossible to survive on a small island in the midst of the salty Pacific without this - that is why offering gifts or a meal to travellers is a natural part of the Hawaiin culture.

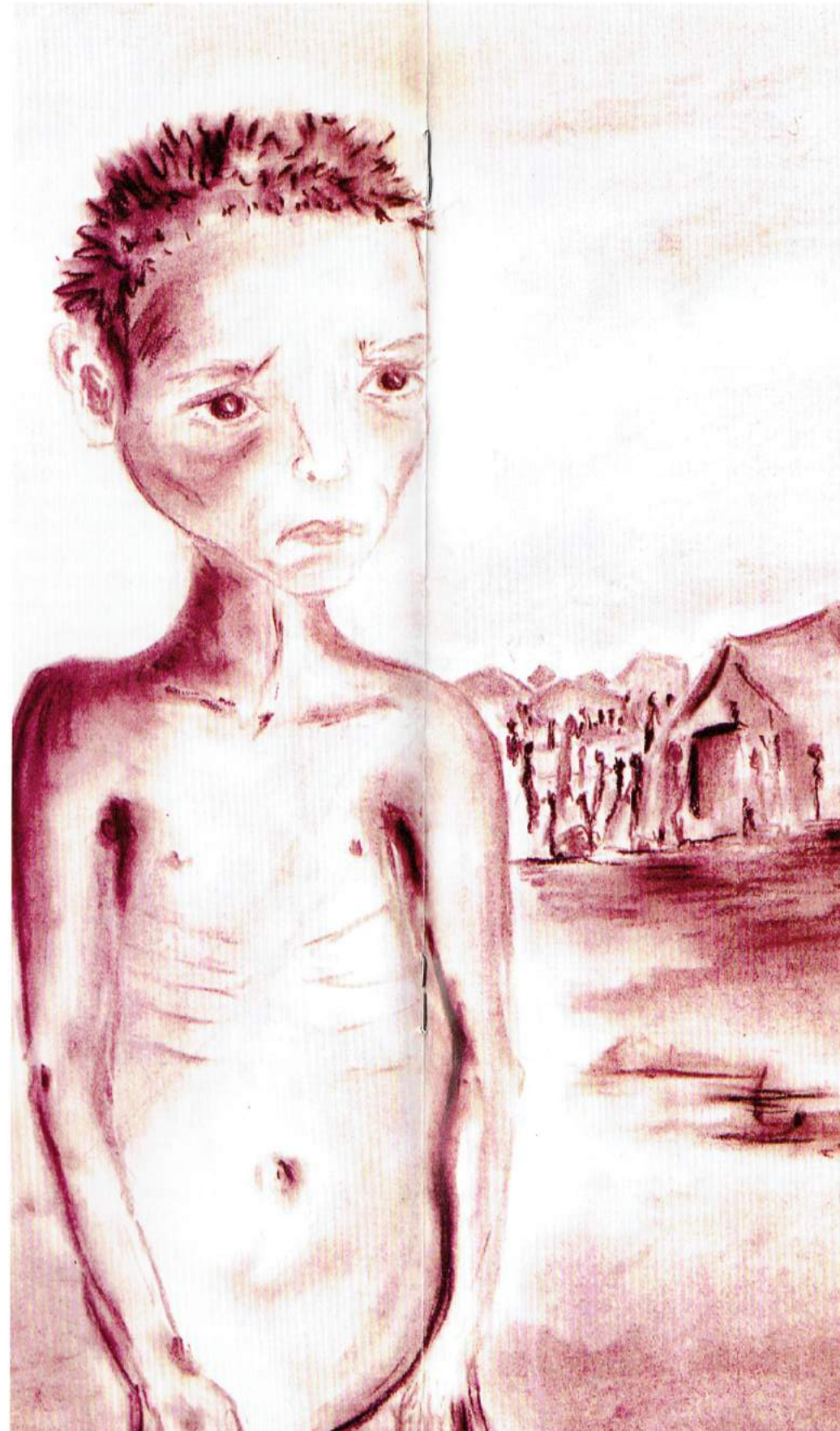


CORRUPTION

Daniel Arap Moi, President of Kenya, recently got his parliament to vote him a pension of \$27 million US dollars a year! President Mbotu of Zaire stole \$5 billion from his country which was even poorer. Diplomats in Nigeria reckon the illegal dictators and their cronies in Nigeria have salted away \$136 billion in the last twenty years - mostly the profits of the oil and gas companies. Such mega-theft - or corruption as people call it politely - is the second biggest obstacle (after war) to development and it has proved almost impossible to root out.

What would you do? - you need an official signature on a piece of paper to get your driving license, the permit to start a building, the right to start a company on which your livelihood depends: the official in front of you is asking for a bribe before he/she will sign. Do you pay?? - of course you do, but thereby you perpetuate a system of corruption that institutionalises low pay for officials because governments know that all officials can make up their salary by charging bribes. It expects them to! And so the corruption continues all the way up to the spectacular corruption at the top of the government. How can this be stopped?? How can you force people to be honest?? Or should we just accept the culture of corruption as an unavoidable trait of human beings?

Ha'aha'a: Hawaiian for humility, modesty. An extremely important value in Hawaiian culture. Ha'a also means short, near to the ground - which gives you strength. The earth is your mother so to be close to it gives you strength as well as humility. So being modest and humble is actually a source of great strength for our human family and a vital quality for living sustainably through the next millennium.



Ahonui: the Hawaiian word for patience. 'Aho' is another word for breath, and 'nui' means great. So literally, the word means 'Lots of breath!' - which means it also speaks of determination, perseverance, not giving up. Getting things done, making changes requires lots of breath - a humility that recognises people need time to understand new visions, new values - but also that the change-maker must be completely determined and unyielding in pushing through those changes.

POVERTY

No one who has not experienced the harsh reality of poverty can have a clue what it is really like: to try to sleep at night with your stomach crying out for food; to be thirsty and know that the only water on offer is full of diseases; to be achingly sick and not to have any doctor or medication to turn to; to be confronted by an official with a form and not to be able to read the writing; to have no choices about where or how you live your life. Such is the reality of life for more than a fifth of the world's population whose daily intake of calories is not sufficient to sustain an active body.

So what do we do? - all governments now seem to be talking about eradicating poverty - about having welfare safety nets to ensure that everyone's human right to health care, education, shelter and a sufficient amount of food is met. But even in the richest societies, poverty is never 100% eradicated.

Such welfare schemes are paid for by national taxes. A global welfare scheme would need global taxes, and that none of the rich governments are prepared to contemplate. Instead, all governments promised to give 0.7 percent of their national incomes to support poor nations - but only four of them do! The average for rich nations is 0.25 percent - less than a third of what they promised!! So the poor are always with us, and they get poorer as the rich get richer. But surely, to sustain our planetary family through to the end of the next millennium, we shall have to find ways to look after them better.

Is that a priority? - or are we just going to have to get used to the fact that, with population growth, there are going to be more and more poor people because the planet simply cannot support affluent life-styles for all? Do you believe the theory that, when the rich are allowed to get richer, some of that wealth filters down to the poor?

Is there another way??

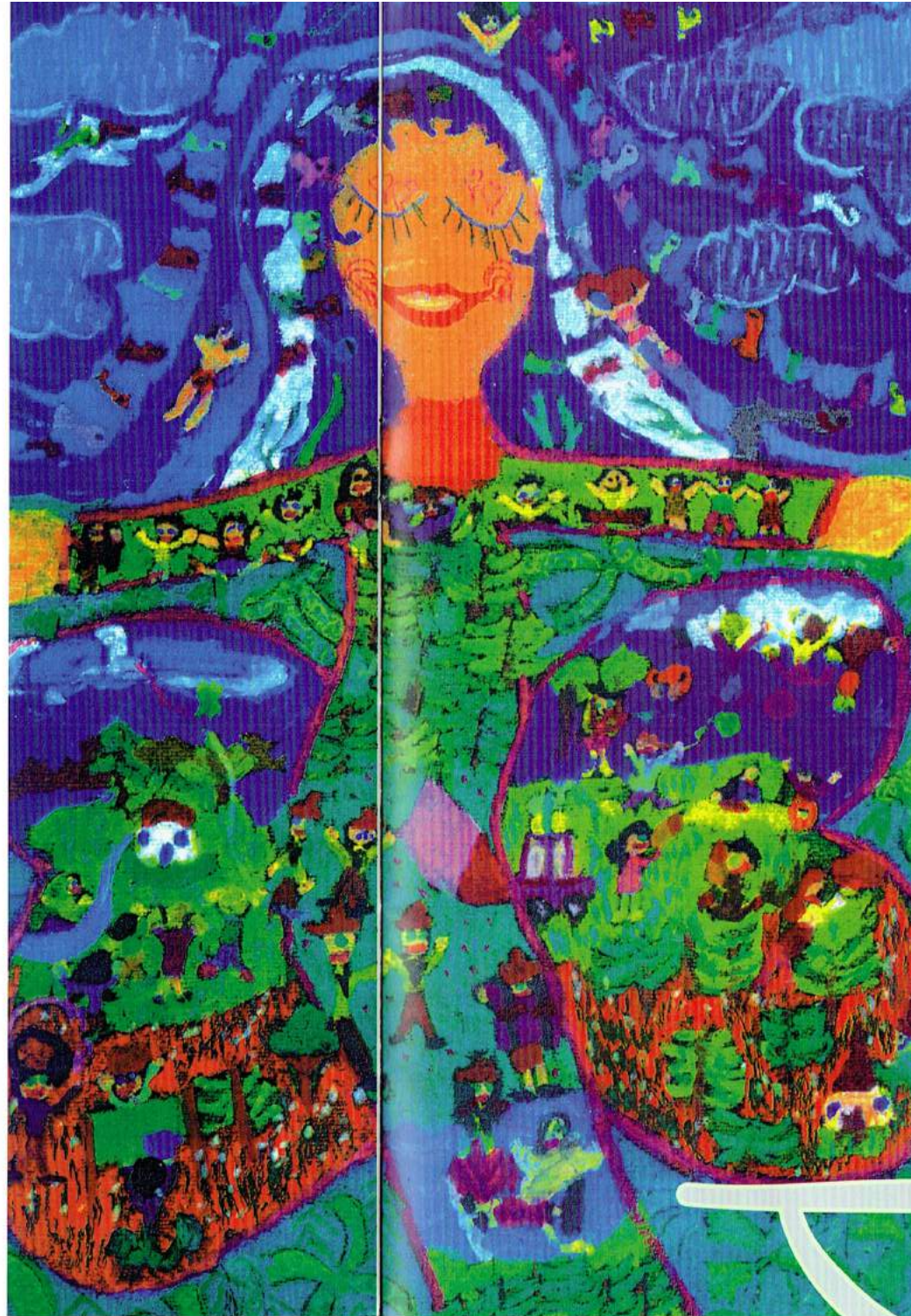


U N E M P L O Y M E N T

The radical thinker, Ivan Illich, calculated that, with modern automated techniques, the number of people actually needed to staff the farms and factories necessary to provide the goods needed by modern society is one in 5 of the workforce. Everyone else is surplus to requirements! The most terrifying moment for young people leaving school or university is realising that there are too few jobs to go round. In some European countries, unemployment rates for young people aged 18-30 is above 30. One in three people cannot find a job!!! In developing countries, it is even worse, even for those who graduate from universities.

What are we to do with our lives if the reality is that more and more of us will have no jobs? Job-sharing is one solution; statutory shorter working weeks is another. Peace Child is trying to create start-up investment funds and entrepreneurship training schemes to enable young people to create their own businesses and jobs without relying on companies or governments to give them one.

Trouble is, no bank will give young people loans, and funds that do exist for giving out money for business start-ups are not very user-friendly to youth. If any youth does succeed in getting such funds, it is usually one from the upper or middle-class elites, not lower class or ethnic minority young people. How can this be changed?? How can organisations like Peace Child be developed to prepare more young people to take on entrepreneurial challenges in the field of eco-sustainable enterprise?? Do we have to have jobs?? What do you think is the answer?



Ho'o-pono-pono: Pono is an extremely important Hawaiian term which means moral, right, important, crucial. 'Ho'o' at the beginning makes it active - to 'make things right'. The phrase refers to an ancient method of resolving conflicts which involved a prayer as a central element. Importantly, all are forgiven in the process, which means that after it, all can get back to their lives with the dispute resolved.

Ohana:
Family, community. 'Oha' means to grow, thrive, expand - and unless a family grows and children are born, a community cannot thrive. Ohana is the endless circle of life, growing, expanding, thriving. Therefore, Hawaiians place great value on good families: honouring thy father and mother is a basic value for all Hawaiians - and by using the same word for communities, it extends those values to neighbours and friends and indeed the whole family of living things here on earth - the family of Life!!

H E A L T H

By a massive, concerted effort in the 1970s, the world managed to wipe out the deadly smallpox disease. In a few years, it is expected there will be no more polio; leprosy is likewise on the way out - but for every disease we eradicate, new ones leap up like garden weeds. AIDS and Cancer are two of the most dangerous, but old ones like cholera, typhus, guinea-worm, meningitis and wasting diseases like muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and others are still rampant. No human being can operate effectively if they are sick: you know yourself how you awful feel with a stinking headache or cold, or tooth-ache - you cannot do anything. That is why doctors and dentists are such revered figures in our society.

In developed countries, there is one doctor for every two to three hundred people and one hospital bed for every 600; in the poorest countries, there is one doctor for every 20,000 people, and one hospital bed for every 100,000! Again, global taxation could solve that problem: a tax of .01 on global gambling on currency exchange rates in the world's financial markets (the so-called Tobin Tax) would bring more than enough to provide healthcare, clean water, shelter and education to all the world's poorest people.

Shouldn't we, as an advanced, 21st Century planetary family do this so that we can afford a comprehensive global healthcare system??

There are other challenges related to Health: how far should we allow genetic engineering to develop? Do we approve of copyrighting genetic material from our bodies? Should we continue cloning experiments? Our generation is going to face challenges that reach to the very essence of life itself. Are we prepared??



EDUCATION

Many must think us mad to put education down as a priority issue. Most of us can't wait to get out of school, right?! Well - maybe but if you had never been to school, you wouldn't have half the choices that you now have. And 40% of the kids in developing countries do not have the chance to go even to a primary school! For many years, governments have been promising Education for all! - but they don't seem able to fulfil that promise. How might our generation do better?

Also, education is not just a matter of going to school - it is also a matter of what we are taught. Do schools really teach us the things that matter to our future - like how to run a business, how to run a small planet so that we preserve its environment and resources for future generations. How much do you learn about sustainable development at your school? How much useless stuff are you taught that could never be of any use to you in future life? And how much does your school prepare you for life in a democracy by allowing you to take a responsible role in the democratic governance of your school? - or are you just baby-sat through a series of classes then tested by grown-ups at the end of the year who then report to your parents on what they think of you? Is that how a healthy society should work? Think about it!

Finally, education is about what you learn through the media: if you have TV, newspapers, magazines - how much do you learn that is really valuable and interesting and how much is plain boring or, worst, misleading! How many times do you see people murdered and maimed on TV - do you think this is good entertainment? - or is just mind-numbing rubbish? People have to be entertained but could there not be a way of doing it that is more constructive? How do you think the media should be shaped and controlled to be more supportive of sustainable life-styles? Should advertising be restricted through taxation so that unsustainable consumption is not so feverishly encouraged?

How can we restrict consumption?? How can we persuade ourselves to purchase things that are more environmentally friendly?? Is school really the best place to learn things, or should young people be encouraged to take a more active role in society and only learn for half their time?? Is the Internet going to make schools obsolete in a few years?? Think about it!!!

Kupuna:
the Hawaiian word for elder or ancestor. It is derived from the participle 'kupu' which means 'to sprout'. So elders and ancestors are seen to be beings from whom sprouts the present. They are also transmitters of wisdom of ages, and of the spirits, to the younger generation passing through the earth. The Hawaiian alphabet only has 14 letters and its vocabulary is not as large as English (though it does have hundreds of words for rain!) Thus every word is endowed with several meanings.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Which is the world's largest industry?? - which industry generates \$4.4 trillion dollars a year, employs 231 million people and is doubling in size every 10-15 years?? It may surprise you to learn that it is the travel and tourism industry. At the Rio Earth Summit, travel and tourism was singled out by governments as one industry with the potential to improve the lives of millions of people living in poor countries.

But travel and tourism can be a double-edged sword: too many tourists can destroy the beautiful places that tourists like to visit making the industry very unsustainable! The challenge is to manage this huge and fast-expanding industry in a sustainable way - to make it act as a catalyst for the conservation of the built and natural environment, to ensure that it plays a positive role in increasing people's understanding of, and commitment to, environmental issues and eco-friendly behaviour.

Because this Congress is by definition a travel event, and because tourism is the largest industry in Hawaii, we have chosen to make Travel and Tourism a theme of this Congress. How can our generation ensure that this vast and valuable industry of airlines, hotels, car hire companies, restaurants and resort developers manage their business in an environmentally sustainable way? How can we be sure that it will bring real, long-term, sustainable benefits to the communities in which it operates and does not exploit low-paid labour. Perhaps most importantly, how can we change the way of thinking of the hundreds of millions of people who travel every year to make it a personal priority to care for the sustainability of the environment and communities that they visit. Can tourism contribute positively to achieving solutions to all the other problems we have looked at in this booklet?

All delegates travelling to this congress will be clients of this industry: one in ten of you who read this may, in the future, work in this industry. It is really important that we consider how the businesses that we work for in our future lives supports the priorities that we agree on at the Congress. Why not start with the world's largest industry that supports an activity that we all enjoy and which all of us, whether we travel across the world or to a neighbouring village, engage in in one way or another.



PROCESS OUTPUTS

All of the young people who have attended International Youth Conferences that we spoke to say that the most frustrating thing about them is that the delegates appear to drop from the sky with no idea of why they have come or what is expected of them. They have a great time meeting wonderful young people from all over the world but that after they leave, nothing happens. Because it is being organised by young people, the Millennium Young People's Congress will be completely different! It will be the best conference you have ever been to because it is part of a continuing effort by a powerful network of young people all over the world to get something done to actually save our fragile planet!

1. **Rescue 2000:** This will be the report of the Congress, containing the priorities determined by the different regions (Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, Australasia and the Small Island States). The final part will describe the Congress itself - the priorities agreed there etc;
2. **Peace Child 2000:** A musical play, set in the future when all the decisions reached by the Congress have been implemented, which tells in a flashback to the Congress, what the young people did after it to realise the dreams they formulated there.
3. **Newsletters, websites etc.** - to keep everyone in touch with what happens after the Congress; what different delegates are doing to fulfil the decisions, and pursue the priorities;

Step One:

Send us your Priorities: Fill out the Participant's PRIORITY CARD! - get your friends, your class or your entire school to do it with you. And please go further than just filling in the lines on the card. Sure, we can use this for statistical purposes, but if our Congress Report is going to be any good, we need more from you. We need to hear your reasons, the passion behind the priorities. So send us also -

Attach the Priority Card to the package of paintings and stories and send them to your National Coordinator whose address is on the back of the Folder. If you do not have a national coordinator in your country, send the materials directly back to us in the UK. If you cannot afford to pay to send them to the UK, don't worry!! Call us collect (transfer charge) and we will give you our DHL account number. DHL will then collect the material from you and we shall pay for the shipping from our end. You will receive a copy of the Rescue 2000 book when it is finished. You will also be receiving newsletters to report on progress - and if your work is good, you will be to the first Editorial Meeting (in England) or to the second (in Hawaii, during the Congress).

PROCESS

1. **Paintings** - colourful, dramatic visual representations of the priorities you determine. Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words - and it is the pictures in the report that people will remember most vividly.
2. **Poems:** if you feel deeply about something, the best way to express it is in a poem. It does not need to be a rhyming poem - free verse is great! Just allow your passion to flow;
3. **Stories, Fables:** a cleverly constructed story, or a letter to your grandchild written in 2040 - or the diary of a spaceship captain writing in the year 2112 - any such fictional devices add greatly to the colour and impact of a book. UN Diplomats are not allowed to express their feelings in this way: young people can - and we encourage you to be as imaginative and inventive as you can be!!
4. **Photographs and Case Studies:** As you determine your priorities, there must be something you have seen in your neighbourhood, or read about in the newspapers, that made it real for you rather than just an abstract concept. We need that story to make the concept real for the reader as well, so write it up like a good, factual journalist and send us your report - if possible with a photograph to give added reality to it.



P R O C E S S

Step Two:

Delegate Selection: How do we select who actually goes to Hawaii? We don't - you do! We plan to provide transportation and accommodation for one boy and one girl from each country on earth. We ask that over 1,000 young people under-18 in each country participate in the preparatory process sending in Priority Cards etc. 1,000 is a minimum: we hope that in most countries, millions of young people will take part! It is the job of the national coordinator to call a National Consultation meeting where all those who have sent in Priority Cards can meet in a big hall - and discuss their national priorities. Once you have consensus on the issues, then you can review candidates for your national delegates. The kind of criteria you need to look at is - do they speak good English, are they articulate, bright, do they understand the priorities and can they argue effectively in defence of them. Do the other young people want them to represent their country at this, the first large-scale meeting of a United Nations of Young People?

If you do not have a National Coordinator, appoint yourselves to be the National Coordination team. Gather a few schools together and form a body of 1,000+ young people and get your delegates that way. Then you will be responsible for Media Outreach and the presentation of the Congress book to your Head of State - not a particularly difficult task - and fun!

Step Three:

Artists and Activists: In addition to the two young people from each country, there is room at the Congress for some 300-400 young activists - young people who have already achieved great things in the promotion of sustainable lifestyles, environmental conservation, human rights, peace-making etc. If you feel you qualify as an "activist" please fill in the form at the back of this packet, and send it to your National Coordinator - or directly to us if you do not have one. Attach some one else's recommendation if you are filling it in yourself. Also, we shall be inviting a cultural performance group from each region - a dance troupe, band of musicians, singers or some kind of artistic combination that will reflect the cultural heritage of the different heritage. They will perform at the Opening Night cultural Pageant, and in between plenary meetings, so that the Congress is not just all talk, talk, talk. So they have to be extremely good, very professional but also under 18. The artists will take full part in the Congress but they do not need to be necessarily knowledgeable about the issues or politically astute. Their creativity will add enormously to the Congress. They should also complete the form at the back of the pack and send it with a video or audio tape, plus photographs, press clippings etc. either to your National Coordinator, or direct to us. Again, get an external endorsement letter if you do not have a National Coordinator to let us know how good you are!

P R O C E S S

Selections will be made by the Steering Committee - the group that is responsible for the Congress, made up of UN representatives, business people and (more than half) young people from every region on earth who have worked for Peace Child over the years. All artist and activist applicants will receive the newsletters and thus know who has been selected. There will also be a congress website and chatroom, so that you can be in touch directly with other national and local outreach coordinators for the Congress. This will be set up from January 1999 and be updated weekly.

Step Four:

Editorial Meeting: A draft of Rescue 2000 will be created at this Meeting of 10-15 artists, writers and designers drawn from those groups which make the best contributions in terms of paintings, poems, stories and case studies. These groups will be contacted and asked to select a representative to come. The meeting will be held in England at Rescue Mission headquarters near Cambridge. Obviously, they will not be able to complete the book as the Congress has not happened yet, but they will produce a summary of the priorities determined by participants in the different regions and create the major Congress briefing document. Reading it, all delegates will know what other young people coming to the Congress feel are the priorities and begin to see where the consensus lies - or not as the case may be. It will also be sent to the "Mentors" - the important celebrities who will come to the Congress to discuss priorities with the young delegates so that the final decisions are based, not only on young people's ideas, but also on the wisdom and insights gained by the older generation. In this way, we feel that the final book will be a very, very important document indeed.

Step Five:

The Congress Itself!! - we want this to be the defining event for young people at the Turn of the Millennium!! Serious Talk, Serious Action and Serious Fun! This is our goal - and the plan for the Congress is pretty much set: some things may change but our Hawaiian hosts have pretty much got it all tied down a year ahead, so prepare to be extremely well-organised!



C O N G R E S S

Day One: Arrive and meet host families;

Day Two: Make school visits with host family children; we might also visit community projects, old people's homes, hospitals - what-ever! Also a chance to visit the island's most beautiful sites.

Day Three: Service Projects. This is the Serious Action - every delegate will be involved in some hands-on sustainable development project. A major project will be the building of a Peace Garden - for which every delegate is invited to bring a rock! This way, the garden will be a living memorial for future generations of Hawaiians to the Congress, and a reminder of its outcomes! The garden and its visitor centre will be constructed out of sustainable products so delegates will learn what sustainable development looks like in practice. This will be our gift to our hosts - hard work but practical, appropriate and long-lasting!
Evening: Rock Concert - and an official welcome to the Island of Hawaii;

Day Four: Service Projects - continued; evening - relax with homestay families;

Day Five: Regional Meetings. Representatives of the different countries present their priorities in 6 regional groups. Preliminary prioritising of priorities region by region. Task Groups meet and agree work plans. There will be three of these: 1. Book; 2. Video Diary; 3. Exhibition;
Evening: spectacular opening night ball and banquet with cultural performances from each region.

Day Six: Mentor Dialogues. Each regional group discusses their priorities - and how they may be implemented - with selected experts or public figures from their region. So North American delegates could find themselves talking with Amory Lovins, ex-President Jimmy Carter and Henry Kissinger; Europeans might find themselves with Margaret Thatcher and Helmut Schmidt etc. etc.
Evening: Concert Performance of Peace Child 2000 - showing how the ideas drawn from the national priority-setting are implemented by young people in the 21st century.

Day Seven: Inter-regional dialogue sessions. Representatives of different regions meet to discuss their different priorities and begin to establish global consensus. Other participants form multi-regional task forces to select winners from amongst the nominees for 21 Awards. Some winners will be delegates to the conference; others will be flown in for the Awards Ceremony on Day Nine.
Evening: - Hawaiian Cultural Evening.

Day Eight: Day of Decisions. The morning session has the regional groups making their final selection of ten priorities for the 21st Century.
Evening: will be free for fun events and a barbecue beach party.

Day Nine: Press Day. The day will start with a Press Conference when the results of the conference will be presented to the media. Photo-copies of the book will be passed out, the Film diary of the conference shown and the exhibition visited. Press and Media will be invited to join in all the day's activities.



In the afternoon, there will be Regional plenaries to discuss Ideas and Action Plans for follow-up activity "Where do we go from here?"

Evening: The Final Night Gala. This will be the major TV event of the Congress: stars of the music and film industries will join the young delegates to present 21st century Awards to those individuals, businesses and governments who have done most to secure a sustainable future for our planet and all who live upon it. They will also present a State of the Planet Report from the cockpit of an imaginary Spaceship Planet Earth - so that people will really understand what is happening to our planet as we travel into the next century. It will be followed by a closing ritual ceremony with candles.

Day Ten - Fourteen: All delegates will travel to neighbour islands to stay with host families, visit schools and see beautiful sites on the other parts of Hawaii. It will also give them a chance to relax a little and recover after their very busy week before their long flights home.

Media Coverage: All major national newspapers and TV stations will be encouraged to attend the Congress BUT on condition that they bring a reporter who is under-18! They be accompanied by an adult professional, but hopefully in this way, young reporters will focus the public's attention on what young people actually feel is important about the Congress.

Step Seven:

Short-term Follow-up: Delegates go home and report what happened at the Congress through town meetings, school visits, media interviews etc. They show clips from the Video Diary on TV. With their National Coordinator, they arrange for a presentation of the Congress Book to their Head of State and elected officials. (*Some may also be involved in making the local translation.*) Simultaneously, groups develop their Action Plans and formalise them into concrete funding proposals. The Steering Committee will fund some of them early in the new Century. The presentations of the Congress Book will take place early in January 2000. The final night Gala TV special will also be broadcast around this time. We hope that the Congress Priorities will get high media coverage, discussion and critique by newspaper pundits and opinion-formers in every country on earth.

Early in 2,000 the 1st edition of the Millennium Newsletter will be published reporting the successes and hiccups in the Presentation process, and announcing which Action Proposals were funded. The Newsletter will continue, coming out quarterly in English, French and Spanish + other languages as possible.

Long-term Follow-up: We save the planet, right!? That is the only long-term follow-up we are interested in + creating a responsible role for young people in society. One of our goals is to get governments to set aside 5% of overseas aid for projects run by that 50% of the population under 25. That is \$7.5 Billion dollars! far more than we can use at the moment. Walking before we run, we look to find initially .001% of the World's Overseas Aid budgets (about \$1.5 million) for youth-led sustainable development projects - to fund some of the Action Proposals that come out of the Millennium Young People's Congress. We have already got more than \$.775 million this year alone for Youth-led projects. What we have to prove is that young people everywhere have what it takes to deliver. That is the ultimate challenge - and ultimate goal - of the Millennium Young People's Congress!



"The generation now being educated will have to do what our generation has been unable or unwilling to do: stabilise a world population which is growing at the rate of quarter of a million each day; stabilise and then reduce the emission of greenhouse gases which threaten to change the climate; protect biological diversity, now declining at an estimated rate of 100-200 species per day; reverse the destruction of rainforests now being lost at the rate of 116 square miles each day; and conserve soils now being eroded at the rate of 65,000,000 tons per day. Future generations must also learn to use energy and materials with greater efficiency. They must learn to utilise solar energy in all its forms. They must rebuild the economy in order to eliminate waste and pollution. They must learn how to manage renewable resources for the long term. They must begin the great work of repairing the damage done to the Earth in the past 200 years of industrialisation. And they must do all of this while addressing worsening social and racial inequities. No generation has faced a more daunting agenda."

*Professor David Orr,
Oberlin College, USA*

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