

## **6th General Assembly of International Assoc Peace Messenger Cities**

**Geneva, Switzerland, July 24 - 29, 1993**

"The Respect Due To the Human Beings, Independently of Political Or Economic Situation"

Preparational Executive Board meeting for the annual conference took place in Brighton, UK, from January 22 to 24, 1993. The Assembly in Geneva gathered delegates from 34 Cities. In the plenary sessions special attention was given to crisis in ex - Yugoslavia. Delegates also visited the International Red Cross and Red Crescent building.

### **GENEVA APPEAL**

Delegates from 34 Peace Messenger Cities met in Geneva, from July 24 to 29, 1993, to take part in the Sixth General Assembly of Peace Messenger Cities and to discuss the topic:

#### **Respect for the Person**

This General Assembly was conducted in the presence of Mr Joseph Verner Reed, Under Secretary General of the United Nations, who delivered a message from Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary General of the United Nations, and who will report back to him the essential of the Conference.

This General Assembly, which took place in a period of torment, could unfortunately only take note of the important troubles which rage throughout the world, armed conflicts and obstacles to international understanding.

Hunger, disease, poverty and illiteracy prevail in many countries, regions and cities, which are unable to overcome these scourges.

The Peace Messenger Cities take note of the fact that the gap between rich and poor countries continues to grow, highlighting a catastrophic and inhumane economic situation for the latter. In line with the General Assembly's theme, the Peace Messenger Cities demand, for every human being, the respect which she or he can claim:

- Respect for human rights, reinforced and developed, especially during periods of transition toward democracy, standard of living, and ecology.
- Respect for the other is the freedom to choose one's life style without giving way to hatred.
- Tolerance and respect for the each person's identity in the context of a multiracial and multicultural society, leading to respect for civil liberties within our cities.
- This begins with the rejection of exclusiveness; learning to live together must start with education of the youngest within the family, in the cradle, at school, and must continue in secondary, professional and vocation schools, and in the workplace.
- Today, rich cities are not exempt from the growth of poverty; each must develop a strategy to counter it.
- Respect for the person requires the integration of everyone into society.

Peace depends on:

- Dialog consultation, people-to-people exchanges, consensus, and the sharing of wealth.
- The establishment in each city of a body working for Peace. - The development of exchanges among cities, in all fields.



Participants of the Geneva General Assembly, 1993.



Plenary session at Geneva Conference.

- A ban on nuclear tests and on the production of nuclear weapons: the Peace Messenger Cities urge the continuation of the moratorium on nuclear testing and the opening of multilateral negotiations for complete nuclear disarmament.
- The reduction of all countries' military expenditures, transferring the resulting savings to foreign aid and development programs, as well as to development of a peace economy.
- Solidarity among Peace Messenger Cities, which should manifest themselves in such ways as inter-visitation during times of trouble.

The International Association of Peace Messenger Cities requests to be recognized as N. G. O. i. Moreover, the United Nations ought to recognize the role of cities and their actions for Peace.

The Peace Messenger Cities launch an urgent appeal to the governments of their countries, in particular the industrialized ones, to place a high value on the factors of social and economic stability in peace.

They call for greater solidarity in helping those cities that have

been ravaged by conflicts and wars.

They offer their support to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who is working to gather comfort and repatriate populations who have been forced from their homes.

They insist on respect for the right to humanitarian aid, a humanitarian right which is primarily put into effect by the International Committee of the Red Cross and different national chapters of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, who must continue their activities. The Peace Messenger Cities reiterate forcefully their desire that a dialog be opened and continued for the establishment of a just and lasting peace wherever necessary.