

TURNING POINT 2000

September 1997

TURNING POINT 2000 is about shifting to a new path of progress, enabling for people and conserving for the Earth. For more than twenty years these twice-yearly newsletters have been suggesting links and synergies between different aspects of this transformation, and encouraging readers to contact each other.

In the January 1997 newsletter we noted that large numbers of newsletters and journals, networks and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), had now come into existence, covering many different aspects of the need to shift to a people-centred, ecological path of progress. The mainstream was paying more attention. And more and more of our contacts were now communicating by e-mail and the internet. We were wondering about the future of TP 2000.

THE FUTURE OF THESE NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to the many who responded. You understood our wish to rethink the function of TP 2000. But many of you pressed us to continue with a hard-copy newsletter circulated by mail, focusing rather more on our own projects and concerns - thus leaving rather less space for other information. So please forgive us if we haven't mentioned your news this time.

We have decided to continue to send the twice-yearly newsletters to all on our mailing list. Next issue Jan/Feb 1998. Annual subscriptions as follows please. Personal, voluntary groups, NGOs, etc: UK and Europe £5; worldwide outside Europe £6. Business corporations and government departments £20. Other institutions £10. Reduced charge or free to people who would like to receive the newsletter but who cannot afford to pay. All payments in sterling please. Cheques to 'Turning Point' please. (We invite people who find it useful to access TP 2000 on The Commons website - see p.4 - to consider sending us a donation. This will help us to continue sending hard copies to people, especially in Third World countries, who are not on the internet.)

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A FEW OF YOUR COMMENTS ON TP 2000's FUTURE

"I for one find that TP 2000 hits the spot that even a combination of *New Economics, Resurgence, The Guardian*, etc appear to miss". Brian Wills (345 Chemin de Tavion, 30140 Anduze, France; e-mail: wills@cirad.fr) finds merits in a hard copy version, even for electronically connected people like himself.

Janet Bunbury (115 Marshall Street, Watertown, MA 02172, USA) has a friend in South Africa who uses TP 2000 to "inform the very conventional attitudes" of people financing much needed work among the poor. Another friend, a PhD computer expert, thinks limiting TP 2000 to the internet would be a pity.

For Barry Hopewell (130 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QD), who initiated the "New Renaissance"/Manchester Schumacher Lectures (see p.3), TP 2000 has been a valuable source. As someone who uses e-mail professionally a lot of the time at work, he finds paper documents more user-friendly.

"I hope you will continue to make your unique selection from all the materials that come your way, and share them with people like me" - Jerry Ravetz (196 Clarence Gate Gardens, London NW1 6AU; e-mail: 100105.2516@compuserve.com). Also see p.12.

The "awful proliferation of all forms of communication/information" overwhelming us, makes TP 2000 an even more valuable and valued resource, Jon Wynne-Tyson (Paddocks, Day's Lane, Fontwell, Arundel, BN18 0TA) suggests. He read with sorrow that we might "sacrifice the printed word to e-mail (yuk) and the internet (double yuk)". His Centaur Press's Kinship Library offers four fine books on relations between the human and non-human species.

The excellent alternative magazine *Common Ground* has closed down to "ruminate about re-Incarnating on the internet". So Gillies Macbain (Cranagh Castle, Templemore, Co. Tipperary, Ireland) has a lot of splendid advice, including: "The future lies not with availability [of information], which leads to infobesity, but with selectivity, the information diet, and the short menu". We share his sentiment that "somewhere in cyberspace, down the long winding infoboreen, in some old familiar place or some little cybershebeen, no matter how, no matter when, we'll meet again"!

David Radcliffe (44 Edgehill Crescent, London, Ontario, Canada N6G 2T3; e-mail: radcliff@edu.uwo.ca) suggests "there is obviously a story and a theme [in TP 2000]. Is there a final publication there, reflecting the trends, concerns and solutions that have been suggested over the years? Put together, the cumulative issues tell an interesting and important story". We think this is a good idea. We have fairly complete records. But what sort of publication would it be? Who would do it - us or somebody more detached? Could it make a subject for a student's dissertation, perhaps? We will think about this over the next year or two. If anyone has any suggestions, please let us know.

SOME BITS OF NEWS

Sheila Rothwell died in April. She was a dear friend. She spoke on "The Changing Roles of the Sexes" at the first Turning Point meeting in November 1975; on "Work: Paid and Unpaid: For Women and Men" at the 1980 Turning Point meeting on "The Redistribution of Work"; and on "Flexible Working Patterns for the Future" at the first TOES (The Other Economic Summit) in 1984. She also played an important part in James' half-hour film on "The Sane Alternative", on BBC 2's "Beyond 1984" programme on 1st January 1984.

The Schumacher Society - Alison is a Council member - is holding the annual Schumacher Lectures in Bristol on 18th October 1997. Speakers: Winona LaDuke on "Indigenous Perspectives", Patrick Holden on "Healthy Soil, Healthy People", and Hermann Scheer on "Solar Power, Regional Future". The first Liverpool Schumacher Lectures will be given by Vandana Shiva, Larry Dossey and James Robertson on 21st March 1998 on "Healthy People, Healthy Communities, Healthy Planet". Details of both from: The Schumacher Society, Foxhole, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EB; tel/fax 01803 865051.

Charles Secrett (Friends of the Earth) will speak at the next Manchester Schumacher Lectures on 25th April 1998. The next lecture series on "Visions of a New Renaissance" will be on 21st January, 18th February, 18th March, and 27th May. Details of both from Dr. Chris Lyons (Farway, Wilderswood, Horwich, Bolton BL6 7ET; e-mail: chris.lyons@zen.co.uk).

The Environmental Law Foundation (ELF, Lincoln's Inn House, 42 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EX) - Alison is on the Executive Committee - has a new Chair, Stephen Hockman, QC, a member of the Bar Council and a Recorder; a new Vice-Chair, Elizabeth Sidney; and a new Manager, Maria Adebawale. Retiring Chair, Martin Polden, becomes President. He remains on the Executive committee, as does retiring Vice-Chair, Diana Schumacher.

Later this year Adamantine Press (Richmond Bridge House, 417-421 Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 2EX; e-mail: 21st.century@mci2000.com; Jeremy Geelan) will be publishing James's new book, *Beyond The Dependency Culture* - foreword by Ronald Higgins, author of *The Seventh Enemy* (also see p.15). Sixteen chapters include "Post-Industrial Liberation" (*New Universities Quarterly*, 1977), "Towards a Post-Modern Worldview" (1990 Open Mind Guest Lecture on Irish Radio - RTE), and "A New Social Compact" (*Political Quarterly*, 1996). Further information, including mail ordering details, in next TP 2000.

New models of development at local level require "upstream changes in national and European policies". KEYS TO SUCCESS, final report of the TASC (Territorial Action for Social Cohesion) Network, is free from Associacao IN LOCO (Apartado 603, 8000 Faro, Portugal; Prof. Alberto Melo; e-mail: inloco@mail.telepac.pt). Please send us £1.50 or equivalent UK stamps for James's TASC paper "New Employment for Social Cohesion" (7pp, Nov 1996).

TURNING POINT 2000 on the WORLD WIDE WEB

We have gratefully accepted Eric Britton's (Ecoplan International, 8/10 rue Joseph Bara, 75006 Paris, France; e-mail: EcoPlanCentral@compuserve.com) offer of space for TP 2000 on The Commons website for an experimental period. So this TP 2000, together with James's Briefing for Policy Makers (see below) will be found at <http://www.the-commons.org/tp2000>. We would like to hear how useful and easy people find it to access these documents this way.

Ecoplan International (Technology, Economy and Systems Strategies) is pioneering the application of advanced multi-media technology to the exchange of ideas. Topics on The Commons website include "Information Society", "Towards Sustainable Transportation", "Rethinking Work", and "The Commons Electronic Library". It has just been holding an experimental "virtual conference" sponsored by the United Nations University in Tokyo and the French Ministry of Environment, on UNU's Zero Emissions Research Initiative, to assess longer-term prospects for a "virtual university".

"THE NEW ECONOMICS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

James submitted his 122-page Briefing for Policy Makers on "The New Economics of Sustainable Development" to the Forward Studies Unit (FSU) - or Cellule de Prospective (CdeP) - of the European Commission (Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium) in early May. We went there to present it at a seminar in early June. In general the response was good, though as always some conventional economists felt threatened. People with access to the internet will find the text at The Commons website (see above). For others, we have included the Contents List on page 5 opposite.

Essentially, the Briefing draws the attention of policy makers to the policies implied by "a new economics for people and the Earth". These will contribute to economic efficiency and social inclusion as well as to environmentally sustainable development. They offer a practical vision of a Europe pioneering a new future for its own peoples and a new post-imperialist world role of helping other peoples to do the same - an alternative vision to that of a centralising superstate dominated by multinational business and finance, which is failing to engage the hearts and minds of Europeans today.

The FSU plans to publish the Briefing in French and English in late 1997/early 1998, as a contribution to dialogue and debate on advanced visions and positions. Contacts at the FSU are Marc Luyckx (e-mail: marc.luyckx@cdp.cec.be) and Jerome Vignon, FSU's head. In our next newsletter, in January/February 1998, we hope to report further follow-up and say how copies can be obtained. Meanwhile, if any TP 2000 readers wish to bring the existence of the Briefing to the attention of people who influence policy (including Members of the European and national Parliaments), they should please do so.

"THE NEW ECONOMICS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"
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MORE ON EUROPE

Excellent Occasional Papers from the Ecumenical Association for Church and Society (174 rue Joseph II, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium; editor Alastair Hulbert) include TOWARDS AN ECONOMY OF CARE AND COMPASSION (No.3, 1996, 48pp - "It is not particularly rational to make childcare in Stockholm dependent on how successfully mobile phones can be sold in Singapore"); EUROPE UNDER CHALLENGE: RECONCILIATION AND MEANING (No.4, 1997, 52pp - Jacques Santer, contributing on "In Search of Europe's Soul", asks "Does Europe today still have a message for the world?"); and DRAWING THE LINE: THE ETHICS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY (No.5, 1997, 58pp - "We have no property rights, intellectual or otherwise, over what is merely natural").

We are now in touch with European work on "the information society". Robert Pestel (Advanced Communications Technologies and Services, DG XIII, European Commission - see p4; e-mail: rpes@postman.dg13.cec.be) has sent us LIVING AND WORKING IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: PEOPLE FIRST (Bulletin of the European Union, Supplement 3/96); NETWORKS FOR PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES (1996 Annual Report to the European Commission from the Information Society Forum - ISF); and BUILDING THE EUROPEAN INFORMATION SOCIETY FOR US ALL (January 1996 Report from the High Level Expert Group to the European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs). Thanks also to Prof Dr F.J. Radermacher (FAW - Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing, Postfach 20 60, D-89010 Ulm, Germany; e-mail: radermac@faw.uni-ulm.de), chairman of the Information Society and Sustainability Work Group of ISF, for CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; THE FUTURE OF LABOR; and ONE WORLD - ONE FUTURE: SUSTAINABILITY IS NO LONGER DIVISIBLE. And to H. Benking also of FAW (e-mail: benking@faw.uni-ulm.de) for PATHS TO GLOBAL STABILITY: TOUGH BUT FEASIBLE.

Tony Judge (Union of International Associations, rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels; e-mail: judge@uia.be) has been developing stimulating ideas on SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES AND THE FUTURE OF WORK; RE-ENCHANTMENT OF WORK; BEING EMPLOYED BY THE FUTURE; and ENGAGEMENT: 14 CONTRASTING CONCEPTS OF MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT.

We like the Finnish Institute's monthly newsletter (35-36 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AJ; editor Tapani Lausti). In June 1997 it explored Nordic cooperation as a possible model for future British-Irish relations.

"The first true Europeans, men and women who totally embraced the concept of a frontierless, free-market union, were not politicians with a vision of a European Community: they were crooks". NEW EUROPEAN, Vol.97, No.1 (editor John Coleman, 14-16 Carroun Road, London SW8 1JT) includes a frightening summary of the scale of organised crime in the European Union.

BASIC INCOMES AND RESTRUCTURED TAXES

PATHWAYS TO A BASIC INCOME by Charles M. A. Clark and John Healy, an independent 1997 report (87pp, £5) with a useful summary booklet (22pp, £1.50) and an excellent video (£8), from Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI, Justice Office, Tabor House, Milltown Park, Dublin 6; Sean Healy) finds that Ireland could introduce the proposals in CORI's 1997 socio-economic review **PLANNING FOR PROGRESS: TACKLING POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT** (98pp) over a three-year period. The changes would improve social efficiency, the flexibility of the labour market and the present inequitable distribution of income. A "remarkable and strikingly constructive contribution by a religious organisation to the future development of Irish Society" - former Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald in *The Irish Times*, 12 April 1997.

Owen Ephraim's (50 New Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7QT; e-mail: owenephraim@compuserve.com.uk) 23pp paper (1997) on **CAN RESOURCE TAXATION WORK?** comes with a disk containing programs for simulating the economic effects of the UNITAX proposals to replace other taxes with a tax on energy at source. The model can be used to simulate any number of scenarios, including Citizens Income to replace current benefits.

Don Northcott writes on Citizens Income and Tax Reform in **SANE SOCIETY**, Vol.1, No.2 - excellent newsletter from South African New Economics (SANE) Network (PO Box 53057, 7745 Kenilworth, Cape Town; e-mail: sane@lafrika.com; Wayne Visser). The existing tax and land tenure laws contradict provisions in the new South African Constitution about equitable access to land. A Constitutional Rights Property Trust is proposing to challenge them in the Constitutional Court. Land Value Taxation is the answer.

James gave a paper on **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF RENT** to a lively conference on Land-Value taxation in July - participants from South Africa, Russia, USA and elsewhere, as well as UK. It will soon appear in *Land And Liberty* (177, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EU).

The products resulting from the interaction of land and labour can be rightly held as individual private property, while land (which term includes all natural resources) should be recognised as the common heritage. We warmly recommend **FINANCING PLANET MANAGEMENT: SOVEREIGNTY, WORLD ORDER AND THE EARTHRIGHTS IMPERATIVE** (1995, 16pp) by Alanna Hartzok (PO Box 328, Scotland, PA 17254, USA; e-mail: earthrts@pa.net.), free from Robert Schalkenbach Foundation (41 East 72nd Street, New York, NY 10021, USA).

Sally Lerner (Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1; e-mail: lerner@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca) has sent info on Arthur Cordell's (Department of Industry, Ottawa) proposals for a "bit tax" - a transmission tax on use of the internet [controversial - we'll hear more of this]. Also useful recent papers of her own on Basic Income and the Future of Work.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Amlan Datta: *FOR A QUIET REVOLUTION*: Papyrus (2 Ganendra Mitra Lane, Calcutta 700 004, India), 1997, 117pp, hdbk, Rs100. Unless methods of non-violent resistance against injustice "are combined with programmes of constructive work, they can get infected with a special kind of irresponsibility. A new philosophy, complete with its distinctive outlook on history, its inevitable emphasis on the spirit of non-possessiveness and enlargement of sympathies, its conception of the ideal role of the artist, is an essential precondition of durable change. But torn from the context of the total programme of social reconstruction, it is bound to lose its vitality and be reduced to largely ineffectual preaching". The author sent us this book from Santiniketan, where Tagore's school provided the Elmhursts with inspiration for Dartington in the 1920s, "trusting that this little volume falls within our common area of concern". It certainly does. Wise. Simply written.

E.F. Schumacher: *THIS I BELIEVE: AND OTHER ESSAYS*: Green Books, 1997, 223pp, pbk, £9.95. These 21 articles, published in *Resurgence* between 1966 and 1977, the year of Schumacher's death, are grouped into seven sections: Setting the Scene; Economics; Work & Leisure; Industry; Development; Cities and the Land; and Spirituality and Non-Violence. Foreword by Satish Kumar and Introduction by Diana Schumacher - both excellent. This book will be a "must" for the shelves of many TP 2000 readers.

Sheldon B. Liss: *FIDEL! CASTRO'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT*: Westview Press, 1994, 246pp, pbk. "When confronted with the anti-intellectual position of the George Bush Administration that ideological wars are over, that history is coming to an end, Fidel responded in true Marxist fashion that, on the contrary, history has hardly begun". We recommend this sympathetic, but not uncritical, account of the intellectual basis of the Cuban alternative to the American capitalist model of society.

Takis Fotopoulos: *TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY*: Cassell, 1997, 401pp, pbk. "On the threshold of a new millennium, the development of a new liberatory project, which would represent both the synthesis, as well as the transcendence, of the major social movements for change in this century, is imperative. The meaning of democracy today can only be derived from a synthesis of two major historical traditions, namely, the democratic and the socialist with the radical green, feminist and libertarian traditions".

Jean Lambert: *NO CHANGE? NO CHANCE!*: Jon Carpenter, 1997, 122pp, pbk, £7.99. This commonsense account of 'the politics of choosing green' sets out the green agenda on poverty, community development, international relations and environmental protection. It explains why Greens find it difficult to locate themselves electorally in the public mind, in a single-spectrum, left-right political game, in which issues of scale and subsidiarity, and ecological sustainability, are not seen as defining different political positions.

Timothy O'Riordan (ed): ECOTAXATION: Earthscan, 1997, 338pp, pbk, £15.95. Eighteen authors explore - in proper academic depth - many aspects of the movement now under way towards taxing and charging us on the use we make of natural resources (including the capacity of the environment to absorb pollution and waste), instead of taxing employment. A comprehensive account of the current state of play, for those who want in-depth studies of the subject. James's review will be in *Resurgence* Nov/Dec 1997.

Ernst von Weizsacker, Amory Lovins and Hunter Lovins: FACTOR FOUR: DOUBLING WEALTH, HALVING RESOURCE USE: Earthscan, 1997, 322pp, hbk, £15.99. Authoritative report to the Club of Rome on the role of state-of-the-art technologies in the shift which the world's peoples must make to a sustainable path of development. Maps out a new direction of technological progress in energy, building and other fields, towards greater resource productivity instead of greater labour productivity. James reviews it in *Futures*, November 1997.

William Ogilvie: BIRTHRIGHT IN LAND: Othila Press (58a Abingdon Road, London W8 6AP), 1997, 190pp, pbk, £7.95. "When a child is born, we recognise that it has a right to its mother's milk, and no-one can deny that it has the same right to mother-earth". Land Reform Scotland (The Chalmer, Mill of Towie, Cullen, Buckie, Banffshire, Scotland) republishes Ogilvie's 1782 Essay on the Right of Property in Land, with commentary offering "a uniquely Scottish solution" to the current 'Tartan Tax' controversy. Most interesting.

Godfrey Dunkley: THAT ALL MAY LIVE: Whyte Publishers, South Africa, 1990, 236pp, pbk. Convincing case for the key role of site-value taxation in South Africa's future. "Almost all government subsidies are a direct transfer of taxpayer's money into the hands of landowners and speculators".

Trent Schroyer (ed): A WORLD THAT WORKS: Bootstrap Press, New York, 1997, 355pp, pbk. Published for TOES 1997 in Denver. 33 fine contributions on Globalisation, Real Wealth, Real Sustainability and Real International Security. Our congratulations to Ward Morehouse and his colleagues in TOES (US).

Guy Dauncey: AFTER THE CRASH: THE EMERGENCE OF THE RAINBOW ECONOMY: New Edition, Merlin Press, 1996, 363pp, pbk, £9.99. A new economy based on spiritual, planetary, economic, environmental, personal, holistic, community, and social values. This reprinted edition contains two new chapters, "Seven Years On" and "Building an Eco-Sustainable Earth Economy", an Appendix on Resources, and an Introduction by Hazel Henderson.

Harold S. Bidmead: THE PARLIAMENT OF MAN: THE FEDERATION OF THE WORLD: Patton Publications, 1992, 246pp, £8.95: special price for TP readers of £5 inc p&p (also quantity discounts) from the author (Nedre Slottsg. 4, N-1057, Oslo, Norway). [World government (like population control) is a topic which presents many of us with difficulties. Will this passionate, but reasoned, plea for the eradication of national sovereignty help to remove some of them?]

BOOKS RECEIVED (continued)

Shella Lavery: **THE HEALING POWER OF SLEEP**: Gaia Books, 1997, 159pp, pbk, £11.99. A Questionnaire to aid self-diagnosis leads into four Parts - "The Essence of Sleep", "The World of Sleeplessness", "Promoting Beneficial Sleep", and "A Catalogue of Remedies". In societies in which the medical schools' curriculum contains less than four hours study on sleep and sleep disorders, this book should help many people "to achieve restorative sleep naturally".

Richard Reoch: **DYING WELL**: Gaia Books, 1997, 191pp, pbk, £11.99. This holistic guide for the dying and their carers - with a foreword by Yehudi Menuhin - looks at "Nature's Way", "Loving and Caring", "The Great Storm", "Giving and Letting Go" and "The Return Journey". It is what the author would have liked to find for a dying friend who asked him to suggest such a book. Many readers will be grateful for it.

Nicholas Albery et al (eds): **SOONER OR LATER: Natural Death Centre** (20 Heber Road, London NW2 6AA), 1997, 87pp, pbk, £5.95. The best 1997 advice, tips and reports on preparing for dying and family-organised funerals. Nicholas Albery et al (eds): **CREATIVE SPECULATIONS**: Institute for Social Inventions (same address), 1997, 288pp, pbk, £14.85. The 1997 compendium of social innovations and ideas about how to make the world a better place.

John Seymour and Connie Lindqvist: **RYE FROM THE WATERS EDGE**, Academic Inn Books (Custom House, Rye, Sussex TN31 7JE; Peter Etherden), 1996, 158pp, hbk, £9.95. Attractive Xmas-stocking-size volume, containing "The Sealanes of Rye", "The Water Trails of Rye" and "The Byways of Rye".

Cyril Forssander: **THE SIXTH SENSE**: self-published (18 Rue Rouzig, 22700 Perros-Guirec, France), 1997, 85pp, hbk (beautifully illustrated). "Post-modern developments in science and philosophy are changing the conventional way of looking at the world. People are coming to understand that those things of which one is conscious exist by virtue of a two-way engagement with one's surroundings. .. The sixth sense is a capacity for thinking with the whole body. .. Words are the supreme reductionists". The author has a few copies which he "would be pleased to send to individuals likely to be actively interested".

Stop Press. Just Received.

Tim Beaumont: **THE END OF THE YELLOWBRICK ROAD**, Jon Carpenter, 1997, 146pp, pbk, £10 - LibDem Lords spokesman on Ways to a Sustainable Society.

Colin Hutchinson: **BUILDING TO LAST**, Earthscan, 1997, 198pp, pbk, £15.95 - advises business leaders how to meet the environmental challenge.

Richard Welford et al: **CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT 2**, Earthscan, 1997, 192pp, £15.95 - on organisational and cultural factors.

BOOK-LENGTH JOURNALS, OTHER PUBLICATIONS (AND A DATE)

"Forty Years in Development: The search for social justice" (142pp) is Vol.40, No.1, March 1997 of DEVELOPMENT (subscription info from Sage Publications, 6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU). Editor Wendy Harcourt (Society for International Development, 207 via Panisperna, 00184 Rome, Italy; e-mail: w.harcourt@agora.stm.it) revisits "the thoughts of some [25] of the well-known shapers of development along with the well-known questioners of the purpose of economic development", during "The 1960s: A decade of optimism", "The 1970s: A need for reappraisal", "The 1980s: Seeds for change", and "The 1990s: New alliances, new directions". A must for students of development.

The theme of DEMOCRACY & NATURE No.9 (222pp, £7 from PO Box 637, Littleton, CO 80160, USA) is "Economic Democracy and Green Economics". Contributors include Paul Ekins (Forum for the Future, 227a City Road, London EC1V 1JT) on "Environmentally Sustainable Trade" and James on "Institutional Restructuring and Liberatory Transition".

ALEXANDRIA: COSMOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY, MYTH, AND CULTURE, No.4 (1997, 435pp, \$25 from Alexandria Society and Phanes Press, PO Box 6114, Grand Rapids, MI 49516, USA; e-mail: drf@cosmopolis.com; editor David Fideler) is on "The Order and Beauty of Nature". 27 items range from Albert Einstein on "The Cosmic Religious Feeling" to Plutarch on "How to Host a Philosophical Banquet". James reviews David Korten's *When Corporations Rule the World*.

RESPECTFUL ENGAGEMENT (1996, 83pp, \$7 from American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, USA) by Milagros Cisneros is an informative and helpful discussion of "Cuban NGO Cooperation with Latin America, Europe and Canada". It describes the development of the NGO community in Castro's Cuba and suggests ways in which healthy and transparent relationships can be carried out in a context in which few opportunities for constructive engagement exist.

The collapse of Soviet oil imports since 1989, together with the US embargo, has challenged Cuba to achieve greater energy independence, using all the national sources of energy. Two interesting papers on this were presented to the World Solar Summit in Harare in September 1996 (Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente, Havana, Cuba).

IN VIEWS OVER THE HORIZON (56pp, £2.50, Quaker Peace and Service (QPS), Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ; Steve Whiting) Paul Rogers, Bridget Walker, Paul Goggins, James Robertson, Isobel Lindsay and Zoe Broughton discuss 21st century prospects ranging from "Global Forces and Trends" to "The Direct Action Movement". On 1 November 1997, 350 years after the Diggers and Levellers, QPS (Mary Lou Leavitt; Tel: 0171 663 1000) and New Economics Foundation - see p.12 - (Perry Walker; Tel: 0181 878 8062) call for a new radical social justice movement at new PUTNEY DEBATES.

SPOTLIGHT ON CONSUMPTION: But Should It Be On PRODUCTION?

In June John Elkington (Sustainability, 49-53 Kensington High Street, London W8 5ED; e-mail: j.elkington@sustainability.co.uk) chaired a "consultation" on SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES held by the Environment Foundation (9 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2SU), with IIED (3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD; Nick Robins; e-mail: nick.robins@iied.org) and NEF (New Economics Foundation, Vine Court, 112-116 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JE; Simon Zadek; e-mail: neweconomics@gn.apc.org). (NEF plans to focus TOES 1998 in Birmingham on SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION.) Also in June the Royal Society and the US National Academy of Sciences published important statements on TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION; and Norman Myers (Upper Meadow, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 8SZ; e-mail: normanmyers@gn.apc.org), convened a seminar on CONSUMPTION: CHALLENGE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT at the Green College Centre (Oxford OX2 6HG).

The Center for a New American Dream (156 College Street, Burlington, VT 05401, USA; e-mail: newdream@newdream.org; director Ellen Furnari) explains in its first quarterly report - ENOUGH! - why reduced consumption and improved quality of life are now at the forefront of debate. In December the Santi Pracha Dhamma Institute (117 Fuangnakhon Road, opp. Wat Rajabopit, Bangkok 10200, Thailand; e-mail: atc@bkk.a-net.net.th) is holding an International Gathering of spiritual leaders, grassroots workers, indigenous people and activists on ALTERNATIVES TO CONSUMERISM in Nakhom Pathom, Slam. The 1998 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT from the UN Development Programme, (1 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA; e-mail: hdro@undp.org; Ms Sakiko Fukuda-Parr) will be on country-by-country consumption patterns.

All very good. But take care. That the "Consumer is King" - whose demands absolve producers, including paparazzi and editors, from responsibility for what they produce and how - is a dangerous myth. Consumers consume what producers persuade them to want. They are taught that high levels of consumption are good for the economy and jobs. If consumers are addicts, the pushers are (the main?) part of the problem. Don't "blame the victim".

Were genetic engineering and nuclear energy responses to consumer demand? In SPLICE, June 1997, magazine of the Genetics Forum (5-11 Worship Street, London EC2A 2BH; e-mail: geneticforum@gn.apc.org) Jerry Ravetz and Tom Wakeford draw convincing parallels between the past history of nuclear power and future threats from genetic engineering. Scientists, and scientific claims about safety, are not neutral. "The fallout from Chernobyl has devastated one nation and poisoned others. A genetic Chernobyl could infect the planet".

Legislation allowing the patenting of life should be delayed until proper public consultation has taken place. Contact the GAIA FOUNDATION (18 Well Walk, London NW3 1LD; e-mail: galafund@gn.apc.org; Liz Hosken and Ed Posey) on how to persuade national politicians and the European Commission of this.

Prof Tim Lang's Paul Hamlyn Lecture (April 1997) on FOOD POLICY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (30pp, £3 from Thames Valley University, Centre for Food Policy, 32-38 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2BS; e-mail: tim.lang@tvu.ac.uk) is a masterly account of the players involved in food politics and the interwoven economic, political, scientific, nutritional, social and psychological issues. His theses on "food democracy" include "Consumers are theoretically sovereign, in practice less so, and potentially more so", and "The crisis is not just about what food we eat, but about how it is produced and distributed".

REACHING OUT (1997, 109pp, Rs 100 or US\$30 from CUTS (Consumer Unity and Trust Society, 3-B Camac Street, Calcutta 700016, India; e-mail: cuts@lwbs.com) is a comprehensive manual for training activists in communications skills. Its five parts are on Oral Interaction, Written Interaction, Research, Reaching the Media, and Advocacy.

"Nothing less than a reorientation of production and consumption habits and patterns and the underlying social values will be sufficient in the longer term". The first in a series of "Cahiers" (1997:1) from the European Commission's Forward Studies Unit (see p.4) is on THE FUTURE OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (119pp, price ecu 10, from Publication Office (OPOCE), L-2985 Luxembourg). The FSU also publishes CARREFOURS - an interesting and useful 12pp newsletter.

UNLOCKING TRADE OPPORTUNITIES: CHANGING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS, May 1997, 64pp, is edited by Nick Robins and Sarah Roberts (IIED - see p12) for UN Department of Policy Co-ordination and Sustainable Development. Ten case studies from India, Swaziland, Egypt, Jamaica, Senegal, Costa Rica, Chile, Uganda, Solomon Islands and Ecuador show how developing country producers can benefit from rising environmental expectations in export markets, and how global goals for the environment, development and trade can be mutually reinforcing.

ADBUSTERS, Summer 1997 (1243 West 7th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6H 1B7 Canada; e-mail: adbusters@adbusters.org), reports that America is being 'dumbed down' by the media, which see "their role as basically doing consumer service journalism and happy talk", coupled with an "everpresent corporate disinformation effort". For example, the oil industry-backed Global Climate Coalition spends over \$1m a year debunking the threat of climate change in order to reduce us to a state of apathetic indecisiveness about it.

32% of South Africans blame companies for environmental destruction, and 23% blame consumers - EAGLE BULLETIN, July 1997 (Private Box XI, Pavilion, 3611, Durban, South Africa; Arend Hoogervorst; e-mail: arend@iafrica.com).

"Let's make a living, not money!". Another stimulating paper (8pp) by Willem Hoogendijk (PO Box 13030, 3507 LA, Utrecht, Netherlands; e-mail: smemil@icns.nl) on freeing production from the money-must-grow imperative.

ASPECTS OF A NEW FUTURE

Willis Harman was a good friend. We first met in 1976 and he spoke at the Turning Point meeting in 1979. He died in January. The two initiatives in which he was playing a central part will continue - the Peacebuilding Inquiry for the 21st Century (Avon Mattison, Pathways to Peace, PO Box 1057, Larkspur, CA 94977, USA) and the Pathfinding Project (Tom Hurley, Institute of Noetic Sciences, 475 Gate Five Road, Suite 300, Sausalito, CA 94965).

"A more positive notion of freedom - some vision of the good life, some moral ideal that transcends mere liberty - has now become indispensable, and the central task of 21st century politics will be to discover and establish this new ground of governance". William Ophuls' outstanding 6pp article "Requiem for Representative Democracy" in THE GOOD SOCIETY, Vol.7, No.1, Winter 1997 (\$20 pa, Committee on the Political Economy of the Good Society, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA) describes with devastating clarity how the political revolution fomented by the Enlightenment has begun to devour its own children.

In FOURTH WORLD REVIEW, No.81, 1997, £2 (24 Abercorn Place, London NW8 9XP), Peter Cadogan (3 Hinchinbrook House, Greville Road, London NW6 5UP) writes: "The future belongs to the post-party-politics of community regeneration. It is new territory in a culture deeply conditioned to accept the impersonal centralism of Westminster, Whitehall and Big Brother".

Green victories of the past pale in front of the challenges ahead: "The issue is, Can genetics, cyberspace, space travel - postmodernity and the future - be greened? Or will the hard-fought struggle to see nature as alive, as having rights unto itself, be wasted as cybernature becomes more appealing than evolutionary nature? Will technology finally remove nature, leaving it only virtually available?". Sohail Inayatullah (Communication Centre, Queensland University of Technology, GPO Box 2434, Brisbane, QLD 4001, Australia; e-mail: s.inayatullah@qut.edu.au) on "Global Transformation: The Reshaping of Civilisation" in NEW RENAISSANCE, Vol.7, No.2, 1997 (Weisnauer Weg 4, 55129 Mainz, Germany; e-mail: newren@compuserve.com).

INTERNATIONAL MINDS is a quarterly "journal of psychological insight into international affairs (Hugo Publications, 19 Hugh Street, London SW1V 1QJ; Simon Bull). The lead article in Vol.7, No.2, 1996 is on "Post-Communist Transition: Realities and Perspectives", and John Coleman (see p.6) writes on "Europe and the Tribes of New Caledonia".

The new FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE (123 - 105th Ave Southeast, Bellevue, WA 98004, USA; e-mail: info@futurefoundation.com; Walter Kistler) is organising an ambitious series of planning seminars to prepare for a Humanity 3000 [yes! 3000] Seminar in Seattle in the summer of 2000 on the Origin, Evolution and Future of the Universe, Life, and Humanity .

In the post-Cold-War world, in which political, economic, military and environmental factors are increasingly intertwined, security must be redefined. In THE STRATEGIC DEFENCE AND SECURITY REVIEW: HOW FAR SHOULD IT GO? (ISIS Briefing No.63, 16pp, June 1997, from International Security Information Service, Carrara House, 20 Embankment Place, London WC2N 6NM) Ronald Higgins (Little Reeve, Vowchurch Common, Hereford HR2 0RL) suggests a creative new world role for Britain as the first major power to adopt globally-conscious, future-minded policies for national and international security.

The election of New Labour in Britain in May has opened things up. But, as Hilary Wainwright says in the August 1997 issue of the important "Independent left" magazine RED PEPPER (1a Waterloo Road, London N19 5NJ; e-mail: redpepper@online.rednet.co.uk), "it is hard to see the core of the government's policy towards industry as more than a new variant of neoliberalism, with an even closer relationship to the corporate elite than Thatcher's version. It is corporatism without the unions". In the March 1997 issue Ted Benton challenged the Green Left to find "ways of binding together the demand for social justice and the need to care for the world".

Radical alternative ideas of the 1970s are regaining ground. (1) Social Entrepreneurs. A school is being set up, and in PRACTICAL PEOPLE, NOBLE CAUSES (1997, 58pp, £9) the New Economics Foundation (see p12) reports on how to support community-based social entrepreneurs. (2) Stakeholder Economy and Stakeholder Companies. In FOURTH WORLD REVIEW, No. 81 - see p14 - our old friend, long-time stakeholder advocate Shann Turnbull (PO Box 266, Woollahra, NSW 2025, Australia) says stakeholder democracy would involve the creation of a universal minimum income, making it possible to replace policies of full employment with a policy of fulfilment in employment. NEWS FROM THE CENTRE No.2, May 1997, newsletter of the (rather less radical) Centre For Tomorrow's Company (RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ; e-mail: ctomco@ctomco.demon.co.uk; Mark Goyder) tells readers "everything you ever wanted to know about stakeholding but were afraid to ask".

In a powerful paper (10pp) on SOCIAL CAPITAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT given at a UN Conference on Governance for Sustainable Growth and Equity in July 1997, Hazel Henderson (Global Commission to Fund the United Nations, 10 Carrera Street, St Augustine, FL 32084, USA) draws attention to "the differences between the 90% of large and global corporations run on the old economic textbook models of the Industrial Age, and the 10% of emerging, smaller, socially responsible companies and mutual funds based in the new renewable resources, solar energy, community development sectors which are restoring and building social and environmental capital for the 21st century".

Ancient history. In STATE OF EMERGENCY: CRISIS IN CENTRAL AFRICA, NYASALAND, 1959-1960 (Tauris 1997), Colin Baker confirms that the public records support James's claim to have authored the "wind of change" theme for Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's end-of empire tour of Africa in 1960.

PEOPLE AND PROJECTS

The Centre for Human Ecology (PO Box 1972, Edinburgh EH1 1YG; e-mail: che@clan.com; Nick Wilding) marks 25 years with a publications fund launched with supporters' loans. Occasional Paper No.2, WHY WORK? A CASE FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE (1997, 96pp) by Peter Merry urges people and communities at the grassroots to begin creating alternative local sustainable economies, pending the necessary major step in political/economic thinking.

Jenny Lawrence (PO Box 45, The Craggs, 6602 South Africa) has set up a GARDEN ROUTE TRUST for Community Development and the Environment to campaign against destructive golf-course-led Costa-del-Sol-type developments on this beautiful stretch of coast. Newsletter "Routing Around".

Ranchor Prime and FRIENDS OF VRINDAVAN (10 Grafton Mews, London W1P 5LF) raised £31,446 for environmental projects in India and UK by their 1996 Yamuna bike expedition. Ranchor writes on "Saving Krishna's Forests" in ARC NEWS, No.1, Spring 1997 (Bulletin of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, ICOREC, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester M20 2RR).

A MANIFESTO FOR FIELDS (1997, 20pp, £3.50 inc p&p) is the latest attractive booklet from Common Ground (Seven Dials Warehouse, 44 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LA; Sue Clifford). "I found the poems in the fields and only wrote them down" - John Clare.

The "almost entirely ignorant" UK establishment should study David Boyle's (23 Camden Hill Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 1NX; e-mail: ldn@clx.compulink.co.uk) thoughtfully informative report to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust on LOCAL CURRENCIES IN THE USA (1996, 28pp).

Britain's first PEACE MUSEUM is at Jacob's Well, Manchester Road, Bradford BD1 5RW; e-mail: peacemuseum@Bradford.gov.uk; Clive Barrett.

ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH is a useful new newsletter from UNED-UK (3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL; e-mail: 106655.1325@compuserve.com; Ruth West).

The IDEAS BANK Foundation (Postboks 2126, Grunerlokka, 0505 Oslo, Norway; Kjell Dahle) promotes social and ecological experiments with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Environment. Seminars, courses, publications, etc.

CAMDUN (308 Cricklewood Lane, London NW2 2PX; Jeffrey Segal) and its partner groups are inviting others to join an International Coalition for a More Democratic United Nations. A 2-page note of Questions and Answers on A CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM LINKED WITH THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY is available.

Support setting up an International Criminal Court - EARTHACTION (15 New Row, London WC2N 4LA; e-mail: earthaction@gn.apc.org; Nick Dunlop).