

# THE FRIEND

A Quaker Weekly Journal

*"In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity"*

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World Conference Issue

CONFERENCE STATEMENTS—III

## People, Food and the Sharing of Resources— A Vision For The Future

**F**OR nearly two thousand years Christians have prayed "Give us this day our daily bread". And yet today more than half of humanity is hungry or inadequately nourished in a world rich with natural resources. That hunger persists in spite of man's growing concern shows that we have failed the spirit of brotherly love.

Population is increasing at an alarming rate. Food supplies are increasing at a much slower rate. Natural resources are being wasted and polluted. We must soberly ask whether the human family will prevent widespread famine and impoverishment and avoid the danger of war and violent revolution.

We believe these problems can be solved. The technological know-how required is in sight. But we need more determination, social inventiveness, dedicated lives of service and money. Not only the problems of production but the problems of distribution must be solved.

Each child has the right to be wanted, to be loved, to be fed and cared for, to be educated, to obtain useful employment and to live in dignity with his fellow men.

We call upon the peoples and the governments of the earth to stop squandering resources on armaments and destruction, to promote family planning and health, to curb population growth, to increase and share food production and to further economic and social development. Only by an all-out attack on want can this be done.

### Appeals to our Own Governments

- (a) To make an immediate mobilisation of the intellectual resources in the world educational,

scientific and business community for a major attack on the problems of world development in all its aspects.

- (b) To devote a significant proportion of the gross national product to international development, including increased support for the United Nations, its Agencies and other international organisations and programmes.
- (c) To deal with such inter-related problems as trade, tariff barriers, aid, and fair return to farmers and other producers.
- (d) To seek co-operation for economic and social development among countries of differing ideologies and economic systems.
- (e) To promote family and population planning at home and abroad.

### Appeals to Friends

#### Friends' Organisations and Service Bodies

- (a) Friends' groups should seek to expand the opportunities for Friends to become involved in creative aspects of world community development.
- (b) Friends' agencies should increase the population planning aspect of their programmes.
- (c) Friends' groups should try to proclaim the urgent human needs throughout the world, co-operating in this with other appropriate agencies.
- (d) Friends should encourage experimentation, innovation and a spirit of social invention in dealing with international development, drawing upon the rich diversity and world-wide network of Friends' communities.
- (e) Friends should examine and encourage responsibility in industry for sharing technological ability and undertaking long-term projects to assist developing countries, and

- should establish Quaker organisations to accomplish this end.
- (f) Friends should seek to be a greater link in exchanging skills and information between different countries.

### Personal or Local Action

- (a) Give a period of development service in another country.
- (b) Work to eliminate poverty in our own communities.

- (c) Practise greater simplicity and avoid waste in personal consumption.
- (d) Give a regular portion of our income towards world development.
- (e) Participate in self-denial programmes, like weekly "war on want" meals.
- (f) Make friends with and encourage students and trainees from other countries.
- (g) Practise personal family planning.
- (h) Undertake our responsibility for political involvement.

## CONFERENCE STATEMENTS—IV

# Service, Mission and the FWCC

**R**EALISING a sense of urgency for a fresh approach to Quaker involvement in the spiritual, economic and social needs of our situation:

Believing that our historic witness to "that of God in every man" points to a practical way for the people of the earth to fulfil themselves while maintaining essential human values:

Committing ourselves to implement this concern first hand:

We propose that the Friends World Committee for Consultation (which was set up thirty years ago by a Friends World Conference to carry out its concerns) should use its good offices to organise working parties, conferences or a special commission to:

(1) make an extended study of ways of encouraging increased communication and consultation between existing Quaker agencies.

(2) Seek first steps in discovering means for trans-national operations and for a fuller use of Quaker personnel resources all over the world.

(3) Help develop additional pilot projects of co-operation between agencies.

(4) Consider a possible extension of such a news medium as the *Friends World News*

or some further publication in order to assist in the process of intercommunication that is so urgently required.

In order to carry through such a directive effectively, the FWCC will require increases in staff and funds. In accepting such a proposal this Friends World Conference would encourage the FWCC to believe that the means to make possible this expansion of its service can be found.

### Vigil for Peace

At an hour when, in many communities throughout the United States, weekly vigils for peace are being held, Friends at the conference gathered in the lunch-hour on the final day of their meetings for a vigil to express their faith "that ways other than war and violence can and must be found to solve international and national problems and tensions". About two hundred took part, many fasting. They stood in silence under the trees at the approaches to Founders Hall. At the same time a number of Friends from the Greensboro Gathering joined a vigil that is held weekly in Greensboro.

The desire to have a vigil arose spontaneously among the representatives. It was planned by a senator from Australia, an apple farmer from Virginia and a housewife from New England.

# RESPONSE TO CONCERNS OF THE CONFERENCE

## Decisions of Friends World Committee

*Steps to implement concerns expressed at the World Conference were considered by the Friends World Committee at a meeting immediately after the conference.*

THE tenth triennial meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation was held at Guilford College immediately after the World Conference. Douglas V. Steere presided over the meeting, with Blanche W. Shaffer as secretary, and the business was, with much compression, crowded into three days.

The conference had passed on to the committee a number of matters requiring further action, and the representatives from Yearly Meetings, who numbered about 140, were hard put to it to ensure that in addition to matters already in the hands of the committee, all the new matter was adequately taken care of. Some strengthening of the staff and therefore of financial support was soon seen to be called for.

In the first place, it was recognised that the committees of the Fourth World Conference were to be laid down, and the officers of the conference would also lay down their offices as soon as their immediate responsibilities were discharged. It was therefore agreed that if, as is expected, there should be funds in hand after all the conference liabilities are discharged, these will be handed to the Friends World Committee for care and custody for purposes of future conferences. The World Committee also had laid upon it the task of preparing a report of the Proceedings of the Conference, to be sent to every representative. Thought was also given to the possibility of preparing a further study book presenting some of the concerns of the conference to Friends generally.



DOUGLAS V. STEERE, *Chairman of the Friends World Committee.*

The committee also responded with alacrity to the concern that a Friend should be asked to pay a visit to Friends in Jordan and the Lebanon to express the unity and concern of

all Friends with those who are passing through a time of great stress and anxiety. Indeed the committee went further than the conference in agreeing that this service should be shared by two Friends, and the concern was laid upon Harold Smuck of Richmond, Indiana, and Ranjit M. Chetsingh of India, who expressed themselves as willing to make such a visit speedily if the project should be acceptable to Friends in the Near East.

Four other concerns met with a response in the committee and it was agreed that these should be taken up as and when the means can be found to finance them.

The first of these, clearly expressed in the conference, was that the committee should take the initiative in promoting closer consultation between all the Quaker service and mission bodies in order that there may be the maximum co-operation in Quaker service in many places in the world, including if possible a single title for Quaker World Service within which the several bodies concerned could operate. There are places in the world where a body with an international title can more easily operate than one which has a national title.

The second was the concern for the right sharing of world resources, since the present inequality gives rise to poverty, ignorance and suffering and could be a root cause of war and strife. It was recognised that a study along these lines would require skilled professional people, of whom in this field there are a number in the Society. Such a group when convened would make their findings available for publication and these could also lead to field work in areas where Friends are centred. They would work in close association with other groups already at work in this field.

The third concern which Friends felt should follow from the conference was that under the care of a wise and experienced Friend correspondence should be initiated with Friends all over the world, leading to the convening of study groups across national frontiers, to consider the whole question of

the fundamental basis of the Society of Friends and the direction in which it is now being led by the Holy Spirit. The unity of Friends is no longer based on the principle of silent worship or indeed of worship without pastoral leadership. But that there is a deep unity is unquestioned. Some study, taking perhaps three years to undertake, would, the committee felt, be of great value if the right leadership and the necessary funds can be found.

The fourth concern, brought before the committee by its Chairman, was that a Friend should be found to initiate a considerable programme of inquiry into the names and location of Friends living in many parts of the world, away from Friends Meetings. Such an inquiry could serve to bring together groups of Friends at present unknown to each other, and in various ways the strengthening of links between Friends who are at present very isolated could be of great service.

The implementing of these concerns would need a good deal of money, and so the Treasurer divided his budget into two parts. The first part was to take care of the existing basic work of the committee such as world travel, a contribution to Quaker United Nations work, the publication of *Friends World News* and the like. For this work a substantial increase in contributions will be needed. The second part would care for special projects such as those listed above, and would be raised from special sources.

Douglas Steere was reappointed Chairman for the next triennium, and Blanche Shaffer as Secretary, with much appreciation of her services. Howard Diamond will retire from his appointment as Treasurer at December 31, 1967, after twelve years' service, and Leslie Cross was appointed Treasurer in his place.

For its eleventh meeting, due to be held in the summer of 1970, the committee was glad to accept an invitation to meet at Vigbyholm School in Sweden, and looking even further ahead, favoured the idea of meeting in 1973 in Hobart, Tasmania, "if the Lord permit".