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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

1. Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Special consultative status granted in 1997

Aims and Purposes

The ACSJC was set up by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference in 1987 as the national justice, peace and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference mandates the ACSJC to promote research, education, advocacy and action on social justice, peace and human rights, integrating them deeply into the life of the whole Catholic community in Australia, and providing a credible Catholic voice on these matters in Australian society. The ACSJC is accountable to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through the Bishops' Committee for Justice, Development, Ecology and Peace.

The primary constituency of the ACSJC is the 27% of the Australian population who are Catholics. The ACSJC also maintains an active involvement in the international network of Catholic justice and peace organizations around the world and cooperates in information and action-based initiatives with the national justice and peace agencies of the Catholic Church in the Asian region. The ACSJC works together with other religious and secular organizations whose purposes are similar or complementary to those of the ACSJC. The ACSJC is an active participant in public policy debate in Australia.

Participation in ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies and/or other United Nations Meetings

In February 2001 the Central Executive Officer (CEO) Ms Sandie Cornish attended the Indigenous Peoples and Racism Conference held in Sydney, Australia, an official Satellite Conference of the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR). Ms Cornish was a member of the Steering Group of the Australian NGO Working Group promoting WCAR in Australia. Together with an ACSJC Member the CEO attended the WCAR in Durban, South Africa, September 2001 and the related NGO Forum preceding it.

Sr Suzette Clark, ACSJC Research & Projects Officer attended the Australian Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions: Regional Workshop on National Human Rights Institutions, Human Rights Education, Media and Racism in Sydney in July of 2002.

Mr John Ferguson replacing Ms Cornish as CEO, and ACSJC Member Mr Chris Keating participated in the "Geneva Training Course" in Human Rights Law and Advocacy, run by the International Service for Human Rights from 10 March to 26 April 2003. Messrs Ferguson and Keating represented the ACSJC for the duration of the 59th Session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva (17 March to 15 April 2003).

Sr Suzette attended a Strategy Meeting on the General Agreement on Trade in Services in Geneva from 23 March to 16 April, 2004. She represented the Australian Fair Trade &

Investment Network and the ACSJC at this meeting organised by the Polaris Institute Canada and Our World is Not for Sale – an international network of NGOs concerned with the current model of corporate globalisation embodied in the global trading system. Sr Suzette met with country delegations attending the WTO Council on Services meetings including the Australian Delegation and attended an information session at the WTO.

Cooperation with UN bodies & specialised agencies

CEO Ms Sandie Cornish and Council Member, Fr Paul Devitt met with Asma Jahangir, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions while on a human rights visit to Pakistan in January 2001. The Blasphemy Laws, Separate Electorates System, religious intolerance and the rule of law in Pakistan were discussed.

Following the escalation of violence in the Holy Land in 2002, the ACSJC wrote to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in April, supporting calls from the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories for an international presence to prevent greater tragedy in the Holy Land and to create conditions in which the failed negotiations could be resumed.

In 2004, the ACSJC communicated with Rudolfo Stavenhagen, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People. A report on the circumstances of the Indigenous people of Australia was forwarded with this communication. Issues raised concerned Indigenous land rights, incarceration levels, and the plight of children removed from their parents – the ‘Stolen Generations’. The human rights of affected people and proposed national policy responses were cited under the Universal Declaration, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In the same year the ACSJC communicated with Justice Louis Joinet, Chairman of the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, concerning the indefinite detention of two Australians at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and the denial of rights under the Third Geneva Convention and the Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. An ACSJC position paper was included with this communication. The ACSJC consistently called for an end to the indefinite detention of detainees and for their immediate access to the ordinary processes of justice.

Other relevant activities

The ACSJC produces a wide range of social justice publications and resources – many focussed on human rights and drawing on the declarations and conventions of the U.N. The ACSJC has adopted the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World as a framework for its activities from 2001 to 2010.

The ACSJC annual Social Justice Calendar lists and explains key U.N. human rights commemorations and activities together with related religious dates. The quarterly national newsletter, *Justice Trends*, reports regularly on U.N. matters, informing a broad constituency in Australia and internationally, about the structure, function and activities of the U.N. regarding economic, social and cultural rights, and the Australian Government's engagement with it.

Position Papers and Discussion Guides issued on key human rights issues and referring to the obligations of international law have dealt with: Australia's immigration strategy 'the Pacific Solution' (2002); Refugees in Australia (2002); the bombing of Afghanistan (2002); the involvement of Australia in the invasion of Iraq (2003); the detention of Australian citizens at Guantanamo Bay (2003); and, the 40th Anniversary of Pope John XXIII's Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris* ('Peace on Earth') (2003).

Series Papers produced during the reporting period concerning human rights and state party obligations under international law have included: No.44 – *The Call to Hospitality: Catholic Teaching on Refugees* (2002); No.46 – *A Fair Society? Common Wealth for the Common Good: Ten Years On* (2003); No. 47 – *War on Iraq: Is It Just?* (2003); No. 51 *The Timor Sea's Oil and Gas: What's Fair?* (2004). Further details on these publications can be found at:

http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_papers.html

Over the reporting period, the ACSJC has lodged submissions with State or independent national inquiries concerning: the human rights of child asylum seekers held in mandatory immigration detention; the detention of asylum seekers off-shore and outside the jurisdiction of Australian law; the progress of National Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians; the introduction of new anti-terrorism legislation; poverty in Australia; the State's abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission – the national representative policy organisation for Indigenous Australians.

The annual Social Justice Sunday Statement for 2003, produced by the ACSJC for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and distributed nationally was entitled: "Peace Be With You: Cultivating a Culture of Peace". It was made partly as a contribution to the U.N. Decade for a Culture of Peace and mentioned the role of the Declaration on Human Rights in spreading democratic and multicultural values and the importance of the U.N. in responding to terrorism and protecting against the potential for self-serving military force in response to terrorist threats.

A range of other activities were undertaken by the ACSJC in the reporting period. From 2001, the ACSJC co-operated with the National Committee on Human Rights Education in fostering human rights education in its substantial national network including schools, religious orders, parishes, social justice groups and church agencies.

As a contribution to the U.N. Decade for a Culture of Peace and the World Council of Churches Decade for Overcoming Violence, the ACSJC co-hosted (with the National

Council of Churches' Gender Commission) a Sydney seminar "Building a Culture of Peace – Overcoming Violence" in November 2001.

In 2002, the ACSJC co-authored a Community Kit for Action Against Racism on behalf of the National NGO Coalition Against Racism. This action kit, entitled "A Fair Go!" was distributed widely and catered to the needs of many who share a commitment to eradicating racism.

With the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes and the New South Wales Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, the ACSJC produced an immigration policy working paper calling for improvements to Australia's humanitarian program for people seeking protection and accordance to its obligations under international law. This paper was launched at the National Press Club in Canberra in September 2002.

The ACSJC has issued statements and calls for national action on various UN International Days including Human Rights Day, the Day in Support of Survivors of Torture, and the Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The ACSJC participates in regular NGO meetings and consultations with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade concerning international human rights matters, Australia's promotion and protection of human rights under international law and the protection of human rights in multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations and agreements.

2. International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples

Special Consultative Status granted in 1989

I - Introduction

The International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (LIDLIP) was established in 1976 as a continuation of the Russell Tribunal II. The primary objective of LIDLIP is to defend human rights. The organization cooperates with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on matters related to the defence and promotion of human rights when the objectives of such groups are compatible with its own.

LIDLIP has held NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1989. In this capacity, it has been in a position to engage in active diplomacy in the human rights bodies of the United Nations, where it has spoken, in particular, on behalf of peoples with no international forum in which to express their views. The League's main objective during the past four years has been to consolidate and deepen its support for its partner grass-roots organizations and to contribute to the objectives of the United Nations.

The present quadrennial report describes the activities through which LIDLIP pursues its goal of promoting and protecting the rights of peoples and human rights before United Nations bodies and demonstrates how it is complying with its consultative obligations under Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

II - ACTIVITIES

2001

At the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights (17 March-27 April), held at United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, the League prepared and disseminated written statements. One statement ([E/CN.4/2001/NGO/148](#)) dealt with the garment and sportswear industries; two statements ([E/CN.4/2001/NGO/147](#) and [E/CN.4/2001/NGO/146](#)) discussed obstacles to the right to development: control of natural resources by transnational corporations. LIDLIP made an oral presentation on depleted uranium that had been dumped in Iraq and Kosovo. It also made an oral presentation on impunity, noting that States lacked the will to combat such behaviour. The sale of one transnational corporation to another (including the inhabitants and their land, village and church) in Puerto Casado (Paraguay) was denounced. Under the agenda item on indigenous peoples, the League again did not hesitate to advocate right of such peoples to self-determination. LIDLIP submitted a written statement on the unresolved question of Western Sahara, and a joint oral presentation of NGOs discussed the arrest of two Moroccan Saharan citizens who wished to address the United Nations. Another presentation dealt with the conflict in Sri Lanka, and a joint NGO oral presentation discussed the difficult situation in Colombia.

Participation in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (23-27 July)

Fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (30 July-17 August)

LIDLIP made a number of oral presentations. In one, linking the questions of globalization and transnational corporations, it called on the Sub-Commission to study the impact and consequences of globalization and of neoliberal policies and structural adjustment policies. The League also addressed the use of Vieques by the United States of America for military purposes, the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and the dramatic question of Palestine. Terrorism and human rights were discussed in the context of the struggle of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. In keeping with the priority LIDLIP has always attached to matters related to indigenous peoples, it provided its input on the study under preparation on indigenous peoples and their relationship to land. Reference also was made to the situations affecting the Maya in Mexico, the Shoshone in the United States of America and the Gwich'in in Alaska. A joint written statement by NGOs concerning Sri Lanka and the struggles of the Tamil people ([E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/NGO/25](#)) also was circulated.

2002

At the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights (18 March-26 April), the League's contributions included a written statement ([E/CN.4/2002/NGO/31](#)) calling for recognition of the right of the indigenous peoples of Mexico, in particular of Chiapas, to political, economic and cultural self-determination. Another written statement

(E/CN.4/2002/NGO/107) condemned the draft framework agreement the United Nations was seeking to impose on the parties involved (the Frente POLISARIO and Morocco) with respect to the political future of the Saharan people. A third written statement (E/CN.4/2002/NGO/30) condemned the lack of freedom of expression experienced by Pontic Greeks still living in northern Turkey.

The League made a number of oral presentations, including one on anti-terrorism legislation under preparation in Colombia and human rights in that country. Presentations were also given on the right to self-determination of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and the population of Puerto Casado in Paraguay. Violations of human rights in Palestine were the focus of a statement condemning abuses of the state of emergency by Israel in the occupied territories and the behaviour of the Israeli police towards the local population and the press. Economic, social and cultural rights were addressed in connection with the Puebla-Panama Plan, intended to promote economic ties between Mexico and a group of Central American countries. In an oral presentation concerning judicial independence and the administration of justice, the fight against terrorism and the impunity of crimes against human rights, LIDLIP underscored the fact that all forms of opposition, armed or otherwise, were being lumped together in the post-September 11 context.

Participation in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Geneva, 22-26 July)

Fifty-fourth session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva, 29 July-16 August)

With regard to states of emergency, LIDLIP condemned the ongoing imposition of states of emergency by the State of Israel since its creation in 1948. Turkey also held a record in that regard. As to discrimination in the criminal justice system, the League congratulated the Sub-Commission's expert regarding her excellent working paper (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/5) and expressed its support for her work. With respect to indigenous peoples, LIDLIP drew attention to the situation of the Western Shoshone (Nevada). It also renewed its appeal to the Sub-Commission to take the initiative and review the definition of the right to self-determination which had given rise to a series of laws that essentially denied the existence of the world's indigenous peoples. With regard to terrorism and human rights, the League pointed out that under the pretext of fighting terrorism, many Governments imposed limitations on human rights in order to combat their opponents. In an oral presentation, LIDLIP condemned the ongoing serious violations of human rights being perpetrated in Western Sahara by Morocco, a situation that was impeding the holding of a referendum on decolonization in the territory. Other interventions discussed human rights violations and repression in Colombia, the negative impact of globalization and the question of transnational corporations.

Participation in the Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994, eighth session, Geneva (2-13 December)

2003

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-ninth session, Geneva (17 March-25 April)

The League drew the attention at that session to the situation of the Kurds in Turkey. It made an oral presentation on terrorism, a matter of the utmost relevance, as was the war in Iraq, regarding which LIDLIP reaffirmed that any measures implemented to combat terrorism must be in strict compliance with international law and the international norms of human rights. LIDLIP sought once again to draw attention to the situation in Colombia as well as to the plight of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. It also gave a presentation on the Palestinian question and another on the right of the Saharan people to self-determination viewed from the perspective of economic rights.

Participation in the Working Group on Minorities, ninth session, Geneva (12-16 May)

Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, fifty-fifth session, Geneva (21 July-15 August)

LIDLIP made an oral presentation on the situation in Iraq and condemned the military attack that had come on the heels of more than a decade of sanctions. It also discussed the administration of justice, particularly in connection with some 700 detainees being held at Guantanamo. The same presentation addressed the disappearance of Saharan people in Morocco. On the question of terrorism and human rights, the League recalled that after 11 September 2001, States had latched on to antiterrorism rhetoric in order to implement measures that radically undermined the enjoyment of human rights. LIDLIP also expressed its support for the quest of indigenous peoples for their rights and condemned the negative impact of corruption.

Participation in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (21-25 July)

2004

Participation in the Working Group on Minorities (1-5 March)

Commission on Human Rights, sixtieth session (15 March-23 April)

Considerable attention was devoted to the question of the Saharan people, beginning with a written statement ([E/CN.4/2004/NGO/139](#)) and followed by an oral presentation concerning the status of Saharan political prisoners and the disappearance of 108 persons whose cases, according to the report of the Working Group on Enforced or

Involuntary Disappearances, were awaiting clarification (E/CN.4/2004/58). The League also drew attention to the plight of the Pontic Greek minority in northern Turkey and objected to the prevailing "politically correct" trend of advocating that movements fighting for the right to self-determination within their own countries should be considered terrorists. The Tamils of Sri Lanka were one example. LIDLIP also raised the issue of self-determination in connection with the peoples of Alaska and Hawaii. An oral presentation focused on cultural rights and the right to education in Turkey. The League again condemned the violence in Colombia and associated itself with the statement by the International Indian Treaty Council regarding the Western Shoshone (Nevada).

Participation in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, (19-23 July).

Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,
fifty-sixth session (26 July-13 August)

The League made an oral presentation on the absence of the rule of law in Sri Lanka and joined other NGOs in calling for respect for human rights in Iraq. LIDLIP also addressed the subjects of corruption, terrorism and transnational corporations.

Participation in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
(8-26 November).

Participation in the Working Group on a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, tenth session (13-24 September and 29 November-3 December).

3. International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples

Special consultative status granted in 1953

The International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples (UFER) is a federation of groups and individuals working to promote understanding, dialogue and cooperation between races, peoples and cultural groups, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1. Current structure of UFER

- UFER currently has 172 registered members in 37 countries.
- The Movement's positions concerning issues are adopted by decisions of the General Assembly, which meets every four years. The last Assembly was held in August 2001 and the next one will be convened in September 2005.
- Executive and management functions between Assembly sessions are discharged by the Executive Board, which is democratically elected.

2. Participation of UFER in the work of the United Nations

2.1. Geneva

UFER participates in the work of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development and special committees and working groups of the United Nations concerned with matters of interest to the Movement (for example, racism, sustainable development, religion and peace, the rights of the child and the rights of women). UFER works with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Special Rapporteur on traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child.

UFER actively follows the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and all matters related to efforts to combat racism and poverty.

To the extent possible, the Movement contributes to the work of bodies responsible for the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

The Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo of Argentina addressed the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the disappearance of children. Other UFER members made presentations on various topics, including the status of women, the situation in Kashmir and Pakistan and the human rights situation in Ethiopia.

2.2 New York

UFER attended all the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women dealing with the rights of women, children and the family.

2.3 International conferences

Since submitting its previous report UFER has participated in the following events:

- World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva
- Forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York
- Thirty-eighth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, Addis Ababa
- International Conference on Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Addis-Ababa
- International Meeting on Women and Health, organized by the World Health Organization Kobe Center, United Republic of Tanzania
- International meeting on women's right to health and on female genital mutilation organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held in Sweden

- International Policy Conference on the African Child and the Family, Addis Ababa
- Women's World Forum, Barcelona
- Regional Beijing +10 conference, Addis Ababa

2.4 Collaboration among NGOs

UFER is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

Through its Secretary-General, UFER plays a very active role in all deliberations of NGOs in Geneva (through CONGO and associated working groups).

The Movement also participates in the work of various sub-committees.

3. Training provided by UFER

L'UFER provides information and training on matters related to human rights, in particular efforts to combat all forms of racism.

3.1. Training of members

3.1.1. Training of members is accomplished primarily through *Nouvelles d'UFER*, a bulletin circulated to members at least twice a year.

- The bulletin publishes information on all the commissions and conferences at which UFER has been represented and includes the texts of interventions, participant reports and the like.
- News about members and their views on issues related to international events bear witness to their daily experiences, their problems and their commitment.

3.1.2 Every four years a three-day training period precedes the statutory General Assembly. The forthcoming General Assembly, for which preparations are in progress, will focus on the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations (the "Cardoso report").

3.1.3 When members travel to Geneva or New York, they have the opportunity to learn about the current international situation through their participation in the meetings of the commissions, conferences and debates being held at the time.

3.2 Training of non-members

In August 2004 a training seminar on conflict resolution was organized in the Republic of Korea. Twenty-six participants from nine countries attended; all the participants were engaged on the issue and were already involved in specific activities on behalf of the most vulnerable groups (inter alia, refugees, children, immigrants, women victims of violence, minorities and indigenous peoples).

One of the priorities of LIDLIP is to ensure that follow-up is provided after its training sessions so that participants can apply what they have learned in their home environments. New "local teams" requiring assistance and support are established following each training event.

Given the success of the first two conflict management training exercises, the Movement will organize additional such programmes. One will be held in Ethiopia in 2006 or 2007. Because UFER members are all volunteers (who also hold regular jobs) and the organization receives no grants, it is unable to schedule as many training sessions as it is asked to organize.

4. Unitarian Universalist Association

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) contributes to the development aims of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the United Nations through the work of its associate organization, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO), located on-site at the Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, Suite 7-G, in New York.

The UU-UNO is a faith-based NGO operative in the UN system and in the international community. The UU-UNO is financially supported by its membership. The UU-UNO acts both as a voice for the religious denomination of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) in the world forum of the United Nations, and as a venue for education, advocacy and outreach on UN-related issues, particularly among congregations in North America. The mission of the organization is to promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter. The aim of the UU-UNO is to foster sustainable development as a means to achieve peace, security and human rights. The current program focus is to educate, advocate and actively work towards the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We support reform of the UN that enhances the effectiveness of the organization.

The UU-UNO membership – individual youth and adults, congregations, and other church groups – advocates for the UN in their communities. Designated Envoys organize Sunday worship services and workshops in their congregations to mark UN Sunday, World AIDS Day, the International Day of Peace and other major UN observances. Envoys also create programs to draw attention to international crises, such as Darfur and nuclear proliferation. UU-UNO staff and members participate on NGO committees, submit position papers to ECOSOC to effect policy concerning UN business, and regularly attend DPI briefings and NGO conferences, other UN meetings, annual Commissions and major Summits.

The UU-UNO keeps our membership current on UN happenings through a quarterly newsletter, *Window on the World*, regular e-mail communications, and an interactive website, www.uu-uno.org. To expand interaction between UUs and the UN, the UU-UNO established the Internship Program in 2001, engaging college and graduate

students in research on world issues. These young people bring a vital commitment to international affairs and provide key administrative support to the Office. Their experience infuses a global perspective in their educational preparation.

Since 1962, the organization has hosted Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminars at the Church Center on timely UN topics, often featuring a UN official as keynote speaker; participants prepare a Statement of Principle to be delivered to the UN Secretary-General and shared with all UU-UNO members.

Below is a brief chronology of our most significant accomplishments for the reporting period 2001-2004. The enclosed appendices include Seminar Statements of Principle, a summary Financial Statement, a brochure, and a sample newsletter.

Part II

2001

United Nations Meetings

- Delegates gave voice to UUs values at workshops and meetings at the *UN World Summit Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances (WCAR)* in Durban, South Africa (August-September). Following the Summit, reports were issued to all UUs congregations in Canada and the United States of America, and delegates spoke to the issues at area conferences in churches and universities.
- The UU-UNO participated in drafting of the Statement on behalf of NGOs to the *Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty* (September).

Unitarian Universalist Meetings and Initiatives and Collaboration with other NGOs

- Interns conducted fall/winter/spring semesters of the Global Leadership Program at the Church Center, educating area high school juniors and seniors about UN activities.
- The UU-UNO conducted the Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, “UUs at Work in a Troubled World: Children-at-Risk & Racism” (April).
- During the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly in Cleveland, OH, the UU-UNO presented four workshops: “The United States vs. the United Nations,” “Triumphs, Disappointments in Negotiations for the International Criminal Court,” “UUA at the World Conference on Racial Discrimination,” and “The Unheralded Search for the Origin of AIDS” (June).
- The UU-UNO conducted a Youth conference at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY, for participants to discuss and process

their feelings following the events of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon (October).

- The UU-UNO, as a member of the United Nations Association-USA Council of Organizations, raised \$30,000 to clear a minefield in Kabul, Afghanistan through “Adopt-A-Minefield” (November).

2002

United Nations Meetings

- During the 46th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), we organized a series of presentations at local UU churches titled “Dialogue with Islam: The Changing Role of Muslim Women,” co-sponsored with the Women’s Commission of the International Rescue Committee. The aim was to increase communication between Muslims and other religious groups and promote peace by creating increased understanding (March).
- Representatives, including two Youth, attended the UN General Assembly Session on Children and hosted group suppers and entertainment for Youth from other attending countries (May).
- UU-UNO members participated in the International Criminal Court Preparatory Commission committees (April and July) and the first meeting of the governing body of the Assembly of State Parties of the International Criminal Court, in New York (September).
- A Statement of Conscience “Concerning a Military Attack on Iraq by the United States” was submitted to the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General (July).
- The UU-UNO sent five delegates to the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* in Johannesburg, and presented the Statement of Principle on Sustainable Development drafted at the Intergenerational Seminar. Delegates followed up work at the Summit with speaking engagements and publications in journals and newsletters to educate our constituents (August-September).

Unitarian Universalist Meetings and Initiatives and Collaboration with other NGOs

- The Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, “Commit to a Just and Sustainable World” (April).
- At the UUA General Assembly in Quebec City, Canada, the UU-UNO presented four workshops: “The United Nations’ Role in Post-Taliban Afghanistan,” “Global Teach-In Panel Discussion,” “Beyond Messy Conversations: Discussions about the UN World Conference Against Racism,” and “Children, War and Small Arms – What a Mixture.” Actions of Immediate Witness were issued on “Toward Peace and Justice in the Middle East” and “Endorse the Earth Charter” (June).

2003

United Nations Meetings

- An intern attended the *World Youth Summit on Globalization* in Brussels, exploring the North-South ramifications of globalization (December).

Unitarian Universalist Meetings and Initiatives and Collaboration with other NGOs

- Agreeing with ECOSOC that “Water is fundamental for life and health,” the Annual Intergenerational Seminar focused on “Water: Our Right, Our Responsibility.” The proceedings from this seminar were turned into a documentary film that was distributed widely (April).
- At the UUA General Assembly in Boston, MA, the UU-UNO offered four workshops: “Justice for All? US Government Attacks the ICC,” “Iraq and the United Nations,” “Sustaining the Earth for the Future,” and “Water: Our Right, Our Responsibility” (June).
- The Executive Director participated in the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation Experts Meeting at The Hague, “Theological, Ethical and Psychological Ramifications for Victims of Genocide and War Crimes” (September).

2004

Unitarian Universalist Meetings and Initiatives and Collaboration with other NGOs

- UU-UNO Pledged support for the Millennium Project and the MDGs, making the goals of sustainable development a central focus of program work (UU-UNO Members Annual Meeting, April).
- The UU-UNO presented the Annual Intergenerational Seminar: “The UN: Our Global Conscience: Protecting Human Rights to Life, Liberty, Security” (April).
- Presented workshops at the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, on “MDGs and the Every Child Program,” and “What the UN Does” (May).
- At the UUA General Assembly in Long Beach, CA, the UU-UNO presented four workshops: “ICC: Why Should We Play by the Rules?” “Energizing UU Principles through Global Partnerships,” “Rebuilding Africa from Within: Working with African Communities,” and “The Middle East in Peril” (June).
- The UU-UNO facilitated a Community Needs Assessment in Arkos, Romania in cooperation with the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, First UU church of Houston, and the UU Church of Arkos. This work resulted in the development of a village Youth Committee that implemented environmental projects to enhance the quality of life in the area and clear the river of pollution (July).

- In line with our support of MDGs, the UU-UNO planted the seeds for an educational partnership with the Queen Mothers Association for the “Every Child is Our Child” program, with the goal of sending 1,200-2,000 AIDS orphans and vulnerable children to primary school in the Manya Krobo District of eastern Ghana, an area affected by the AIDS epidemic. This project is undertaken in partnership with the Queen Mothers Association, women of the traditional system who are responsible for the youth.

5. World Trade Centers Association

Special consultative status granted in 1977

Part I

The World Trade Centers Association is a non-profit, non-political international organization comprised of individuals and groups that develop and manage World Trade Centers, (WTCs). There are approximately 280 WTCs in 78 countries. There are two main components to a WTC, real estate and trade development. WTCs emphasize these two areas to varying extents, some are entirely and solely real estate oriented and others are strictly trade development offices. Ideally, both components exist, working together synergistically. Each WTC has as its constituency, traders and other international businesses in its region. A conservative estimate puts their number at 750,000, mostly small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs.) Each year WTCs facilitate billions of dollars in trade. Around the world, WTCs are viewed as engines for economic development. Our motto is "peace and stability through trade."

Part II

Ongoing efforts on the Korean Peninsula

At our Spring Meeting in April, 2001 the President of the WTCA, Guy Tozzoli, met with the President of the Republic of Korea, Kim Dae-Jung, on April 23, 2001 to discuss Mr. Tozzoli's efforts toward the reunification of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. Since his visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1997, Mr. Tozzoli had been working through the UN Ambassador from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ambassador Han Song Ryol, to develop a "de-facto unification" of the two nations.

Mr. Tozzoli and the WTCA have also been working during this time to return *Bukwande-chupbe*, a monument held by Japan, to its original location in Bukwan in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These discussions have involved parties from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and Japan. These efforts are ongoing.

Working with a consortium of companies assembled by a number of WTCA members, Mr. Tozzoli met with Chinese President Jiang Zemin on April 30th, 2001 to initiate the

development of power generation facilities in Western China. These facilities are planned to use fossil fuels that have been processed to lessen environmental impact.

To address concerns about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's expansion of its nuclear capabilities, Mr. Tozzoli has proposed to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea government, "Fossil Fuels for Farms and Factories", a program using the clean fossil fuel technologies assembled by the WTCA consortium working in China, to preclude the need for nuclear power generation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Mr. Tozzoli discussed this program with the President of the Republic of Korea, Kim Dae-Jung, on November 14, 2002 and with UN Ambassador Han Song Ryol of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on July 9 and August 7 of 2003.

Balkan States

In September 2001 despite the destruction of the New York World Trade Center, the location of our headquarters, the WTCA persisted in its efforts to foster peace and stability through trade. Right after September 11, the WTCA went ahead with its plans for a trade fair in Zagreb on September 18th through 20th, with the assistance of several WTCs in the region to help re-establish trading connections among the Balkan states. Trading relationships that had been interrupted by war were revitalized.

Middle East and North Africa Regions

Since September 11, 2001 several new WTCs have been established in the Middle East and North Africa regions: Aleppo, Basra, Benghazi, Dammam, Jeddah, Kabul, Kuwait City, Riyadh and Sanaa. In addition, dormant WTCs in Gaza and Beirut were revitalized and are now providing training and market research services to companies in those regions. The WTC group in Kabul has been training women to teach literacy and basic business skills.

Geneva

In October of 2004 the WTCA General Assembly was held in Geneva. We were addressed by the Under-Secretary General and Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva in the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations on October 4th 2004. Many WTCs are involved in finding suppliers for various areas of the UN organization and we were addressed at this meeting by the Director of Central Support Services at the United Nations Office at Geneva on this topic. The Assembly was also addressed at this time by the then Director General of WTO who is now Secretary General of UNCTAD. Also during this Assembly, Mr. Aziz Sadat, President of the Kabul WTC addressed the group on "The Role of WTCs in Post-Conflict Recovery."

Summary

Through efforts from our Headquarters office in New York and through the work of our members worldwide, the WTCA works toward establishing peace and stability through trade. It is our strong belief that through fostering global commercial and cultural connections we are in support of the United Nations goals.
