

19 December 1994

Dear Friends,

As you may know I have been working for UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in Paris for the past few years. My task, first as a consultant and later on a temporary appointment, has been to design and help develop a new programme called the Culture of Peace Programme (CPP).

CPP has three components: coordination of ongoing UNESCO activities for a culture of peace; development of national culture of peace programmes; and establishment of a networking and information system.

UNESCO, since it was created in 1946 "to construct the defences of peace in the minds of men (and women)", has pioneered in education for peace, human rights and international understanding, and today, more than ever, its activities in its various fields of competence, are being re-dedicated to peace.

I have been especially concerned with the development of national culture of peace programmes in El Salvador, Mozambique and, most recently, Burundi. In these national programmes, UNESCO engages all parties to the conflict, governmental and non-governmental, in a process of "concertation and participation" in the planning and implementation of human development projects. A key component being developed is the training of "peace promoters", development workers, teachers, etc. who receive in-service training in conflict management, which they use to ensure cooperation among all sides of the conflict in their development projects. In this way, peace and development can be linked at a practical level.

The networking system is just being developed and I hope that your peace and justice organization will link up to it by sending materials to the CPP, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75352, Paris. We hope to put out the first newsletter in 1995.

Recent world events, as well as our dialogue with many organizations, governmental non-governmental and inter-governmental, have convinced us that there is a great need for what we are doing. We have received the full support of UNESCO's Director-General, Federico Mayor and increasing support from governments and the United Nations system. There seems to be a growing sense that a shift in priority is needed from peacekeeping operations to long-term peacebuilding programmes which involve UNESCO's fields of competence in conjunction with equitable, endogenous, sustainable development.

As you can imagine, I find this work to be the most challenging I have ever faced, and for that reason I am pleased to announce that I have accepted a permanent post at UNESCO as senior programme specialist in the Culture of Peace Programme. I work under the direction of Mr. Leslie Atherley and in a small team consisting for the moment of 5 professionals and 2 secretaries.

Wesleyan University, which has given me leaves of absence over the past two years in order to pursue this work, has kindly agreed to allow me to retain my ties to the University, from which I will take early retirement in 1998.

The most wonderful aspect of this work is the people whom I have been privileged to meet, people who are dedicating their lives to the challenge of moving from a culture of war to a culture of peace. The missions on which I have gone to Central America and Southern Africa, to the world gathering of the International Peace Research Association, to the anniversary meeting of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project, have brought me into contact with people whom I think of "peace

heros" - people every bit as courageous and adventurous as any military adventure one could imagine.

Since most of you to whom I address this letter are peace and justice activists in the United States, I should like to raise a particular issue of special concern with you. Like you, I have long been concerned in my actions and writings with the key role that the United States plays in determining whether the world can move to a culture of peace. In fact, I am publishing in the next issue of the Journal of Peace Research a study on the history of internal military interventions in the U.S. A transition from the dominance of peace-keeping to that of peace-building in the United Nations will depend greatly upon support from the U.S. government. I understand that there is a great deal of disillusionment, among the American people with peace-keeping operations, but I urge that this not be translated into a general sentiment against the U.N. System. Instead, it is time for a reorientation of priorities from military concepts of security to security based upon justice and equitable development. The Culture of Peace Programme can play a major role in such a re-orientation, and I would like to see it come to receive the support of the American people and, eventually, the U.S. Government.

Another concern is the rising tide of violence in America, including crime, suspicion and xenophobia, and the export of weapons and violence in the media. I don't believe that we in the United Nations can stand by, as if a culture of peace could be instituted only by the developing nations. Instead, a culture of peace is, if anything, even more necessary 'in the industrialized countries. Therefore, we would welcome your suggestions about how the CPP could play a positive and useful role in this regard. For example, we have received a suggestion that UNESCO support programmes in community schools plagued by violence in the major urban areas. This could include support for mediation-training not only for staff and students, but also for the parents and surrounding community, as well as international linkages of these schools to other similar schools around the world.

I apologize that I have not been a very good correspondent over the past few years, as the volume of mail involved with our programme is beyond the scope that I can deal with on a personal basis. However, if you are planning to come through Paris at some point, please call or fax me in advance so that we can meet and I can share this work with you more directly. I may be reached at (331) 4568-0876 (telephone) or (331) 4783-6867 (fax).

Lindsay and I send you our best wishes for the holiday season. May it be filled with hope for peace in the coming year, and the joy that we can find by working together to bring it about.

Peace, David Adams