

# UNESCO

CPP/DA/120  
20 February 1997

To : The Director General

Via : Leslie Atherley, Director CPP

From : David Adams, CPP

Subject: **Mission Report Concerning Establishment of Culture of Peace Programme in Russian Federation**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The following is based on my participation in the UNESCO Days in the Russian Federation 10-14 February 1997 as well as extensive discussions at Headquarters, with the Moscow office, the Russian permanent delegation, the meetings by the Director-General during the first two days in Moscow, and private discussions during the mission with over half of the partners listed in ANNEX I. At Headquarters these discussions were based on close coordination with Mr Tanguiane, Mr Lomeiko and the Director of CPP and they followed a memo to all sectors asking for their activities concerning the culture of peace in the Russian Federation. As a result, meetings were held in Education (Khawajkie, Savolainen, Poth, Sannikov), SHS (Volodin, von Furstenberg, Auriat) and BRX (Godicke, Bantchev). At the Moscow office, an especially valuable contribution was provided by Igor Danilov. The proposed programme would continue close coordination of CPP with all of the preceding.

## II. SUMMARY

2. The culture of peace, as a concept and a programme for the Russian Federation, was supported by government officials at all levels, as well as intellectuals and educators during the visit of the Director-General for UNESCO Days in the Russian Federation. This reflects the current dilemma of Russian society which is threatened by a return to structural and overt violence, and it is the first time that a Northern industrial society has expressed such interest in developing its own national culture of peace programme.

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CC: All ADGs, Moscow and Venice Offices of UNESCO, Special Advisors Forti, Lomeiko and Tanguiane, DIR/SHS/HRS, DIR/SHS/MOS, Chief/BRX/EUR, ED/HCI (Poth, Khawajkie, Savolainen), ED/UCE (Sannikov),

3. On the last day of his visit, the Director-General addressed a meeting attended by 21 initial UNESCO partners for a culture of peace. Including one ministry (nationalities), educational institutions, and many academic institutions, these partners are prepared to provide extensive contributions, many of which are listed here, to a culture of peace in the Russian Federation.

4. Because of the immediate threat to peace associated with Russian response to the expansion of NATO, it suggested that UNESCO take the lead in proposing the conversion of NATO from its traditional military priority to a priority of economic conversion as a new approach to security.

5. The main lines for a national Russian culture of peace programme are presented and appropriate recommendations indicated. Three components are proposed for such a programme: a central action component, scientific inputs, and educational outputs.

## II. SUPPORT FOR AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURE OF PEACE IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION

6 UNESCO's concept and actions towards a culture of peace received support at every level during the visit of the Director-General for UNESCO Days in the Russian Federation. Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, in his meeting with the Director-General, indicated his government's support for the culture of peace, and especially emphasized its contribution to the course towards democracy in the Russian Federation. Speaking for the Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Russian Federation at the State Duma, Dr. A. S. Dzassokhov, specifically indicated that "we are very much interested in tolerance, ethno-political issues and the culture of peace." Similar support was given by the mayor of Moscow, Mr Luzhkov, in his meeting with the Director-General.

7. In the meeting of the delegation with the Russian National Commission for UNESCO, its new President, Mr Ilyushin, cited the culture of peace as one of the priorities for the Commission's work. And Dr Rem Petrov, the Vice President of the Academy of Sciences, speaking as a member of the Commission, cited the special role of the sciences, with their universal language, in developing a culture of peace.

8. The Minister of Nationalities, Mr Viatcheslav Mikhailov, indicated to me in a separate meeting that they are giving a priority to the culture of peace and wish to hold a major conference on the subject this fall, to which they will issue an invitation to UNESCO Director- General. Further details are given below.

9. The Minister of Youth, in collaboration with the Institute of Youth, during the visit of the Director-General, indicated that their ministry will establish a network of youth organizations which, among other things, will devote their energies to promoting a culture of peace.

10. Academic establishments, as exemplified during the visit by new UNESCO Chairs in the Culture of Peace and Democracy at both the Humanities University (Rector Yuri Afanasiev) and the Institute of Youth (Rector Igor Ilyinsky) are especially interested in participating with UNESCO to promote a culture of peace. In fact, no less than 13 academic institutes and research centres are among the partners for a culture of peace who participated in the meeting of February 14, details of which are given below.

11. Finally, support for the culture of peace is not confined to Moscow and the large cities, but may be found at the grass roots level, as was seen during the visits to Novosibirsk, Ekaterinburg and Nizhni Tagil and by the great interest that has been demonstrated by teachers and schools throughout the country.

12. Why such great interest? The analysis presented by the Director-General was confirmed in my discussions with people at all levels. The people of Russia have had enough of war and the culture of war: the devastations of two World Wars; the deprivations and fears of the Cold War; the sacrifice of human development to military priorities and a society organized along military lines. They are afraid that the present instability may plunge them once again into the devastating spiral of overt and structural violence, and they are looking for an alternative future. The Russians are searching for enduring human values, but twice in one century, their entire system of values has been destroyed and they are mistrustful of the values espoused by today's would-be leaders.

13. UNESCO, coming from the outside and having a stable history of moral and ethical leadership, is one of the few institutions trusted by the Russian people, and thus UNESCO proposal of the culture of peace evokes great interest. It resonates with chords already present in their culture, especially the intellectual and educational traditions which still command some respect. And there are intact intellectual and educational institutions which can

effectively develop and disseminate the culture of peace. To give one impressive example, recently the educational magazine *Uchitelskaya Gazeta* (paid circulation of 200,000 - mostly to school teachers) asked their readers what they thought about a culture of peace. Almost 2,000 letters came in from all parts of this vast country expressing interest and saying that they would like to know more about the idea. The editor, Pyotr Polozhevets has retained the addresses of these teachers and is prepared to send them materials from UNESCO on the culture of peace so that we can launch a personal dialogue with them on the subject.

14. This support for the culture of peace in the Russian Federation is of great significance in the world today. It is the first time that a Northern industrial country has expressed such interest in developing its own culture of peace

programme. If successful, it can provide an example to other developed countries where the culture of peace must ultimately be established if we are to move from a culture of war to a culture of peace on a global level.

### III. PARTNERS FOR CULTURE OF PEACE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

15. The Director-General presented the culture of peace at a meeting attended by 21 initial partners on February 14. In Annex I these partners are listed along with the sector and contact person at UNESCO, thus representing an integrated and transdisciplinary approach to the culture of peace. Following the address by the Director-General they remained for an hour to discuss the contributions they can make to the programme. The following is based both upon that discussion and upon individual discussions that I carried out with more than half of them on the preceding days.

16. The Minister of Nationalities (No. 1 on the list) is proposing a major conference entitled "From Stereotypes of War to a Culture of Peace" to be held in the fall either immediately before or after the General Conference. The Director-General is requested to attend or send a high-level representative. The conference will have 50-60 participants representing the major religions, nationalities (ethnic groups), artists, and leaders from education and economic development in the Russian Federation and will be a working, not a "political" meeting (probably with workshops) to develop the process of dialogue among these groups. Although UNESCO cannot bear the major financial burden of the meeting, it is requested to make a financial contribution. It is interesting to know that the initial stimulus for the meeting came from the Moscow Conservatory of Music and the Institute for Cultural Research (Director Kiril Razlogov), and I will be staying in touch with them about the details of the proposal.

17. A particularly enthusiastic response comes from the coordinator of the UNESCO Associated Schools, Ms Natalya Korshunova (2) which will serve as a major output of the Programme, spreading the concepts and information about progress towards a culture of peace to students, teachers, parents and communities.

18. Professor Eremina and her colleagues at the Institute for Regional Educational Development (3) have developed pilot projects for multi-cultural education and inter-ethnic understanding in 100 schools in multi-ethnic communities throughout the various regions of the Russian Federation. As an independent institute receiving support from the Ministry of Education, they are using UNESCO materials and are prepared to serve as the output for culture of peace teaching materials and training to schools and communities at the local level.

19. Professor Shnekendorf and his colleagues at the Moscow Pedagogical University (4) have developed textbooks and teachers guides for human rights education and incorporated this into the training of teachers in all faculties of their university. These are already in use in the national schools programme and associated schools programme, and serve as a base for teacher training on which the culture of peace programme can be built.

20. As mentioned above there is a major potential contribution of the teachers newspaper

“Uchitelskaya Gazeta” and its editor-in-chief Pyotr Polozhevetz (5). With UNESCO support they are also producing a new companion newspaper devoted to civic education. We may use their interactive network with teachers as a sounding board for our materials and as a source of information about activities at a local level which can be cited as the specific contents of the culture of peace. They are also prepared to publicize culture of peace concepts and activities in two new programmes on national television channels 1 and 2.

21. The education journal *Pedagogika* and its editor-in-chief Vladimir Borisenkov (6) are prepared to publish a column devoted to the culture of peace in every issue. To lay the basis of this series, we discussed in detail the global vision of the culture of peace, its history, practice and relation to other priority issues of the day such as that of ecology. He is prepared, in cooperation with CPP and Mr Tanguiane to take the lead in establishing an informal network of educational journals in major countries and regions of the world to publish and exchange such articles on a regular basis.

22. Professor Yuri Afanasiev and his colleagues at the UNESCO Chair at the Russian University for the Humanities (7) propose to prepare a textbook on the culture of peace based on their extensive work on cultural dialogue. They will prepare a rough draft for our consideration. Among other things it will consider the need for a paradigm shift from the “mythologised ideology” of the older generation who believed that peace comes from military victory to a “demythologized ideology” of peace that is based upon dialogue.

23. Professor Tchubarian and his colleagues at the Institute of World History (8) are completing work on a manual on the culture of peace and democracy and are working closely with the Institute of Youth and other partners, including Professor Kapitza.

24. Professor Timofeev and his colleagues at the Institute of Comparative Politology (9) propose to prepare a scientific study for UNESCO entitled “Cultural Processes, Social Change and the Culture of Peace Problems”, leading to specific recommendations for the Culture of Peace Programme concerning education, media, and roles of the state, the international community and the research community. The elaborated proposal, based on extensive discussions with CPP and Special Advisor Tanguiane, is being sent separately along with the letter (in both

English and Russian) formally requesting UNESCO support for the project. In addition, Professor Timofeev is on the committee preparing for the 850th Anniversary Celebration of the city of Moscow and proposes that UNESCO take part in a special symposium concerning the culture of peace on that occasion, probably September 4-6. I had the pleasure of taking part in a two-hour debate on the culture of peace with all of the scientific workers of his Institute during the visit, a debate which sensitized me to their deep concern for peace, but also their need to shift the focus of peace from the international to the national and inter-group level. They believe that the time has come for a broad social movement for the culture of peace in their country.

25. Several non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting, including the Moscow School of Human Rights - Director Mr Anatoly Azarov (17), the international movement “Teachers for Peace and International Understanding” represented by Mikhail Kabatchenko (18) the Ecological Women’s Assembly - President, Professor Alla I. Perminova (19), and the “Forum” Centre for Peace and Development - Director Olga Vorkunova (20). It is clear that we need to associate these and other such NGO’s closely to the development of the programme, although more work needs to be done in the establishment of UNESCO’s relations to them.

26. Professor Serguei Kapitza of the Television Programme “Obvious yet Incredible” (21) promised to help engage mass media in the project and help us fully involve legislative institutions (Duma etc) at all levels. These are two areas that were not sufficiently well represented at the February 14 meeting and which will need to be increased in the future.

#### IV. A PROPOSAL TO 'CONVERT' NATO

27. One of the foremost challenges to peace today is the eastward expansion of NATO up to the borders of the Russian Federation. In our meeting with the President of the Duma, like others with whom we spoke, he warned us that this would unleash a "typhoon", restarting the Cold War and creating an overwhelming demand by the Russian people for rearmament instead of social programmes.

28. A possible solution to this problem could be proposed by UNESCO as an example of the new concept of security - that NATO itself be "converted" to an organization primarily concerned with economic conversion. UNESCO's responsibility for the role of science for peace gives it a special Constitutional role in this matter, since scientists should take the lead in this process.

29. Such a solution might satisfy the Russian demands by removing the military threat posed by the expansion of NATO at the same time as it helps them with the problem of economic conversion which requires major capital investment. At the same time, it would allow NATO to be kept intact as an institution with an enlargement of its member states. The key is to convince Western Europe and the United States that in this era, the new concept of security consists of economic conversion rather than increased armament - a central tenet of the culture of peace.

30. Certain aspects of this conversion are already in place. NATO already has a "third dimension" programme involving scientists in disarmament technology, conversion of high technology for peaceful uses, and environmental security. This was described in the book I edited last year on the Culture of Peace which was distributed at the General Conference. It followed on discussions I had with one of NATO scientists involved, Dr Paul Rambaut, at the forum of the Olof Palme Foundation in 1995. Furthermore, the UNESCO Venice office, involving Special Advisor Augusto Forti and working with the Landau Network in Physics (Moscow and Como, Italy), has been engaged in technical work on economic conversion and is now discussing how this can be related effectively to the culture of peace.

31. The proposed culture of peace programme in the Russian Federation could provide a synergistic contribution to economic conversion. First, as indicated by Academician Petrov, Russian natural scientists are ready to contribute to peace and could do so in this way. And second, my own experience with economic conversion in the USA from 1989-1992 before coming to UNESCO, demonstrated that the key is participation by all parties in the local communities involved - and therefore this could be one of the essential "action components" of the programme described below.

#### IV. PROPOSED MAIN LINES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAMME

32. Building on the positive reception to the culture of peace and the many partners already prepared to work, I propose the following main lines of a national culture of peace programme for the Russian Federation. It should include three basic components: **1) an action component, 2) a scientific input, and 3) an educational output** through schools and media and cultural activities. The action component is central, deriving from fundamental psychological theory that the transformations of beliefs and attitudes necessary for profound social change can only occur when people participate actively in the process. Passive observers do not make social change.

33. Thus, the **action component** should be central, consisting of actual events and processes in which conflict is transformed through dialogue for development through cooperative action. This should include activities at all levels, from national events such as the conference organized by the Ministry of Nationalities to local events such as those in schools and communities throughout the country. Some of these will be directly associated with UNESCO, but the majority will take place spontaneously without UNESCO input and it

is the task of the UNESCO Programme to learn about them, publicize them, and link them with other events and institutions into a coherent movement. Above all the central focus must be upon activities based upon and consistent with the traditions of the peoples of the Russian Federation - rather than any attempt to impose or any perception that the culture of peace is something coming from outside or from above.

34. Several features follow from the central action component: a) the basic democratic institutions at all levels must be engaged in the culture of peace programme - from the National government and its ministries to mayors and local government, from executive branches and from legislative branches (Duma, etc) - as well as other forums of decision making, including non-governmental organizations and forums of economic decision-making; b) a basic feature of the programme must be the gathering of knowledge about events and processes corresponding to the principles of the culture of peace throughout the country and the incorporation of this into materials disseminated through the outputs of the programme; c) an important role must be played by the elaboration and widespread commitment of the basic principles of a culture of peace in the Russian context in order to identify and stimulate the activities which meet these criteria.

35. The *scientific input* should include a wide spectrum of research and debate in the social and natural sciences and inputs from various intellectual traditions, including strong inputs from history and psychology. As indicated above, the network of UNESCO Chairs and partner institutes will provide a major input from the social sciences to the programme, elaborating and analysing its the basic principles and methods and preparing educational materials. Also in this regard, I discussed the programme with Professor Stanislav Roshchin of the Institute of Psychology, the Russian psychologist who was the first to develop political psychology in the pre-Gorbachev era. He is the foremost authority in Russian academic tradition of “activity psychology” which analyses consciousness development in terms of the active involvement of the learner. I recommend that he be included as part of a team, including also the psychologists at the Ministry of Education, to advise the project, evaluating drafts of educational materials and carrying out selected evaluation of their effectiveness with students and teachers.

36. The first steps have been taken in developing an *educational output* through schools, media and cultural figures and institutions, but this is an areas which will need much greater elaboration. The UNESCO Associated Schools and National Schools will play an important role and hopefully grow in size and importance, but even under the best of circumstances, they can reach only a small part of the vast country. The new Institute for New Information Technology in Education can be of great use in this process. Teacher-training at the university

level must play a major role. And, as pointed out correctly in our meeting by Serguei Kapitza, an important challenge will be the constructive engagement of the mass media at all levels of the programme. Finally, the culture of peace conference being organized by the Ministry of Nationalities will need to be followed up by extensive work with the educators, media representatives and artists who take part or are represented in it.

## V. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Given the significance of this first request for a culture of peace programme in an advanced industrial country, the enthusiasm expressed by UNESCO’s partners in this venture, and the evident need for a long-term national culture of peace programme in the Russian Federation, I recommend and am ready on behalf of CPP to prepare, a detailed proposal for the organization of such a programme, including its financial implications. The proposal would be based upon the above outline, taking into consideration your comments and instructions,

b. A specific proposal for the “conversion” of NATO could be worked out, as described in paragraphs 27-31. This might then be proposed by the Director-General, perhaps at a

suitable forum. CPP could coordinate development of this proposal in coordination with the Venice Office, Special Advisor Forti, the Landau Network, and involving the new UNESCO Chair concerned with economic conversion at the Zhukovsky Military Academy in Moscow.

c. The conference proposed by the Russian Ministry of Nationalities for fall of 1997 (see paragraph 16) should receive the support of UNESCO as it can serve as a major launching event for the programme.

d. While there are many individual requests for support coming out of my meetings in Moscow, they are best included in a comprehensive proposal as suggested above. One, however, is being submitted separately as it is accompanied by a letter to you from Professor Timofeev concerning a book project on the culture of peace which includes recommendations for the design of the proposed programme.

## ANNEX I

### NETWORK OF UNESCO PARTNERS FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE (PARTICIPANTS IN THE MOSCOW MEETING OF 14 FEBRUARY 1997)

1. Minister of Nationalities of Russian Federation - Viatcheslav Mikhailov, 19 Trubnikovsky Pereulok, 12189 Moscow, tel. 248-8411 (not able to attend in person)[CPP]
2. Associated Schools Programme, National Coordinator, Ms Nadia Korshounova, ASP "Mir-Ekologia, 190649 P/O No. 1, tel. 171-1626 [ED-Khawajkie]
3. Institute of Regional Educational Education - Director Ms Tatyana A. Eremina, Yaroslavskaya St. 13, Moscow, tel. 282-0217 [Moscow office]
4. Moscow Pedagogical University, Professor Zinovy K. Shnekendorf, tel. 133-0765 [Moscow office]
5. Educational Journal "Uchitelskaya Gazeta", editor-in-chief, Dr Pyotr G. Polozhevetz, 8 Pogodinskaya St, 119905 Moscow, tel. 928-8253 [ED-Sannikov]
6. Educational Journal "Pedagogika", Editor in Chief - Professor Vladimir P. Borisenkov, Pogodinskaya Street, 8, 119905 Moscow, tel. 248-5149 [Tanguiane and CPP]
7. UNESCO Chair on the Culture of Peace and Democracy, Russian State University for the Humanities - Rector, Academician Yuri N. Afanasiev, Miuskaia ploschad 6, 125267 Moscow, tel. 250-2016 [SHS - Symonides]
8. Institute of Universal History - Director, Professor Alexander Tchubarian, 32a Leninsky Prospect, 117334 Moscow, tel. 938-1009 [SHS-Lomeiko]
9. Institute of Comparative Politology - Director, Professor Timour Timofeev, Kolpachny pereulok 9a, 101831 Moscow, tel. 916-3703 [Tanguiane and CPP]
10. UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) - Professor Yuri M. Kolosov, Chairholder, 76, Vernadskogo Ave. 117454 Moscow, tel. 434-9452 [SHS - Symonides]
11. UNESCO Chair in Inter-Cultural Dialogue and Social Studies, Moscow Linguistic University - Rector, Irina I. Khaleeva, Ostozhenka 38, Moscow 119837, tel. 246-8603 [ED - Poth]
12. UNESCO Chair on humanization of military education and conversion, Joukovsky Air Force Engineering Academy - Chief of Academy, Prof. V. Kovalyonok, Leningradsky Av. 40, 125167 Moscow, tel. 155-1091 [CPP]
13. UNESCO Chair for Culture of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights, Institute of Youth - Rector, Professor I. Ilyinsky, 5/1 Youth St, 111395 Moscow, tel. 374-5280 [SHS - Lomeiko]
14. Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology - Rector, Professor Valery A. Tishkov, 9 Kalinin Ave, 117334 Moscow, tel. 938-1747 [SHS - Kazancigil]
15. Institute for African Studies - Director of Programme "On the way to peace culture", Prof. Alexei Vassiliev, 30 Spiridonovka St, 103001 Moscow, tel. 290-2752 [CPP]
16. Moscow Linguistic Center - Director, Ms Svetlana S. Khatchatourova, 17, Presnensky val, 123557 Moscow, tel. 253-8301 [ED - Poth]



17. Moscow School of Human Rights - Director Mr Anatoly Azarov, Starovatutinsky Proezd 8, 129281, Moscow, tel. 472-4211 [SHS - Symonides]
18. International movement "Teachers for Peace and International Understanding", Mikhail Kabatchenko, 10 Prechistenka St., 119889 Moscow, tel. 291-0083 [Moscow office]
19. Ecological Women's Assembly, President, Professor Alla I. Perminova, 84 Vernadsky Prospect, 117606 Moscow, tel. 151-0391 [Moscow office]
20. Research Center for Peace and Development FORUM, Dr Olga Vorkunova, tel. 332-1770 [SHS - ISSC]
21. Television programme "Obvious yet incredible" - Professor Serguei Kapitza, 13, Leninsky Prospect, 117071 Moscow, tel. 137-6577 [SHS - Lomeiko]

Note: Main contact person for UNESCO's side of partnership is indicated in brackets. CPP assumes a coordination function for all contacts.