

BULLETIN OF THE WORLD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA)

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Highlights of this Edition:

President's Message:

Hope for the Pacific p.2

World pendulum;

Still not swinging back towards co-operation. P. 3

Local News;

WCA builds infrastructure and holds first public meeting! P.4

International news;

The view from San Francisco P. 7

Famous internationalists of the past;

Emery Reves and the "Anatomy of Peace" P.8

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President's Message; Hope for the Pacific:

Early in August, there was a meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum in Apia, Western Samoa. The Forum comprises Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, the Cook Islands, Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. According to a report before the meeting by Tom Allard in the Sydney Morning Herald one of the objects was to discuss a proposal "for the island nations of the Pacific to pool resources and develop a European-Union style structure, which ultimately could involve a common currency and a common labour market." Unfortunately I saw nothing more about the proposal after the meeting.

This is a very exciting development, and an opportunity for our association to make a contribution to the discussion. Australia has recently been taking a more proactive role in the region, with our interventions in Cambodia, East Timor, the Solomon Islands, and now a contingent of police to New Guinea. If we are not to be accused of neo-colonialism, we need to involve other nations in the region in making decisions on common security, as well as trade and transport. A Pacific regional association along the lines of the European Union would be the ideal way to achieve these goals. Hopefully we could avoid some of the pitfalls besetting the EU, and produce an 'improved model'. For instance, we should be able to devise a sensible system of 'qualified majority voting' from the outset, and eschew the dreaded problem of the veto. And to anticipate the problem of the 'democratic deficit' encountered by the EU, the commissioners should be required to sit in the regional assembly

or parliament from the outset. A major problem would clearly be the huge imbalance between Australia and New Zealand on the one hand, and the tiny island nations of the Pacific on the other.

What do other members think? I am sure our editor would be delighted to receive correspondence on this, or any other issue.

Slowly we continue to get our house in order. Don Maclurcan has set up an email address for the association, at [wcaaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:wcaaustralia@hotmail.com). Michelle Cavanagh has set up a bank account with Bendigo Bank, and we have invited all members to send in their first annual subscriptions to our secretary, Michael de Mol. A number of our members have unaccountably forgotten to do it! I hope you will all continue to give us your support - a membership form is at the back for those who have lost theirs. Can I ask you all to try persuading a friend or two to join as well? I admit I have been lazy about this myself.

The next item of business is to set up a website for the association. I have reserved a domain name, <http://www.worldcitizens.org.au>, and now we only have to put something up there.

All the best, from  
Chris Hamer.

**The World Pendulum: Still not swinging back to co-operation:**  
In our last edition we saw that the world pendulum had swung back from co-operation towards conflict and violence after world leaders had squandered the chances to build co-operation provided by the end of the Cold War and the drama of September 11th. Has the pendulum swung back towards co-operation? Can it swing back in the foreseeable future?

The answer to the first question has to be a regretful no. The US continues unrepentant on its unilateralist course. There is little sign that the differences between the democracies, which were emphasised during the lead up to the Iraq War, are declining.

The failure of international co-operation between the democracies is highlighted by the humanitarian tragedy in the Sudan. Fighting there between ethnic and religious groups has led to mass slaughters of defenceless minorities and claims of genocide. A decade ago a similar crisis in Somalia saw an attempt at humanitarian intervention that at first seemed successful but then declined. Other ethnic cleansing style episodes in the 1990's saw hand wringing but no action in the case of Rwanda and unified action but limited success by the democracies in the former Yugoslavia. Now we have gone full circle. The problems of the Sudan are seen as Africa's problem and the idea of joint action by the democracies to try to save the thousands of lives that are at immediate risk is barely even raised. Instead force is expended on a pointless war in Iraq and we help to kill people unnecessarily rather than, however imperfectly, trying to stop them being killed unnecessarily. The decline of international co-operation and unified action by the democracies continues and the cost of this is not the deferral of an abstract dream of international community but the planned, organised, brutal and unnecessary deaths of thousands of our fellow human beings.

But this is not an irreversible course. At the time of writing we are in the midst of election campaigns in Australia and the USA where issues of

security and international co-operation have played a greater role than in the past. Candidates have been forced to stake out positions for or against co-operation as a way to deal with security problems. In the USA presidential candidate John Kerry has, at times, argued for a more multilateral approach to foreign policy. This does not mean very much by itself but it does show one thing. In many parts of the world people are moving from treating a world divided into competing states as a normal part of background reality to questioning its worth. We might be at the beginning of a great debate about the role of the state and whether individual freedom and fulfilment depends on national justice or international justice. These are only straw in the wind at the moment but it leaves possibility for hope. It also emphasises the role of world citizens right now. As people start to question the international system there is more chance for the people who have already thought about these issues, such as world citizens, to contribute to debate and make their voices heard. For this reason it is possible to argue that even though the pendulum appears to be slipping further from co-operation there may be cause for hope in the near future.

Local News: WCA builds its infrastructure and holds first public meeting:

Steadily we build our infrastructure and public profile, some recent developments are listed here and then a report on our first public meeting:

-A website domain has been reserved for the association under <http://www.worldcitizens.org.au>. Proposed web pages to appear under this domain name will be circulated for comment shortly.

-Don Maclurcan has set up an email account for the association, at [wcaaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:wcaaustralia@hotmail.com). Any member of the association is welcome to use this facility to pass on news or comments to the group. To access the account, you need to go to [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com), type in the above account name, and the password 'worldcitizen'.

-The Office of Fair Trading has now officially incorporated us as World Citizens Association (Australia) Incorporation No: INC 9882127

-Michelle Cavanagh has set up a bank account with the Bendigo Bank. Our Secretary, Michael de Mol, will gratefully receive subscriptions for this year! For those who have lost their registration forms, a copy is on the back page of this bulletin.

-Don Maclurcan is proposing to set up a branch of the WCA at UTS. For those of us not ensconced in NSW UTS is the University of Technology Sydney

-Lyndon Storey is now established in San Francisco, and has had meetings with the local World Citizens and World Federalist organizations.

So our organization is now taking shape. We have definitely moved beyond being an idea in a few people's minds and become a genuine organization. When we consider that the first small meeting was on May 5th this is rapid progress indeed. But good as institutional progress is our real goal is to act as world citizens and encourage others to do so. We must reach out into the broader community to do this. Our first attempt to do

so has already occurred and been quite successful. A report based on material supplied by Chris Hamer follows:

#### Reforming the UN

A discussion night sponsored jointly by the UN Society and the World Citizens Association was held at UNSW on Wednesday September 22. The topic for the evening was: Reforming the UN: Capacity for Change?

There were 20-30 people in attendance and the room was comfortably filled. Unfortunately Keith Suter was unable to attend, due to a bout of the flu.

Chris Hamer led off with an introduction to the World Citizens Association and its aims, followed by a list of the problems of the UN as it stands at present. These include:

- \* The lack of its own security force - it relies on the member states for voluntary peacekeeping contingents;
- \* The lack of jurisdiction of the World Court: compliance by member states is voluntary, as illustrated by Australia's refusal to submit the Timor Gap dispute to the Court;
- \* Lack of resources: the core budget of the UN is \$1-2 billion per year, less than the New York City Police Department. Compare this with Australia's federal budget, or the European Union, at around \$150 billion per year
- \* The power of veto: any permanent member of the Security Council can veto a decision on peace and security, paralysing action by the UN: e.g. the UN played no role in the Vietnam War;
- \* Lack of democracy in the General Assembly: the Assembly has multiple problems
  - Its resolutions are non-binding, so that Countries such as South Africa and Israel have at different times ignored them with impunity;
  - It is misrepresentative, in that tiny San Marino and Nauru have an equal vote with the mighty USA;
  - Its delegates are diplomats, mouthpieces for their home governments. They are not elected, and have no independence, initiative or loyalty towards the UN itself to drive development of the organization.

Andrew Greig then spoke about his experiences with the UN system and CARE Australia, when he worked in a refugee camp in Zaire following the massacres in Rwanda where several hundred thousand people were killed. He spoke of the drive into the camp, where for 30 kilometres the roadside was littered with dead bodies. He spoke of the desperate efforts to save the refugees from an epidemic of cholera, efforts that certainly saved many thousands of lives. He highlighted the invaluable work that is done by the UN aid agencies; but these must be set against the system failure that allowed the massacres to take place in the first instance. Finally, he declared his belief that as world citizens we should be working towards a democratic world government to prevent these terrible events and tackle the other great problems that confront us.

Chris Hamer (filling in for Keith Suter) then spoke briefly about attempts to reform the UN system:

- \* The 1958 proposal of Grenville Clark and Louis Sohn, 'World Peace Through World Law', involving a revised and strengthened UN Charter;
- \* The Special Committee on the Charter of 1975;
- \* The 'Binding Triad' proposal of Richard Hudson of 1976;

- \* The Campaign for UN Reform;
- \* The CAMDUN meetings from 1990 (Campaign for a More Democratic UN);
- \* The 1995 report, 'On Global Governance' (Carlsson-Ramphal report);
- \* Proposals for a 'Second Assembly' to act as a House of the People, consisting of elected representatives, or representatives of NGOs

In fact, no substantial amendment to the Charter has ever been made, beyond increasing the membership of the Security Council, etc. It requires the agreement of 2/3 of the member states, and all five permanent members of the Security Council, an almost impossible task. Some progress has been made in other areas:

- \* Streamlined organization of the Secretariat;
- \* Expanded peacekeeping functions;
- \* Establishment of the International Criminal Court.

But the question in the title certainly seems relevant: does the UN have any Capacity for Change? Chris Hamer raised two further questions: how useful would a Second Assembly really be, with no well-defined function? Would it be better to start afresh in the search for a global parliament, as Jean Monnet did in Europe?

One point persistently raised in the discussions was: are Western notions of democracy and human rights really applicable to other cultures, which may have their own codes of governance? Or is the gap between cultures unbridgeable, as suggested in Samuel Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations"? Andrew Greig answered the point about democracy, calling it the "least worst" system we know of, in an echo of Winston Churchill. And Prashanth Shanmugan had a magnificent answer to the question of human rights: a bill of human rights was apparently written down on a tablet in ancient Persia 2,400 years ago, which might be a copy of the UN Declaration of 1948. The needs of human society are universal, and independent of culture.

The discussion night was a great success stimulating thought and debate and enhancing people's awareness of both our group of world citizens and the need generally to think like world citizens.

International News; The view from San Francisco:

As I have been living in San Francisco recently I will use this section to give a brief picture of how some like-minded organizations in this part of the world work. Since coming here a few months ago I have found two similar organizations to our own.

The first is the "Association of World Citizens" (AWC). This organization has branches in 31 Countries with plans to reach 50 in the next few years. Some of the branches are, of course, rather small. The main goal is to promote the idea and consciousness of world citizenship rather than any particular policy. They often work in partnership with other organizations to focus attention on particular issues such as nuclear disarmament. But the key goal is promoting the idea of world citizenship.

One of the AWC's activities in this regard is promoting a world citizenship day. This is March 20th . The original idea was to make the first day of Spring world citizenship day as a way of associating the idea with rebirth and renewal. But this could not work on a global scale as Spring starts at different times in North and South. So March 20th has been settled on as a standard recurring date. It is worth our while to

note this. Whether or not we chose to co-operate or affiliate with the AWC generally co-operation around the world on observing a world citizenship day at the same time would be a good idea and make it easier to promote joint action to promote the day and raise awareness of world citizenship ideas.

A similar organization in San Francisco is the "World Federalists of Northern California". They are affiliated with other federalist organizations, and as their name implies they do have a particular policy goal, promoting a world federation. The World Federalists devote a lot of time to preparing publications and holding public meetings to promote their ideas.

They are currently developing a program called "solutions to the war system" in which they show how World Federalism is a necessary part of the solution to many different political problems. They thus can argue to peace, economic development, environmental, and other activists that what these activists want cannot be achieved without a move towards a more federated world. This gives them a key policy proposal with which they can join in many debates and both contribute solutions and raise awareness of their own ideas. I attended a meeting of several peace and anti war groups at which spirited, thoughtful and positive debate occurred, in large part stimulated by the attempts of the World Federalists to help people realise the need for a global policy framework such as a world federation or world law.

The ideas and approach of the world federalists are very interesting and allow them to be an important and vibrant part of local political debate.

From our point of view in Australia it is encouraging to see that World Citizen and World Federalist type organizations can grow larger than our own and be involved in a range of activities which engage people from many different parts of society. It is easy to feel isolated in Australia, but we are not and we should look forward to becoming a part of a worthwhile and developing international movement. This movement may not be unified around a strict set of policies but it is unified around the goal of putting our common humanity at the head rather than the tail of the agenda. This is a task in which we all must succeed one day and we are definitely not alone in trying to achieve it.

Famous Internationalists of the past: Emery Reves and "The Anatomy of Peace".

In our last look at a pioneering internationalist we travelled far into the past to consider Confucius' pioneering vision of universal humanism. In this issue we leap forward to the 20th century to look at a modern internationalist who was also a pioneer of modern internationalist movements. Emery Reves was for a brief period a very famous writer and wrote the only 20th century bestseller that could also be described as a work of internationalist political thought. Yet by the end of his career he felt even more isolated than Confucius had felt and most of his fame had evaporated. Who was Emery Reves?

A brief outline suggests an almost ideal life. Born in Hungary in 1904 Reves trained to become a concert pianist and completed a PhD in political science. He went into publishing in the 1930's. He married the

beautiful New York fashion model Wendy Russell who was also independently wealthy, travelled the world regularly, and when he died in 1981 left behind an enormous estate including an art collection valued at around 40 million dollars US.

But impressive as this sketch sounds it misses most of the crucial things about Reves' life. In the 1930's he struggled to find material to publish. One of his few sources of income was in publishing the speeches of Winston Churchill at a time when Churchill was out of favor. Whilst Hitler was rising to power Reves was determinedly publishing Churchill's anti-Hitler articles across Europe! During World War Two he consulted regularly with Churchill and after the war arranged the publication of Churchill's memoirs and "History of the English Speaking Peoples", all of which became huge bestsellers.

But Reves parted intellectual company with Churchill when it came to patriotism and international organization. He published his own book "The anatomy of peace" at the end of World War Two and it became an unexpected runaway bestseller. It was translated into 25 languages and sold well in many parts of the world. In this book Reves argued that the nation state was itself a source of danger and cause of war. He methodically demolished all the great "isms" of the day, including sovereignty and the new United Nations organization, and argued that some form of world unity and world law was the only possible solution. His critique of the UN is prescient as he realised straightaway that it would be too weak to bring justice and peace to the world. In fact he would have made a very interesting speaker at the UNSW discussion night reported elsewhere in this Bulletin!

Coming on the heels of the horrors of World War Two Reves' book appealed to many as pointing to the best path forward. A number of political groups sprang up with the goal of promoting world unity and/or world law. The two strongest at the time were the "Movement for World Federal Government" and the "World Citizens". Reves principally supported the world federalists rather than world citizens but his book provided inspiration to all such groups. Garry Davis, for example, one of the founders of a world citizens movement claimed to be inspired by Reves' book.

The organizations inspired by Reves proliferated rapidly but soon began to split and argue amongst themselves. The Cold War then emerged to provide a new framework and people more and more identified themselves as on one or other side in this conflict rather than for or against world law and world government. The surge in "globalism" after World War Two declined almost as rapidly as it had emerged. But various organizations claiming some sort of lineage to the post World War Two groups have persisted to this day, with new ones such as our own also coming into existence to join the struggle. The movement that Reves helped inspire and give an intellectual edifice to has not gone away. His basic analysis is just as right as it ever was.

Reves himself became discouraged with the decline of the world federalist movement in the 1950's. By later decades he felt forgotten by the world and never regained his former influence or impact. Ironically today he is more remembered as the publisher of Churchill's memoirs than the original political thinker and activist he was. The Wendy and Emery Reves Center for International Studies at William and Mary College in Williamsburg Virginia is the only institutional legacy he has left behind. But his

role in giving impetus and inspiration to so many true world citizens is of course far more important.

Editor Wanted!

After getting the Bulletin off to a magnificent start in its first two issues, Lyndon Storey has decided he will have to resign as Editor. His new job in San Francisco leaves him too little time. We owe him our warmest thanks for all his enthusiastic support and hard work.

Is there someone else out there among our members who would like to try their hand as Editor? It looks as though we will be producing a Bulletin twice a year, and the editing would probably take a couple of days for each issue. You also get to pontificate in the editorial column! Would anyone interested please contact Chris Hamer at C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au

World Citizens Association (Australia)

The World Citizens Association believes that all human beings, regardless of nationality, have many fundamental interests in common, and face some enormous common problems. As responsible world citizens, we pledge to work together to abolish war, to establish and protect basic human rights, to combat poverty and disease across the world, and to preserve a sustainable environment for our children. To achieve these universal goals requires the establishment of democratic global institutions which can provide an effective framework of international law, while respecting the right of each nation to manage its own internal affairs within this framework.

We will work towards the reform and strengthening of international institutions, such as the United Nations. To this end we will promote public discussions and new educational initiatives within Australia on these issues; communicate our viewpoint to public officials; and pursue affiliations with any organizations which share similar goals.

JOIN US TODAY!

Let us help humanity to lay firm foundations for an emerging global society. The planet itself is crying out for your assistance!

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