

# The Global Forum on Environment and Development for Survival

Moscow, January 14-20, 1990

The Global Forum on Environment and Development for Survival will be the first major international event in the Soviet Union following the precedent-setting elections of 1989.

As many as 300 Soviets—elected legislators, spiritual leaders, scientists, journalists, artists and labor leaders—will spend an entire week (January 14-20, 1990) with 300 foreign counterparts in a series of workshops and forums on critical environment and development issues.

The Moscow Forum is being sponsored by an extraordinary alliance: the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Academy of Sciences, all Soviet religious communities and the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity. It will be held in collaboration with and jointly organized by the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival.

## Background

The Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders was created in 1985 by the Temple of Understanding, an international interfaith organization headquartered in New York, and the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, a non-profit, action-oriented organization that acts as liaison among 47 national legislative groups and their five regional organizations concerned with integral human development.

The goal of both the Global Forum and the Global Committee is to give people the leadership they need to tackle critical survival issues. Lasting, peaceful solutions require both the immediate, practical actions of the politician as well as the longer, ethical and moral viewpoint of the spiritual leader. Separately, these leaders have failed to create peace, and on occasion their disagreements—among themselves and with each other—have led to war.

The concept behind the Global Forum is that mutual understanding gained through dialogue can give spiritual and parliamentary leaders the opportunity not only to influence each other but to extend their influence for peaceful change to the communities they serve worldwide.

## The Oxford Conference

The Global Forum concept became reality at the Global Survival Conference April 11-15, 1988, when 200 spiritual and legislative leaders met in the ancient university city of Oxford, England. For five days parliamentarians and cabinet members met with cardinals, metropolitans, bishops, swamis, rabbis, imams and elders. Among them were the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the High Priest of Togo's Sacred Forest, Cardinal Koenig of Vienna and Native American spiritual leader Chief Oren Lyons of the Onondaga.

They conferred with renowned experts on the issues: astronomer Carl Sagan, Soviet scientist Evguenij Velikhov, women's leader Wangari Maathai, environmental scientist James Lovelock, Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova and population specialist Fred Sai, to name a few.

In the end, the vision a few had worked for became the shared vision of many. Spiritual and parliamentary leaders from 52 countries, along with participating scientists and key journalists from every region, left Oxford "agreed that we both need and desire to work together" to protect earth and all that lives on it.

## To Moscow and Beyond

The cooperative effort continues next January in Moscow, thanks to the vision and extraordinary effort of Dr. Velikhov, a Global Forum Council Member, and his Soviet colleagues at the Oxford Forum. They have committed themselves to bringing home the shared vision of Oxford, its critical issues and its goals to parliamentarians, spiritual leaders, the news media, scientists, business and cultural leaders from all 15 Soviet Republics.

At the same time, coverage of the January 1990 conference will go far beyond Soviet borders. Satellite time for broadcasting the conference worldwide is being arranged by the Foundation for Global Broadcasting. The Moscow-based foreign press corps will be invited to cover the week's activities, and two documentary films on the Moscow Forum will be produced, one by the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders, the other by the Soviet organizers.

## Gorbachev To Address Forum

A highlight of the Moscow meeting will be a speech by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who will address issues raised within the Forum itself. United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has been invited to give a keynote speech.

The main conference of spiritual and legislative leaders will be held January 16-18, with speakers focusing on environment and development problems. Participants will then divide into 10 working groups to discuss the issues more specifically before reporting their recommendations and conclusions to the final plenary.

Mini-Forums for the news media, scientists, business and cultural leaders will be held before the Global Forum gets underway. Rapporteurs selected by these special groups will attend the Global Forum as full participants; all others are welcome as observers. Similarly, spiritual and parliamentary leaders will be free to sit in on the Mini-Forums.

The January 14-15 Media Encounter will discuss the role of the news media in promoting global survival, and especially sustainable development. The group will include about 25 journalists from overseas, 25 Moscow-based foreign correspondents and some 50 Soviet journalists. It will be organized by the Global Forum Media Working Group chaired by Tarzie Vittachi, in collaboration with his Soviet counterpart.

A Science Mini-Forum will be organized by the Global Forum Science Panel, co-chaired by Carl Sagan and Roald Sagdeev. Twenty international business leaders will be invited to the January 17 Business Mini-Forum, organized in cooperation with Vladislav Malkevich of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce. And in the Culture Mini-Forum, international artists will discuss their role in communicating concepts for global survival. Organizers are the Global Forum Culture Panel and Sergei Zaligin, Editor of *Novy Mir (New World)* magazine.

## A Celebration of Cultures

A week-long documentary film festival on environment and development will be open to the public as will evening cultural events, such as classical, popular and folk music, theater and dance. The conference will end with a day-long cultural celebration and culminate in a special evening concert. All arts events will be organized by the Planning Group in cooperation with the Soviet Ministry of Culture.

Transportation will be provided free of charge by Aeroflot on specified flights; connecting travel to points served by Aeroflot will be covered by the Global Forum or the participants. Local expenses will be borne by the host country; other costs will be met by the Global Forum.

The Planning Group includes Soviet spiritual leaders and parliamentarians (to be selected after the final round of elections in May) and their counterparts among Global Forum officers.