

## Chairman's Report, Istanbul 1996

### ARC•PEACE in Copenhagen

ARC•PEACE had an active participation at the NGO Forum of the UN World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), held in Copenhagen in March 1995. Six members of the EC were present - Jim Morgan, Luz Maria Sanchez, Anna Pawlikowska-Pietchotska, Martin Valatin, Tony Watkins and Sven Thiberg. Alexander Kudriavtsev attended our meetings, representing Moscow ARC•PEACE. German Perotti, Dick Urban Vestbro and Alice Thiberg represented the Secretariat. New individual members were recruited.

Together with representatives of Swedish ARC•PEACE the EC and Secretariat members attended a large amount of NGO activities. During the conference week the EC held a series of meetings of its own, discussing practical issues, future activities and ARC•PEACE's programme at Habitat II. ARC•PEACE also arranged the following public activities:

- *Preparations for Habitat II*, lecture with slides by Dick Urban Vestbro.
- *What Does Socially Responsible Planning and Architecture Mean? An open microphone session*, lead by Jim Morgan.
- *Ethnic Diversity and Territorial Integration*. A series of lectures led by Sven Thiberg and introduced by Mr Bangura, UNRISD.
- *Planning the Surroundings of the Water Reservoirs in the Region of Dunajec River*, a lecture by Anna Pawlikowska-Piechotka.
- *ARC•PEACE Open Meeting*, where the NGO alternative declaration of WSSD was discussed and adopted by ARC•PEACE.

Many architects and other NGO Forum participants from all over the world attended the meetings and contributed actively to the discussions.

In an ARC•PEACE Declaration the EC expressed what was called "The shortcomings of WSSD":

- a) The globalization of today's economy, the structural adjustment programmes introduced in many developed and developing countries, as well as the uncontrolled capital flow and speculation in land and built properties influence negatively both directly on state settlement policies and indirectly on the possibilities of the individual household to respond to their housing needs. The consequences of these unsuitable global economic conditions for social development are underestimated and insufficiently discussed by WSSD.*
- b) Accessibility to land, human settlements, equal housing provision etc are not given the priority they deserve in a global strategy for social development.*
- c) In spite of that the continuing high expenditure on militarism - both of economic and human resources - as well as the unfinished nuclear disarmament still are important threats against social development.*

### ARC•PEACE protests against new nuclear tests

During the NPT (Non Proliferation Treaty) Conference in New York in 1995 the five "old" nuclear powers promised to continue the disarmament process. The prospect of a final test ban was articulated by the nuclear powers. Although representatives of the peace movement were sceptical, they accepted these assurances. The prolongation of the NPT was based on such fragile promises.

By carrying out new nuclear tests both China and France some months later demonstrated how little they respect the treaty. Together with thousands of others ARC•PEACE protested against the French tests. In a letter to the President of France ARC•PEACE wrote: "*With deep consternation we have learnt that you are taking up nuclear weapon tests again and that you are doing it in a territory far away from your own. We find it*

*incredible that the new President of France is still embracing conceptions related to the cold war doctrines connected to a colonial perception of the world".*

ARC•PEACE also sent an open letter to the two main organizations of French architects, the Union Nationale des Syndicats d'Architects and the Ordre des Architects. The letters ended as follows: *"We appeal to you in the hope of starting a professional dialogue about the French nuclear weapons, their motivation and consequences for the world at large, for Europe and the cooperation within the European Union. We assume that you, by means of your influential professional organisation, will contribute to an immediate reversal of the French nuclear-weapons policy".*

So far ARC•PEACE has not got any response from our French colleagues.

## **ARC•PEACE preparations for Habitat II**

Representatives of ARC•PEACE have been present at all three Preparatory Committees for Habitat II. Luz Maria Sanchez attended PrepCom I in Geneva in April 94. Martin Valatin and Gunnar Lange-Nielsen represented ARC•PEACE at PrepCom II in Nairobi in May 95 and Jim Morgan represented us at Prep Com III in New York in February 96. By the active participation of Jim Morgan ARC•PEACE has acquired an important role in HIC, Habitat International Coalition.

The Secretariat has made preparations for a series of workshops and meetings at Habitat II NGO Forum. The main written contribution is the ARC•PEACE Anthology *"Human Settlements and Professional Responsibility"*, including nine papers, edited by Dick Urban Vestbro. We also bring the *"Kazimierz Dolny Charter for Socially Responsible Schools of Architecture"*, presented as a post-card and a new "cube", similar to the Prague and Montreal cubes, but with Habitat II key-words.

## **Membership Situation**

At present 20 organization members are registered with the Secretariat. A number of these have not paid their fees for several years. Some have informed us that they do not intend to pay. Our meeting in Istanbul should take a decision on which listed members that should remain and which should be deleted. The same is true for individual members, who at present comprise 29 persons.

## **What next?**

The Chairman's report to the EC meetings in Copenhagen 1995 ended with the following words: *"In Istanbul the future of ARC•PEACE has to be discussed seriously. Is our programme still valid? Do we represent real forces within our professions?"*.

I hope our open meetings and the EC discussions will provide some useful answers.

Stockholm, May 31st, 1996

S v e n T h i b e r g  
chairman of ARC•PEACE