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U. S. COMMITTEE FOR A

World Constitutional Convention

11520 W. COLFAX AVE. DENVER 15, COLORADO, U. S. A.

March, 1959

15 APR 1959

Attention: Sir Krishnan

Dear Friend:

Today people everywhere face the common danger of destruction in nuclear warfare. An end to bomb tests will not remove the danger, for enough weapons are already stockpiled to end all life, and missile bases are being rushed to completion, which can bring universal destruction at the push of a button. Protest alone cannot save us, nor can treaties based on the continuance of power politics.

To remove the danger, it is imperative to go beyond protest and establish those conditions which are required for effective disarmament and the peaceful conduct of world affairs. We believe this requires some form of democratic federal world government, with clearly defined and limited powers adequate to cope with international problems.

Already a large number of thinking people in many countries see the need for a federal government, and the need for bringing about a rapid change in the direction of events to avert catastrophe. Tremendous results might be accomplished if these individuals could decide upon a common course of action to meet the current crisis.

Enclosed is an agreement which presents an opportunity for responsible individuals from many countries, acting jointly, to convene a World Constitutional Convention without further delay -- to draft the constitution for a federal world government and take other necessary steps. In the Call to the Convention, a combination of three ways is proposed to begin the Convention:

First, the Call will ask every national government to send delegates. Some governments may respond immediately, others later. In any case, this move can make the issue of world government a matter of world-wide public debate.

Second, and simultaneously, the Call will ask the people of each country to elect delegates, by any available means. Thus, where governments do not act immediately, the Call will not die as a petition, but can be acted upon by the people directly. This can encourage national governments to respond sooner or later. Further, it can ensure the optimum representation of human interests, and arouse a grass roots movement in support of the Convention.

Third, if some countries delay sending delegates, the Call will provide a way to bring together selected "best minds" of the world to help begin the Convention. This method can establish the basic humanitarian orientation of the Convention.

"We are as small as our fear and despair, as great as our courage and hope!"

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We ask you to join us in this historic move! The first step is to sign and return the enclosed agreement. Action is needed at once to provide a positive and tangible rallying ground for humanity, which can become the alternative to missile bases, bomb tests, and other threats to survival and human welfare.

After responses are received from this letter, further details regarding the Convention can be worked out, preparatory commissions formed, and a draft of the actual call circulated for approval and signatures. A preparatory conference will be held soon to work out these matters. In the development of this plan, we believe various organizations and groups seeking peace and world law, may find ways to cooperate for the earliest realization of our common objectives.

Naturally, until an effective world government with an elected legislature can begin, we support maximum use of United Nations facilities. By calling and organizing the World Constitutional Convention outside of the U. N., we avoid the possible disruption of current U. N. processes by debates over charter reforms. In this way, we can support every constructive aspect of the U. N., and at the same time begin moving actively toward creation of the needed world government. In due course, the U. N. assembly may concur in calling the World Constitutional Convention.

We realize that the project outlined here is daring. But let us not be content with protests and proposals which offer too little in terms of what we know to be needed! Let us not fear to proceed with action adequate to the situation, despite the size of the job! Let us not be timid at this time when courage as never before is required.

To inspire hope in the hearts of people everywhere, it is important for persons who can give moral and intellectual leadership, to exercise the courage and initiative to put forward a constructive and creative alternative for meeting the present crisis of mankind! Let us not fail in our responsibility.

Sincerely, *Philip Selby*

U. S. Committee for a World
Constitutional Convention

SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE THE U.S.A. WHO HAVE ALREADY SIGNED THE AGREEMENT TO CALL A WORLD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:

LORD CLEMENT ATTLEE
WAS BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
LORD. WM. HENRY BEVERIDGE*
ECONOMIST; PRES. FEDERAL UNION
DR. MAX BORN
PHYSICIST, GERMANY
LORD JOHN BOYD-ORR
HON. PRES. WORLD PARLIAMENT ASSN.
PROF. JOSUE DE CASTRO
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, BRAZIL
MOTI LAL CHAUDHARY
SEC'Y RAJASTHAN CONGRESS PARTY
SANJIB CHAUDHURI
ST. ADVOCATE SUPREME CT. INDIA
CANON L. JOHN COLLINS
CHRMN. CAMPAIGN NUCLEAR DISARM'T
ENRICO DACCO
SEC'Y CITTADINI DEL MONDO, ITALY
HERR WILLI EICHLER
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, GERMANY
EDGAR FAURE
WAS FRENCH PRIME MINISTER
MME. LUDVICA HAINISCH-MARCHET
SOCIAL WORKER, AUSTRIA

SHINZO HAMAI
WAS MAYOR OF HIROSHIMA
AHMED E. H. JAFFER
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, PAKISTAN
DR. TOYOHICO KAGAWA
EDUCATOR AND CHRISTIAN LEADER
DR. N.J.C.M. KAPPAYNE V.D. COPPELLO
BARRISTER, NETHERLANDS
TOKUTARO KITAMURA
M.P., WAS FINANCE MINISTER, JAPAN
PROF. ANTOINE LACASSAGNE
DIR. INSTITUTE DU RADIUM, FRANCE
RAYMOND D GEOUFFRE D LA PRADELLE
LAWYER, FRANCE
DR. HENRI LAUGIER
WAS ASST SECY GEN'L UNITED NATIONS
MAYOR IRENE DE LIPKOWSKI
WAS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, FRANCE
DR. LOTHAR MANN
PRES. GERMAN WORLD ASSN WORLD FED.
MR. NGUYEN-HUU
PRES. VIET NAM WORLD ASSN WORLD FED.
DR. MARTIN NIEMOELLER
MINISTER, GERMANY

MOHAMMED NOOR
ADVOCATE, PAKISTAN
DR. HYO OUCHI
PRES. HOSEI UNIVERSITY, JAPAN
PROF. FRANCOIS PERROUX
DIR. INST. APPLIED ECONOMICS, FRANCE
PROF. PRIYADARANJAN RAY
PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY, INDIA
JOSEPH REEVES*
SECY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WORLD GOV'T
LORD BERTRAND RUSSELL
SCIENTIST, HUMANIST, AUTHOR
DR. HUGH SCHONFIELD
PRES. COMMONWEALTH OF WORLD CITIZENS
REV. G. MICHAEL SCOTT
DIRECTOR, THE AFRICA BUREAU
LORD LEWIS SILKIN
WAS MINISTER TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING
HENRY USBORNE
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, GR. BRITAIN
MISS MONICA WINGATE
V. CHRMN. WORLD ASSN WORLD FEDERALISTS
ALBERT SZENT-GYORGYI
PHYSIOLOGIST, HUNGARY

TO DEVELOP THIS PLAN, THERE IS BEING FORMED FROM AMONG THE SUPPORTERS A WORLD COMMITTEE FOR A WORLD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. AT PRESENT, CORRESPONDING ADDRESSES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AUSTRALIA: C/O ARTHUR BISHOP, 31 QUEEN ST., MELBOURNE (PRES. AUSTRALIAN WORLD FEDERAL MOVEMENT)
BRAZIL: C/O JOSUE DE CASTRO, LARGO DA MISERICORDIA 24, RIO DE JANEIRO (PRES. WORLD ASSN. AGAINST HUNGER)
FRANCE: C/O GUY MARCHAND, 208 RUE LECOUBE, PARIS 15 (ASS'T SEC'Y, UNION FEDERALIST MONDIALE)
GERMANY: C/O ALEX FRANKE, KALCKREUTHSTRASSE 3, BERLIN W. 30 (CHRMN., WELTBURGER IN DEUTSCHLAND)
GREAT BRITAIN: C/O MRS. ANNE CLARK, 25 MEDFIELD ST., LONDON S.W. 15 (A LONDON COUNTY COUNCILLOR)
INDIA: C/O B. P. SINHA, POST BOS 54, BORING RD., PATNA 1 (SEC'Y, INDIAN UNION YOUNG WORLD FEDERALISTS)
JAPAN: C/O MORIKATSU INAGAKI, CENTRAL POST BOX 324, TOKYO (V. CHRMN. UNION FOR WORLD FEDERAL GOVERNMENT)
NETHERLANDS: C/O H.A.C. V.D. KRAAN, BERGSELAAN 348 D, ROTTERDAM (PRES., FOUNDATION FOR FED. WORLD GOV'T)
NIGERIA: C/O S. O. BABALOLA, PRIVATE MAIL BAG 5101, IBADAN (SEC'Y CO-OP UNION OF WESTERN NIGERIA)

I agree, under the following conditions, to sign a call to convene a World Constitutional Convention:

- a) That the call be addressed simultaneously to all national governments and also to the people of each country, inviting each national government to send delegates and at the same time inviting the people of each country to elect delegates; further providing that if delegates are not otherwise sent or elected within a reasonable time, the signers of this call shall themselves invite selected persons to participate in the Convention from countries lacking sufficient delegates.
- b) That reasonably well-known and respected persons from many countries shall agree to sign the call.
- c) That a suitable place be secured for the Convention.
- d) That the purpose of the Convention shall be to draft a constitution for a democratic federal world government, then to submit the constitution for ratification by the governments and by the people of each country, and to take other steps deemed necessary by the convention to establish a world government with a legislature elected by the people.
- e) That the final details of the call be worked out and agreed to by those who are going to sign it; and that careful preparations be made for the Convention at a conference of those who sign this agreement, to be held as soon as feasible.

Signed _____ Date _____

Address _____

Occupation or identification _____

Additional agreement, optional and not effective unless signed below: I also agree to become a candidate for public election to the World Constitutional Convention.

Signed _____

Comments:

Please list others whom you think should be invited to sign this agreement on the reverse of this page.

Contributions welcome. Make checks payable to "Committee for a World Constitutional Convention."

Return signed agreement to: Committee for a World Constitutional Convention
11520 West Colfax Ave.
Lakewood 15, Colorado, U.S.A.