

November 22 1999



Ms Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington

World Institute for

NONVIOLENCE &
RECONCILIATION

Dear Ms Verveer,

Just a brief note of thanks for your wonderful hospitality when we met in October, during what was a very busy time for you.

We have taken up your helpful suggestions regarding preparation for the Peace Laureate Forum taking place in April 2001 in Tasmania. To this end, I have written to Ambassador Swanee Hunt and was very interested in the information you sent on 'Women Waging Peace'. I am hopeful that Ambassador Hunt will have the opportunity for input to the Forum.

We made a request at that time for support from the First Lady, by way of a letter, and perhaps a video statement to add her voice to others including Nobel Peace Laureates like His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and internationally acclaimed nonviolence and reconciliation practitioners like Professor Alex Boraine (visiting Professor of Law, Justice in transition Program, NYU) and Professor Paula Green (Karuna Centre for Peacebuilding).

Organisation for the forum is proceeding well, with PREPCOM (members of the Preparatory Committee for the Forum) meeting in Delhi in February 2000. The Premier of Tasmania, the Hon. Jim Bacon MHA will be making a public announcement about the forum before the New Year. Until that time, the project remains confidential. Our new website and public information will be released after the announcement. I have attached a briefing note to give you an update on events and will of course be delighted to supply any additional information you may require.

With thanks for your continued support, warm wishes

Anna

Dr. A. Alomes
Director

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Briefing Note for Ms Melanne Verveer, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady, the White House.

November 22, 1999

Background

At an appropriate time, the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon. Jim Bacon MHA, will publicly announce two initiatives - the *Pathways to Peace*, Nobel Peace Laureate Forum which will take place in Tasmania in April 2001, and the World Institute for Nonviolence and Reconciliation [WINR].

The Tasmanian Government continues to demonstrate a commitment to human rights, peacebuilding, and reconciliation initiatives through actions like the Wybalenna handback of land to Tasmanian Aborigines and the establishment and first Australian intake of Kosovar refugees at the Tasmanian Peace Haven Centre. WINR, the Peace Laureate Forum and these initiatives will position Tasmania as a national and regional leader in the field of human rights and reconciliation. This position will be reinforced by an application to the United Nations for WINR to be awarded the status of a UN endorsed Non-Governmental Organisation [NGO]. If successful it will be the first in this field in the Australian region and will place Tasmania in the pre-eminent position of opening a new chapter in nonviolence and reconciliation history.

WINR will be established as a centre for excellence, in the global interaction and exchange of contemporary dispute resolution, nonviolence and reconciliation knowledge and practices. While many such institutes exist in the Northern Hemisphere, this will be the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Within 6 months the Institute will be positioned as a non-governmental organisation and will seek United Nations endorsement as such. WINR, as a non-profit organisation, is deliberately secular. It has no religious affiliation and openly welcomes all members of the interfaith community.

The four-day **Peace Laureate Forum** will produce practical results and will take place within a ten day human rights calendar of satellite activities engaging a broad cross-section of the community. Within Tasmania and elsewhere, community groups to be involved in this calendar of activities will include children; elderly citizens; members of the arts, music, education, environment, and science fields.

All 41 Peace Laureates will be invited to attend the four-day Forum. While past gatherings have been successful in attracting only 5-8 Peace Laureates, the 2001 Forum in Tasmania is targeting at least 20.

Forum outcomes will include: the creation of the first Global Protocol on Nonviolence and Reconciliation for communities in conflict; the designation of a Global Nonviolence Day (to begin within six months of forum completion and continue as an annual event); the creation of a Global Database on Nonviolence, Reconciliation, Peacebuilding and Preventative Diplomacy; and the designation of an international clearinghouse to coordinate the many small peacebuilding initiatives and practical community strategies for violence reduction and conflict management, with a particular focus on those in Southern Asian, SE Asian and Western Pacific regions.

Together, the Peace Laureate Forum and the Institute will fill a perceived gap in the above regions for the following reasons:

- There are no known comparable peacebuilding, nonviolence and conflict management initiatives in the Southern Hemisphere, yet the South and SE Asian and Western Pacific regions are areas of significant tension and conflict.
- The proposed focus of WINR in targeting these regions and building networks and linkages among individuals and community-based organisations in these regions has widespread political and funding appeal in the Northern Hemisphere. It also does not compete with the many USA and European initiatives in the field. Consequently we are confident of WINR and the Forum being able to secure the necessary funding.
- The approach adopted by WINR of value-adding to existing multiple models of nonviolence, reconciliation and conflict management – as distinct from reinventing the wheel or promoting one particular approach – was also widely supported by international specialists in the field during a recent organisational trip to India, Thailand, Norway, Germany and North America.

Peace Laureate Forum

The Peace Laureate Forum will be held in April, 2001 in Tasmania. In the lead up to the Forum, the work of a Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM) of international experts will drive the Forum preparation process, and PREPCOM members will develop discussion papers for consideration by the Laureates prior to the Forum. These papers will then be used as a baseline for discussions among the Laureates and others at the Forum. The international scholars and experts in the PREPCOM will work across five issue-areas which were identified by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India on June 30/July 1 1999. They are: religious and cultural conflict; racial disharmony; environmental degradation; narrow nationalism; and economic disparity.

The Forum will be facilitated by two Co-Chairs to ensure realistic, tangible and accessible outcomes and strategies for use at a community level and across cultures. In addition, outcomes will be ensured through the work of the PREPCOM, which will continue in a revised form subsequent to the Forum.

The following internationally acclaimed scholars and practitioners will participate in PREPCOM. Their principal task is to identify critical issues and problems within these areas and sustainable strategies to address the problems. Members of PREPCOM will

begin work twelve months prior to the Forum and will assist during the Forum to ensure practical application of the Global Protocol at the community level:

Co-Chairs:

Professor Jay Garfield	(School of Philosophy, Smith College, Massachusetts, USA)
Professor Samdhong Rinpoche	(Vice Chancellor, Central Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies, India)

Committee:

Professor Alex Boraine	(Previously Deputy Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa; currently Visiting Professor Justice in Transition Program, New York University School of Law)
Professor Eileen Babbitt	(Director, Program on International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA)
Dr Paula Green	(Karuna Centre for Peacebuilding, Dialogue and Conflict Transformation, USA)
Sushri Nirmala Deshpande	(Chairperson, Association of Peoples of Asia, Member of Indian Parliament)
Ajun Sulak Sivaraksa	(Chairperson, Southern Asian Peace Network)
Dr Tint Swe	(Member of Parliament, National League for Democracy, Burma)
Sri Rabindra Verma	(Chairperson, Institute of Gandhian Studies, India)

NOTE: 3 additional nominees have yet to accept positions.

Forum Support

During the past eighteen-month organisational phase, meetings have been held in Geneva, South Africa, Thailand, India, Germany, Norway, North America and Australia. Both WINR and the Forum already have the formal support of Nobel Peace Laureates and others. These include: HH the Dalai Lama; Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Professor Alex Boraine (previously Deputy Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, and currently Chair of the Justice in Transition Program at the New York University Law School); Sulak Sivaraksa (peace activist, Thailand); Professor Samdhong Rinpoche (Speaker of the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies); Professor Jay Garfield (Professor of Philosophy, Smith College, Massachusetts); Ms Nirmala Deshpande (Member of the Indian Parliament, Chairperson, Association of People's of Asia); Professor William Ury (Program on Negotiation, Harvard Law School, Harvard University), Mr Richard Gere (nonviolence activist) Mr Ulrich Arnswald (Director, European Institute for International Affairs); Lt. Gen. (retired) John Sanderson (current Chair of Paxquest, negotiator in the Cambodian peace agreement); Sir William Keys (National President of the Australian RSL - retired); Dame Elisabeth Murdoch; Janet Hunt (Director Australian Council for Overseas Aid - ACFOA); Maureen Aung-Thwin (Director, Open Society Institute – Soros Foundation) in New York and Michele Bohana

(Director of the Institute for Asian Democracy, co-sponsor of the University of Virginia Nobel Peace Laureate gathering) in Washington. Interim discussions concerning the Forum have taken place with Professor Francis Sejersted, Chair of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in Oslo; Mr Jack Christofides (Senior Adviser to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs Mary Robinson) in Geneva; Mr Andrew Mack, (Director, Strategic Planning Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary General, United Nations); Mr Francesc Vendrell (Director, Asia & the Pacific Division, United Nations) in New York and Ms Melanne Verveer, (Chief of Staff to the First Lady, in Washington.

WINR continues to build a strong collaborative network with international organisations. Early stage affiliates include:

Association of Peoples of Asia (India), Black Sash Movement (South Africa), Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (India), European Institute for International Affairs (Germany), Foundation for Universal Responsibility of HH the Dalai Lama (India), New York University School of Law (USA), Santa Pracha Dharma Institute (Thailand), Smith College (USA), Australia Burma Council; Program on Negotiation, Harvard Law School; Department of Urban Studies and Planning Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT);USA.

Funding

Individuals and granting organisations within and outside Australia will be invited to provide financial and in kind support for the Forum and the Institute. WINR is being positioned to meet the requirements of the United States Inland Revenue Service (section 501(c)(3) of the Inland Revenue Code) as a Charitable Institution. This will facilitate the receipt of US donations. In the immediate time frame, fiscal sponsorship by a US institute already carrying this status will overcome any perceived delay to due to application processes.

To ensure successful outcomes at a local, national, regional and international level, the Peace Laureate Forum and WINR will require \$US1.2M in total. It is proposed that multiple donors and sponsors are involved as this will prevent the potential domination of the agenda by any one interest group and lessen the burden on any one individual or organisation.

Stage 1 Funding Applications

[Stage 1, November-December 1999; Stage 2, December 1999-February 2000; Stage 3 implementation of projects after Peace Laureate Forum May-December 2001]

USA

Request US\$100,000 + x 2 yrs

Turner Foundation

Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Compton Foundation

Ford Foundation

Gere Productions
Hewlett Foundation
Kettering Foundation
MacArthur Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Open Society Institute/Soros Foundations Network
Rockefeller Bros Fund
Templeton Foundation
United States Institute of Peace

Request US\$10,000 +
CarEth Foundation
A J Muste Memorial Institute

Asia
Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Europe
Green Cross (Russia)
Klaus Tschira, SAP (Germany)
Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust (UK)
Leverhulme Trust (UK)

Stage 2 Funding Applications

Australia (after public announcement)
Charitable Organisations in Tasmania (administered by ANZ Charitable Trusts)
Perpetual Foundation
Sidney Myer Fund
Stegley Foundation
Dame Elizabeth Murdoch
Janet Holmes à Court

US Small Organisations
Clayton Baker Trust
Boehm Foundation
Bydale Foundation
Foundation for a Compassionate Society
HKH Foundation
New Propsect Foundation
New World foundation
Peace Development Fund
Scherman Foundation Inc
Shefa Fund
Threshold Foundation
Tinker Foundation
Hauser Foundation
Miriam & Ira D Wallach Foundation

Stage 3 Funding Applications (after Forum)

USA

Rockefeller Foundation
W Alton Jones Foundation
D & L Packard Foundation
Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation
Peace Development Fund
Ploughshares Fund
Women Peacepower

An Overview of Related Work in Australia

Attachment 1 lists the organisations working in the fields of peacebuilding, reconciliation, conflict management and resolution. It is by no means a complete representation of all individuals and organisations working in this area, but does provide an adequate framework to determine the trend. This list will be upgraded throughout the course of the project and we apologise to any individual who may have been inadvertently overlooked at this early stage.

Within Australia, our preliminary research reveals individuals and several small groups working in a largely uncoordinated way from individual academic bases, of which the International Conflict Resolution Centre at the University of Melbourne is the largest. Following the public announcement some of these individuals will be involved in developmental discussions.

Internationally acclaimed leaders in the nonviolence and reconciliation fields have strongly endorsed WINR and the Peace Laureate Forum in the following way: "This is one of the most interesting and important initiatives that I have heard of in a very long time" [Prof. Alex Boraine, Deputy Chair Truth and Reconciliation Commission, South Africa]; "I believe this Forum can come up with some concrete suggestions to contribute toward peace and harmony in the world. As for the selection of Tasmania as the venue for such a forum, it is difficult to think of another place that would be more appropriate" [HH the Dalai Lama].

We look forward to placing Tasmania in the pre-eminent position of opening a new chapter in nonviolence and reconciliation history, and I trust this briefing note will provide additional background context, as well as an indication of proposed directions for the development of WINR and the Peace Laureate Forum.

Jim Bacon
Premier
Minister for State Development

ATTACHMENT 1

University-Based Initiatives in Peace Studies, Conflict Management and Resolution

AUSTRALIA

Australian National University, ACT

Peace Research Centre. The Centre was established in July 1984 as a co-operative venture between ANU and DFAT. Its brief is to carry out high quality research on topics relating to the conditions for establishing and maintaining peace on national, regional and global scales; and to provide training in Research in this field. Prof Ramesh Thakur is currently the Centre's only member of staff.

Latrobe University, Victoria

Graduate courses in Conflict Resolution are offered as part of the Faculty of Law and Management curriculum. These courses have a practical emphasis and are structured so those practitioners already working in the area may have further training. The courses are a Graduate Diploma in Conflict Resolution, a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution, a Graduate Diploma in Family Law Mediation and a Graduate Certificate in Conciliation and Ombuds Studies.

The Politics Department offers a 3-year undergraduate major program in Peace Studies, which can also be taken as a one year Graduate Diploma in Humanities.

Macquarie University, NSW

Centre for Conflict Resolution. This Centre was established in 1990 and ran a Graduate Diploma course. The Centre has been subsumed into the Graduate School of Management and the only courses taught are as part of the MBA in relation to conflict in the workplace. There is only one staff member teaching in this area, Dr Alan Tidwell.

University of Melbourne, Victoria

A Graduate Diploma in Dispute Resolution is offered as part of the Faculty of Law curriculum. This course has a strong legal orientation.

International Conflict Resolution Centre. Established in 1993 the Centre focuses on the role of conflict resolution techniques for peace making, peace building and reconciliation in a variety of arenas. There is a further focus on developing theory and on improving practices such as mediation. The Centre has 7 staff members, 3 associates & 2 research assistants, and is the most substantial Centre of its type in Australia. Notable members of its Advisory Board are Sir Ninian Stephen and Senator Gareth Evans. The Centre offers courses at the PhD and Masters level.

University of New England, NSW

Through the *Centre for Peace Studies*, postgraduate courses in Peace Studies at the Masters and PhD level are offered. Undergraduate units are offered through Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Social Science degrees. The Centre publishes a quarterly student newsletter, *Peacetree*, and a Discussion Paper Series.

University of New South Wales, NSW

The School of English (Australian Defence Force Academy) offers a Peace Studies program.

University of Queensland, Queensland

The Department of Government offers a Peace and Conflict Studies program at the undergraduate level.

University of Sydney, NSW

Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. Established in May 1988 and a specialist research and teaching centre, CPACS promotes interdisciplinary research and teaching on the causes of conflict and the conditions which affect conflict resolution and peace. This is a small organisation, headed by Professor Stuart Rees. A recent, major initiative is the Sydney Peace Prize. The inaugural prize was granted to Professor Muhammad Yunus in 1998. This year Archbishop Tutu is the recipient of the prize.

University of Western Sydney/Macarthur & Relationships Australia, NSW

The University of Sydney & Relationships Australia have jointly developed two multi-disciplinary skills based postgraduate awards in mediation. These comprise the Graduate Certificate of Mediation and the Graduate Diploma in Mediation Practice based in the School of Law.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland University

Centre for Peace Studies. Offers courses in Resolving Conflicts to the Auckland University community.

University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Offers a Peace Studies program (since 1987). Currently has an enrolment of 60 students.

Victoria University of Wellington

The Institute for Dispute Resolution. Established early in 1996 within the Faculty of Law. Its goals are to promote the study and practice of dispute resolution, with particular emphasis on negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, and to promote the study of the above issues.

Other Nonviolence, Peacebuilding & Conflict Management Organisations and Activities

Australian Nonviolence Network

Established in the late 1980s this is a loose confederation of environmental and social activists who embrace the principles of nonviolence as the basis of their activism.

Conflict Resolution Network, NSW

Founded in 1986 under the auspices of the United Nations Association of Australia the CRN's purpose is to research, develop, teach and implement the theory and practice of conflict resolution nationally and internationally. CRN has developed an extensive range of resources (books, audio & videotapes, and trainers' manuals).

Nonviolence Today, Queensland

Established in the mid 1980, NT is a magazine published bi-monthly. Its aim is to help increase the understanding and use of nonviolence.

Projects Dedicated to the 2000 International Year for the Culture of Peace

The Conflict Resolution Network will coordinate these projects.

Working for Peace Campaign. This campaign aims to encourage governments and non-government organisations to give greater emphasis to 'work for all who need it' in their relief work and to encourage the mass media to give greater coverage to this type of reconstruction.

Work for All Who Need It. This program addresses the vital social challenge of unemployment.

Peace Pavilion. The Pavilion will be a celebration of peace in the context of the Olympic Games and the new millennium. Set in Centennial Park, NSW, the Peace Pavilion will enable people to experience, learn about and contribute to peace in a place of beauty and inspiration.

Teachers' Manual by People for Peace. People for Peace has produced a manual "Managing Conflict with Confidence" for children of primary and lower secondary school age to help them with the resolution of their conflicts.

Women and a Culture of Peace. Various women's organisations will work towards supporting women's initiatives for peace.

Sydney Peace Foundation, NSW

Run by the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, this foundation was established to support and administer the Sydney Peace Prize.