



The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

Vote World Government

— democratic world government through a global referendum —

www.VoteWorldGovernment.org

Vote World Government President is Jim Stark; Vice President is Ted Stalets

www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com

This site, above, is for the new book *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

www.MayorsForWorldDemocracy.org

This site, above, is for the new effort to involve municipal governments in this issue

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(This issue and all previous issues are posted at www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com)

Quotes of the month

We face problems we hadn't even imagined, and they're cropping up all over. I think the ability of the nation-state to deal with them individually, the way we used to, is disappearing, because national borders are eroding.... This financial crisis ... has shown us that we have a global economic system, [but] we don't have a global political system.... Almost all our institutions were built or refined during, or for, the Cold War. General Brent Scowcroft is a legendary figure in foreign policy circles, and a leading critic of the war on Iraq before the invasion. He recently co-authored a book called *America and the World* with a fellow elder statesman Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Global governance is just a euphemism for global government.... [the] core of the international financial crisis is that we have global financial markets and no global rule of law. Jacques Attali, an adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France

News in brief

World government in a mainstream publication!?

Getting world government covered by the mainstream media has been a real problem, but now there has been a breakthrough of sorts. An article by Gideon Rachman entitled "And now for a world government" has been published in the Dec. 8/08 issue of *The Financial*

Times (<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7a03e5b6-c541-11dd-b516-000077b07658.html>). It is well worth reading, and from it I take a warning: Now that the establishment (including, I am tentatively hoping, Barack Obama) is becoming interested in our issue, there will be an effort to simply add powers onto the undemocratic United Nations. Using the EU as an example, Rachman says that: “International governance tends to be effective only when it is anti-democratic.” That may be, to date, but that’s no way to go forward from here. We must insist on *democratic* world government, lest the so-called “pax Americana” (which is plentifully “American” and not so much “pax”) will become institutionalized, perhaps for centuries.

Two key decisions this month

On January 21, Rotary International will decide on whether to support our initiative. We were endorsed by the Rotary Club of North Renfrew in Deep River, Ontario, Canada in November, and a “memorial” was sent up to Rotary International in the hope that there is even broader support for the global referendum idea. Bob French, the Board member who is behind this effort, does not know what to expect, but it may well be that RI will want a bit more time to explore the initiative before taking a stand.

On January 26, there will be a meeting of MRC (18 mayors of municipalities in Pontiac county). Shawville’s Mayor Albert Armstrong will propose that the MRC should support the global referendum on democratic world government. Mayor Joe Squitti of Alleyn-et-Cawood (Danford Lake) will second the motion. We have no idea how this resolution is likely to be greeted by other mayors, but both Mayor Armstrong and Mayor Squitti have agreed to do a bit of advance lobbying in the hope of encouraging a favourable outcome.

Mayor joins VWG Board

Shawville Mayor Albert Armstrong was the first mayor to take our project seriously and offer his support last summer. Now, he has very kindly agreed to join the VWG Board of Directors. Welcome, Albert.

An ally in the media

Gavin Schmitt, after having written a fair appraisal of our initiative for *The Scene* (this is a weekly distributed throughout much of the state of Wisconsin, USA), emailed us that: “I’m interested in hearing any ideas you have to share. The idea of [democratic] global government is something I’m a believer in, so just let me know. Any way I can spread the word I’d be happy to assist.” We welcome his offer, and have sent him suggestions.

Ted Stalets and Brian Coughlan prepare a new website for VWG

Ted and Brian have been labouring away at a new website similar to the one that let the citizens of all countries express a preference between John McCain and Barack Obama in the recent American election, but letting people “vote” (informally) on elections that are being held in the 100 or so countries around the world where citizens directly elect heads

of government. The point is to get people used to seeing what's going on democratically in various places, and (of course) to guide visitors to the global referendum, where their votes may be more than informal. More on this next issue.

New book

Daniele Archibugi, *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens. Toward Cosmopolitan Democracy*. Princeton University Press <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/8737.html>

New word

“Lawfare” is the use of international law by one country to criticize another.

Old quote (more relevant today than ever)

It is difficult to find words to express our sense of outrage.... the final document is the proof of the gap between what the people of the world want and need and what their governments are willing to do. Ismat Kittani, then-president of the UN General Assembly, after the failure of the UN Special Session on Disarmament (Reuter – *Toronto Star*, July 11, 1982)