



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: Democratic World Government through a Global Referendum*

Issue #17, July, 2009

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

Quotes of the month

The global referendum on democratic world government is an excellent initiative. World government is urgently needed to help solve the global problems we can foresee, such as global warming and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Frank Barnaby, editor, *The Gaia Peace Atlas*

Global problems—from climate change to nuclear proliferation—need global solutions. Existing structures of international governance are failing to deliver in these and other key areas, such as the Millennium Development Goals. This suggests that a step change is needed to create effective, legitimate and democratic global governance. Such a development would need to be backed by decisive support in a worldwide referendum open to all global citizens. Oliver Tickell, author of *Kyoto2: How to Manage the Global Greenhouse*

I love the idea. I think you have a brilliant idea that bypasses governments and puts the power in the hands of ordinary people. Mary-Wynne Ashford, author (with Guy Dauncey) of *Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror and War*

All acts of creation begin with a single step. The creation of a global referendum is a necessary first step in creating the political will necessary to create a viable global government. Jerry Tetalman, author (with Byron Belitsos) of *One World Democracy: A Progressive Vision for Enforceable Global Law*

I hope my presidency will address what has become a universal clamor all over the world for the democratization of the United Nations. I promise to give full support to the working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly. H.E. Miguel D'Escoto, President of the General Assembly of the UN, June 2008

News in brief

Pope Benedict XVI urges a “true world political authority”

On July 7, 2009 *New York Times* reporters Rachel Donadio and Laurie Goodstein wrote:

Pope Benedict XVI has called for a radical rethinking of the global economy, criticizing a growing divide between rich and poor and urging the establishment of a “true world political authority” to oversee the economy and work for the “common good.” (Emphasis added.)

(For more, see http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/08/world/europe/08pope.html?_r=2 or <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=8019490>.)

One must hope that these words will translate into some concrete reality in the future, but past experience would suggest adopting a position of cautious skepticism. Decades ago, Pope John XXIII stated (in *Pacem in Terris*) that:

The common good of all nations involves problems which affect people all the world over: problems which can only be solved by a public authority ... whose writ covers the entire globe. We cannot therefore escape the conclusion that the moral order itself demands the establishment of some sort of world government. (Emphasis added.)

Pope John Paul II said essentially the same thing, as follows:

The international community should support a system of laws to regularize international relations and maintain the peace in the same manner that law governs national order. (Emphasis added.)

The Catholic Church did little by way of visible action based on these pronouncements in the past. On December 15, 2008 VWG wrote to Pope Benedict XVI. We reminded him of these past statements and informed him of our efforts to launch the global referendum on democratic world government. We received no response other than an acknowledgement from Archbishop Luigi Ventura, the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, to the effect that he had received my letter and sent it on to the Pope.

The unofficial motto of civil society is “speak truth to power.” Whatever else it may be, the Catholic Church possesses great Earthly power. Surely it is not too much to ask that it respond one way or another to our proposal.

Authors’ Campaign amounts to a “brain trust” – now to put it to work

Vote World Government is a tiny (i.e., no budget) nongovernmental organization (NGO), yet it has somehow managed to assemble a brain trust of 87 respected authors in support

of its plan for a global referendum on democratic world government (for the updated list, see <http://www.voteworldgovernment.org/authorscampaign.shtml>).

Considering that scholars get their books or articles published only if they say something different from all that has been written before on their subject, it is rather astonishing that all these authors have set aside their philosophical differences in order to support a global referendum on the *general* goal of democratic world government. That “setting aside” of disagreements was a condition for joining the list, and it reflects well on the sincerity and intent of these scholars that they can show such patience when most of them would likely have preferred to jump into a lively debate about which conceptions of democratic global governance are superior to which others.

However, as explained when this effort began, the opportunity for that vital debate should arrive *after* it is clear that the referendum ballot is passing strongly (assuming it does!), at which time the question of how to implement such a global mandate can’t be ignored any longer, and the anticipated clash of ideas will have real-world consequences. In layman’s terms, if the human race votes (as we now expect) strongly in favour of democratic world government, *that decision must stand*, and a global conference of all stakeholders (nation-states, NGOs, scholars, all major religions, etc.) must be called to frame and craft a world constitution that applies democratic principles to governance at the planetary level (which is not an easy assignment).

In the meantime, the second phase of the Authors’ Campaign has begun. This involves a search for NGOs and others (church congregations, schools, unions, service clubs, etc.) who will commit to getting their members to vote in the online global referendum (active ballot at www.voteworldgovernment.org). On behalf of the authors in the Campaign, we (volunteers at Vote World Government) will email as many of the world’s two million (!) NGOs as is necessary to establish “Big Mo” (momentum). Then we’ll try to convert that momentum into support for a UN resolution for a *formal* global referendum, conducted nation by nation in conjunction with national elections, to benefit from the use of official voters’ lists and avoid voter fraud (for the wording of that UN resolution as it stands now, see www.voteworldgovernment.org/draftUNresolution.pdf). Participating nations would have all the online votes from their citizens nullified, but online voting would, of course, continue for the citizens of nations whose governments refused to participate.

Will this strategy work? We can’t be certain, but don’t bet against it.

* * *

Author makes a very serious allegation, then can’t or won’t cite sources

In the latter weeks of June, a strange email exchange took place between VWG president Jim Stark and one of the authors that he had invited to join our Authors’ Campaign. Here are the key elements of the email exchange (we will not name the author because we have no interest in embarrassing him or causing trouble for him at his place of work):

Dear Jim Stark,

With respect in disagreement, there's a substantial literature within academic IR [international relations] that quite persuades me that any attempt to form a world government is an excellent way to start the third world war.

[author's name]

* * * * *

Dear [author's name]:

... our list of supporting authors includes a number of highly-regarded IR scholars. Needless to say, they would be interested in your belief that they will accomplish the opposite of their intentions and trigger a WWII by attempting to prevent it. Would you be kind enough to cite some of the "substantial literature" that you referred to?

Sincerely,

Jim Stark,

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Stark,

Let's disengage please.

[author's name]

Jim had no wish to disrespect the man's request to "disengage," so he did not write back. However, since October, 2006, Jim has kept a diary of interesting or important events in VWG's history, and this episode is included in his diary entry for Sunday, June 28, 2009. The author is named in the diary, which will eventually be excerpted and published.

* * *

Concluding quotation

"Forget that this task of planet-saving is not possible in the time required. Don't be put off by people who know what is not possible. Do what needs to be done, and check to see if it was impossible only after you are done." Paul Hawken, author of *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Social Movement in History Is Restoring Grace, Justice, and Beauty to the World*