



The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

Vote World Government

— democratic world government through a global referendum —

www.VoteWorldGovernment.org

www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com

Issue #4, May, 2008

Quote(s) of the month

“At best, the UN is part of the bureaucratic system that has brought us the IMF and the World Trade Organization but has failed to do much about preventing mass murder or the violation of human rights even in Rwanda or Somalia, let alone in more organized and powerful states. I think we are as likely to grow a lily from an acorn as [we are] to grow a democratic world parliament from the UN.” Caspar Davis, World Federalist Movement—Canada, Victoria Branch (In an article called “Two Views of a Democratic Global Parliament,” he compares our global referendum initiative with the idea of a UN Parliamentary Assembly, and concludes that: “Stark’s idea sounds more radical and perhaps quixotic, but I think it may actually be more practical.”)

“I loved your book.... I think you have a brilliant idea that bypasses governments and puts the power in the hands of ordinary people. I was particularly impressed with the way you addressed the questions that arise in the mind of the reader.... I will continue to draw it to the attention of groups I speak to.” Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, MD, PhD, co-author of *Enough Blood Shed*, with Guy Dauncey. She heads an initiative of Physicians for Global Survival called: “Responsibility to Care: The Physicians’ Call to End War.”

News in brief

Time to network

For more than four years, I have worked to organize a website and write the book about a new path to world peace, a global referendum on democratic world government. Now the book is written, a publisher has been found, a publicity agency has been engaged, and the

publishing event is mere months away. My hope is that the book will translate into many new mini-referendums, and some chain-voting, and basically some heavy “buzz” that can lead eventually to a UN resolution calling on all states to conduct referendums in tandem with national elections (all premised on the expectation that these referendums will pass, of course). My publisher has advised that radio and TV producers will start calling me for interviews in about a week. So what can I accomplish in the three months between now and the official launch of the book? Networking, is the main answer.

Ted Stalets is our vice president, and he is a father, a husband and a piano store manager, among other things. But when I asked if he might be willing to take the point position on the networking front, he saw this as an opportunity, and welcomed the challenge. Now it is his job (well, not alone, but mostly) to get other groups (schools, universities, offices, church congregations, factories, sports teams, etc.) to do a mini-referendum and commit to getting two other groups (likely of similar ilk) to do likewise within a few weeks. The snowball has to be exponential, and that’s how the tipping point can be reached, how the “viral marketing” can be done. Don’t just wish Ted luck. Give him a hand. Contact some of the leaders of groups you belong to or know about and ask them to consider this, or at least accept an email from Ted asking them to participate. Ted also has free telephone in and around the USA, so you can ask them to accept a phone call from him asking them to consider joining in this campaign. You could try a few local calls, couldn’t you? If we’re able to work up a head of steam between now and September, when the book comes out, there will be a demand for it, and interested readers will be continuing a campaign rather than starting one. And getting a church congregation or a service club or a school to do a mini-referendum won’t cost them any money, just a bit of time to get the word out about the vote, to get the votes in and input on our site and to persuade two other organizations to follow their lead. (That last element—getting two more organizations to join in—is the “multiplier effect” that we need, meaning the creation of a “social epidemic” or a “viral marketing strategy” in the words of Malcolm Gladwell in his terrific book, *The Tipping Point*.)

Empower the UN

It would seem that a group called “Empower the UN” (<http://www.EmpowerTheUN.org> or <http://myspace.com/EmpowerTheUnitedNations>) is Ted’s first specific assignment. He has sent them the contents of the “form” that we had to fill out in order to become part of their group of like-minded organizations. Our objective is to get other organizations to be willing to give the global referendum a chance, and without any sense of competition, the hope is that these other outfits will agree that a global referendum would be the necessary and democratic means by which we, the human race, ought to achieve a democratic world government. The content of that form sums up where VWG is at the moment, and will be posted on the first ETUN website above very soon (perhaps it is there now).

Ongoing Montessori email-to-schools campaign

We receive cc.s of the emails that are being sent out by City Montessori School principal Jagdish Gandhi to 2,000 schools in various countries, and it is impressive to see these in

the morning. Schools in many countries are not open between their semesters, so there is some lag in getting responses back. We sent out a press release about the CMS effort, but very few media sources picked it up. One of the obstacles we face is that many people in the media consider world government a pipe dream, and perhaps a dangerous one at that. I have little doubt that if people begin voting in favour of DWG in the millions or the tens of millions, the media will develop a healthy respect for the concept, and take an interest in our progress.

University referendum in Cameroon?

We have recently learned from Board Member Unity Yang that he and a few friends are trying to get a referendum on DWG conducted at his university in Cameroon. Good luck with that, Unity, and please rely on us for whatever help we can offer.

Translators needed

In addition to English, the ballot and the short version of our site are available in seven other languages, French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Russian and Hungarian. If we are to be truly “available” to all, we need to cover many more languages, and we are asking everyone if they can offer some help with translating. Eventually, we will want to produce the newsletter in other languages as well, but for now, the site and the ballot are the things that matter most. Please help if you can. It comes to about three hours of work, according to the people who have done the seven translations that we now have (we will send a form with English on the left side and boxes to be filled in on the right—it’s really rather easy if you speak English plus a second language).