

**THIRD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM
GLOBAL FORESIGHT LECTURE**

By

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Magdeburg, Germany

Monday 17th November, 2003

My thanks to the Ministerpresident of Saxony-Anhalt and the Lord Mayor of Magdeburg. I extend my deepest appreciation to DaimlerChrysler and to Professor Klaus Töpfer of the United Nations Environment Programme for their words.

Firstly, let us remind ourselves of the Millennium Declaration Goals (From Part V: *Sustaining our Future*). You talk about sustainable future. I would like to talk about sustainable rationality. You speak about coping with climate change. The threat of global warming requires reduction in emission as well as for other “greenhouse gases” by 60%. We have to promote energy efficiency and rely on renewable energy sources. In short, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol should be implemented.

I have been invited to deliver the Nehru Lecture next week at Cambridge University in England. I chose the title *Multilateralism: Alignment for Peace?* In a world where we do not want, according to Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, to be unipolar or multipolar, I would like to suggest that we want to be multilateral. I come from a water impoverished part of the world. A “Blue Revolution” would increase agricultural productivity per unit of water, while improving management of watersheds and flood plains. If we cannot adopt the encyclopaedic approach of the Kyoto Protocol, can we not at least discuss a thematic approach in conferences such as these? The model of the Club of Rome, to which some of you referred, *The Limits to Growth*, speaks of 40 billion tons of topsoil being blown away each year. Yet, we came here to talk about defending soil, preserving forests, fisheries and biodiversity. I would just like to remind you of one important point. When Mrs. Bruntland presented the report on the trees of Amazonia, she omitted sadly, to mention the 40 million indigenous people living under the trees. I personally am not very keen on one-note summits. I think the time has come to develop a rationale, not only for a new ethic of stewardship, and I cite here the Secretary-General of the UN’s four priorities: education of the public; “Green accounting”, regulations and incentives and more accurate

scientific data. What we are looking at is more like what Jean Francois Rischard of the World Bank referred to in the three categories of pressing global challenges he enunciated. They cover a wide range of problems: in Category I, he enumerates problems involving the *global commons* such as global warming; biodiversity; deforestation and water deficits, etc. Category II includes problems requiring a *global commitment* such as the fight against poverty; conflict prevention; combating terrorism; education for all; and global infectious diseases. I would like to suggest that he might have added to Category II, a *global commitment to regional commons*.

We come from a non region, an orphan region. I am the first Asian President of the Club of Rome. West Asia and South Asia, if I may, are not included as an extension to the borders of the Caucasus. I think South Asia represents less than 1% of world trade. FDI in our part of the world is slumping despite the new gas finds in Qatar. In terms of *regional commons*, very little in terms of substance is thought of, in terms of preventive diplomacy or crisis avoidance, with our Euro-Atlantic friends. I say preventive diplomacy, not fighting wars!

We all know how wars start, but as I have said many times, we don't know how they end. After the Middle East North Africa Summit, Shimon Peres and I asked the EU in 1994 for 35 million dollars for a decade of infrastructure improvement for 24 countries from Morocco to Turkey inclusive, to encourage the will to stay of those migrants who are giving you so much trouble at the present time, and giving us so much grief. 35 million dollars was the same figure assigned in one day by the President of the US on the Homeland Security Bill to create *fortress America*. I believe Europe is now assigning billions of dollars for the creation of an extension to Shengen – *fortress Europe*. I wonder how we bring those *global commons* together with the *regional commons*, if we do not devise what has been referred to as a 'global humanitarian Versailles' – a group that can possibly develop a concept for a 'Global Marshall Plan'. In social and economic terms, whether it was what was called the Copenhagen Plan of 1993 (referred to as the Copenhagen shopping list), after peace was made between my country and Israel in 1994, the sadness was that the two countries in the context of the Euro-Atlantic world looked to projects – a list of projects to invest in our part of the world – rather than a concept of improving intra-regional cooperation. In the absence of a vision, the inequities of climate change will continue (Vital Signs of the World Watch Institute) to create greater poverty. Professor Töpfer referred to poverty. Let me cite as one

who has in-laws in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan – we know something about the disasters of that part of the world – the rain; the floods in India, Nepal and Bangladesh; the suffering and the droughts – a warming world means rising sea levels. Biologists are recording spring events such as the first flowering of plants and the arrival of migrant birds. I worked with the World Intellectual Property Organisation and I recognise the outflight of over 60 billion dollars annually worth of plants into the pharmaceutical industry. I believe in a “bottom-up” approach, but bottom-up where the poor are recognised, where the poor are empowered and where the poor get the kickbacks. \$1.3 trillion dollars are owned by 300,000 miserable Middle Easterners in the US according to Merrill Lynch. \$1.3 trillion! An American said to me that they are disfunctionally bankrupt. I asked what does functionally bankrupt mean? If I was supported by the power of the Euro at \$1.3 trillion or petro-dollars, I would be quite happy to be disfunctionally bankrupt. Yet, we complain about poverty and about terrorism. We talk about ‘drying the swamps of terror’ by dropping bombs. The time has come to talk about drying the swamps of terror by empowering citizens; by building a multilayered civil society, by recognising the small efforts such as our own Royal Scientific Society in Jordan. We have over 42 laboratories that are working with the German-speaking world on wind-power installation and increasing capacity. In terms of Gross World Production (GWP), the aggregate estimate of the global output of goods and services increased 2.5% in 2002 to 48 trillion (in 2001 USD). This indicator is not accurate enough to represent economic activity. In the Club of Rome, we believe that growth is not to be equated with equity. The Genuine Progress Indicator (GTI) takes into account traffic, pollution and crime and adds unaccounted benefits such as unpaid childcare and volunteer work. In the US, GWP grew 77% in 1975-2000, compared with a growth of 2% in the same period. The wealth of several countries has declined, even when the GNP has increased once depletion of natural capital has been factored in.

Ecological footprint expresses the carrying capacity per capita of available ‘global hectare’ for renewable use. The carrying capacity today already exceeds the earth’s availability by about 20%. Mankind today, uses 1.2 ‘earths’ to satisfy its ‘wants and needs’. I don’t need to go into the production of passenger cars and the details that have been so well covered about new thinking, ‘hybrid electric’ and ‘hydrogen’ powered cars. Our own member of the Club of Rome, Eric von Weiszäcker *et al* in Factor Four, I believe, has covered this issue in some depth, but I do want to thank UNEP for the *Human Vulnerability to Environment Change Report* (from Global

Environment Outlook, GEO 3, 2002). I do not believe in a physical division between the physical environment and the human environment.

Human health is increasingly determined by environmental conditions. Poor environmental quality is directly responsible for some 25% of all preventable ill-health, with diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections. Air pollution is the major contributor to a number of diseases and globally, 7% of all deaths and diseases are due to inadequate or unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene. Approximately 5% are attributable to air pollution.

We can look in greater detail later at *Lessons from the Future* (from Geo3). In the first lesson, contrasting yet plausible stories can be told now for how the world and its regions – those *global* and *regional commons* – will develop in the next 30 years; each has fundamentally different implications for the environment. From four scenarios, the scenario *Sustainability First* implies the most positive environmental outlook. *Markets first* and *Security first* conjure up much more pessimistic pictures, but for different reasons. *Policy first* falls somewhere in between – some of the environmental targets are met, through a mainly trickle-down approach, whereas it is unrealistic to make significant progress on others without a broader commitment to change.

So stop dealing with regions like ours through a ‘hub and spokes’ approach. Encourage us to develop our regional agenda as you did in the height of tension in the Balkans, in developing the Balkan Stability Pact – a statement of principles. If you don’t do that soon, I assure you, with the looming American elections, there’s withdrawal in haste from Iraq and there’s *withdrawal in haste from Iraq*. Withdrawal in haste, cutting and leaving, will mean the Lebanonisation, not only of Iraq, but of the whole region. Leaving (Iraq) with a concept and a statement of principles as well as an international commitment to contribute to stabilisation, means that possibly, just possibly, as the Japanese Diet had envisaged in 1988, that the complementarity between human resource-rich countries and oil-producing countries will result in an intra-independent relationship in a Middle East of stability rather than a Middle East of opportunity relating directly to the extraction of oil or directly to the sale of weapons.

The second lesson states that there can be significant delays between human actions, including policy decisions and associated impacts on the

environment, specifically in that much environmental change occurring over the next 30 years has already been set in motion by past and current actions and many of the effects of environmentally relevant policies that will be put into place over the next 30 years will not be apparent until long afterwards.

I don't know in German, but in Arabic, we cannot differentiate between *politics* and *policies*. Our greatest international problem, I feel, is that personal agendas are more important than the *public realm*. The *public realm*, our *global* and *regional commons*, have to be promoted dispassionately with policies of 'networked governance' as Rischard put it – 'networked governance', not 'government'. The Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues was established in 1983. In 1985, the Report, Winning the Human Race? was launched. The conceptual framework within which our Commission functioned was based essentially on an ethical core which can help build a wider consensus. The cornerstones of this framework were the values which from time immemorial have been a part of the collective consciousness of the human species, which have ensured their survival and well-being, and which have stood the test of time:

- Respect for life;
- A responsibility towards future generations;
- Protection of the human habitat;
- Altruism nurtured by a sense of mutual interest and a recognition of human dignity and worth.

The term "growth to limits" has been mentioned. The conclusions drawn in the Club of Rome Report *The Limits to Growth* (1972) by Donella H. Meadows, Dennis I. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, William W. Behrens III, (MIT - not an anti-American conspiracy!), were:

1. If the present growth trends in world population, industrialization, pollution, food production, and resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth on this planet will be reached sometime within the next one hundred years. The most probable result will be a rather sudden and uncontrollable decline in both population and industrial capacity.
2. It is possible to alter these growth trends and to establish a condition of ecological and economic stability that is sustainable far into the future. The state of global equilibrium could be

designed so that the basic material needs of each person on earth are satisfied and each person has an equal opportunity to realize his individual human potential.

The Limits to Growth world model was built specifically to investigate five major trends of global concern – accelerating industrialisation, rapid population growth, widespread malnutrition, depletion of non-renewable resources and a deteriorating environment. The authors of the Report emphasised at the time that the model they constructed was, like every model, imperfect, oversimplified and unfinished.

The Club of Rome has also endorsed the *Triple E project*, the *European Environment Education*, with the support of the EU, a programme that has bridged the environmental concerns of East European cities with the environmental experience and answers to environmental questions generated by West European cities.

I find it rather strange, as a Middle Easterner, that I can speak to the Mayors of places like Bosnia-Herzegovina and to people of other regions of supra-national, transnational and transdisciplinary issues, yet I cannot do it in my own region. Why? Because each one of us individually has signed an EU Association Agreement, a free-trade agreement (even with the US), a WTO agreement, but it's the aggregate of those 'spokes' that invites us to speak to each other. We are all hypocrites. We have all attacked each other. We have all violated international law. We are all privately critical of the US, but publicly and officially deeply dependent on the US. There is something wrong in the equation. I believe it is the absence of trans-national thinking. Our region desperately requires the creation of an *energy and water* community along the lines of your *coal and steel* community. We need trans-boundary thinking – a regional *aménagement des territoires*. I remember in the 1970s sitting with Edward Kennedy, Robert McNamara, Jakob Javits, Hermann Aps – people who are large enough not to need the newspaper headlines and confident enough to retain the trust of their establishment. These are people who gave us the vision of Middle East 2000 as a development concept for the region. They envisaged that only 10 million consumers could live between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River. I was one of the ones who read the small print. The politicians unfortunately have certain myopia when it comes to small print.

I would just like to suggest that by way of analogy and the sense of environmental inclusion, that the drive for human rights around the world has been gaining momentum. Wars have been waged in the name of freedom and democracy. I would like to call once again on some of you who may be interested in opening the (UN) website, for a call for a New International Humanitarian Order and for a call for a culture of compliance with international human rights and humanitarian laws as we did in Geneva only a few days ago with a group of five so-called eminent persons. In the Report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (Winning the Human Race? as mentioned earlier), the challenge was: *ethics of human solidarity; global issues* such as population; environment; poverty and development; global militarization; terrorism and the international drug problem; *forces of nature* such as new nations; peoples' movements; women; youth; modern technology; trans-nationals; the media. The victims were *vulnerable groups* such as the young; the uprooted; the neglected and then there were *man-made disasters* such as famine; desertification; deforestation and *new man-made disasters* such as commercial nuclear power; genetic engineering and industrial disasters. The *hope*, after this litany, is that an 'international humanitarian Versailles' conference is not impossible. I say 'humanitarian' because I am not talking about a new order of who is going to bully who. I am talking of an order which focuses essentially on a global humanitarian Marshall Plan. I recognise the work of my friends Franz Radermacher, Mary Robinson and others that focuses on humanitarian priorities and human dignity and not human security alone, but human dignity wherein lies the lesson of human security. I could have gone on with the lessons of the UNEP report, but I would just conclude by saying that the achievement of environmental goals will require decisive action; will encounter unforeseen eventualities and will not happen overnight. Fortunately or unfortunately, much of the success or failure of this endeavour is in our hands, let me say in *our* hands. The Geneva process, the other day, was described by one Israeli Government official as irresponsible freelance diplomacy. I am here to promote responsible freelance diplomacy. All the choices we have made in the past, those we are currently making and those we will make in the future, all strongly influence in which world we will live. May I conclude with some spiritual and aesthetic uplift, the words of Ibn Arabi, a zahirite who lived in Spain between 1165 and 1240. Think where we have come in terms of psychological environment since then. In 1165 he said:

"My heart is open to all the winds:

*It is a pasture for gazelles
And a home for Christian monks,
A temple for idols,
The Black Stone of the Mecca pilgrim,
The table of the Torah,
And the book of the Koran.
Mine is the religion of love.
Wherever God's caravans turn,
The religion of love
Shall be my religion
And my faith."*

You can privatise everything, but I don't think you can privatise love. Let us share as partners in our common humanity. Let us build a new forum of shared culture and shared human commitment in the future.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.