DRAFT:

"WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE (WPI)
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE REPORT 2003
Dedicated to the United Nations and to the
International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World

Pathways To Peace
International Secretariat
www. Internationaldayofpeace.org
www.wethepeoples.org

UNITED NATIONS – activities for the International Day of Peace
United Nations Headquarters, New York

The International Day of Peace annual youth observance was organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information in association with The Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Pathways To Peace and The World Peace Prayer Society. It was a videoconference including youth at peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Afghanistan (UNAMA), and Syrian Golan Heights (UNDOF).

This 21st observation of the International Day of Peace began with the Secretary–General ringing the Peace Bell while 191 youth held the flags of all the member states. The Secretary- General dedicated this International Day of Peace to the UN colleagues who had been killed in the terrorist bombing at the UN in Iraq one month before. He also explained that the Peace Bell had been cast from coins sent in by children from around the world.

The Peace Bell Ceremony was immediately followed by the annual youth program in Conference Room 4. Mrs. Nane Annan addressed the youth as she has each year since 1997 when the student observance for the International Day of Peace began. Six youth from various regions addressed the Messengers of Peace. Jane Goodall received a question from Tiffany Lewin of the Roots and Shoots program in New York City; Michael Douglas received a question from Alex Sixon in Sierra Leone; Anna Cataldi received her question from Mohammad Indress in Afghanistan; Muhammad Ali was addressed by Mohammed Al-Ghanim, a youth participant in the Share the Spirit of Peace Youth Summit who came to NY from Kuwait to represent Global Youth Action Network; and Jacqueline Murekatete a Rwanda genocide survivor questioned Elie Wiesel. Everyone shared a Minute of Silence for the International Day of Peace at noon.
A highlight of the morning event was sending messages of Peace to every nation using the World Peace Flag Ceremony. Audrey Kitagawa, an advisor to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict closed the observance. Other UN dignitaries included Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary General, DPI; Gillian Sorensen, Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Office of the Secretary-General and Ramu Damodaran, Chief, Civil Society Service, DPI.

BRAZIL
CONSCIUS – PROGRAMA DE GESTAO DA CONSCIENCIA, in conjunction with The International Festival of Advertising (Rio de Janeiro), is offering a prize to the best media piece containing the theme of Peace. The prize will be named "Grande Premio da Paz – Sergio Vieira de

Mello" in homage to the beloved UN delegate who was tragically killed in Bhagdad. The prize will be given out in November of 2003 and is sponsored by Brazilian corporations including automobile, advertising and media companies.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE PARTICIPANT)

CAMEROON
THE FOUNDATION FOR PEACE AND SOLIDARITY, is setting up funding to create programmes for youths to turn away from un-peaceful activities and move towards the promotion of the culture of peace. Amongst other plans, it hopes to organise at least 3000 youths to take part in a peace march around the city of Yaounde.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE PARTICIPANT)

CANADA
PEAL FOR PEACE INUVIK
A noon hour ceremony at the Jimmy Adams Peace Park, Inuvik, Northwest Territories, included a short program, including music performed by students of the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and one minute of silence, ending in a "joyful noise" at 12:00 noon, (bells and sirens, singing and Inuvialuit Drumming). A donated lunch followed the program and a collection was made for UNICEF. Everyone attending was invited to sign the banner.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

TORONTO, CANADA
OUR LADIES MISSIONAIRES held a noontime moment of silence, followed by sounding a gong, a eucharistic celebration, and Prayers for Peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

TORONTO, CANADA
PEACE THE 21ST which holds meditations for the equinoxes and solstices at its headquarters and throughout the world, focused its Circle of Light Healing Meditation for the International Day of Peace.

COSTA RICA
THE UNIVERSIDAD PAR LA PAZ (UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE) has created ***The Peacemaker Award***, to be presented to five different peacemakers in a ceremony to be broadcast to a major international audience. Presentation will be made within the framework of an international initiative called "Tribute to Peacemakers", launched by the *University for Peace* to promote public awareness, understanding and support for the activities of peacemakers engaged in exemplary efforts on the frontlines of peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

ENGLAND
WORLD CENTRE OF SERVICE
Peace through Ethical and Spiritual values in Governance
The Baroness Edmee Di Pauli is initiating a video series on 21 September on a variety of issues, with the goal of educating voters who will, in turn, elect government officials with ethical and spiritual values who will apply these in the decision making of their legislation.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

ENGLAND
PEACE ONE DAY
Peace Concert at Brixton Academy, London, from 8pm – 3am on the eve of the International Day of Peace. As well as many live performers and DJ sets Joseph Fiennes read a message from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Mo Mowlam gave a speech and a video address from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was broadcast.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

ENGLAND
THE SUNDIAL HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Promoted and organized a 24-hour Vigil of meditation and prayer for the IDP, inviting participants to sign up and link in thought at precise times for 15 minute periods, to connect to the global community meditating and praying for peace on that day and to use the Great Invocation or the world prayer, "May Peace Prevail on Earth".
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

GHANA
THE OLOF PALME PEACE FOUNDATION, ACCRA
The Olof Palme Peace Foundation is organizing a Culture of Peace Week intended to build partnerships within local communities. They will volunteer at the hospital, donate blood to the Blood Bank, organized donations of food, toiletries, disinfectants, toys, and used clothing to an orphanage, and campaign against the stigmatization of HIV/AIDS patients. As a climax to the occasion various youth groups will participate in sporting events.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

GHANA
CHILDREN OF THE EARTH – APEADU PEACE CENTER held a 2-hour public gathering with speakers, on the theme of "Youth Unite for Peace". The gathering was attended by 200 people and began with an inter-religious prayer ceremony, followed by cultural performances by school children, candle lighting for peace, speeches, and a pledge drive and poem recital. Reports were given on youth statistics on HIV/AIDS and concluded with closing remarks of co-chairperson, Chief Nan Osei Baokya Yiadom II, emphasizing the importance of the Apeadu Peace Center for the people of Aburi.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

GHANA
MESSAGE OF PEACE FOUNDATION
International Day of Peace/Hear the Children Day. Observation of one minute of silence to focus on peace and the messages of the world's children, followed by the making of a "joyful noise" – the ringing of many bells to awaken peace consciousness. With the help of the media and the educational system, the Message of Peace foundation will teach the children what peace can bring to our daily lives and how to forgive and forget disputes. A prayer will be offered after the teaching and candles lit as a dedication to this day of non-violence and global ceasefire. These local events will be extended to help the aged, homeless refugees, and to protecting the environment.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

GREECE
EMMANUEL PEKTRAKIS, Athens, offered his poem, "The Path To Peace", for the International Day of Peace.. The poem is included in a booklet of poems. "The Dance of Life."
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

INDIA
THE KASHMIR VALLEY COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SCHOOL Kashmir, publicized and observed the IDP as part of its programme "Education for Sustainable Development." The school caters to the educational needs of an integrated society. "The prevailing situation in the Kashmir Valley has inflicted deep injuries upon peoples lives, particularly children and women. Besides has caused an erosion of human values among the young generation especially the school children, which is a threat to global peace & tranquility. Keeping in view the importance of peace and it's inculcation in the young brains of children, we want to observe the International Day of Peace so as to prepare the young generation for the development of peace and its fruits."
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH TRAINING INSTITUTE promoted peace through direct non-violent action, engaging in Rural Youth Training Programmes, Youth Organizations, Tribal Women's Organization, Health Education, Peace education, legal Education, Child Labour, Girl Child Labour, Bonded Labour, Cultural Environmental Movement, Empowerment of Women, Human Rights Issues & Community Development Programmes etc., particularly for poor peoples, poor landless labourers, tribal women and children groups.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

IRELAND
WORLD CENTERS OF COMPASSION FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL's Founder and Nobel Peace Laureate, Betty Williams, sent a petition for support of the International Day of Peace to several Nobel Peace Laureates. This Peace Day Petition, initiated by Pathways To Peace, was signed by the following Peace Laureates:
Archbishop Desmond Tutu
President Oscar Arias Sanchez
HH the Dalai Lama
Mairead Corrigan Maguire
Rigoberta Menchu Tum
Jody Williams
President Nelson Mandela
Elie Wiesel
Betty Williams
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

ITALY
The four founding members of the **INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PEACE COUNCIL** will synchronize three meditations throughout the day and pronounce the Great Invocation dedicated to all the children of the world. The Council is dedicated to creating awareness by addressing school children through their teachers about children throughout the world, sustainable development, planetary citizenship and our place in the universe.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

JAPAN
BYAKKO SHINKO KAI, held a World Peace Prayer Ceremony.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

MICRONESIA
ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, Yap, designed a Peace Pledge in support of the International Day of Peace. Signed by all the students of Grade 7, the pledge was "To do all that I can to keep peace in my home, my school, and my community on Peace Day beginning today, so that Peace May Prevail on Earth".
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

NEPAL
THE FRIENDS SERVICE COUNCIL launched the "Peace Encouragement Programme", with a talk, a vote for the best three Peace Encouragement postcards (designed by the Friends Service Council and WAVE), the national PEP Dohori contest, and a street performance. The PEP is intended to be a long-term, ongoing project that will offer forums for talks and youth discussions, poetry and musical competitions in schools as well as year-round sales of the Peace Encouragement Postcards at a discounted rate.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

NETHERLANDS
On the eve of IDP 2003 (so that people can attend the celebrations in Belgium), the **ASSOCIATION FOR WORLD CITIZENS** presented a full day Symposium on Health Sustainability and Spiritual World Citizenship. This Symposium demonstrated how each person can contribute to a world in which all people, plants and animal species can flourish in cooperation with one another in such a way that the desire to achieve one's ends through wielding power at the expense of others loses its hold.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

NEW ZEALAND
THE TRIANGLE CENTER offered a Peace Pole re-dedication ceremony and the blessing of a special plaque, featuring the Banner of Peace symbol and the Manifesto 2000 values statement.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

NEW ZEALAND
OPERATION PEACE THROUGH UNITY
A gathering was held at the Peace Sculpture dedicated on IDP 2002 in the town of Wanganui. The Banner of Peace was raised for the first time, while the Wanganui Community Choir sang. Ceremonies included the multi-cultural women's group, schools and other groups.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

NIGERIA
The **CHILDREN'S PEACE MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL,** for the promotion of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, was inaugurated on the eve of IDP 2003. There was also an Interdenominational Prayer Congress for World Peace. On the day itself, a special church service was held followed by a peace rally and procession around the city of Oyu, the Akwa Ibom State capital, to proclaim, "May Peace Prevail on Earth." A special letter from the children was delivered to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, calling on government to evolve a political culture that is based on transparency, fairness, accountability and the rule of law as a way to promote peaceful co-existence among the diverse ethnic and religious groups in Nigeria. (WHEDA)
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

NIGERIA
RELIGIOUS YOUTH SERVICE, Rivers State, held a service for Peace as part of "World Peace through Interreligious Actions and Dialogue," and other International Day of Peace observances.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

PHILIPPINES
THE PEACEMAKERS' CIRCLE, URI Manila, the Association of Major Religious Organizations of the Philippines, and the Organization for the Integrity of Creation held a Peace Ceremony and Peace Circle in Quezon City. The ceremony included the ringing of a Peace Bell, a procession of leaders of different religions, cultural presentations, and prayers for World Peace, followed by a World Peace Prayer Ceremony and Prayers of Thanksgiving to the Mother. There was then a parade of UN flags, and religious and other group. The parade ended in the lighting of candles while a choir sang, "Let there be Peace on Earth."
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

SAUDI ARABIA
UDHAILIYAH SCHOOL, an international school in the Eastern Province, celebrated with a school assembly where presentations about peace were given by students, followed by songs of peace. Yellow balloons, representing hope for peace, were launched from the soccer field, after which a bell was rung and a minute of silence for peace was observed.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

SOUTH AFRICA
RAINBOW BRIDGE CENTRE
In Noordhoek, a meditation event took place to connect with all Peacebuilders and Peacemakers around the world, creating a network of Peace and Light around the planet. The energy of the meditation was focused into:

1. the collective consciousness of humanity and the world to raise it above the dark thought forms and negativity that still abound in certain areas into a higher consciousness of understanding, compassion, creativity and integrity;
2. the governments of the nations of the world;
3. the mass media
2. the educational systems;
3. all the countries of the world;
4. all the realms of life on earth.

("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

SOUTH AFRICA
Trainers from **THE QUAKER PEACE CENTRE** , Cape Town, attended peace events in the townships. All of the schools the Trainers work with held peace events and sports event in the week leading up to the International Day of Peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

SOUTH AFRICA
UMTAPO CENTRE
An International Week of Peace publicized and educated about the IDP and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. Activities were held at all Peace Afrika Youth Centres around the country, a workshop was put on to finalise the Umtapo-SADTU-Contralesa PARE & HIV/AIDS Programme, the National Conference on Globalised Racism and the Search for Peace and Justice took place, Umtapo and PARE held a participatory evaluation workshop by, and on the IDP itself the Mabedlane Peace park and Life Center was inaugurated in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, Kwazulu Natal.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

SRI LANKA
THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA conducted the Sri Lanka National Observance of the United Nations' IDP 2003 for the eleventh successive year. It was coordinated at a school by the Mobile Unit of the UNA's Education Committee, the school principal, teachers and pupils on Monday, September 22nd, as the Sunday 21st is a school and public holiday. The ceremony will include the hoisting of the United Nations, the Dan the National flag, Koffman International Flag of Peace, and the School flag, followed by the National Anthem of Sri Lanka. Thereafter, there will be short addresses by UNA Representatives and the school principal followed by a short play on the UN. The UNA of Sri Lanka would like to expand the observances of this event throughout the country.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

SRI LANKA
THE NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE provided people with the opportunity to Work a Day for Peace by donating a day's wages to help create the Peaceforce. Various dates for the "Working a Day for Peace" were set around the world.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

SWITZERLAND
THE NGO COMMITTEE ON SPIRITUALITY, VALUES AND GLOBAL CONCERNS, Geneva, called a gathering for the ringing of the noon-time Peace Bell and organized a Silent Circle for Peace, in loving memory of all those that gave their lives for peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

THAILAND
DHAMMA PARK FOUNDATION held a ceremony opened by the Deputy governor of Lumphun Province, N. Thailand. After a traditional welcome with a large Gong and dancers, student Monks and 200 students and teachers from 16 local primary and secondary schools were led by a Marching band in a ceremony around their Peace Pole. There was also a Children for Peace Painting competition, a poetry competition called "Poetry – a Pathway to Peace", and a Dhamma Bicycle Race with bikes decorated with The Wheel of Right Conduct (The Noble Eightfold Path) in the front and the UN Peace Wheel at the rear, in which the slowest of the 35 contestants was the winner. There was also a presentation of Charades by a group who have been attending Drama

Workshops incorporating Peace Studies at the Dhamma Park Gallery, Games, Prizegivings and a Farewell Address.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

UZBEKISTAN
THE CENTER FOR YOUNG ACTIVISTS (Youth Intellectuals) organized various programs for children on the International Day of Peace, including telling stories about kindness and the power of children; presentations for and by children; distributing sweets; creating a wall painting entitled, "Peace and Children"; excursions to the museums; and a closing ceremony.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

ZAMBIA
EARTHWALKER Paul Coleman wrote a letter to the President of Zambia, calling for the development of a culture of Peace. The letter was broadcast throughout the country on TV and radio and in the Zambia Times. He also organized a major tree-planting event that included a walk through Lusaka center with the Zambian Army Brass Band, 70 majorettes and about four hundred children from the Fountain of Hope Orphanage. The walk ended at the Orphanage where the Deputy high Commissioner of South Africa was waiting to plant forty trees donated by the Zambian Forestry Department.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

UNITED STATES

COURSE IN MIRACLES INTERNATIONAL
Global 24-hour Peace Vigil
This global 24-hour Vigil is meant to demonstrate the power of prayer and spiritual awakening as a means to Peace within the world. It is a request to join in sharing the vision of International Day of Peace. The mission of The Course in Miracles is to advance a Vision for all people on earth of our Divine Purpose to be united in Peace and Love with all humanity in the recognition of our oneness and equality in the sight of God.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Tucson, Arizona
THE ARIZONA PORTAL OF THE EARTHDANCE FESTIVAL was scheduled this year to coincide with the International Day of Peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

California (Statewide)
NEW DIMENSIONS RADIO broadcast the programme "Peace is a Verb" throughout the week beginning September 15th 2003, in honor of the International Day of Peace. The broadcast featured Marilyn King, two time Olympian and founder of Beyond Sports, Jean Houston, author of dozens of books including "A Passion for the Possible" and "Manual for the Peacemaker: An Iroquois Legend to Heal Self & Society", Avon Mattison, Founder and President of Pathways To Peace and one of the founding visionaries of the International Day of Peace, and Robert Muller, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and Chancellor Emeritus of the University for Peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Brisbane, California
SENIORS FOR PEACE Video: production of a 25 minute video documentary on a group of politically active seniors living at the Redwoods Retirement Community in Mill Valley, CA who are

deeply committed to issues of peace and justice. The video will be submitted to the Mill Valley Film Festival for its world premiere in October of 2003.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Los Gatos, California
THE ACADEMY FOR FUTURE SCIENCE created and disseminated a "Prayer for Peace, visualization for all those on the Path of Peace."
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Los Angeles, California
THE LOS ANGELES HEART MEDITATION PROJECT offered a Peace Meditation to the public at the Getty Museum for invoking love into the national heart center of the USA.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Oxnard, California
HEAR THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN PROJECT involving asking children to complete "Peace is …." in one sentence which was placed on a small flag and sent to the UN as a "Voice of the Children" for the "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE for IDP.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Palm Springs, California
THE INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCES held their Annual Conference with the Association of Global New Thought. On the International Day of Peace, the conference concluded with a World Peace Flag Ceremony, conducted by the World Peace Prayer Society. Pathways To Peace facilitated a workshop entitled The Art and Practice of Peacebuilding.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Sacramento, California
THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD PEACE ROSE GARDENS organized a procession with 3 peace doves and the throwing of rose petals in the Rose Garden after repeating "May Peace Prevail on Earth" three times. This was followed by a "Women of Spirit Ceremony", whereby women of different faiths read their favorite passage on peace from their treasured books. A speech by Sylvia Villalobos and UNA representatives was given followed by messages of peace by 3 youths, proclamations by the Governor and the mayor of Sacramento. A rose was offered for 40 different conflicts going on in the world to someone in the audience. A moment of silence as well as entertainment by Hmong flute dancers ended the ceremonies. Three different TV stations covered this event.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

San Francisco, California
THE UNITY FOUNDATION organized a special event in Union Square beginning with a minute of silence and an address by the Executive Director of Pathways To Peace. The backdrop for the event was a large outdoor exhibit of museum quality art by members of the Artists' Guild of San Francisco, presenters of the celebration. The Presidio Children's Dance Theatre gave a performance as did the folk rock group, "United Soul." Among other Bay Area world music groups featured were, Ancient Future, the Snake Band, and the Nigerian Brothers.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

San Francisco, California
ARTSHIP FOUNDATION and its affiliate the International Peace University
offered their "Talismans of Peace: Creating a Self-help Resource" designed to address the needs of mediators and participants in a conflict resolution situation. The Talismans are made during a mediation or conflict resolution process as expressions of what had been what had been done and learned during the mediation. This activity was offered in Union Square, San Francisco, in conjunction with the International Day of Peace event put on by the Unity Foundation.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

San Francisco, California
THE DIVINITY PROJECT encouraged the use of universal Mudras ("IN") and the invocation, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" for this Universal Peace Day.

San Francisco, California
THE RED VIC PEACE CENTER Bed and Breakfast hosted an International Day of Peace House Party for friends and supporters of Dennis Kucinich.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Tiburon, California
Community Congregational Church
The Tribal Elders of CCC held a day of Prayers for Peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Oakland, California
Olympian, Marilyn King, is extending an invitation for people to become part of the *Advance Peace Team* preparing for the launch of **THE PEACE TEAM** on the International Day of Peace 2004. Peace Team members are asked to establish daily practices, which will allow us to achieve our goal of peace, and they will share the best of these next year.. In the meantime, people are asked to engage in the "Olympic Minute" envisioning the "gold medal" of what Peace looks like. Using the PTP Peace Card with the vision of Peace, for example.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

New Haven, Connecticut
A Peace Vigil was held on New Haven Green
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Washington, DC
INSTITUTE FOR MULIT-TRACK DIPLOMACY sent a special message from its founder about the importance of the International Day of Peace and IMTD's international Peacebuilding work.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Chicago, Illinois
THE PEACE SCHOOL held a Peace Day Celebration including cultural performances of dance, music and theater. The highlight of the day was a Call to Peace for all the countries of the world. A minute of silence was observed for World Peace, followed by non-denominational prayers for World Peace directed at specific nations and areas of conflict around the globe. To connect with the UN's International Day of Peace they asked the Chicago Mayor to proclaim September 7th through 21st as Peace Days in Chicago. They also scheduled various peacebuilding activities in Chicago public schools for the week preceding the International Day of Peace, featuring art projects such as "Mandalas for Peace in the World", or "Gratitude to Nature".
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Flint, Michigan
S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere) at the Flint Southwestern Academy High School raised awareness for the International Day of Peace by contacting local media stations, the mayors office and other sources of support.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Minneapolis, Minnesota
THE PEACE PROJECT OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MINNEAPOLIS invited people to observe the United Nations International Day of Peace and to join their Children's Letter-writing campaign in which children were given the opportunity to write to President Bush and their governor asking them to make the IDP a National Holiday (Observance). They also observed the IDP with a Forum about UN Revitalization, and Assembly and classes focused on Peace, A Peace Pole Dedication ceremony, and a "Peace On The Hill" celebration during which the Minneapolis Mayor designated the day a **Day of Peace for the City of Minneapolis** followed by music groups and fee Ice Cream.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Victor, Montana
IDEAL SPRING INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION held a special Peace Vigil at noon on the IDP.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Amenia, New York
WORLD PEACE PRAYER SOCIETY
Five thousand gathered at the World Peace Sanctuary two hours north of New York City for the 13th annual World Peace Festival. The day's theme was "Celebrating the International Day of Peace," with many activities and stirring musical performances for all faiths and all ages. The high point was the World Peace Prayer Ceremony, sending a prayer for peace to every country of the world as its flag was raised.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

New York, New York
THE AQUARIAN AGE COMMUNITY organized a talk by Nickolai Parker at the Quest Book Shop, New York City, entitled "The International Day of Peace: Becoming the Change we Seek." Attendees were encouraged to bring candles so that the World Peace Flame (created in 1999) could be lit after the talk, helping the network of over ten million people who have lit their candles from the original flame, to grow. This world peace flame is a reflection of and a symbol for the eternal spiritual essence at the heart of each individual.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

New York, New York
THE LIFEBRIDGE FOUNDATION
The Lifebridge Foundation, long a supporter of global peace building efforts, publishes a semi annual newsletter, The Bridging Tree, which reaches about 8,000 people, among them NGO's registered with the United Nations. The most recent issue, Summer/Fall, 2003, was dedicated exclusively to the International Day of Peace. It featured articles by well-known peace builders and activists such as, U.S. Congressman, Dennis Kucinich, Louise Diamond, Cora Weiss, David Krieiger, Richard Falk, Avon Mattison, Deborah Moldow and others. Organizations represented by these articles include, Pathways to Peace, The World Peace Prayer Society, Share the Spirit of Peace Youth Summit, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, The Hague Appeal for Peace and The Peace Company. The proposed U.S. Department of Peace was also supported. This issue also

published an extensive list of various global peace prayer vigils, peace pledges, proclamations, and sample letters with information on how to participate and spread the news about this important international observance. The newsletter can be viewed at the Lifebridge Foundation website, www.lifebridge.org, along with past issues.
("WE THE PEOPLES"INITATIVE Participant)

New York, New York
WORLD PUJA offered a Global Weblink Connection for the World Peace Festival in Amenia, NY and the International Day of Peace, Central Park, NY. The webcast began with Healing Planetary Tones and ended with a Song for Peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

New York, New York
WORLD GOODWILL, Lucis Trust, invites friends and co-workers to observe the International Day of Peace as part of their international program to advance right human relations through community and education.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Bethlehem , Pennsylvania
THE LOPOCO PEACE CENTER, run by LEPOCO (the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern) created a special calendar for September, 2003 listing the International Day of Peace.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Texas
EARTHPAX made available it's World Peace Plan 2010 and other Peace Ideas by Robert Muller. "After having successfully survived World War II and worked for 37 years at the United Nations, I believe more and more in ideas, dreams and plans for a peaceful world. At the age of 80, I am therefore offering the world the following World Peace Plan 2010 --- ."

Bristol. Vermont
THE PEACE COMPANY, produced and distributed by email a special article entitled, "A Living Instrument of Peace." about the United Nations and the International Day of Peace by its Founder, Louise Diamond.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Burlington, Vermont
THE YOUTH CLUB OF PEACE was initiated under the Shanti Sewa Ashram. A poem competition was given about Peace and non-violence. There was also an art competition based on the same topics Garden and decoration activities were performed in the school for peace with the involvement of the eco-club of the school. Ringing of the bell on the 21st at 12:00 noon then a visit to the Samata Sikchya Niketa School for the disable, orphans, poor and others who are on the outskirts of society singing peace songs and cheering up the students. Talks with the students on peace and non-violence, recited poems and played peace games.
("WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Participant)

Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont
THE VERMONT PEACE ACADEMY organized 50 students to travel to the UN for the International Day of Peace program. In the afternoon, a videoconference from the UN to high schools throughout Vermont featured youth at the Share the Spirit of Peace Youth Summit from Israel, Serbia and Montenegro, Liberia and Rwanda. Vermont students reported being very inspired. As

one said, “You have to start with your own person to create inner peace and then say, ‘I want the world more peaceful.’ There’s not just one solution to get a peaceful Earth. Hopefully we will find not one way but many ways to make this a more peaceful world.” In June, VPA held a press conference inviting all Vermonters to participate as a community in the 100-D ay Countdown to Peace culminating on IDP.
(“WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE Participant)

Northfield, Vermont
VERMONT PEACE INSTITUTE. Inc., inspired and helped coordinate a series of Peace Summits to impulse Peace. The third in the series, a 3-day event entitled, “Share the Spirit of Peace International Youth Summit”, honored the International Day of Peace.
(“WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE Participant)

San Juan Islands, Washington
OLYMPIC LIGHTS (Bed & Breakfast) observed and honored the International Day of Peace.
(“WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE Participant)

UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE,
(“WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE Participant)

Santiago, Chile
After three days of praying for peace within their own faith communities, members from thirteen faith traditions gathered together in song, prayer and ritual in a huge university hall decorated with flags from forty countries of the world. The gathering in unity and diversity was symbolized ritually by each group adding a flower to a central vase that transformed into a bouquet of great beauty.

Islamabad, Pakistan
Thirty-four vehicles in caravan formation drove from Islamabad towards Azad Kashmir, to the highest mountain peak of Kashmir, Tolli Peer, to make a very public statement promoting interfaith harmony and peace. At Tolli Peer, the members of URI CC Islamabad with political and religious leaders met with a crowd of more than two thousand for a three-hour program of speeches, prayers, songs, and silence.

Buenos Aires, Argentina
A group of adolescents met to consider a "Viable Plan of Action", to transform their community in solidarity. Having presented and voted for their Plan, they concluded by praying for World Peace.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Peace has much meaning for the people of Tajikistan, now living in peace after five grueling years of civil war. A large group of all ages and many faiths gathered for singing, praying and heart-felt sharing to celebrate the UN Peace day, and in particular, the successful, if hard won, cooperation between the Peace forces of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Russia.

Maputo, Mozambique
A hundred and fifty people participated in two-hour event of songs, meditations, prayers, and speeches. For Mozambique, a celebration of peace has great meaning, as the country is continuing to maintain a fragile peace after years of blood shed and jungle warfare. The event was covered by the TV Mozambique on prime time television.

Multan, Pakistan
Two hundred banner carrying Muslims, Christians, and Hindus participated in a Peace Walk that included the planting of two trees in commemoration of the day, the release of dozens of doves and pigeons, and an interfaith service.

Lahore, Pakistan
Three hundred Christian, Muslim and Hindus of all ages gathered together to march for an hour and a half, concluding with speeches, prayers and songs celebrating the work of local and global peace makers. It was a wonderfully colorful event with badges, banners, handbills and caps.

Greater Ashville, North Carolina
Eighty-five people representing eight faith traditions participated in an event sharing peace stories from different faith traditions in a local Catholic church.

New York
Five thousand gathered in a cornfield two hours away from New York City. It was a day celebrating the vision of peace with many activities and stirring musical performances for all faiths and all ages.

SHARE THE SPIRIT OF PEACE YOUTH SUMMIT
September 19-21, had 43 young peacemakers from 21 countries participate in a weekend gathering to commemorate the International Day of Peace. The Summit opened at the UN with the International Day of Peace observance. These participants held their country's flag as the Secretary-General rang the Peace Bell and then led the Messengers of Peace from the Peace Bell ceremony into Conference Room 4 with a procession of flags. After the morning at the UN, their program continued with a bus tour of NY City, a full Saturday of workshops and the World Peace Festival on Sunday.

As part of the application process, they were asked to have events in their home countries for the International Day of Peace. Even though many of the applicants were unable to come to NY, IDP events were planned in over 40 countries.

The organizers of the Share the Spirit of Peace Youth Summit were: A Course in Miracles International, Children of the Earth, Global Youth Action Network, Kantor Family Foundation, Lifebridge Foundation, Miracle Corners of the World Inc., Pathways To Peace, Temple of Understanding, The World Peace Prayer Society, UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, United Religions Initiative, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Vermont Peace Academy, Vermont Peace Institute, Young General Assembly and We, The World.

"WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE REPORT 2003
Dedicated to the United Nations and to the
International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World

Pathways To Peace
International Secretariat
www.internationaldayofpeace.org