

Alternative Financing for the United Nations

commons. Unfortunately, many of the more discrete, smaller scale propositions (Seabed Authority, satellite licensing, Antarctica) would raise almost no income in the medium term, although they may be important sources for the United Nations of our grandchildren. Similarly, straight "environmental levies" such as carbon taxes or "peace dividend" levies such as on arms transfers suffer from the free-rider problem outlined earlier, not to mention powerful opponents within the UN system. On the larger income possibilities, such as airline travel or a stamp tax on passports, there would be intense opposition from many member states (most notably the United States) on almost any proposal for "global taxation" which flies in the face of the global trend toward deregulated markets.

From a Canadian perspective, perhaps the most attractive of the global commons propositions is for a high level independent commission to be created to study the possibility of assessing user fees or to auction quotas for deep-seas ocean fishing. A preliminary look at the figures shows that in 1993 some five million metric tons of fish were caught in "non-adjacent fishing areas", that is outside national two hundred mile limits. On an average price per catch basis, this amounted to approximately \$4-5 billion. The major players in this industry were Japan, Spain, Russia, Korea, "other Asians", Poland, Ukraine, France and the U.S..

A proposal to initiate a study on high seas fishing rights would be consistent with the Canadian conservation position on fisheries (that is, total quotas for each species in the relevant areas would be set by the FAO scientific council); it could raise substantial funds (either through a quota auction or on an assessed basis); it is concrete and relatively small-scale. Potential problems can be foreseen, however, involving enforcement and surveillance as per the NAFO experience. Getting all UN member states to sign on to a new treaty, unfortunately, could well be prohibitive. These issues would be the subject of the expert study.

On a totally different tack, the creation of an independent working group to study the viability of a "UN 50 Global Lottery" could be initiated. The review group could include heads of national lottery corporations from a broadly representative group of countries. Like the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, the UN Lottery Corporation could even be financed from major corporate sponsors, who would provide the original funding for prizes. Such a global lottery, complete with advertisements from the major corporate sponsors and self-promoting UN videos detailing where the revenue will go, could be enticing for member states and their citizens.

There would certainly be concern over national jurisdictions (not to mention varying degrees of religious and cultural opposition), but the experience in Canada, Britain and the United States shows that new lotteries do not necessarily cut into