

liked each other any better after they left; but at least they came to the same meeting and understood each other's position a little better.

"We go back to these cities later for follow-up. The cities have taken different turns. Atlanta, the whole community, has become very much concerned with Africa.... Seattle is a wonderful city to work in, in terms of NGO follow-up action—and so is Vancouver. Those two cities have not stopped doing city-wide development education work since our conference in 1979. Every year there have been major events on topics that were UN-related, like renewable energy, 'Target Seattle' (disarmament and development), foreign investment, reforestation and so on.

"When you take a country the size of the United States, or Canada, I think you get better effect in changing public attitudes and changing public policy if you work outside of Washington and Ottawa, or even New York and Toronto, and go instead to outlying regions and work with politicians at that level, and have them hear from their constituents that they are concerned about these world issues.

"Since 1982, we have done a series of smaller workshops and seminars, easier to organize, in places like Boston, Winnipeg and Toronto. And we have taken UN people to meet and talk with members of the NGO community. We try very hard not to be hurtling into a city and acting like an instant cadre of experts, but rather to be resource persons, listening as well as providing a global perspective ... [and] real liaison work.

"We have also done a lot more publishing, compiling and editing UN materials into readable form for North American or Japanese development education groups. In the 1980s, we see many more specialized NGO coalitions on pesticides, or the debt crisis, or women or the economic crisis. Over these 10 years both NGLS offices have developed into information clearing houses of useful materials for and about NGOs. They feed the sustained involvement of these NGOs in UN-related topics!

"In going 'round the United States and Japan I haven't found any antagonism at the fact that I am a Canadian. In fact, it's an advantage, for two reasons. First, if one is speaking to, say, the League of Women Voters in Minneapolis and is introduced as a Canadian, then immediately there is that perception of the UN as international; whereas, if one of my American colleagues speaks, albeit with almost the same style and message, it is amazing how many U.S. audiences will come away with the idea that the UN is run by Americans and should be much more for Americans. Secondly, Canada has a good reputation both in development and the development education field, and I can cite the NGO effects on the Canadian Government in fairly honest but impressive terms; and that's a good example for those who know and envy it."