

A MESSAGE TO OUR 3.5 BILLION PEOPLE ON PLANET EARTH FROM 47 NATIONS

Widely separated though we are geographically, with very different cultures, languages, attitudes, political and religious loyalties, we are united in our time by an unprecedented common danger. This danger, of a nature and magnitude never before faced by man, is born of a confluence of several phenomena. Each of them would present us with almost unmanageable problems; together they present not only the probability of vast increases in human suffering but the virtual extinction of human life on Earth.

As biological and other environmental scientists, we do not speak to the feasibility of particular solutions to these problems, but out of our conviction that the problems exist, and that solutions can be found only if we abandon limited selfish interests to the realization of a common need.

THESE ARE THE PROBLEMS ENVIRONMENTAL DETERIORATION. The quality of our environment is deteriorating at an unprecedented rate. It is more obvious in some parts of the world than in others, and in those areas environmental deterioration seems a remote and irrelevant phenomenon. But there is only one environment; what happens to a part affects the whole. The most widely recognized example of this process is the penetration into food chains all over the world of poisonous substances such as mercury, lead, cadmium, DDT and other chlorinated organic compounds which have been found in the tissues of birds and other animals far removed from their points of release.

Cities with pollutants have killed trees hundreds of miles from their source. Even more alarming are our continued and reckless ventures into new technological processes and projects (e.g., the supersonic transport and the planned proliferation of nuclear power plants) without pausing to consider their possible long-term effects on the environment.

DEPLETION OF NATURAL RESOURCES. Although Earth and its resources are finite and in part exhaustible, industrial



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society is using up many of its non-renewable resources and mismanaging potentially renewable ones, and it exploits the resources of other countries without regard for the deprivation of present populations or the needs of future generations.

Almost all of the world's well-watered, fertile farmland is already in use. Yet each year especially in industrialized nations, millions of acres of this land are taken out of cultivation for use as industrial sites, roads, parking lots, etc. De-forestation, damming of rivers, one-crop farming, uncontrolled use of pesticides and defoliants, strip-mining and

other short-sighted, destructive practices have contributed to an environmental catastrophe in some areas and may adversely affect the productivity of the world.

Even under the best of circumstances, the world cannot provide the amounts sufficient for all people to live in comfort and security. The majority in all societies, and between life systems, extreme poverty is permitted by all

continue conflict and

POPULATION CROWDING
The present Earth is estimated to be one half billion people. A calculation of present programs, half billion more people. There have been predictions that the world's population can be doubled in the next 25 years. The population will be as many as 10 billion people suffering

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