

AMRO

Japan-Asia
Quarterly Review
Vol.29 No.3 2000

JUBILEE 2000 IN OKINAWA



**AMPO:
JAPAN-ASIA
QUARTERLY
REVIEW**

**Vol. 29 No. 3
(Series No. 113)**

Published by
Pacific Asia

Resource Center

Mailing Address:
F3; Hinoki Building,
2-1Kanda Ogawamachi
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
101-0052 Japan

Tel: 81-3-3291-5901

Fax: 81-3-3292-2437

E-mail:

PARC@jca.apc.org

Home Page:

<http://www.jca.apc.org/parc>

Copyright December
2000 by AMPO

**SUBSCRIPTION
RATES PER
YEAR**

Overseas Price

(Air Mail)

US\$28.00

(Individual)

US\$40.00

(Institution)

In accordance with
East Asian practice,
the surname is placed
first in all East Asian
names.

TO OUR READERS

This is the special issue of AMPO on the international conference of Jubilee 2000 in Okinawa, 19 July to 21 July 2000. Jubilee 2000 campaign is a worldwide movement aiming to cancel the unpayable debt owed to the poorest countries by the end of the year 2000. The Okinawa conference, held at the timing of the G8 Summit in Okinawa was hosted by Jubilee 2000 coalition of Japan and the host committee in Okinawa, expecting the courageous decision of G7 countries to eradicate the poverty in the world. The Jubilee 2000 Japan was launched in October 1998 with about 40 organizations including labor unions, religious groups and NGOs. PARC has been actively involved in the coalition for three years.

Okinawa is located in the south part of Japan and has a unique history which no one can possibly ignore when considering the meaning of the summit this year. People in Okinawa have been suffering from the existence of the US basis since the end of the Second World War. The US military occupies large part of the land of Okinawa and it strongly influences people's lives in Okinawa, economically and socially. (If you are interested in this, please read the special issues of AMPO on Okinawa.) That is why the Japanese government chose Okinawa as the venue of the summit. Because of this background, the members of the Jubilee 2000 movement got the opportunity to be part of a human-chain around the US base in solidarity with people in Okinawa on 20th of July. 27,000 people from around the world surrounded the US military base to protest against their existence and the violations against Okinawa people.

Jubilee 2000 Japan was disbanded at the end of the year 2000 and makes a fresh start as the 'Network on Debt and Poverty' from January of 2001. (See the announcement, page? to page?.) PARC hosts the contact office for the new network.

To our readers, this the second announcement from AMPO. AMPO will be transformed into an e-mail magazine during the course of this year. The next issue (Vol.29 No.4) will be the last one in this style. We hope you will continue to subscribe to our magazine. The details on subscribing to our new magazine will be announced in the next issue, scheduled to be published in March. Again, I am sorry for the delay of this issue. Thank you very much.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 **Schedule of Jubilee 2000 International Conference**
- 4 **The First but Revolutionary Step**
..... Kitazawa Yoko
- 8 **Discussions on 'Call to the G7 Leaders' and 'Consensus Statement'**
- 23 **Creditors and Donors Must Heed Now**
..... Charlotte Mwesigye
- 27 **Haiti and Debt**
..... Camille Chalmers
- 29 **We Are not Asking for Charity but for Social Justice**
..... Lawrence Egulu
- 32 **Why are We Still Arguing?**
..... Michael Besha
- 35 **Debts are not a Gift**
..... Toe Joseph
- 36 **G8's Island Mentality**
..... Adrian Lovett
- 39 **Cancel Odious, Illegitimate, Apartheid Debt**
..... Neville Gabrel
- 42 **Call to the G7**
- 44 **Consensus Statement**
- 46 **Media Statement**
- 47 **Post Jubilee 2000 Japan**

EDITORIAL BOARD

Honda Masakazu
Inoue Reiko
Murai Yoshinori
Ohno Kazuoki
Mizuhara Hiroko
Yamazaki Seiichi

EDITING STAFF

Otsuka Teruyo
Suzuki Ryo

REWRITING

Jens Wilkinson
Paul MacCartin
Olivier Hoedeman

SCHEDULE

JUBILEE2000 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN OKINAWA

July 19th, 2000

Opening session

Okinawa Music *Mr. Haruo Urazoe*
Welcome speech *Mr. Kiyoshi Tamaki, on behalf of Okinawa Host Committee,
President of Okinawa Prefectural Federation of Trade Unions (RENGO)*
Welcome speech *Cardinal Seiichi Shirayanagi, Co-chair of Jubilee 2000 Japan*

Steering Committee:

*Mr. Adrian Lovett, Jubilee 2000 UK, Mr. Henry Muguzi, Uganda Debt Network
Mr. Ismail M. Nana, DION Mauritius, Mr. Sugeng Bahagijo, INFID Indonesia
Ms. Inoue Reiko, Jubilee 2000 Japan*

Session One

Moderator *Ms. Perpetua Bganya, Zimbabwe Council of Churches*
Report from Uganda *Ms. Charlotte Mwesigye, Uganda Debt Network*
Report from Haiti *Mr. Camille Chalmers, PAPDA*
Report from UK *Mr. Adrian Lovett, Jubilee 2000 UK*

Lunch *Meeting of Steering Committee*

Report from Labor Unions *Mr. Tbc Joseph, DOAWTU, Togo
Mr. Lawrence Egulu, ICFTU-AFRO, Kenya
Mr. Michael O. Besha, OATUU, Ghana*
Report from South Africa *Mr. Neville Gabriel, Jubilee2000 South Africa*
Report from Japan *Ms. Kitazawa Yoko, Jubilee 2000 Japan*

Drafting Committee:

*Mr. Dan Driscoll-Shaw, Jubilee 2000 USA
Ms. Charlotte Mwesigye, Uganda Debt Network
Mr. Simeon Robinson, Jubilee 2000 Jamaica
Mr. Neville Gabriel, Jubilee 2000 South Africa
Mr. Michael P. Besha, OATUU, Ghana
Ms. Liana Cisneros, Jubilee 2000 UK and Jubilee 2000 Peru
Ms. Kitazawa Yoko, Jubilee 2000 Japan*

Coffee Break Informal Meeting of participants from the South

Session Two:

Moderator *Mr. Dan Driscoll Shaw and Fr. Ando Isamu, Jubilee 2000 Japan*
Proposal of a draft Appeal to the G7 by Jubilee 2000 Japan and Discussion

Evening Supper and Interreligious Prayer Gathering at Kainan Catholic Church
Candle March
Drafting Committee Meeting on Call to the G7 Leaders

July 20th, 2000

Session Three

Moderator *Mr. Dan Driscoll-Shaw*
Drafting Committee proposed a revised Draft of Call to the G7 Leaders
Discussion and Adoption
Proposal of a draft Consensus Statement by Jubilee 2000 Japan
Discussion

Lunch

Human Chain around the Kadena US Air Base

Evening Welcome Dinner and Okinawa Dance
Okinawa Prefectural Federation of Trade Unions (RENGO)

Drafting Committee meeting on Consensus Statement

July 21st, 2000

Meeting with Prime Minister Mori Yoshiro at Busena Terrace
Ms. Charlotte Mwesigye, Uganda Debt Network *Mr. Camille Charmers, PAPDA, Haiti*
Mr. Bill Peters, Jubilee 2000 UK *Ms. Kitazawa Yoko, Jubilee 2000 Japan*

Session Four:

Moderator *Mr. Robert Reid, Jubilee 2000 New Zealand*
Adoption of the Consensus Statement of the Jubilee 2000 International Conference
Discussion on the Activities beyond Okinawa

Closing Session:

Lunch

Demonstration in Naha and Nago

Jubilee 2000 Japan: the first but revolutionary step

By Kitazawa Yoko

Co-chair of Jubilee 2000 Japan

She represents the Bretton Woods Coalition, offering a critique on international affairs.



First of all, I would like to thank all of you, representatives of

Jubilee 2000, for getting together here in Okinawa. I am going to give the last speech. Jubilee 2000 Japan was launched

in November 1998, focusing on the G7 summit which was scheduled to take place in Cologne last year. In 1993 when we held the International People's Tribunal to Judge the G7 in opposition to the G7 summit in Tokyo. Since then we have done various things as the Japan Bretton Woods Coalition concerning the issues of Structural Adjustment Programs and international debt. In 1998, when the Birmingham Summit took place, we decided to join the Jubilee 2000 International Campaign to solve these problems.

Jubilee 2000 Japan is a loose coalition of individual organizations and persons including labor unions, religious groups, NGOs and other several civic groups as its members. It was the first time for us to have such a coalition which shares the same aim, in this case, of debt cancellation in HIPC's (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries). Most HIPC's are in Africa. When we started the campaign, we asked ourselves "Why

Africa? Why are we going to promote debt cancellation in Africa?", and "Should we have a campaign on Asian countries – given our history?" Finally we agreed on targeting African countries. This is not only because we Japanese have not done much work on Africa yet, but also because we cannot ignore African women and children being victimized and dying because of debt. As the first step, we began to collect signatures asking the Prime Minister of Japan as well as the G7 leaders to cancel debts owed by the poorest countries. We had difficult time as many people were reluctant to sign for the problems in Africa. They asked us "Why should Japan cancel the debt of African countries?" and "How much would I pay for it?" Some of them told us "Every borrower has a responsibility to return what they borrowed, don't they?" To answer these questions, Jubilee 2000 Japan organized seminars on debts and published booklets for beginners. The campaign itself extended its activities through these processes. Compared to the international Jubilee campaign which has collected 17 million signatures, Japan collected only half a million and its contribution is not so much. However, it means that there is that number of people in Japan who are concerned about people in distant African countries. Most people think that poverty in Africa is not related to their own lives and they have no interest in it. Those signatures are very valuable for us and those are the people who agreed to pay their own

money for African people. So when we handed their signatures to the Prime Minister just before the Cologne summit, we said, 'These signatures are not ordinary ones, thus please keep them in Government House for, at least, half a year. The chief secretary of the cabinet promised to keep them in the Prime minister's office for at least for 6 months. Twenty members of Jubilee Japan went to Cologne. We met many people from the Jubilee international campaign there. Fifty thousand people made a human chain to surround the venue of the summit, and the signatures of 17 million people were handed to the German Prime Minister Gerhard Schroeder. The G7 leaders publicized the 'Cologne Consensus', and promised debt cancellation of US\$7 billion. It was a kind of bold decision for them. After Cologne, the focus of the Jubilee 2000 campaign shifted to Japan. The next summit was scheduled for Okinawa, and the Japanese Government was to be the host of the Okinawa summit. And Jubilee Japan had two targets. The Japanese government started saying, 'We will not cancel the debt.' It is clearly against the agreement of Cologne. At first, the government said, 'Japan is not a Christian country, therefore we do not understand the idea of Jubilee.' And then they said, 'Cancellation might generate moral hazards.' However, the Japanese government has canceled debts by using national capital when a major bank goes to bankrupt. In this case, the government spends far more than what Jubilee Japan demands for 40 African countries. Jubilee Japan demanded the Japanese government cancel bilateral debt by the year 2000, according to the agreement of Cologne summit, and to take the lead as the host country of the next summit for the progress of debt cancellation. Fifteen thousand people in Japan and also many people from all over the world sent greeting cards for Christmas and New Year

to the Japanese Prime Minister, asking for debt cancellation. In the UK, a series of demonstrations was organized in front of the Japanese Embassy. From the beginning of February, Jubilee Japan organized a 'Tuesday Action' for 11 weeks in front of the Finance Ministry and Foreign Ministry. It led to the pledge of 100% cancellation of non-ODA debt by the Prime Minister in the Diet on the 10th of April. This was only one day before of our human chain in front of the Ministry of Finance.

On the 28th of June at the UN Conference on Social Development in Geneva, the representative from Japan announced the cancellation of 100% of the ODA debts of HIPCs. We believe that Japan finally stands on the same start line as other G7 countries. This is not a big deal, but definitely a victory for the Jubilee 2000 campaign. Japan had been negative towards immediate cancellation, and had influenced the negotiations in a very bad way, but thanks to the Jubilee movement Japan finally started changing.

On the 3rd of July, two days before the G8 Finance Minister's meeting, Jubilee 2000 Japan organized a nationwide action. We had a demonstration with thirteen large yen-symbol objects. Thirteen each children carried a yen-symbols object in this demonstration. The message was that every minute thirteen children in Africa die because of loans. It was a clear and strong message about yen loans. A person should pay back money borrowed. However, those who borrowed the money should repay it. And, naturally, those who lend money should take their responsibility for lending it. The money a state borrowed is now repaid by the lives of its poor children who did not borrow it, were not responsible for making loans, and did not profit at all from the loans. This is illegitimate by any measure. Currently debts of the state must be

repayed no matter how difficult it is. There is no international bankruptcy law for states. The government pays back debt by cutting the budget for health or welfare. It results in the death of children because of a lack of medicines or vaccines shortages which are avoidable. This is illegitimate, immoral and unjust. On the 21st of July, we want to bring the yen objects to the summit site where the G7 leaders can see them. We should organize a huge human chain to surround the venue of the summit and take our message directly to the G7 leaders like we did in Cologne. But unfortunately this time it is impossible because the summit will be held at the edge of a cape, and security will be very strict. Instead of this, we are having this International conference and discussing how to built consensus and take our call to the G7 leaders. This action is one of many actions that will be undertaken simultaneously around the world: ringing church and temple bells, vigils, and demonstrations at Japanese embassies or Finance Ministries. There are some people who could not join this conference because of visa or plane ticket problems. Our discussion here will be relayed through the internet to those who could not come and to other Jubilee members. Hopefully, they will also agree with our consensus so that the international Jubilee coalition can show a united front to the G7 leaders. We need your help to write a draft of our statement tonight so that we can send it by e-mail to international members. You have the paper 'Appeal to the G7' already in your hands. We are not sure whether 'appeal' is proper or not. Some said that 'demand' is better, so we should discuss what expression is the best in order to be understood by the G7, and express our message properly and strongly. The content should include the fact that the process of debt cancellation has made no progress even though a year has passed since the Cologne summit. The

process is controlled by the IMF and World Bank, faceless international bodies. These institutions are definitely ruled by the G7. The G7 can use its power to make changes, but they never do. We have been very critical of this and it is clear that they have no will to implement change.

I think that there are three points to debt cancellation. The first is to cancel all the debt in the year 2000. The debt is unpayable and illegitimate, and cannot be paid at the cost of social welfare or education for people. The second is to reject the HIPC's Initiative and Structural Adjustment Programs of the IMF and World Bank. The third point is who implements the cancellation. We suggest the establishment of a transparent and fair arbitration organization. A condition for the establishment of this organization is a guarantee that civil society in debtor countries will participate. We will insist on these three points to the G7 leaders.

On the other hand, there are many points that we should discuss about our statement. For example, this is something I am not sure of, but there are many different kinds of debt among the huge multilateral debts of the IMF and World Bank. First, the debt of IDA (International Development Agency) which is called the second World Bank. This is generated as grants from the governments of developed countries, and is lent as soft loans from the IDA which are long term with zero interest. This debt covers two thirds of the multilateral debt of HIPC's. We must consider the cancellation of debts to the IDA. The first choice is to let the IDA itself cancel the debt, but this may cause a decrease of soft loans from the IDA. The second option is to let the G7 generate a new fund. Also, as in the case of the World Bank, they collect money from the market, and lend the money with a high interest rate as development loans. The rate is very high. The high interest rates produce

higher interest rates. Debts to the World Bank must be repayed by any means. The problem is that if the debt is cancelled using the money of the World Bank, the money comes from the interest payments of the middle income poor countries. As a result, the poorest countries are saved at the expense of middle-income poor countries, and this point is still controversial. These controversial points should be suggested as the crucial points to discuss regarding solving the debt problem beyond the year 2000, rather than the promise to carry out cancellation. We simply propose our opinions, not as our consensus, for further discussion at the international level in the future.

I would like to submit the two documents to you to discuss in the conference. The movement of Jubilee 2000 has grown, perhaps, as big as the global NGO campaign to ban landmines which created the international treaty on landmines. Today, we are facing great trouble. Since the Cologne summit, not even one cent of debt has been spent for the debt cancellation.

Our aim to cancel the unpayable debts of poor countries sounds very simple, yet I think that our movement is only the first step to reform the structure of the present unfair global economy. Considering why such a simple goal, which has already gotten strong support from millions of people, cannot be realized, I think that our movement for debt cancellation is tremendously important, and revolutionary for all the people in the world. ■

(Extract from her speech at Okinawa Conference.)

Translated by Suzuki Ryo

THE HIPC DEBT INITIATIVE

Was proposed by the World Bank and IMF and agreed by governments around the world in the fall of 1996. It was the first comprehensive approach to reduce the external debt of the world's poorest, most heavily indebted countries, and represented an important step forward in placing debt relief within an overall framework of poverty reduction. While the Initiative yielded significant early progress, multilateral organizations, bilateral creditors, HIPC governments, and civil society have engaged in an intensive dialogue since the inception of the Initiative about the strengths and weaknesses of the program. A major review in 1999 has resulted in a significant enhancement of the original framework, and has produced a HIPC Initiative which is "deeper, broader and faster".

HIPCs (41 Countries, December, 2000)

Africa (33 Countries): Angola, The Gambia, Niger, Benin, Ghana, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Central African Republic, Liberia, Somalia, Chad, Madagascar, Sudan, Congo, Malawi, Tanzania, Congo, Dem. Rep., Mali, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Zambia
Latin America (4 Countries): Bolivia, Honduras, Guyana, Nicaragua
Middle East (1 Country): Yemen, Rep. of
Asia (3 Countries): Lao, Peoples Dem., Rep. Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma)

Source: World Bank

**APPEAL TO THE G7 LEADERS
(THE SECOND DRAFT)**

While we, JUBILEE 2000 from all over the world, recognize that a beginning was made towards debt cancellation in the Cologne Summit, we do not accept the HIPC Initiative, linked as it is to structural adjustment, as a framework for resolving the debt and poverty problem. We are also concerned that, inadequate as it is, even this Cologne Debt Initiative is not being implemented as promised, since within the first year of the Cologne Initiative, only five countries (Uganda, Bolivia, Mauritania, Mozambique and Tanzania) have received an implementation with still limited percentage of their total amount of debt. For a speedy resolution to the debt crisis, we call on the G7 leaders to take the following three measures:

- 1 Cancellation of all the unpayable debt of the heavily indebted poor countries within the year 2000.
2. Delinkage of this cancellation from structural adjustment as a condition of debt relief, and therefore from the HIPC Initiative.
3. The establishment of a neutral and independent arbitration mechanism for overseeing the process of debt cancellation and ensuring that is directed towards a resolution of the problem of poverty. This mechanism should be established on the basis of consensus between the indebted countries and the creditors and should have as its role protecting the interests of the debtor rather than just the interests of the creditors. The participation of civil society, particularly civil society within the indebted countries, must be guaranteed in the whole process of debt cancellation, from the determination of what debt is to be cancelled to the final implementation of that cancellation. ■

**CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF THE
JUBILEE 2000 CAMPAIGN OKINAWA
CONFERENCE (THE SECOND DRAFT)**

The Jubilee 2000 Campaign, a global campaign made up of coalitions of civil society movements and organizations in both indebted countries and creditor countries, has campaigned for a resolution to the problem of all unpayable debts and all debts illegitimately or unjustly incurred of the countries of the South.

The campaign has gained widespread support and has succeeded in bringing the issue of debt to the center of the international political and economic debate.

1. We recognize that most of the debt in real terms of heavily indebted poor countries has already been repaid and that the increase of the amount of debt service is a major cause of the impoverishment of the already poor countries. Much of the debt has accrued because of increases in interest rates in the early 1980s, and because the bailouts of the creditors has led to a prolongation of the debt and an excessive accumulation of compound interest. A neutral arbitration board (which we will refer to below) should determine an appropriate cut-off point for the accumulation of compound interest in the case of these artificially prolonged debts in order to reach a proper determination of what debts have already been paid.

2. The campaign holds that:

- 1) All unpayable debt, meaning debt that cannot be paid without depriving people of necessities for a life in accord with human dignity, should be cancelled;
- 2) Creditors should share their responsibility for all debt unjustly incurred, such as odious debts, debts resulting from failed development projects where accountability has not been properly allocated, debt increase caused by the change of exchange rate of its currency (given that this is

beyond the control of the indebted countries and dependent in particular on decisions in developed countries);

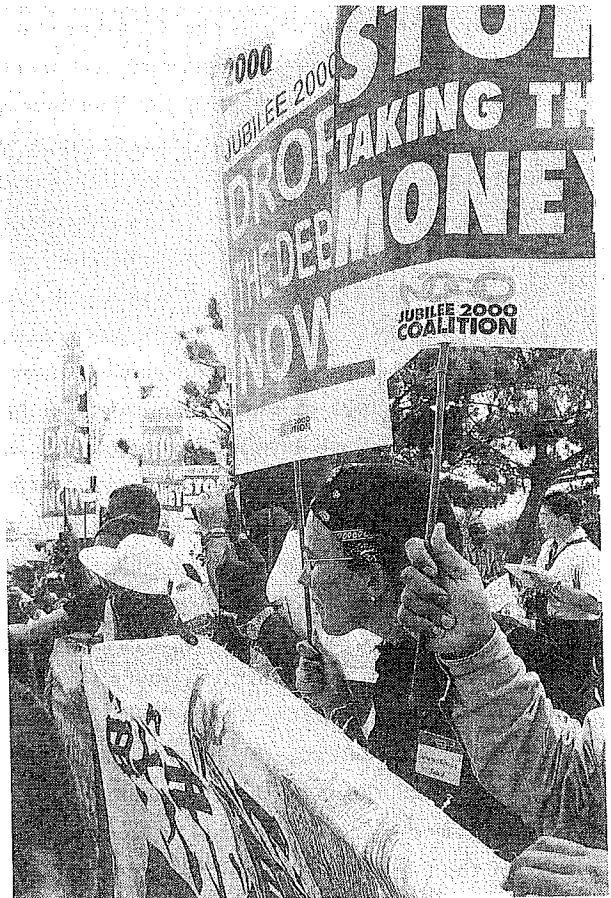
3) The cancellation of this debt would be a first step towards solving the problem of the poverty of the countries of the south, and transforming the inequitable and unfair relationships between the north and south into fair and mutually supportive ones.

3. The structural adjustment programs imposed by the IMF as means of dealing with the debt have not only failed to alleviate the problem, but have exacerbated the situation of the poor. They have forced the indebted countries, with seriously weakened economies, into the free-for-all competition of the market with no protection or support. The result has been that such elementary needs as health care and education have been sacrificed and the sovereignty of the indebted countries and the human dignity of the people have been hurt. Renaming ESAF as the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility is not likely to change this since it remains under the control of creditors, in particular, the IMF, and simply adds one more kind of conditionality, social conditionality, onto the conventional macroeconomic policies of structural adjustment programmes. The original goal of getting the countries to repay is likely to be perpetuated.

4. The processes and conditions for resolving the debt crisis should be taken out of the hands of the creditors, and transparent and independent process of arbitration should be established. This must include the participation of civil society of each indebted country both in determining unpayable debt and debt unjustly incurred, and in developing the processes and conditions of cancellation.

5. The gap between the north and south and the debt which results from and exacerbates that gap have come about as result a long historical

process that began with colonization and slavery. This gap has been perpetuated by such factors as inequities in trade relationships, the weakness of primary producers in the market, the application of floating interest and exchange rates, etc. Globalization, which consists in the liberalization of trade and investment, is even further exacerbating this gap. Our call for debt cancellation and for an equitable world economy is a response to the increasing gap between rich and poor brought on by globalization with structural adjustment policies as its introduction. We seek a just society, based on the principles of equity and fairness, sovereignty, and participatory democracy through the collaborative action of civil society in the North and South. ■



This is the transcription of the discussion. Discussions were done based on the two draft documents above.

Transcribed and edited by Jubilee 2000 Japan. The speakers are identified only by their countries or the organizations which they represented. English is understandable but not perfect.

Plenary Session of July 19

Dan Driscoll Shaw (USA) took the chair:

I have been asked to mediate, share and monitor this session this afternoon. I want to give you an overview of our purposes and to suggest you how we might function.

As you see the schedule this afternoon is to go over these two documents. Our first priority is the 'Appeal to the G7.' And time permits us to go over the 'consensus document' today and we may still have time tomorrow. What I make clear to you is that we need to finalize the Appeal by midnight today. The idea is that we will send it out to our colleagues around the world this afternoon, so that they could join us in this common statement. It was mentioned before that the Steering Committee has chosen six people to be members of Drafting Committee. And two members of that Committee will be taking notes and we have a board before you in case there are some changes in substance we will attempt to write to facilitate the process. So that is the general framework within which we are working. Are there any questions on this framework? No. OK.

Let us move directly to this statement of 'Appeal to the G7.' First of all, thank to Yoko and our colleagues in Japan for the very fine work that they have done. Some one said to me outside that the second draft is so much the better than the first. I might also add that we

might be working in English this afternoon, because this is the major draft to be presented to certainly Mr. Mori Yoshiro, the Prime Minister of Japan, on Friday. What I propose is to read this slowly.

I would ask you if you see any item where you raise any concern or you might want to address, you just mark there as we go by. And for three or four minutes of silence, we will read it again by yourselves. And then we proceed paragraph by paragraph

Dan read the draft Appeal to the G7 leaders:

I would like to start with the first paragraph.

(A comment was made but could not be heard clearly.)

Dan: Many of us could not hear, so I repeat the comment. In line 3, it reads that we regret the fact that the pledges of the full cancellation of debt. In fact Cologne did not promise the full cancellation. If promise does not say full cancellation, next paragraph says "faster, deeper and broader", it is more accurate to say that they promise further cancellation or just cancellation. Thank you for your suggestion.

South Africa: Jubilee South had a caucus just at the time of tea break. Some of the discussions, which came out of the group which were related to the specific themes, and to the words of general points, with others concerned the general tone of the statement as a whole. It is maybe more useful to go through the general statement first and after that to go through it paragraph by paragraph.

Dan: OK. Let us hear your concern.

South Africa: The first point I would like to mention is that when we met as Jubilee South, we held that to get together as a group coming from far and with financial difficulties, we had to be given the opportunity to interact with each other in order to be more acquainted and act in a more constructive way. I think the first point we

all noted was the strong support of Jubilee Japan enabling this document to come out. Generally speaking the document needs to be stronger in terms of language, more immediacy and more finality. A specific point we made is that we need to include that the G7 should not be any more discuss the matter without the presence of the countries of the South.

In terms of issues around the promise of the G7 at Cologne, yet to be implemented, I think that many promises were made before and after Cologne. It was a promise which suggested something, but the promise was not fulfilled. In terms of issues of language, we need to be straighter and instead of appeal or regret, we should say, we demand. And in terms of contents around unpayable or illegitimate debts, Jubilee South thinks that essentially the Third World debt is unpayable and illegitimate. Then we need not state the reason. And in paragraph 2 on Structural Adjustment, we welcome the link between debt and SAP, but we need to go further as well. We need in addition to that to locate the SAP in the broader context of global policies that are increasing poverty across the world. Our major concern comes around paragraph 3 on arbitration mechanism. And our concern is that if we propose a negotiating process, it will create the another delay.

One of the suggestions is that we should demand that UN Special Session on Debt is convened at which the arbitration process is to be discussed. Jubilee South position is on arbitration is very different. We demand the total cancellation of debt by the year 2000, and if it does not happen, we will mobilize towards the repudiating the debt of the South.

Dan: Is there any other general comment like that?

Uganda: We need to add a fourth statement on future relations between G8 countries and

HIPCs countries. We are calling for total cancellation. We need to make a strong statement that clearly outlines future relations between G8 and HIPCs countries because we got to continue together.

Bangladesh: We need to say that we demand.

Pakistan: I think it is necessary that the people who are suffering and dying should be present during the negotiations on debt cancellation, or in any forum or conference dealing with the debt issue.

Dan: Then I invite the discussion on the paragraph 1.

Scotland: I suggest to state that instead of saying Jubilee 2000 from all over the world, we say Jubilee 2000 supporters.

Tanzania: Someone just said that we are all supporters. I think we are members and supporters as well.

Japan: I should like to remind you that we are going to present this to the G7. We are the subjects, not the object, so that we are Jubilee 2000, that is why we should not call ourselves supporters. We are the ones to make demand towards the G7. If you do not like the term members, then I suggest calling us campaigners.

Malawi: I have a concern on the wording on 'beginning.' Whether the Cologne or Birmingham was the beginning, because on the whole neither Cologne and Birmingham were the beginning. If we recognize that some progress was made by both summits, then the word of 'beginning' is fine. But it was not so. Then the word of 'beginning' is not appropriate. Somebody said that the word of 'Appeal' is rather weak, then I suggest saying the 'Demand' or 'Call.'

UK: I wonder whether that phrase could be the promise which has been broken.

Tanzania: The wording of strong regret should be more strongly and give a punch to the G7 of our demand.

Japan: I would like to remind you that we sent out by e-mail our first draft in last March to all the Jubilee 2000 national coalitions. Then we have received responses. Some said that we have to be strong in our demands to the G7. And some said that we have to be polite. This is a dilemma that we face, between sharpness and politeness. If we send a document with a strong wording of indignation, the G7 will not hear and throw it away. We are equal with the G7, and we should have dignity, and should not just shout loudly. Remember this not a general statement but a statement to the G7.

UK: I suggest that we express our astonishment and bitter regret.

UK: I suggest the word, dismay.

Dan: Our two reporters have noted all the suggestions. Then, we move onto paragraph 2. I read the second draft.

UK: I am concerned a bit with the wording of

'a tool for delaying cancellation.' I suggest saying that in turns out to be a brake for debt cancellation.

UK: I suggest that we say 'amounted no more than.'

France: I want to keep the wording, resolving the problems of debt and poverty.

Dan: Next is the paragraph 3.

UK: Important step forward for what? I suggest important step toward a fairness of international finance.

OATUU: I agree that statement should be clearer, but I think it goes too further than that. I do not agree to add any particular word like fairness of

international finance.

Malawi: I want to qualify the timing. We call the G7 leaders 'hastily' to take.

Tanzania: I think the paragraph should remain as it is.

NZ: I suggest to write as following; 'as an important first step towards the resolution of the debt problem.'

Malawi: I would like comment on my compatriot by amending the word 'hastily' by 'urgently.'

Dan: I really appreciate the discussion, because the people are struggling and offering a very positive alternative.



Dan Driscoll-Shaw

I go to the call No.1.

Pakistan: My concern is with the word, illegitimate, that is too narrow. What is illegitimate for some people is not illegitimate for the other part. That is why this word will give a tool that can manipulate the game. So that is to say all the unpayable.

UK: Same point and

different suggestion. I think that if it is questionable for either side, we cannot argue in the court of law.

ICFTU-AFRO: I come from the trade union background. As for the illegitimacy and unpayability, who determines illegitimate and unpayable? Creditor may say that you can pay after all. They will ask why you pretend to cry not to pay since you export coffee, maize etc. But we say it is not enough for us to be able to pay back. Are there any qualifying facts? Another concern is that who determines whether debt service will create sacrifice on people's lives etc? Who determines whether it can be serviced? That

is another problem, which needs qualification.

Japan: As a person who was involved in drafting the second draft, I have to defend my position. It is a tricky thing. One is 'illegitimate debt', one may say 'odious debt.' Another said debt created from failed projects etc. But the sentence, which follows 'without sacrificing the lives etc.,' explains unpayable debt.' It is especially referring to the unpayable debt. Only we determine what is unpayable debts, that cannot be serviced without sacrificing the lives, because people wanted to mention the unpayability and also illegitimacy.

UK: It is terrible to say 'sacrificing the lives.' I prefer a non-dramatic way of expression. We better say 'adversely affected the lives.' I prefer to bring the last sentence of the paragraph 2 'resolving the problems of debt and poverty' into here.

South Africa: This way we are getting away from the illegitimacy. We need to include the sentence that we call the G7 leaders to recognize the illegitimacy of the Third World debt and to recognize the suffering of the people in lives, health etc. Therefore they are to cancel the debt.

Dan: Just on the issue, I think we should keep it as it is. Because even in the US Bankruptcy Laws, no one can lose the rights to the basic livelihood. The court can determine what percentage of debt the person has to pay. If a person has a second and third home, you can get it, but not their first home. So I think there is the basis in the law according to which the debt should be serviced. The US government cannot be paid the debt, if the debtor cannot serve the basic needs of the population, in terms of health, nutrition etc. I just explain the background of the illegitimacy of the debt.

Japan: I have a question with regard to the translation. Illegitimacy is illegality in Japanese. I ask the clarification on what is illegitimate.

Dan: I think the term, illegitimacy is broader than illegality.

Japan: The draft has been made first in English and then translated into Japanese.

South Africa: I just want to keep the word, 'sacrificing the lives of the people.' Because the government cannot afford the medicine for HIV/AIDS patients, and they sacrifice the lives because of the debt service.

UK: In No. 2, the word, unilaterally. I don't think the G7 governments do it unilaterally. They would do it either separately or collectively. I suggest unilaterally and collectively. The second point is to exert influence on the IFIs to recognize their own responsibility. The WB and IMF have been very cautious in doing so for 17 years. And it became much worse than before.

Dan: I don't see any further hand. Let us proceed to No. 3.

Malawi: That is where we already pointed out, the sentence is not only abstract in its sense but also ambiguous. Because when we demand to establish an independent, fair arbitration mechanism, we got to see how it is formed and whose interest is going to be served. Like this sentence mentions, 'to balance the interest of creditors and sovereign debtors,' in my opinion, the interests of creditors have been served too long and we are denied too long of all our rights. That is why we are saying that you are chairing the G7 meeting. It is special thing to chair the balance. Otherwise we leave it as abstract and generalize the matter. I do not think it serve our purpose.

Dan: As a participant, once the present debt is canceled my concern is to suggest future international economic relations. I think this is to prevent another outbreak of debt crises, if we decide on this mechanism today.

Scotland: I support the last speaker. I would like to put in a stronger way of arguing for an

independent mechanism, which does not simply ask G7 to be responsible. Maybe we need to ask some of the UN bodies.

Japan: I would like to remind you that the language of balancing the interest of creditors and sovereign debtors, is taken from the letter sent to G7 from Kofi Annan. It is not our invention.

UK: I think it is very good to mention the participation of civil society of the indebted countries. I think it could go little further by saying this must be secured as a guarantee of democratic participation.

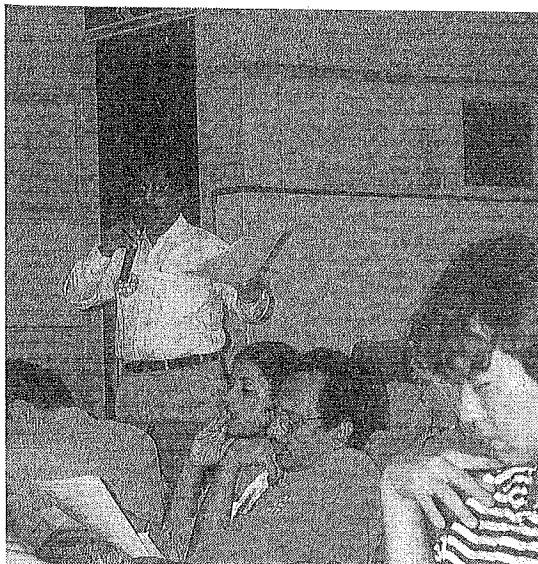
Malawi: Poverty must be not only reduced but also eradicated, because poverty diminishes dignity of the human being. So we must seek that poverty be eradicated.

UK: I am not at all happy of the wording, 'balance of interest.' I would like to substitute it with the words 'judicature between the interests of creditors and debtors.' Another point about the process of poverty reduction, somehow it is possible to have some kind of a global authority, which is concern with the abolition of poverty in a broad and general sense. Some sort of global authority to establish a fair trade relationship on the global scale. I think there must be a distinction between asking for debt cancellation on one hand, and asking international institutions to guarantee fairness of the cancellation process on the other hand. Perhaps we have to say that the date of debt cancellation is different from one country to another.

South Africa: I want to provide some background

information around the cancellation process, which will be dealt with in the second document. I don't think it could be resolved now. This proposal has been circulated quite widely since some time ago by some members of the coalition. The discussion in the South on this proposal is not well received because we say if cancellation is not achieved by the end of this year, we move to repudiation. This proposal of arbitration is complicated and needs a lot of discussion and clarification. It will weaken our campaign. That is the foundation of the problem. What we should

be doing, is some idea to promote the UN process in which this kind of arbitration recommendation could be discussed. We should call for a UN Conference on Debt and Development. We could ask the G7 to propose this UN process that could discuss this process as one of its agenda



points.

ICFTU-AFRO: What I am not clear about is this process. We are talking about this process of convening the UN Conference, which is fine, but again it might take time and it would be used as a way of delaying the cancellation. I agree to refer to this for future debt. But we are talking about the urgency of the matter. If we are introducing the arbitration process, it will take a longer than we expected. How do we balance the urgency with the proposed process?

Malawi: Why can't we do away with the first two and half sentences of No.3, and emphasize on the civil society participation as the statement on his

own. And then this issue of cooperation, relationship between creditors and debtors should be No. 4. Which will describe the cooperation, relationship and the UN.

UK: I do not understand what it means on participation of civil society. I find it a confusing phrase. I think something must be inserted in order to understand more clearly.

UK: I do support what the previous speaker says about the process which could be used as a way of delaying cancellation.

Japan: I have to cite the example in which we talked with our government. The government officials put out the names of the post conflict countries such as Sierra Leone, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi etc., saying there is neither government nor civil society. They just omitted other countries from the list. The case of Uganda is ideal with the strong triangle link between the civil society, government, and parliament. But what about the other countries? If we leave those countries, there will be no cancellation of debt for those countries. Instead of the IMF/World Bank, instead of creditor countries, there must be something, which carries the power to implement the process.

Philippine: I do not have any problem with putting up the arbitration body. But I think the suggestion itself is out of the context of the letter. Because demanding this kind of thing to the G7 is a wrong thing.

UK: This document is addressed to the G7, but it will be read by the friends and supporters of the whole world, that is why it is very valuable, and it should be as clear and specific as possible. What I think in reading the document there is no mentioning who are the creditors, who lent the money, and who are servicing the debt. I think it needs to be mentioned.

Dan: I believe that we have very good inputs to the drafting committee. Just to conclude that this

No. 3 could be divided into two. One is to focus on the present debt crisis and the other refer to the future international economic relations, including the UN conference other issues such as the arbitration process, so that this situation would not be repeated. At this point I would like to ask the members of the drafting committee, if they feel there are any clarification to raise before the assembly on body of language or this is sufficient? OK. I think this was very rich discussion. And thank you.

July 20 Morning Session

Adoption of A Call to the G7

Dan as moderator read the final draft presented from the Drafting Committee from the previous night. The Committee members explained how to read the document.

Dan: Every time we dealt with the paragraph, some one in the committee said that and this in the last night. Choices must be made when adopting such a document.

UK: I congratulate very sincerely the committee with producing a very good draft. I think this is the best we have.

Dan: We have agreed to split No. 3 of our demands to the G7 into two. The drafting committee discussed, and we realized that we want to reiterate our support for civil society. That is not the thing we are asking the G7 to do. Our colleagues from the South were very clear, that is what we want to do. The part on mediation is No.3. Therefore we felt that because the present situation is and unjust to call to end it, we assume the necessity of some fair, independent and transparent mechanism. And we reiterate our support for particularly civil society in the South, because we felt in the No. 2 delinking SAP from the process of debt cancellation, they could say there is no condition in the process. We say yes there is our program, that is, participation of civil society. So we

decided to state as the closing clause the participation of civil society of the Global South.

On the word 'bilaterally.' There was the suggestion that we put both unilaterally and collectively. The drafting committee discussed that 'unilateral' means the G7 acting bilaterally and 'collective' means the IFIs multilateral debt. So this is why we say it straight.

On the sentence with 'the pledges have failed,' the committee felt that there is a tension to make a strong statement as basically nothing happened. There was strong objection to the word 'beginning.' The drafting committee felt that instead of saying 'a beginning,' we felt that what happened in Cologne was a response of the G7 to our Jubilee campaign. That was not the beginning. On the words 'tool for delaying debt cancellation,' the committee felt that it turned out to be a tool. It was not a tool, but turned out to be a tool. You did not intend to make it as a tool, but in fact it turned out to be a tool. We wanted to be modest.

South Africa: Today in Tokyo the leaders of the South like Mbeki of South Africa will be meeting the G7 leaders. However, as I see, the leaders of the South are very weak in demanding debt cancellation. I propose taking this opportunity and we lobby them with this document, saying that this is what we want you to do. You have to put the debt issue square onto the table in the meeting with the G7.

UK: I second it, and we have people in Tokyo working for that.

Dan, moderator, chaired the session to discuss the consensus statement.

Dan: I invite Yoko to say a word how the Japanese colleagues see this document.

Kitazawa: This is a side product of our conference. Primary purpose of this conference is to produce an Appeal to the G7 as the unanimous

opinion of all Jubilee 2000 campaigns in the last chance of this Jubilee year. But also there have been discussions here and there, in the South and everywhere, on the clarification of debt, how to deal the debt issue etc. So we don't need to produce a final document. If we can get a consensus, it is good. If we have difference of opinion on certain issues, we can site them in this document for future discussion which will be taken bilaterally or collectively. We can discuss among ourselves, in order to enrich our idea about how to proceed our campaign both in the North and the South. Jubilee campaign ought to continue not only in the South, where you will repudiate debt repayment if the G7 failed to achieve full cancellation of debt, but also in the North the campaign should continue. For that purpose we present a draft to you. It is not compulsory to adopt this document general discussion:

NZ: I think, compared to the earlier e-mail sent out some months ago, a very good one is coming together, and I hope the better document will come out next two days. What I want to make a plea for is not the wording but time for discussion, because of our common action in the afternoon. I am concerned with the action proposals.

Japan: I have been caught up by the term of civil society. Of course it meant all of us. But we don't produce any alternatives yet. We still live under the so-called nation states, so I call to modify this civil society as follows: within and beyond the existing nation states. This is the reality under which we live today.

UK: We have discussed at length on the document to the G7. Could we refrain from discussing the subjects of illegitimacy or arbitration etc. when we go to the second document? Secondly as the matter of courtesy, every body should write its amendment on paper.

Haiti: I think it is very good document. I have

three points to say in order to deepen the discussion. There must be strong link between debt relief and human rights, including social and economic rights. And also there must be added a link between debt and ecology, particularly ecological debt of the North owe to the South. Thirdly to have a process that move international relations from power relations to relations of fair process solidarity.

Dan: There are many issues here in this document which we have discussed at length yesterday. The same reporters will take note today.

UK: I would like to suggest some points to give some force to the document. One of the aspects, which came out during the growth of our campaign, is that debt has been increased by the failure of policy on the part of the IMF and WB. They failed debt management. If it was private sector, management was sacked already but because of the IFIs no body has been sacked. I suggest putting a few word on the failure of the policies of the IMF and World Bank into this document. Perhaps this is included in the paragraph 2. On globalization, the indebted poor countries have been excluded from investment, thereby from globalization. The globalization in the end will spread to every corners of the globe, but at this moment, because of the debt crisis, nobody dares to invest in the 52 poorest countries. They not only suffer from the debt burden, but also they are deprived from any investment. This is totally unjust.

UK: The word 'impoverished' should be deleted

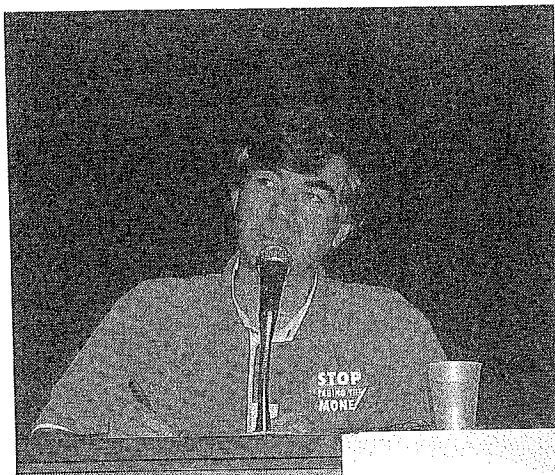
from the paragraph 2 to the end, because it has been repeated along with the word, indebted.

UK: In the paragraph 2, accountability is not clearly mentioned properly. We have that state consultation of civil society to be included.

South Africa: We should be consistent with the 'Call to the G7' document, such as on the independent and neutral arbitration mechanism.

From the South's point of view, the paragraph 1 which says that 'most of the debt in real terms of

most impoverished indebted countries has already been paid,' is not correct. We express very strongly that all the debt of the South has been paid many times already. It means that our position is far stronger than this. The debates in the South are that the North owes to the South. In Latin America, we talked



Robert Reid

ecological debt, the North have to pay reparation for the devastation of ecology in the South. In Africa, we talked about the stolen debt by the North. However, the general tone of the draft is still that the South owes debt to the North. The logic has to be changed. It is repeated in point No. 2 under section 2, the entire wording suggests the unjust nature of debt because of problems of the dictators in the South. On the suggested amendment on the IMF and WB, it is a conceptual thing we had not debated yet but these are critical points of differences between the South and the North.

Haiti: It is a good text. I think if this should be presented to Jubilee 2000 movements, it should be stronger. This document has made much analysis, rather than to propose an action to the

movement. I have five recommendations. One is to have reference to the Human rights, social and economic. Two is the notion of ecological debt of the North to the South. Because the reason of poverty is the physical destruction of our countries. Three is to add the inequality of international trade. We have to state the profit transportation by TNCs to the North and super exploitation by TNCs of workers in the South. No. 4 is to propose to have the notion of an audit court as the Brazilians do, to place the responsibility, how it happened, why, to find the cause of debt. The North always propagates corruption in the South. We have to repudiate it. It will disqualify the competence and immorality of the IFIs.

UK: I want to tell you some good news from Argentine, that the federal court made a judgement on these illegitimate debt, caused by corruption during the dictatorship period 1978-1983, as illegal in a verdict on last Friday. Mr. Olmos who made this appeal died last April and he could not hear this verdict.

UK: I second what the Haitian said. We should concentrate on the consensus discussion rather go with English.

South Africa: I want to propose one sentence under section 2 as point 4, reference to debt of post-conflict countries and countries who suffered from natural disasters.

Malawi: I want to add to paragraph 1, as one of the major cause of debt, on the increase of price of basic needs of commodities like rice, in the developing countries.

Malawi: On globalization, it is unjust and one way traffic.

UK: ESAF is mentioned. The Melzer Report recommended phasing out the ESAF of the IMF.

Haiti: It is important to talk about the movement of capital across the borders and the necessity to control of this capital, such as the Tobin Tax, is

very important to support along with the line of debt cancellation.

Uganda: We should propose in our action plan the needs to put priority to our national plans in which civil society participates. The IMF and WB traditionally came to us to dictate upon us on the administration of loans. So we need to emphasize that it should be productive loans and technology generating, which we are lacking.

Malawi: In the HIPC's we need capacity to say what to speak for our own development.

Japan: It is the first time that globalization comes into the document. It is very simply stated in economic terms. But globalization comes from many aspects, such as information, technology, solidarity and culture etc. Therefore I wish to delete the word of globalization, and instead say liberalization.

Japan: According to Yoko the US is opposed to any scheme to control the flow of capital. Therefore we must put Tobin Tax in our document. This is a meager 0.1% tax, nevertheless the total amount is very big. I would like to second the proposal of a Tobin Tax.

Dan: Thank you for all. English is my native language. I congratulate our Japanese colleagues who did all this work for us. And I see for many of you, English is not a speaking language. And I thank you so much all of you.

Morning Session of July 21

The delegation of the Jubilee 2000 International Conference was selected to meet Prime Minister Mori Yoshiro at 11:00 am.

Robert Reid of NZ chaired the morning Session.

Robert: The context of discussion is the following. There is always a tension in every campaign between a good, sharp, and short campaign that raises issues that creates large international or local interest. And the question is the best time to stop this, or it should stop? If it does to continue, how it can continue?

It certainly seems to me some of the campaigns have already determined. Although a phase of the campaign may finish by the end of this year, there is certainly a lot of work to be done. First to ensure that the promises made by the G7 and the IFIs on debt are carried out. Secondly, to continue the international pressure on debt cancellation, because we know the international pressure of the people lessens the toll as those in the power could not ignore the voices of people, once again. Third, question comes on the nature of the campaign in the next few years as raised by Jubilee South, if the full debt cancellation is not realized at the end of this year. Then we need to support and encourage the Third World countries who would repudiate the debt. Now we are serious about that, we also need to discuss how we need to do that. The fourth thing which came out from the last session as well is how we integrate very specific, therefore I think very successful campaign of Jubilee 2000, with the many other movements.

UK: We make use of the up-coming UN Millennium Summit. We request our own heads of states that will be there to bring out a strong word that debt cancellation must go to the limit. For the future campaign, there are a number of offsets against debt, which can be brought up. More mentioning needs to be made of environmental protection. There is a dilemma there because environmental lobbyists say those the damage from pollution should have to pay pollution. And the country that has financial resources should pay for this. The fact is that 52 highly indebted countries do not have financial resources and can not pay. We are perfectly correct to work with environmental protectionists, to reduce their debt for the protection of environment. The same can be said that for AIDS. Clinton has committed to support Africa for HIV/AIDS. And the World Bank says it

is in Lagos to combat malaria. These are other offsets against debt, which can be used to reduce the total amount of debt.

Final point is the issue related to corruption. If the legal total debt is cancelled, we can ensure economic justice. I think we stand for our network. And other thing, there should be an international body or forum who can take responsibility to gather information and to give them to other national campaigns.

Bangladesh: I would like say about transparency, accountability, and continuity in our NGO world. I would like to suggest an audit system. It is important to know how much we have already paid and how much we need after the cancellation.

South Africa: In South Africa, we have always conceptualized that our campaign As a long term campaign. Our conception is that debt is not just a single issue which is washed away some how by the end of this year. The facts behind the debt are far more than just single issues event, rather there is an entire global infrastructure behind the debt. The IFIs are precisely keeping debt. The G7 countries are utilizing the IFIs to maintain the debt. So a call for debt cancellation will not come to happen. It will be a long struggle. I think the year 2000 is not the end of campaign, but the new beginning of it, to change the global economic order.

The demand of total debt cancellation is not just for debt relief but the demand of changing the economic order behind the debt. And also important in our country and other countries in our region is the educational process of the campaign. To move beyond a quick sense on how we handle the debt but to deepen our knowledge about the IFIs and the G7 countries, one point that we are talking about in our country is the Tobin Tax. If that is on agenda, it is nonsense talking about it only in Finland, but

we need to talk about it every where, so that we could achieve it. That is why I support that one. Also we are discussing with in the Nordic committee, who are not here, we are keen to continue our work, and all of them ask how. That is why we are here to listen. They mention the Millennium conference in the UN. Our president of Finland together with the president of Namibia will chair the Summit meeting. We have some connection with them. We are very weak in Finland but together with you we could do something.

DOATU: I am from Democratic Organization of African Trade Unions. Today, we are talking about cancellation of debt. The question I want to raise is what is the background behind this issue. For me the campaign is just the beginning. After the cancellation, what type of policy can it be translated into. If we speak about poverty, we speak about the 1990 human development report of the UNDP. We talk about a program of action, we should set practical measures. And my point of view is that practical measures can be taken after the cancellation. We should address to civil society about the implication of civil society with regard to the development policy.

Secondly, if we speak of poverty, we speak of social exclusion. Just remember that 75% of the African population lives just under less than one dollar per day. This means that just cancellation of debt is not enough, but you have to implement development policies in which the civil society can participate.

And this is the moment in which we have the greatest impact. That is our view and in this judgement we could be wrong. But I suspect that we are not. Because so many people have been inspired with religious belief or just with good common sense that people felt that the year 2000 is an unique opportunity, which should not be passed to address the causes of the debt. We

mobilize the resources for the campaign, utilization and allocation of resources, then we have accountability and transparency, and we want to remain in the campaign. We appreciate that it is the beginning

Morning Session No.2 of July 21

Chair Robert Reid summarizes the discussion.

We have reached the stage where we discuss whether we have to continue or not continue. All of us agreed it was not the question. We need to continue. But perhaps Jubilee 2000 will be doing different ways and things for next few years. We are going to give opportunity to look at and get opinions of the people to what those different ways should be for those campaigns for the future.

USA: Our campaign is to going to end in December. In our meeting of June, it was clear that because of the slow process of debt relief, Jubilee USA will continue in some form for the next year. We have an invitation from the group in Chicago to have a meeting in September to gather the steering committee which is based in Washington and local groups around the country to discuss how we want campaign to function in future. So perhaps it will not be based so much in the Capital but have more power around the country. There are still two areas we need help on. We realized that one of the areas in the platform that we have not done so much work on is odious debt and stolen wealth. We would like to pursue those issues but we need data from you, because these relate very much with the foreign policy of the US government, as you know. If you look at Marcos in the Philippines, Mobutu of Congo, Somoza in Nicaragua, much of the money in loans were given to them with political purposes in the times of cold war. You bought political alliance.

Japan: I would like to speak on behalf of Japanese Jubilee 2000 coalition. After this

conference, we have to work to monitor debt cancellation. We are thinking three issues are very important. One is monitoring Japanese ODA because the ODA has caused debt. So the reform of the ODA is very important. Secondly, monitoring the World Bank and the IMF, which we are thinking to follow. And thirdly, African countries are very far from Latin American countries and us also, so the Asian countries have worked together. But this Jubilee 2000 campaign has brought us to think about Africa for the first time. Of course we have some solidarity movements with Africa especially in the time of Apartheid. So these three categories of monitoring work are very important for us, monitoring ODA, the IFIs and solidarity beyond the continent, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Indonesia: Two points from Indonesia. We need to continue the spirit of the Jubilee campaign. Because in Indonesia we have only started to deal with our past problem and debt which we have inherited from the years of Suharto's authoritarian and corrupted system, especially that of criminal debt. This criminal debt, the creditors like the World Bank know it very well. But they do nothing. So I think the case is that we can argue with sufficient data to challenge this. People had no control over Suharto but the World Bank had. In that point, we really hope our friends in the North continue to work with us. Secondly, what the creditors say on the sustainability of debt burden of certain countries. The World Bank now classifies Indonesia as a low income and highly indebted country. But yet it is not in the group of HIPC's. So the current mechanism of creditors is totally insufficient. That is why Indonesian people and the government wish that the current mechanism will go beyond the current relation among creditors.

Scotland: We are an autonomous campaign from

the UK. Like the UK campaign we are working on the supposition, based on the commitment of our original member organizations that the campaign formally will end this year. At the coming conference this autumn we will be reviewing that position and particularly reviewing the process of the mode of use of the 'coalition' for the future, recommending a mode for the future. And trying find where we go over from here where the campaign formally ends. And to find churches and other networks from where we continue to work. There are two developments. One is our recent discussion with the UK Minister. He said that some work should continue in the UK and government funding will be available for that end. Secondly, in Scotland we have a new parliament. And a part of the deal of setting up a new parliament has been to add a strong civic element to our national interests. The organization called a Civic Forum, which basically is an umbrella, for 52 civil society organizations which are potentially members. So that is to give a strong voice to the coalition.

Malawi: Concerning our campaign in addition to what my compatriot Moris said before, apart from empowering our people, to be able to make our government accountable to use our money, we also look at the issue of debt from an economic justice point of view. And I belong to the Catholic Peace and Justice Commission. We also form a commission of Peace and Justice on the African level. We have taken debt as one of our issues, because we consider the debt as the just root cause of the problem that is unjust economic global system. In Malawi, our farmers are still producing tobacco and it is a major export commodity. But the prices are so low that people are really dismayed and if this continues for some time, farmers will go on strike against our government which allows foreigners to buy tobacco at very low prices. They work so hard and

input for tobacco is so high. We believe that the issue of debt must be used for more just economic order.

Robert requested Czech Jubilee to speak about the preparation for Prague meeting.

Czech: I would like to present our program, which mainly focuses on debt cancellation. The annual meeting of IFIs is September 26 - 28. Other programs on the IFIs are the seminars on September 22 - 25. Activities of NGOs are a week before. Host committee is Friends of Earth and Jubilee 2000. They are preparing three activities, specially, for campaigners from East and South, September 20-22. And we expect 150 participants. Now we have 80 participants that will be paid for from Eastern Europe like Kazakhstan, Kirgistan, Tajikistan and 10 people from the South. Main activities aimed at Czech people is a Public Forum September 24 - 27. Churches will be responsible for ecumenical discussions. The President of Czech Republic will invite the IFIs and NGOs to visit his castle to discuss. 200 NGOs are invited for this occasion on September 23. There are other groups organizing in some other part in Prague, which are against globalization. They are preparing for street activities like theatre, music and demonstrations.

Finland: I represent Nordic countries. We are firmly committed to cancel bilateral debt by the end of the year 2000. I am very happy to hear about the preparations in Czech, because we are ready to come by bus. Swedish campaign has told us that they are going to Prague. Now I can bring back a message home. We have a Finnish person representing Nordic and Baltic countries in the IMF in this year and in 2001. So that we have a lot of lobbying work in the Nordic countries. This is a great opportunity also. I want to point out that information from the Southern colleagues is important.

Honduras: I am representing Central America

and Caribbean. The idea of the campaign to continue came out of the meeting in Johannesburg in the dialogue between South and South. It was decided that each group would decide their own decision. We believe that Jubilee campaign is different from other international initiatives such as Brady Plan or HIPC of the IFIs. Jubilee 2000 campaign came out as the only initiative of civil society and is going to permit us to achieve total cancellation of debt and pay social debt. As far as we are concerned, Jubilee 2000 should continue because we have not achieved little cancellation of the debt of the poor countries in the global South. Jubilee 2000 gives us opportunity to unite civil society of the South and North. Whether we call it Jubilee 2000 or 3000 does not matter.

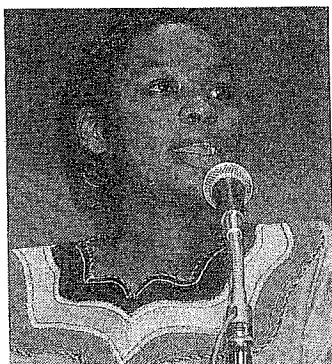
Christian Aid: We are one of the organizations who started in the UK. First thing is to share the secret. It is not the matter that we care for the cancellation of debt, rather we care about the eradication of poverty. Four years ago the debt has come to the issue of the time. This is an achievement of Jubilee 2000 campaign. I do not think about how much debt has been cancelled. It also millions of people around the world who discovered personally and come out to do something to act on poverty. Christian Aid plans to continue the work about debt. But it will not be our main campaign. The reason for that is that if we just carry on until all the debt is cancelled, people will be still poor, because the debt is not only the cause of poverty. So we selected our next campaign, we consulted our organization in the South, and we have decided that we take on the issue of trade. The reasons for this, just consider one trade rule; if the markets in the North open to the South, then that would mean extra an 700 billions dollars for the South. ■

Uganda

The Time to Act Is Now! Creditors and Donors Must Heed Our Call

By Charlotte Mwesigye
JUBILEE 2000 UGANDA

Uganda is the first country to get debt reduction under the HIPC's Initiative. But the cry for total debt cancellation is strong. Why? Did HIPC's Initiative not make sense for them?



We are here, in solidarity, to join fellow Jubilee 2000 activists to consolidate our call upon the G8 leaders to wisely weigh their offer to the HIPC countries on July 23,

2000, what we are calling Debt Decision Day. They should realize that they are deciding the fate of Third and Fourth World countries. Their decision means whether to give us relief or condemn us to penury, servitude and permanent destitution.

Uganda has a debt stock of US\$3.6 billion. This may be a result of accessibility to cheap loans: the country has 300 loans to 80 creditors. Should we charge the creditors with reckless lending? Perhaps we should consider this. We have called directly upon our Parliament to ensure that we get no unproductive loans in future. A technical team has been formed to critically screen all proposed loans. Some of them have already been rejected, and the Government has complied.

Uganda was the first country to qualify for the Debt Initiative. We are grateful for this but Uganda can not celebrate the benefits of relief unless other HIPC countries benefit as well. Uganda received US\$650 million in relief from HIPC I, and US\$800 from HIPC II. The first was a direct result of the Governments commitment to poverty reduction, and the second the result of the good management of the Debt Relief Resources from the first package. This came as a direct result of the joint participatory control, monitoring and evaluation by the stakeholders: the donors, government and civil society. So in Uganda we are moving away from funds toward quality accountability. Uganda has a social control mechanism for debt relief funds called the Poverty Action Fund. The PAF committee holds quarterly meetings to improve evaluations and make recommendations for changes. All parties are well represented, and the media is also invited in order to enhance public debate.

In addition, Uganda has increased the participation of civil society in the formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper that was attached as a condition to the HIPC II initiative. The revision of the first PEAP paper has been finalized on the basis of a consultative approach at the grassroots level through Regional CG meetings. PEAP was presented to the Creditors and they adopted it. They have been talking about poverty 'reduction,' but we think it is

poverty eradication we need. Credit goes to the government that gave the green light to including civil society in the process and to the Uganda Debt Network that mobilized civil society as a lead agency in this. It is one thing to be given a green light, and quite another to do something. We see the PRSP as a cosmetic concept, for it is not genuine to talk about civil society inclusion at the grassroots when nothing is being done at the top level. The South has no representatives sitting at the tables of the World Bank and IMF to protect their interests. Therefore there can be no genuine and practical input just from the grassroots level.

Uganda joined the rest of Africa in the Africa Day of Action held on July 15, 2000 following many activities that were organized at the national level starting July 9. Civil society was mobilized to call upon creditors and donors to honor their commitments to provide faster, deeper and more comprehensive debt relief. The voices of the poor from around the world should be heard. Debt and hunger, as well as war encouraged and stimulated by the search by superpowers for surplus arms markets, combined with the desire by some to buy arms on credit, have combined to perpetuate poverty in Third World Countries. It is high time to enhance peace and stability for development by making war and genocide things of the past.

All HIPC countries are net capital importers, as they need to cover their budget deficits in order to meet their basic needs. For example, 53% of Uganda's current budget will be funded by aid. However, this should not be a license to the creditors to try to opportunistically enslave us under the pretext of so-called aid, which actually works to sustain their business. This is clearly shown by the small group of countries endowed with resources, like Nigeria, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo,

which have oil and minerals, but who are labeled as Highly Indebted. The Creditors' illusion is that they never fail to use their money to make their debtors pay them back even if their debtors are failing to manage their repayments. The creditors have not encouraged productive loans, and they have not given due regard to our national priorities. Can you imagine people from the North coming to Uganda to market a nutrition loan which is basically for seminars to teach Ugandan women how to feed and maintain diets? How can an expatriate woman from the North be in any position to advise an African woman on how to feed on millet and greens? But not only that, the salary of the expatriate would constitute part of the loan. When will these feeding skills generate enough revenue for the loan to service itself? These are some of the causes of the debt burden. The creditors don't encourage us to receive loans for improving our own technology.

The goal of the current era is Sustainable Global Human Development for all. This cannot be adequate and genuine unless the creditors stop thinking of their own interests alone. They must place life and justice before excessive profits. Profits from the lending and borrowing business should be a two-way street. They should empower us and we can empower them later. It is sinful to leave the debtors worse off than they were originally, and it is immoral to burden others with debts. At the time of independence, Uganda was worth 200 pounds sterling, but today we are indebted. In those days, a ton of copper was worth 2,000 pounds, but today it is exchanged for just 600. Today our per capita income is one hundredth that of the industrialized countries. We understand that cancellation is bad business for the creditors, and makes bad credit for the debtors. It would be honorable for us to pay our debts, but they also

know that we have no means. We have no choice but to join the call for cancellation. Africa is paying US \$292 million per week, and yet spending less on basic needs like health and education. In Uganda you can find two classes, for instance the fifth and six years of primary school, sharing one room but each facing opposite sides, with different blackboards. Britain is striving to promote free education and training up to the A-level standards by age 25. They are worried about the fact that 30,000 teenagers leave school without finishing their formal education, but pay no care at all to the millions in Africa who are denied even the opportunity to go to primary school. In Uganda we are striving to extend free education to at least the four youngest members of each family to seventh grade. When we tell our comrades that we need total cancellation to enhance free and quality education to at least ordinary level 4, they say that we are not serious and cannot believe it. How should we understand this? Every day, 19,000 children are dying in Africa. In Uganda, we doubled the production of coffee, one of our chief exports, but the buyers have devalued the rate of exchange, leaving us with barely the initial revenue level despite the doubling of production. How can we balance our terms of trade under this situation? We have very little control, if any, over market prices. Our ratio of debt servicing to export earnings is 3:5. This means that 60% of our meager foreign earnings go to debt servicing. Today in Uganda our foreign earnings average just US \$600 million per year. The shipping costs amount to more than what we get for the processed raw materials. 20% of Uganda's GDP goes to debt servicing. Today, a country is considered to have debt sustainability if it is using an average of 15% of its GDP. The question for us is how to reduce the percentage by 5%.

We firmly believe that the creditors are equally to blame for the destitution of Third and Fourth World countries. Centuries of enslavement and economic exploitation have impoverished Africa and its people. The African people can no longer endure things as they are. Action must be taken now. We demand that creditors should go beyond promises to action. They should go beyond commitments, to actually deliver debt relief as soon as possible.

The creditors need to stop the blame game and give time and thought to the challenges ahead of them. There is need for a free and fresh start at all levels. Creditors, governments, and civil society have already acknowledged the fact that in one way or another all of us have contributed to the debt crisis. If we had done things better, the status of poverty in the HIPC countries would not be as serious as it is. Perhaps we would not be at the level of our brothers in the industrialized countries, but we would be better off than we are today.

On this foundation, we have agreed that the time for a turning point is now. We need fundamental change. For many years, the policies of the international financial institutions have been theoretical prescriptions which in practice are not helping the situation in the impoverished countries. They will never earn credit for this. The challenge for them is to regain their good name in the new millennium and actually carry out what they wrote down as their objectives: to restructure, reconstruct and rehabilitate the shattered economies of the poor and needy countries. In Uganda we know that if these people had meant what they were saying, the world would be different today.

We understand this because even the little that we gained from our first debt relief package is in practice benefiting the people at the grassroots today. Civil society involvement brings

about changes. We challenge the African leaders to give due priority to the analysis of the opportunity cost involved for the ordinary citizens who will end up servicing the loans they are negotiating and contracting.

It is their challenge to move away from cosmetic concepts such as the introduction of PRSP, which is just a new name for SAPs, to name one of them. This has no clear indicators of practical and genuine joint participation. The South has hardly any representation at all at the IMF and World Bank tables. Consequently the interests of the South, and especially the HIPC's, cannot be articulated at the international level. The globalization being advocated by the Northern leaders is being used strategically to take away the small amount of authority and control or power the leaders in the poor countries had over their own trade systems. This is predominantly done to protect the interests of the North, and in some cases may even encourage dumping. It is little more than a joke, since most of the poor countries are agriculture based, like Uganda. How can we balance our trade in the era of globalization? Trade beans for arms? If they subject us to abject poverty and yet expect us to constitute their biggest market, then it is clear that we shall only qualify to be needy, and will have no capacity to enhance demand for their products. Consequently, their objective will fail.

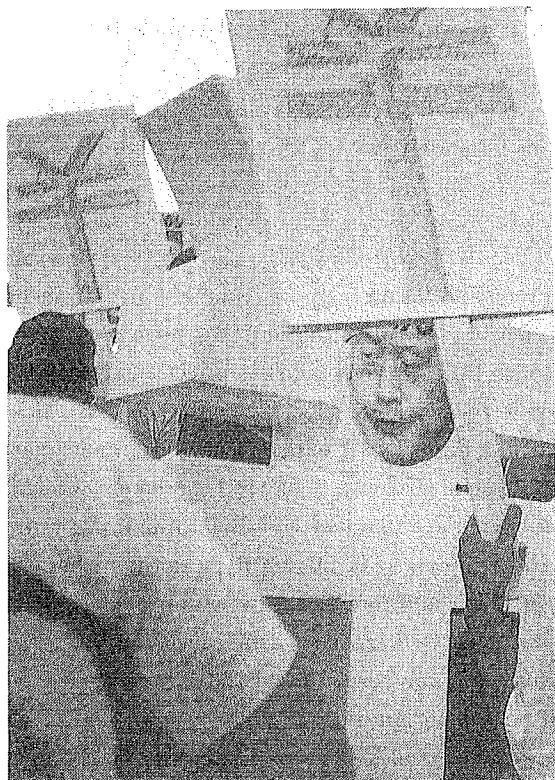
Yes, debt brings with it some development, but there is a need to critically assess and analyze the opportunity costs involved in servicing these debts while we look at the development that have come with it.

We are still demanding the establishment of independent bodies to enforce insolvency laws to protect parties involved in such problems in the future. The World Bank has traditionally applied a top-down approach, but now is being

challenged for failing to include civil society as stakeholders. Civil society needs to be given proper respect in all the processes, for they are the ones who can provide both mandate and authority.

The people of Africa have cause to be optimistic about the future. The G8 leaders in Cologne last year said they would cancel 90% to 100% of the burden. Let them do it. They have the ability, but are being needlessly unresponsive. They have a moral imperative to cancel the debt. They need to heed to it before they realize what happened to pharaoh in Egypt at the time of delivering the Israelites. We own nothing in this world, but are stewards of all, and it is our obligation to protect the weak and poor. Life should come before profits.

At this point all we have to say is they owe us nothing less than total debt cancellation. ■



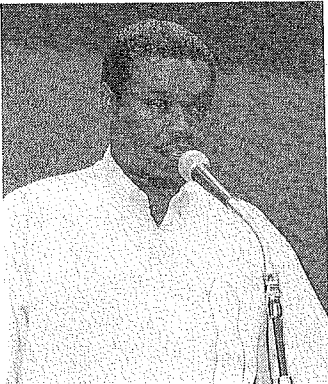
Haiti

Haiti and Debt: Paying Papa Doc's debt

By Camille Chalmers

PAPDA

Haiti is not categorized as a HIPC. Jubilee 2000 in Haiti is one of the most active among the Caribbean countries. Mr. Chalmers met the President of Haiti, Preval and the president signed Jubilee's petition to asking for the debt cancellation.



Haiti needs debt cancellation because nearly half of the debt was contracted under the Duvalier dictatorship, and is odious debt which should not

be repaid by the people of Haiti. There were Cold War loans given to prop up brutal dictators, and these should be written off.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the poorest countries in the developing world. In order to meet internationally agreed development targets for 2015, Haiti needs total debt cancellation as well as more aid.

The price the rich countries pay Haiti for its exports has fallen to only 62% of 1987 levels. Lost export earnings are four times the annual debt service payments. More than 80% of the rural population lives below the absolute poverty line. Haiti has 50% illiteracy, 70%

unemployment and an average life expectancy of 56. Haiti's debt is rising rapidly, having increased by more than 50% in five years.

Infant mortality is more than double the Latin America and Caribbean average.

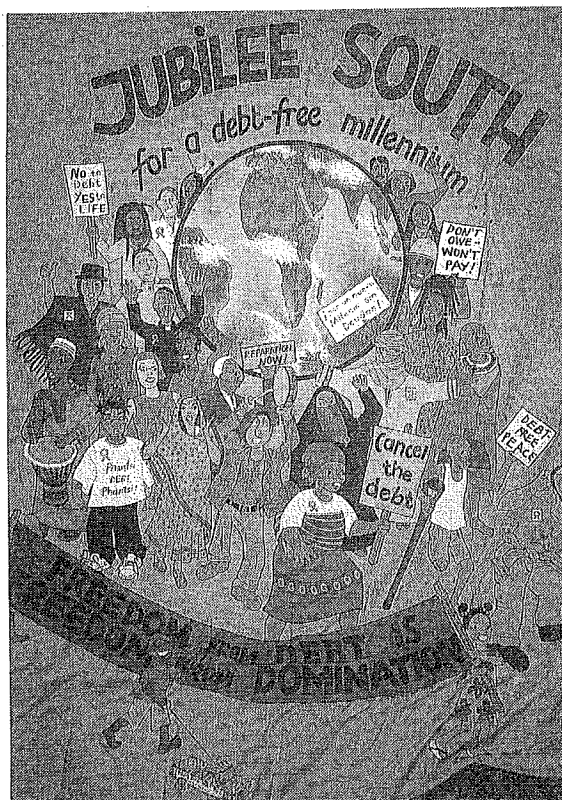
The International financial communities view on Haiti is not included in the HIPC initiative even though the debt to export ratio is higher than the level the international financial institutions consider "sustainable". Clare Short, British Secretary of State for international Development, said on 21 May 1998 that Haiti should not have been left out of HIPC. It is an "exceptional case" which needs "special consideration". Short also cited Malawi, and the World Bank and IMF added Malawi to the HIPC list, but they continue to refuse to add Haiti.

The dictatorships of Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier (Papa and Baby Doc) lasted from 1957 to 1986. Jean-Bertrand Aristide was elected president in 1991 but was ousted in a military coup 8 months later. An invasion by a US-led multinational force reinstated president Aristide in 1993. Following a compromise with military leaders in 1994, there were free elections in February 1996 in which Rene' Preval was elected as President. Elections announced for the end of 1999 have been delayed because of on-going problems with voter registration. A possible date now is 19 March 2000.

Haiti is a prime example of odious debt.

The Duvalier family is believed to have embezzled a massive US\$900 million from the public treasury, including loans from multilateral and bilateral creditors. Of Haiti's present \$1 billion debt, 40% of was built up under the notorious Duvalier dictatorship. This is "Odious Debt" because it was used to oppress the people, and under international law need not be repaid. Indeed, bilateral creditors recognized this and wrote off \$156 million of odious debt in 1991; France wrote off \$68 million, the United States \$84 million, and Canada \$2 million. However more than \$400 million is owned to multilateral institutions, notably the World Bank and Inter-American development, for loans made to the Duvaliers, and these institutions have refused to write off this odious debt. Indeed, one of the conditions of US support was that the new Haiti government would honor the remaining debts of its oppressors, and introduce a structural adjustment program which has hit the poor very hard.

Jubilee 2000 Haiti is a coalition of religious, political, financial and other non-governmental organizations under the auspices of the Haitian Platform for an Alternative Development (PAPDA). On 29 June 1999 campaigners marched to the entrance of the Inter-American Development Bank in Port-au-Prince and told the press: "The Haitian population has not benefited from the money you lent, and we will not agree to its repayment while we wallow in misery. "On 22 January 2000, Jubilee2000 held a National Day on Debt, with a TV telethon together and demonstrations outside the studio. It aimed to raise national awareness of debt, pressure financial institutions and demand greater openness from the state about external financial contracts. Jubilee2000 Haiti has collected more than 100,00 signatures on a petition calling for debt cancellation. ■



Labor unions have made a great contribution to the debt cancellation process, Thanks to workers not only in developing countries but also in economically advanced countries. The workers are the first to be hit by the structural adjustment policies of the World Bank and IMF. The following three speakers represent millions of African workers.

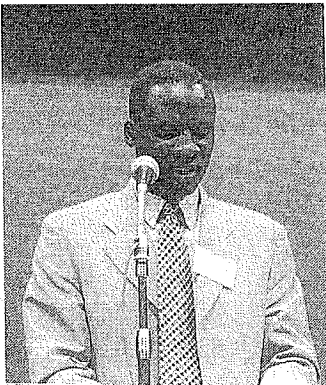
Labor Unions

We are not asking for charity but for social justice

By Lawrence Egulu

ICFTU-AFRO

*(International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
African Regional Organization)*



I am happy to be here among friends – friends with whom we share a common vision: A vision of hope for the millions of deprived peoples of the world. We want to see to it that financial hemorrhage from the poor to the

rich becomes history.

I want to thank Jubilee 2000 for the tremendous struggle to bring the climate of public opinion in the rich countries around to supporting the proposals, which the ICFTU has been making for so long to achieve higher debt relief. When we invited Madame Ann Pettifor to our Pan-African Conference on the Debt Crisis in Libreville in April 1999, she readily accepted our invitation and did participate actively. I am happy to represent the ICFTU here in Okinawa and to show the world leaders that even if they hide themselves in the remotest and most

inaccessible, let alone shark-infested waters, we will reach them and give them the message: Cancel the debts now! Thank you Jubilee 2000 Japan for making it possible for us all to be here.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce my organization. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) is an umbrella body representing 123 million workers, one-third of whom are women-organized in 216 democratic and independent national trade union federations from 145 countries and territories. Formed in 1949 in London, the ICFTU's 50-year history has been characterized by a continuous struggle for "Peace, Bread and Freedom". A bulk of the membership of the ICFTU is drawn from the developing and transition economies, hence our concern with the debt crisis and poverty. In Africa, the ICFTU represents 15 million working women and men in 44 countries.

I will talk about Africa, a continent in which we operate. Africa's debt has become unsustainable. At a peak of over US\$ 350 billion, there is no miracle cure for this problem. All of us

are development partners and know that as long as Africa is bonded to the international community there is no way there will be meaningful national development. How does one for example, expect Uganda to have a developed health structure if only US\$ 3 per person is spent on health, compared to US\$17 per person on debt payment! In Zambia, between 1990 and 1993, US\$37 million was invested in primary school education, while US\$1.3 billion went to foreign creditors. What future are we building for our children?

Imagine the debts contracted by apartheid South Africa. When the democratic leaders of the country are beginning to provide the population with water, housing, electricity, roads, education and health care, their first obligation is to repay the loans that were used to oppress them. What a way of congratulating the vanquishers of apartheid.

The burden of the debt overhang remains one of the most critical hindrances to the economic recovery of the continent. Debt strongly and negatively affects economic growth, threatens the sustainability of reforms and prevents the development of a capable and functioning state due to the fiscal crisis that it engenders.

Debt is more detrimental to those who do not have the means to participate in economic activities. Women, children, the unemployed, the aged and the disabled bear the full brunt of the debt burden as there are no programs that can be implemented to ameliorate their problems. Many people in the rural areas as well as the growing army of redundant youth in urban areas too suffer from the negative effects of the debt crisis.

This already bad economic scenario is worsened and complicated by the IMF and World Bank-designed structural adjustment policies. The structural adjustment policies in Africa, supposedly designed to rescue the debtors, have

deliberately made it worse for the ailing economies in order to pay the debt. Despite the indispensability of reforms, these programs have had a negative impact on social development, given their disregard to the social dimensions of development. Debt service, entailing resource transfers from the world's poorest region is slowly but systematically relegating Africans to a future of deepening poverty and helplessness.

How did we get where we are today? Something went wrong somewhere in the first instance. The debtors, most of who were dictators and unaccountable rulers, did not put the loans to meaningful national development. However, the lenders, too did not take into account financial prudence, and were driven by ideological considerations.

The population was never consulted about these loans, and never benefited from them. Yet the brunt of the debt crisis now has to be born by the population. Every African child inherits at birth a debt of hundreds of dollars, several times the annual income of the average worker.

The pressures of debt servicing have consigned a growing number of the workers of this continent to a future in the informal sector. These workers, many of whom are women, usually carry out dangerous and badly paid tasks. They find themselves outside the protection of the law or union representation and lack income security and access to basic social services. As a result, they are among the worst exploited workers in the world.

We simply want to bring it to everyone's attention that the lenders - Western and Eastern governments alike as well as the financial institutions - share the blame. If we are all part of the problem, let us also be part of the solution and stop squeezing the African continent further. Prosperity in a few places should not be allowed to be side by side with poverty in Africa. In the final analysis, the developed Europe and America

will not be able to have comfortable sleep knowing that there is a hungry man outside. It is even worse if that hungry man is being robbed of the little he has. We want to make it clear that debt cancellation is not only a moral aspect but makes good economic sense. We are not asking for charity. We are asking for equity and social justice. We want to ensure that our right to development is not constrained.

We are aware of a number of initiatives aimed at alleviating the African debt problem. But, in practical terms, do these make any meaningful difference? For instance eligibility for debt reduction under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative is too closely linked to performance under the IMF/World Bank economic reform programs. Yet these programs place too great a burden on people living in poverty. How come US\$ 100 billion was mobilized for Asia in a few months of 1998 following the financial crisis there, and the same people are squabbling over a small figure? A country like Uganda is a well-known example of a star-performer in terms of adhering to these institutions' austerity measures. However, the cost of adjustment on the people of that country cannot be fathomed.

We are however not asking for a blanket cancellation of debts. Debt cancellation should primarily be extended to those countries that respect basic human and workers' rights. How do we judge the recipients? We need not go very far. We have the ILO as the custodian of workers' rights.

The ten commitments adopted by the World Summit for Social Development provide another important parameter. In Copenhagen, in March 1995, 115 leaders of the world committed themselves to eradicate poverty, unemployment and social disintegration from the face of the earth. Five years on, the African continent still remains a continent leading in poverty. Why? The

commitments have not been taken into consideration in development plans. We think that countries that are committed to the Social Summit outcomes should be the beneficiary from debt cancellation as well as continued assistance.

In concluding, good governance, transparency, accountability and responsibility should be made part and parcel of new lending and borrowing norms in 21st century. In this respect, organizations of civil society including the trade unions should actively be consulted and involved in monitoring international monetary flows and prevent recurring destructive cycles of reckless indebtedness.

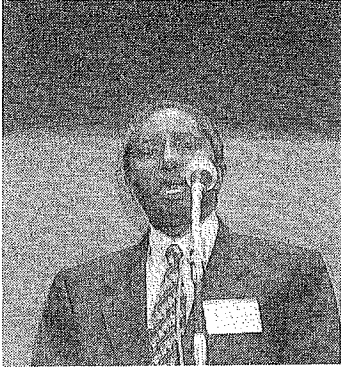
We are in this together and as long as we pretend that we are not being hurt by the debt problem, no one will be able to understand the pain we face. We are the ones whose children cannot go to good schools while those who contracted the loans have their children in Europe and America. We are the ones who cannot afford private hospitals because user fees have been introduced in public hospitals; we are the ones who are retrenched first "in order to reduce costs" and so on. Yet the international community puts in place more and more conditionalities that make it more difficult to effect any progress.

We want a debt free world where we will be able to live in peace, dignity and justice. Together we can make it happen, but the starting point should be the elimination of the yolk of the debt bondage just as it happened with the yolk of slavery, colonialism and dictatorship. I thank you all for listening. ■

Why are we still arguing?

By Michel P. Besha

OATUU (Organization of African Trade Union Unity)



I want to take this opportunity to say thank to for Jubilee 2000 Japan, our colleagues of *Rengo*, our trade union in Japan, for facilitating our coming here.

I represent the trade union and seventy-three national trade unions centers around about 50 countries. And I am glad to be associated with the activities of Jubilee 2000. I also want to take this opportunity to say that I am speaking on behalf of my colleague Joseph Toe. Joseph Toe is a representative of OAWTUC. We are gathered here once more to discuss the cancellation of debts owed by developing countries. I believe that whole issue of cancellation of debts has been dealt in many meetings, conferences and so on. Among the documents which we have this morning are, various declarations. For examples, that of Acra, which I was involved in. I am proud to say that I took part in the Acra discussion of Jubilee 2000. I also have participated in the other declarations. Isn't it that we are discussing the same issue today? Therefore, is it not so that the discussion of the issue has not been done? I think this emphasis has come too late. I think all the details have been given, and the origin of these debts has been discussed over and over again. So the discussion on the whole concept of cancellation, the discussion on the fact that we

are not asking for charity has been done. That on the impacts of debts on the majority of the poor people in the highly indebted countries has been done. So if I do it again here, we are repeating the same exercise for the sake of emphasis. The reason why we are gathered here is that in spite of all those discussions, in spite of all the emphasis which has been given, in spite of all the appeals made, in spite of all the promises made, the conditions of our peoples of these countries remain poor. The difficult structural adjustment programs still go on, affecting our people. There are governments, which are still retrenching workers as the result of the conditions of the structural adjustment program. There are children who continue to suffer, who continue to stay out of school and engage in working. There are parents who can not deliver any kind of social services or medical facilities to their children. The burden is still increasing, in spite of the promises and the good words we read from the meetings of the big powers, those who have the ability to cancel the debt. Do we have to go on arguing? Do we have to say and argue against the present economic order where the price of commodities such as coffee, sisal, cacao, and so on, continue to fall. Why are the imports of these countries, in terms of machines, always increasing? We have to argue about this gap. Compare, for example, the price of a ton of sisal in 1961 when Tanzania became independent. How many tons of sisal do we have to sell to be able to buy a tractor? Twenty-one years later, how many tons of sisal you have to sell to buy the

same tractor. You have to sell hundreds of tons more than in 1961. This is true of coffee and cacao and so on. These arguments have been made by the trade unions. My own trade union organization is working for the trade union unity, since way back as 1980's. We discussed and analyzed the whole issue of debts and we underlined the fact that these debts actually continued to be paid and up to now they have been paid in one way or another. It is not the blame of developing countries that we have these debts. Yes, we can point out the corruption of certain regimes. But there is the corruption everywhere. And I am not defending the corruption, but I am blaming that the whole issue of debt cancellation is being avoided. It is time for debts to be cancelled. So to me, chairperson, I think what we must look at now is the way ahead how do we move forward. What do we say to the G7 plus one, what are our feelings now? What should be the right things to do at this particular moment? We are saying to G7 plus one country, 'Cancel the debts now.'

Do not tell us 40 years, 40 years is too long to cancel the debt. Tell us 5 years maybe 10 years, but 10 years is too long. Review the time period of canceling debts. Do not attach the conditions to the cancellation of debts, conditions which will either prevent the actual debt cancellation or render the whole cancellation of debt meaningless. If you want to cancel debts, you must do 1,2,3. But 1,2,3 must be done. If the G7 plus one promises us, if you are real gentlemen, then do it. Do it. You tell us about hundred-billion-cancellation. We would be glad if we reach your goal. But we end up with only 10 and a half million. We are saying to you: fulfill your promise. And when we are talking of HIPCs, we have an analysis saying that only five countries have reached the stage of debt relief, but has this translated into improvements in progress in

people's lives? Has there been any of the change we would like to see as the result of cancellation of these debts?

To our governments, the governments who are going to benefit from the debt cancellation, we as the trade unions say, we would like to see a certain thing, 'transparency.' We do not want debt cancellation and later on see the execution of corruption like what we saw in the certain countries. We want to see transparency, accountability and good governments. There are human rights, trade union rights, children's rights, rights of majorities, rights of women, and so on. So the cancellation must go hand in hand with the development of the people. Chairperson, as I said, we need change. We want to see a change in the delivery of social services such as quality of education, human resources development, capacity building, adequate health care, housing, and improvement in communication and transport. We want to see a change in the social exclusion of groups from the majority of the people, by effectively involving them through their democratic civil organizations in policy-making and implementation of monitoring, which will affect their lives. We want to see civic organizations including trade union centers at all levels involved in the decision making process and those governments to be benefited from the debt cancellation. Then we would like to see a sort of mechanism for monitoring of funds for the use on the areas which has been neglected before. For example, the structural adjustment programs, which have been implemented even now, cause the withdrawal of the subsidies in education, health care and so on. These areas I would like to see improved. And we are talking of poverty alleviation. I would like to support our colleague from Uganda, saying it is not the poverty alleviation we are talking of, but poverty eradication. In fact, we go so far as saying that let

us talk of creation of the world for the poor because you can eradicate the poverty and leave the person where that person is. The eradication of poverty should ensure a creation of the world so that the lives of those people will really change. Chairperson, I would like to make a final reminder for the governments which we are addressing our feelings for the debt cancellation, that there can never be peace if the countries which are continually impoverished by debts are fighting against the debts. We never stop arguing and appealing that we must have the cancellation of all the debts of the developing countries. 'Poverty everywhere' is a threat to prosperity everywhere. It is not a slogan but the truth. Ask the trade union movement with other civic organizations, Jubilee 2000 coalitions, UN agencies and UN itself, and African inter-government structures. We bring pressure on the lending countries and the institutions to make the eradication of debts sure. We should continue to declare to our members and workers as a whole, to continue to use every opportunity for the campaign for the eradication of debts. We should strive to being fully involved in the mechanism of debt cancellation and use of any resources to serve for such cancellation. We should strive for cooperation with other civic organizations in ensuring the continuation and sustainability of the democratization process in African countries. And we should continue to condemn all policies, strategies and programs that directly and indirectly worsen the living and working conditions of the African masses and in the same way, we strongly support every action that aims to improve this condition. We should use our own structure to sharpen the struggle for the cancellation of debts by raising our awareness of debts and also increasing our capacity to be involved. Thank you very much. ■

Debts are not a gift

By Toe Joseph

*DOAWTU (Democratic Organization
of African Workers Trade Union)*



I was given the opportunity to talk on behalf of workers of Africa. I will be brief and speak about the problems of African counterparts. We take this opportunity to thank the organizing committee for enabling us to come here and share our problems with you. We have already prepared the documents on the cancellation of debts and this has been submitted to OAU, the Unity of African Organization. The questions raised are where we are now after 18 years of requesting debt cancellation. We have two questions. The first is the decision about how the debts are accumulated, and on the system of repayment, reforms and adjustments. The second part is how and why Africa has gotten into this problem of debts and its disastrous effects. The second part gives the study and tries to explain how we have been in this vicious debt circle. Our engagement for saying no to the debt is dynamic. This debt has brought and generated the poverty in our region. In our consideration, debts are not a gift send by god. But they exist in a social context. It has not been well adapted and not well constituted. It is the road that hs brought us poverty. Long live the international solidarity and thank to the organizing committee. Long live all the people in the world. ■

Announcement by the Chief Cabinet Secretary on Japan's Additional Debt-Relief Measures for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries April 10, 2000

At the last year's Cologne Summit, the debt problem faced by the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) was discussed as an issue of great importance. Member countries agreed on extending enhanced debt relief, including 100% reduction of ODA claims, for those countries that truly need such relief and made every possible self-help effort.

At this year's Summit meeting, various development issues such as poverty reduction will be discussed, and Japan, as this year's Chair, will take the lead and make the utmost efforts in this field. With regard to the debt issue, early implementation of the Cologne Initiative is urgent. In this connection, Japan has decided to extend enhanced debt relief of up to 100% of non-ODA claims for eligible HIPC under the international framework. Moreover, it has decided to make further contributions of up to US\$200 million in total, including US\$10 million already disbursed, to the World Bank's HIPC Trust Fund.

Difficulties facing the HIPC must not be left unaddressed, both for humanitarian reasons and from the viewpoint of ensuring the peace and stability of the international community. Japan will continue to be committed to supporting those countries, mainly African countries, through various assistance measures, including further provision of grant assistance. At the same time, Japan will strongly request that other countries and international organizations strengthen their respective efforts to address this critical problem.(END)

Announcement by the Japanese Government at the UN Conference on Social Development June 28, 2000

'Poverty Reduction efforts of developing countries should be supported by debt relief. Japan is firmly committed to the full cancellation of all ODA debt owed by Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) under the Enhanced HIPC initiative agreed upon at the G8 Cologne Summit last year. It is urgent that the implementation of the Initiative be accelerated, and in this connection, Japan has decided this April to extend debt relief of up to 100 percent of non-ODA debt owed by eligible HIPC under the international framework and to make a further contribution of up to 200 million dollars to the HIPC Trust Fund of the World Bank.

In implementing debt relief through various options recognised internationally, it is important to ensure that resources released through debt relief be used effectively for the socio-economic development and well being of the people in the debtor countries. To this end, the participation of civil societies and other parties concerned in this process is beneficial. The Japanese government will take into account the views of various parties, including NGOs and other civil societies, in the implementation of debt relief measures.'

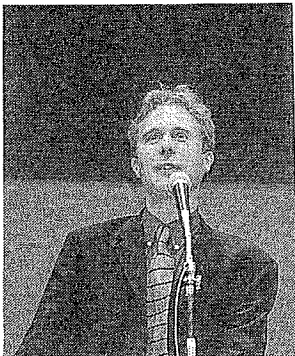
UK

The G8's Island Mentality

By Adrian Lovett

Jubilee2000 UK Coalition

The Jubilee 2000 UK coalition enjoys strong support from the population and even the government. At the end of 2000, UK government announced the cancellation of the bilateral debt owed by 41 HIPC countries. Jubilee UK always invokes positive reactions from around the world.



We have come here to what we have described in the media in Britain and elsewhere in the last week as a Remote Island far from anywhere, remote perhaps to even some

Japanese now. I want to explain what we mean by that and particularly to people in Okinawa here today. We appreciate and are grateful for the warm hospitality that we have already received from the people of Naha and Okinawa since many of us arrived just last night. It is very apparent that the people of Okinawa are very open, very warm and have a very broad world-view.

However we do think, as the leaders of the G8 countries come here this weekend, that their choice of destination is symbolic of their thinking about the world. Now we know that this island is open and warm and has a broad view of

the world, but the mentality of the G8 leaders as they gather this weekend is the opposite. It is not warm, it is not open and it does not take a broad view. And that is why we have described the G8 summit as one in which the leaders have an island mentality.

Now I come from a small island myself. I think what I mean and it is that island mentality that prevents those leaders from focusing on the reality of the crisis. That is unpayable debt. We know that crisis costs lives of 19,000 children everyday. 19,000 children whose lives could be saved according to the United Nations if that money that is currently spend by the even very poorest countries on the debt service of the foreign currency was instead spend on basic health and primary education. 19,000 children everyday, the first cost of this debt crisis. As the G8 leaders made their way to Okinawa this weekend, I think it's right that we should reflect on the question that Charlotte asked earlier on this morning.

She said, do they mean what they say? What they said, this time last year when they met last time in Cologne was that this was the problem that they want to solve. And just not solve but solve in this millennium year, in the year 2000. And what they promised us was that one hundred billion dollars worth of debt would be cancelled from the burden of the poorest countries. We are always clear that as the

international movement a year ago that the one hundred billion-dollar promise was not enough. It was long way short what they can do and what they need to do but it was a step, a step forward. Do they mean what they say? So far, out of that one hundred billion in dollars that was promised we have ten and half billion in dollars actually delivered. And those ten and half billion dollars was actually promised and cancelled before they made this promise. So of the hundred billion dollars nothing has been cancelled since Cologne last year not even for Uganda as we heard earlier at the very front of the queue, if you like. For the debt cancellation has been through all the hoops jumped all the hurdles that has been asked of it by its creditors over the last 10 or 12 years, has reached what it is determined as completion point in the jargon of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC's Initiative). And yet still being denied actual debt cancellation by its creditors because they still can not agree on how and how much and when. It is obscene that since these promises were made a year ago, not a single penny and not a single cent of debt cancellation was actually delivered. So I think it is right that we meet here today, we have focused not only on working together and sharing our experiences and on hearing how the campaign is working around world but it is also right that we focus on action not just on words, but on action. That is we asked those G8 leaders. I think we should ask ourselves, too.

And in the UK coalition, we have tried to balance our words with action since we have been working on this issue over these last few years. And we looked back for example; the G8 summit two years ago in Birmingham when we were proud 70,000 people took the streets of Birmingham. Many people here were among them there. And 70,000 people were together by not only the international Jubilee 2000

movement but within the UK by organizations like Christian Aid and OXFAM both represented today and by the trade unions such an important part of the Jubilee2000 movement in the UK and around the world. That piece of action we think was one of the things that put this on the international agenda. It was of course, something that campaigners around the world have been working on, campaigning on, and focusing on for very, very much longer than these last two years. But we think that day in Birmingham of 16th of May in 1998 took the campaign to a new level internationally. But that was only a small contribution that we were able to make to the international campaign. And since then it is our role we think, to support our colleagues in other countries whether it be a country in the North or the South, to ensure they are able to build their own campaigns and ensure that their voices are central in this Jubilee2000 movement.

And I think we can all together claim a deal of credit for the fact that there are such international community be gathered here today and extraordinary diversity of faces, voices from around the world with the common message that is time for these debt to be cancelled. I want to take this moment also to pay tribute to some people who I actually have not had chance to meet yet, I am embarrassed even to say that I was in their town last week, the reason why I did not made their risks, they are on their bike quite literally and from Leeds in England, our debt cyclists who are very obviously down here in the yellow shirts and crossed, I think three continents, something like that to be here today and I appreciate that.

So there is action taking place around the world as we speak and we know that increase in these next few days as the G8 leaders planed meeting here in Okinawa. And more than four hundred events we know that is taking place in

these next few days around the world under the banner of something we might call a summit watch. Around the world, not only here in Okinawa we will be of course doing our bit but elsewhere every continent 400 locations around the world, people in the next 48 hours or so be gathering together to say that they are watching this island and they are watching, they are waiting and they are expecting that those G8 leaders as they gather here will hear their voices of these 17 million people who have signed Jubilee2000 petition around the world in something like 150 countries of the world. As they gather together whether in Africa, Latin America, or in Asia, in the UK too, I know that in Edinburgh for example, there will be climbing 7 summits to alert the G7 or G8 the urgency of this issue right now. Those people around the world will call on G8 to act now. Despite the gloomy picture that I painted a few minutes ago about the progress that has been made, it is a gloomy picture, it is no more gloom, we think. Tomorrow, this is the first time and this is ever happened, tomorrow, there is an extraordinary meeting prior to the G8 summit. About 9 or ten months ago, many of us in the international Jubilee2000 movement began to say that rather than G8 simply meeting on their own in the closed room and discussing the issues that affect many more of people of the world than they represent, that they should in fact open those doors and they should sit down with the leaders from the countries that are most affected by this issue in particular in Africa and Latin America and parts of Asia. We said that some months ago that could be a new meeting of G8 and the leaders of the south. And people said that is never going to happen. Tomorrow in Tokyo at three o'clock, the G8 will sit down face to face with the president of the South Africa, the president of Nigeria and the president of Algeria,

the Prime Minister of Thailand to discuss for the first time gather on that level on this issue of debt. We do not know what they will say. We have some hope that the meeting will be an opportunity to establish a new deal on debt, an opportunity for those leaders from the south to repeat the pledges that they have already made to ensure that the resources that they are released by that debt cancellation go straight to the areas that needed. But those promises, although those promises of course must be kept, must also be matched by the promises of G8, those promises that have been already made. The promise to end this crisis of debt in this millennium year. They are very long way from meeting that promise at the moment. And we need to hear more about that tomorrow and this weekend. Let's imagine that 19000 children a day would die here on the streets in Naha or streets in Tokyo or streets on NY City, or London or in Paris. People and the governments of those countries, if they knew how to solve the problem would solve it not tomorrow, but today would they not. That is the prices of this debt crisis. That is the cost, human cost everyday, 19000 children. If the G8 do not have any respectability, creditability as the leaders of the nations they represent, they must hear the cries of these 19000 children this weekend here in Okinawa. Cardinal Shirayanagi said this morning, the opposite of love is ignorance but ignorance made no excuse forever. They know the cost of this crisis: it is their job to do that part to fix this crisis this weekend. It is urges of tell them so in the most persuasive and direct way we can. Thank you. ■

South Africa

Cancel the odious, illegitimate apartheid debt

By Neville Gabriel

Jubilee 2000 South Africa

South Africa is suffering from the apartheid debt and the call for the cancellation of the debt is a very strong call for justice.



On the coast of South Africa, you can find a 'Robins Island.' And on that island, Nelson Mandela was in prison for 27 years, and today that island represents for us the liberation of South Africa, and all of Africa. When Nelson

Mandela was released from prison and over subsequent years we were confident that we had overcome the political struggle against poverty. But in our country, struggle against economic poverty continues. And in that struggle, we have strong, strong solidarity with people's organizations throughout the rest of Africa, throughout Latin America, Asia, Caribbean and the Pacific. And we are happy that we are able to stand up together with our comrades from the south in this new struggle against economic poverty throughout the whole world. Inside Africa, we are a coalition of about 70 organizations, of course, of wide sectors including trade unions, NGOs, the religious sector, women's movements and environment movements, AIDS activist organizations and

other human rights organizations.

The issue that is addressed in South Africa, first of all, is South Africa's debt. This is the debt that was handed over from the apartheid government to our new democratic government. And that debt is at least 26 billion US dollars. We say that debt is an odious debt, an illegitimate debt that should not be repaid. We, Africans, over the last 8 to 10 years have lost more than 1 million jobs and today South Africa is the country with the highest inequality in the world. Now secondly we address the debts of Southern Africa, as a region. This is the debt that was owed by our neighboring countries in southern Africa, as a result of apartheid, destabilization and destruction throughout the region. And, together with colleagues throughout the world, we estimated that this sketch is somewhere between 78 and 115 billion US dollars. Together with partners in the south, we address the third-world debt at large. And we do this in a very broad sense to reduce the debts of the developing countries.

Our approach to debt cancellation is one of justice. Debt cancellation is not an issue of charity, but the case of justice. So, debt for us, as for any of the southern country coalition, has always been the strategic focus. We are not concerned for debt cancellation in itself, but we are concerned with the cancellation of debt, as a

strategic focus in a much broader campaign for global economic justice and social transformation. When we first got to look at the question of debt, we could say, together with many other people, that the debt is unpayable and debt should be canceled.

The debt is not only unpayable but is illegitimate in itself. The debt is illegitimate at least on five different grounds. First of all, the debt is historically illegitimate. If we are to say that the 2000 is the jubilee year, then we need to look at what kind of relations, global human relationships, need to be restored in this jubilee year. And to do that we need to look at the history of the last century. If we analyze what these relations are, for us, in Africa these years had been dominated by colonialism and slavery. And if we are to say that this jubilee year is the time for restoration, then we want some kind of restitution or recreation. For that the one appropriate way is the cancellation of the debt of the third world.

Secondly we say that the debt is legally illegitimate. And here what we are talking about is the concept of odious debt. We say that the debt of the third world was incurred in an odious way, and brought by the history, particularly in South Africa, but as previous speakers have highlighted, also in Haiti, in Congo, and Nigeria, where very strong odious debt exists, as well as in many other countries. We also say that the debt is politically illegitimate, because as the previous speakers highlighted as well, the debt is huge and a political mechanism used by the G7 and agencies such as the IMF and the World Bank and World Trade Organization to impose economic policies on indebted countries, economic policies that either ideologically driven or in fact hurt the poor in the impoverished countries.

The debt is morally illegitimate. This

is to say, that debts cannot continue to be paid except by prevalent impoverishment in developing countries, even further, undermining of immediate essential social services. The debt is also economically illegitimate. Firstly, because it has been paid over several times, and secondly because of the unequal and unfair trade relations between North and South countries that dominates our global economy at large. So, for all these grounds, we stronghold the rejection of the Cologne HIPC's initiative. Previous speakers again highlighted the non-delivery of Cologne agreement, and we are convinced that we should not try to continue to get delivery on those promises, because we will not see to get benefits and they are unaffected by the problem.

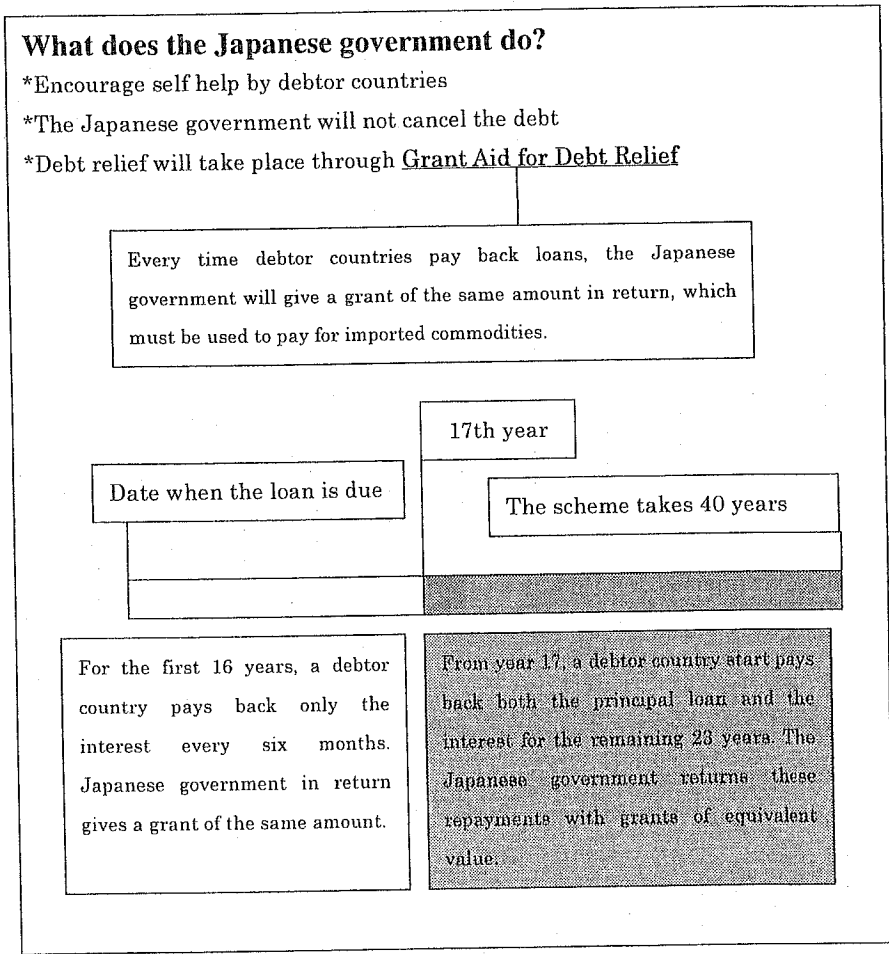
What we are saying is that we want a comprehensive review of the debt cancellation process, for total, immediate, unconditional cancellation of all the debts of developing countries. A previous speaker highlighted the meeting of the Southern representatives, the government representatives, and some of the leaders of the G7, and reported that they were coming here to present the views of their movements, organizations, and community, and as well as the statement from G77's the last meeting. But that meeting with the G7 countries nearly didn't happen. And we must say strongly raise our objection that the G7 and Japanese government refused to include leaders of those countries of the South in the official program even though the meeting will be held in Tokyo tomorrow morning before the G7 Summit.

And in addition, the German Chancellor Schroeder will not attend that meeting. I do think this is disgrace. In South Africa, we continue to support action throughout the world, especially during these two weeks. Extensive activities are, happening throughout in Africa, including South Africa and in Britain.

Again to support the action in Britain, our colleague activists will climb up a small summit (Mandela's prison) in Cape Town, the southern most tip of the Africa, the Robbin Islands and in unity of this global campaign of Summit Watch. If you want to speak about the corruption, then I'll start saying it should be that global economic system, that refuses to address the problem of impoverishment of two-thirds of world population, that is a corrupt system in itself and a system that produces corruption. The South African coalition, together with partners throughout Africa, Latin America and Asia, will continue to consolidate South solidarity for the total, unconditional debt cancellation for all countries.

We'll continue to mobilize a broad popular movement for global economic justice, with strategic progress on debt cancellation. We will also continue to insist on the inclusion of odious debts in any comprehensive debt cancellation initiative. And, we have resolved together with South African countries, that if there is no comprehensive debt cancellation by the end of year 2000, we will mobilize the connective repudiation of the debt by South countries. Thank you. ■

(This is the transcription of his speech at Okinawa conference.)



CALL TO THE G7 LEADERS

We, JUBILEE 2000 from all over the world, recognize that a response was made at the Cologne Summit to our campaign for debt cancellation. However, we express our total dismay at the fact that even the pledges that offered limited debt cancellation a year ago, have failed.

The Enhanced HIPC Initiative, which was introduced in the name of "faster, deeper and broader debt relief", turned out, in fact, to be a tool for delaying debt cancellation. In light of this, we do not accept either the HIPC Initiative or Enhanced HIPC Initiative accompanied by structural adjustment programs and other externally imposed conditions as a framework for resolving the problems of debt and poverty.

We call on the G7 leaders to urgently implement the following three measures as an important first step towards resolving the debt problem of impoverished countries by the end of this Jubilee year 2000:

1. Cancel all the illegitimate and unpayable debt, that which cannot be serviced without sacrificing the health, education, and even the lives of impoverished people.
2. Delink structural adjustment programs and other conditions from debt cancellation. Carry out debt cancellation bilaterally and instruct the international financial institutions to

recognize their responsibility and cancel multilateral debt.

3. Cease to function, in the current realm of conflict of interest, as judge, jury, and party in the debt cancellation process, and support the pursuit of an independent, fair and transparent mechanism that includes debtor governments and civil society.

We reiterate our call for the full participation of a broad representation of civil society, especially from indebted countries, in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this debt cancellation process. This is to ensure, in addition, that resources released by debt cancellation serve the basic needs of the poor, consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Jubilee 2000 International Conference
Okinawa
July 21st, 2000

Signatories :

Jubilee 2000 Cote d'Ivoire
Jubilee 2000 Coalition Czech Campaign
Jubilee 2000 Denmark
Jubilee 2000 Finland
Jubilee 2000 Norway
Jubilee 2000 Sweden
Debt and Development Coalition
Ireland
Jubilee 2000 Coalition Haiti
Malawi Jubilee 2000 Campaign
Brazilian Campaign J2000
Campana Jubileo 2000 (Mexico)
Jubilee 2000 Aotearoa/New Zealand
Jubilee 2000 Australia
Jubilee 2000 Africampaign Nigeria
Jubilee 2000 Japan
Jubilee 2000 Angola Coalition
Jubilee 2000 Jamaica
Jubilee 2000 Peru
Jubilee 2000 Pakistan Campaign
Jubilee 2000 Scotland
Jubilee2000 South Africa
Jubilee 2000 USA
Jubilee 2000 UK
Pour l'an 2000, Annulons la Dette
(France)
Philippine Asia Jubilee Campaign
Against the Debt MAUCHAK
(Bangladesh)
Organizacion de Organismos No
Gubernamentales (Honduras)
FOSDEH /Jubilee 2000 (Honduras)
Tamilnadu Women's Collective (India)
INFID (Indonesia)
ECM Justice and Peace (Malawi)
Development Indian Ocean Network
(Mauritius / Madagascar)
Tanzanian Coalition on Debt and
Development
Uganda Debt Network

Zimbabwe Council of Churches
Finish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
Service Center Development
Cooperation
Jesuits for Debt Relief and Development
Christian Aid (UK)
OXFAM
ATTAC
SEDOS
JPIC Commision USG/UISG
Secretariado Internacional Cristiano de
Solidaridad con los pueblos de America
Latina,"Oscar A.Romero"(SICSAL)
ICFTU-AFRO
OATUU(Organization of African Trade
Union Unity)
DOAWTU(Democratic Organisation of
African Workers Trade Union



CONSENSUS STATEMENT

OF THE JUBILEE 2000 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Okinawa, 19 – 21 July 2000

The Jubilee 2000 Campaign, a global movement of coalitions of civil society organizations in both indebted and creditor countries, has been campaigning for the cancellation of all unpayable and illegitimate debts burdening the countries of the global South. The campaign has gained widespread support and has succeeded in bringing the issue of debt to the center of the international political and economic debate.

The increase of the amount of debt servicing is a major cause for the further impoverishment of already poor countries. The debt has accrued because of:

- increases in interest rates in the early 1980s;
- bailouts by the creditors leading to a prolongation of the debt;
- an excessive accumulation of compound interest;
- failed projects that were improperly designed and managed;
- the application of fluctuating currency exchange rates;
- lending to illegitimate, oppressive governments and corrupt dictators for political influence and economic profit;
- unfair terms of international trade;
- misdirection of government policies by the IMF and World Bank and failed application of development policies.

We recognize that:

- The debt has already been repaid in real

terms.

- Structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) imposed by the IMF ostensibly as a means to deal with the debt burden, have in fact exacerbated the situation of the poor and increased inequality. They have forced indebted countries, with seriously weakened economies, into free-for-all market competition with no protection or support.

- Giving the ESAF the new name "Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility" will not change things as long as it remains under the control of creditors such as the IMF and as long as it maintains liberalized economic policies under SAPs. In this regard, we note the recommendation of the Meltzer Commission Report to end ESAF.

- The Enhanced HIPC Initiative has failed to lift the debt burdens of impoverished countries because of the limited number of countries included, the small portion of debt to be cancelled, the onerous conditions imposed, and the lack of delivery by the creditors.

- A historical, moral, social, and environmental debt is owed to the de-colonised South, which today is held ransom to economic indebtedness.

- The cancellation of the debt would be a first step towards solving the problem of the impoverishment of the countries of the South, and to transforming the inequitable and unfair relationships between the North and the South into fair and mutually supportive ones.

Jubilee 2000 holds that:

- All unpayable debt, that which cannot be paid without depriving the majority of people of the

necessities of life, should be cancelled.

- All illegitimate debt, in accordance with the Doctrine of Odious Debt, and debts resulting from failed development projects should be cancelled.

- Special debt cancellation provisions must be made for post-conflict countries and regions and for countries that have experienced natural disasters.

- The processes and conditions for resolving the debt crisis should be removed from the hands of the creditors. To this end an independent, fair, and transparent mechanism should be established. This must include participation by the governments and representative civil society from indebted countries in considering the following issues:

- a) the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes related to debt cancellation proceeds;
- b) the implementation of the "Tobin Tax" on international capital flows;
- c) the consideration and implementation of an international insolvency procedure;
- d) the establishment of an independent arbitration process in determining the amount, process, and conditions for debt cancellation.

The current debt crisis is at once a symptom and a cause of the growing divide between the South and the North, which has its origins in the historical process that began with the slave trade and colonialism. This gap has been widened by unfair trade relations, the imposition of SAPs, and the lack of significant value-adding investment in developing countries. Globalisation, driven by the liberalization of trade and investment, is further exacerbating this gap. Our call for debt cancellation and global economic justice is a response to the widening gap between rich and poor and to increasing

impoverishment.

We seek a just global society, based on the principles of equity and fairness, sovereignty, and participatory democracy through the collaborative action of civil society in the North and South, consistent with human dignity and in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We affirm our determination to find ways of continuing the international movement until the debt is cancelled. We make a collective commitment to ensure the continuity of the international work of those coalitions that will cease to exist in their present form, and that any transfer of responsibilities takes place in an orderly fashion.

The movement must continue to:

I keep the pressure on the G8, international financial institutions, creditor countries, and private banks to cancel the debt.

I Monitor the debt cancellation process to ensure that it is delinked from structural adjustment programmes and other conditions and that it results in genuine poverty reduction.

I Support those countries which, failing to gain debt cancellation by the end of the year 2000, decide to repudiate their debt.

We will use the opportunities of the Annual IMF / World Bank Meeting in Prague and the UN Millennium Summit to strengthen our networks and deepen our analysis and campaigns.

Media Statement

Okinawa, 21 July 2000, IMMEDIATE

STATEMENT BY JUBILEE 2000

ON THE G7 ANNOUNCEMENT ON DEBT

The leaders of the G7 spit on the graves of 19,000 more children today as they open their Summit meeting here on the island of Okinawa. UN figures indicate that 19 000 children die each day of preventable diseases in poor countries that bear the burden of illegitimate and unpayable external debt.

Yoko Kitazawa, chairperson of the Jubilee 2000 International Conference in Okinawa, said, "We are outraged that halfway through this Jubilee year the G7 went backwards on their promise of debt relief more than one year ago in Cologne".

The G7 announcement misleadingly notes that "progress (has been) made" in implementing the HIPC initiative in spite of the fact that no single country has yet received any debt cancellation since Cologne.

More new conditions are being created, denying debt cancellation to countries "currently affected by military conflicts". This is hypocritical. The G7 fail to take responsibility for the fact that it is arms exported from their own countries that are used in those very conflicts. In addition, no attention has been given to cancellation of odious debts, debts of

post-conflict countries, and countries affected by severe natural disasters.

This Summit will cost \$750 million. The amount could have been used to totally cancel the servicing of debt for one year of Guyana, Rwanda, Laos, Zambia, Nicaragua, Benin, Cambodia, and Haiti.

Effectively, the G7 decision of today will unleash a global reaction of protest that will intensify pressure on the creditors to act.

/ends

Post Jubilee 2000 Japan Network on Debt and Poverty

By Kitazawa Yoko

(Letter from Yoko Kitazawa, No. 19)

Dear Jubilee 2000 Japan Campaigners, I have the honor to announce our decision to all of you on the post- Jubilee 2000 Campaign in Japan.

Executive Committee of the Jubilee 2000 Japan Coalition met and discussed the follow-up of the Jubilee 2000 campaign in Japan which is due to end by December 31, 2000. The decision of the Committee is to reorganize the present Japanese coalition into a Network, as a follow-up of Jubilee 2000 Japan Coalition.

We have named it as '*Network on Debt and Poverty*.' This new network will consist of the organizations, which have been members of the present Coalition as well as the individuals, who have played a major role in the last two years campaign and are committed to continue to take up the issues of debt.

The objectives of the Network on Debt and Poverty

To achieve the objectives which were set in the Consensus Statement of the Jubilee 2000 International Conference held in Okinawa, 19-21 July 2000.

The immediate tasks of the Network

1) Cancellation of bilateral debt

This is an immediate task. On 28 June 2000 at the UN WSSD + 5 in Geneva, the Japanese government finally made its pledge to cancel the bilateral debt owed to Japan by of the most impoverished countries. However, the

government has kept a so-called Scheme of Grant Assistance for Debt Relief, which is nothing but a rescheduling of the unpayable debt, spreading it over 40 years. The Network on Debt and Poverty after January 1, 2001 will lobby the Japanese government in order to alter this scheme and to implement on immediate and comprehensive cancellation of bilateral debt for all the most impoverished countries. We will work closely together with the Parliamentary Caucus on Debt Cancellation and Economic Development of the most impoverished countries. The Caucus is now recruiting new members who have joined Parliament after the general election last June. On November 24, 2000, Jubilee 2000 and the Parliamentary Caucus will discuss this matter and draw up a new strategy.

2) On fair and transparent arbitration process

The Network will take up the issue and join the international workshop initiated by the German Jubilee 2000 as well, as join international lobbying activities to realize the FTAP as the alternative to the HIPC's Initiative of the IMF/ World Bank. A Task Force will be set up to study, research and participate in the international FTAP workshop as well as to hold workshops and popularize the issue in Japan.

3) On ODA debt of the developing countries of Asia and Latin America

As part of its ODA, the Japanese government has been pouring Yen loans to the governments in Asia and Latin America. A

considerable part of these loans has gone to the pockets of dictators and generals and turned to be odious debt. Considerable amounts of Japanese ODA loans have been delivered to huge projects for infrastructure construction and failed. The ODA loans in Yen have been artificially increased due to the appreciation of Yen since 1985 and currency devaluation of recipient countries since 1997. As for other issues related with economic globalization such as the Currency Transaction Tax, the Network will form a small task force to deal with the issue, when the matter will be taken up. ■

The secretariat of 'Network on Debt and Poverty' will be:

Pacific Asia Resource Center
Address: 3rd Floor, Hinoki Building,
2-1 Kanda Ogawamachi Chiyodaku

Tokyo Japan 101-0052

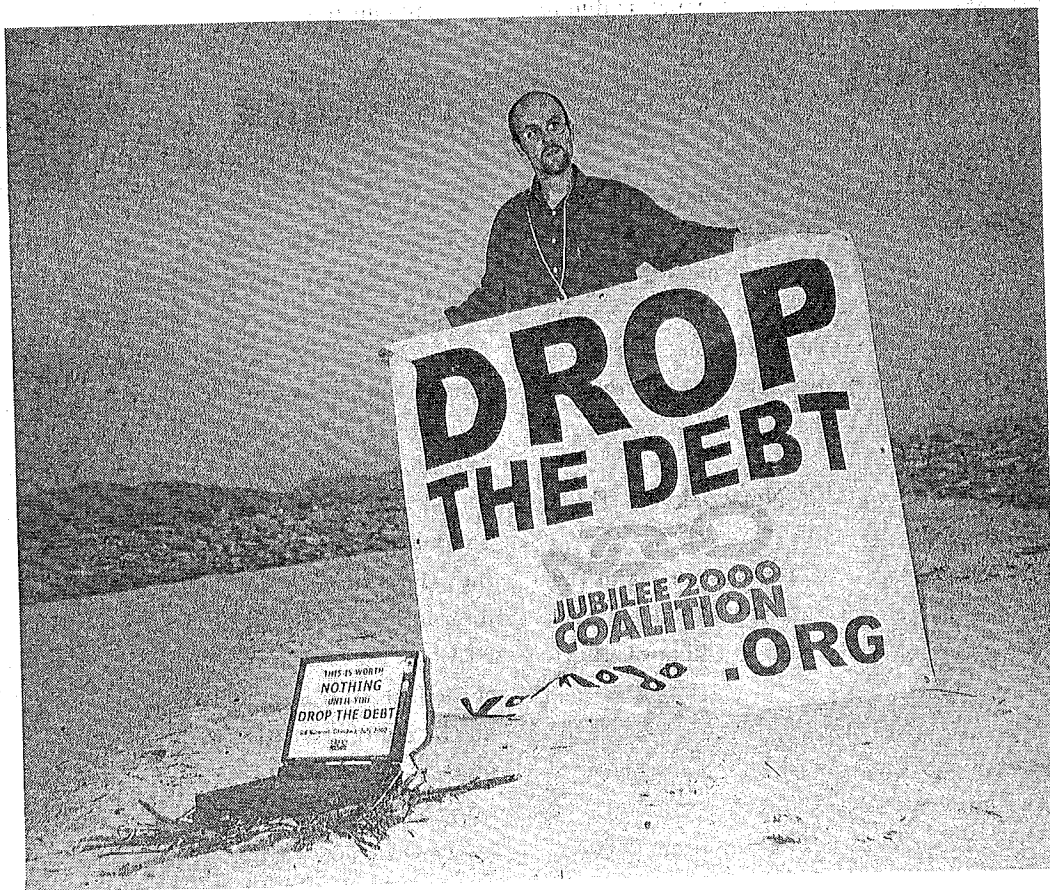
Tel: 81-3-3292-2444

Fax: 81-3-3292-2437

Homepage:

<http://www.eco-link.org/jubilee/>

E-mail address will be announced later.



Can children in Africa eat computer?

Jubilee 2000 Japan

Co-chairs

Cardinal Shirayanagi Seiichi
Washio Etsuya (President of Japan Trade Union
Confederation)

Kitazawa Yoko (Japan Bretton Woods Coalition)

Member organizations

Catholic Bishops' Special Committee for the
Jubilee Year Preparation

National Christian Council of Japan (NCC-J)

Catholic Council for Justice and Peace Japan

Anglican Church of Japan (Nippon Seikokai)

YMCA Japan

YWCA Japan

Risso-Koseikai Fund for Peace

Nipponsan Myohoji

Japan Trade Union confederation (RENGO)

All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers
Union

Japan Teachers Union

Japan Women's Council

Asia-Japan Women's Resource Center

Beijing Japan Accountability Caucus

Japan Women's Christian Temperance Union

Japan Retired Women Teachers Union

Japan Consumers Union

Federation of SEIKATSU Club Consumers'
Cooperative Union

A SEED JAPAN

APEC Monitoring NGO Network

Friends of the Earth (FoE) Japan

Institute for Alternative Community
Development

Japanese NGO Center for International
Cooperation (JANIC)

Japan Center of Sustainable Environment and
Society (JACSES)

Japan Sotoshu Relief Committee

Japan Committee for Negros Campaign

Nippon Christian Academy Kansai Seminar

House

NGO Franciscans Japan

Pacific Asia Resource Center

People to People Aid

The PHD Foundation

Japan International Volunteer Center(JVC)

Japan Indonesia NGO Network

Human International Network

Nagoya NGO Center

Global Village

Fukuoka Jubilee 2000

A Party of Melquizedequ

Caritas Japan

Okinawa Host Committee for Jubilee 2000 International Conference

Hara Kimie (Former President, Okinawa
Christian Junior College)

Oshiro Miyoko (President, YWCA Okinawa
Group)

Toguchi Masahiro (Okinawa Prefectural
Federation of RENGO)

Oshiro Haruki (President, JITIRO Okinawa)

Yoshimoto Masanori (Director, Okinawa
Prefectural Center for Local Authority Studies)

Arakaki Jinei (Chairman, Okinawa Teachers'
Union)

Irei Hirotaka (President, Okinawa High School
Teacher's Union)

Yohena Choshu (Vice President, Okinawa
Christian Council)

Tani Syoji (Bishop, Anglican Church)

Oshikawa Toshio (Bishop, Catholic Church)

BACK ISSUES

Vol. 29 No. 2 Special Issue: A New Nationalism, plus long-term insurance system, a new move for the labor movement, Tokai Criticality Accident

Vol. 29 No. 1 Special Issue: Continuation of the people's movement in Okinawa, plus Crisis in the Judicial system, article 9.

Vol. 28 No. 4 Special Issue: Economic Deregulation for whom?, plus towards a more gender equal society, fighting the loss of humanity, and the cancel the unpayable debt of the poorest countries

Vol. 28 No. 3 Special Issue: The Asian Economic Crisis; searching for alternatives, plus security for whom? new laws for the Guidelines, the last yen loans to Suharto

Vol. 28 No. 2 Special Issue: A Wave of Grassroots Democracy, plus the MAI Campaign, the Nagano Olympics, changes in the Labor Standards Law

Vol. 28 No. 1 Special Issue: Democratization in Indonesia? plus the threat of the "wiretapping" bill, the death penalty, and the continuing struggle in Okinawa

Vol. 27 No. 4 Special Issue: Japan's New Historical Revisionists, plus the Peru hostage incident, new Ainu law, news on Okinawa, the Three Gorges Dam, news from Burma and from Nike's Indonesian factories

Vol. 27 No. 3 Special Issue: Minamata Disease (Examining the "final settlement"), plus the Equal Employment Opportunity Law, report on lawsuit by former war criminals, and analysis of people's power in Indonesia

Vol. 27 No. 2 Special Issue: Superpower Interests Versus People's Security (including "The Balance-of-Power Doomsday Machine" by Walden Bello, plus revisions to the Eugenics Protection Law, report from PP21 Kathmandu gathering, plus "Human Rights, Development and Religion" by Chandra Muzaffar

Vol. 27 No. 1 Special Issue: Time to Scrap the Security Treaty (including reports from movements near the US bases), plus Monju, and the situation in Sri Lanka, and the moves to apply the Anti-Subversive Activities Act

Vol. 26 No. 4 Special Issue: APEC - Monster in the Asia Pacific, plus Japan's homeless, French nuclear tests, looking beyond the Beijing women's conference, and East Timor update

Vol. 26 No. 3 Special Issue: The Great Hanshin Earthquake - A Man-Made Disaster? Plus outrage in Okinawa, Minamata disease "settlement," and Chandra Muzaffar on human rights

Vol. 26 No. 2 Special Issue: 50 Years Since the End of the War (essays on postwar reparations, corporate capitalism, Japan as a superpower, and resistance against nuclear plants), plus debate on human rights

Vol. 25 No. 4 - Vol 26 No. 1 Special Issue: The Japanese Women's Movement, including essays on the movement, economic discrimination, sexual discrimination, and alternatives

Vol. 25 No. 3 Special Issue: Japanese NGOs Look at Development, plus a socialist prime minister, the profits of rice, "development refugees" in the Philippines, and a special essay, "will Japan go nuclear?"

Vol. 25 No. 2 Special Issue: The Politics of Garbage, plus foreign workers on trial in Japan, new fangs for the Self-Defense Forces, and SONY in Mexico

Vol. 25 No. 1 Special Issue: Myths of Japanese Management, Myths of Japanese Education, plus debate on PP21, the Masinloc Plant in the Philippines, and the death penalty in Japan

Vol. 24 No. 4 Special Issue: Black Paper on the Economic Superpower (Japanese aid, trade, investment and ODA), plus report from People's Tribunal to Judge the G-7, the construction industry scandal, and a report on the new coalition government

Vol. 24 No. 3 Special Issue: No Longer Forgotten: The Ainu, plus aid to Cambodia, foreign workers on trial in Japan, and Kogawa Tetsuo/Douglas Lummis dialogue on the Japanese media

We will send you a complete list of the contents of available back issues upon request for US\$4.00 from abroad or ¥500 within Japan. Please send your subscription request together with money order to AMPO.

ISSN 0003-2026

定価1000円(税別)
US\$7.00

Printed in Japan 発売元・亜紀書房