Back to Synopsis

ISR 17/2 *Earth Summit—Lasting Development* Title 382

This issue of the Journal was almost entirely devoted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED, in Rio de Janeiro 1992, usually called 'The Earth Summit'. Like its predecessor in Stockholm in 1972 [Title 233], it attracted heads of state and diplomats, scientists and civil servants, fringe ecologists and UN officials, all endeavouring to solve—according to their own prescriptions—the grave problems facing Planet Earth. Years of preparatory work and $ 30 million had been invested, and not surprisingly a very great deal of advance publicity had been generated in the media world-wide. I decided to collect suitable contributions for this Special Issue, to be published at the opening of the Conference, 3 June 1992.

Maurice Strong, by birth a Canadian, was Secretary General of both the Stockholm and Rio Conferences, and in his contribution to the Issue described the results of Stockholm, as well as the subsequent Brundtland Commission and its 1987 Report *Our Common Future*. He outlined the aims of Rio, to establish a new basis for the relations between rich and poor, between the North and the South, and declared that a concerted attack on poverty was the central priority for the 21st century. "This was imperative for our environmental security, on moral and humanitarian grounds, and the least we can do for future generations, from whom we had borrowed a fragile Planet, called Earth" Strong wrote.

Among the other contributors were:
The Royal Society and the National Academy of Sciences: Population Growth,Resource Consumption and a Sustainable World
Janet R. Caristo-Verrill: A Civilian-Military Conservation Corps
Farouk el-Baz: Kuwait's Oil Lakes—A new Phenomenon
Lord Dainton FRS: Knowledge is our Destiny
H. Güttinger and W. Stumm: Ecotoxicology: The Rhine Pollution caused by the Sandoz Chemical Accident, 1986
T.F. Malone: Global Change—The Human and International Dimension of Science—View of the Possible
Stephen H. Schneider: Global Climate Change—Ecosystem Effects
Vary T. Coates: Human Rights and Scientific and Technological Development
Jacques Richardson: The Military Factor in Scientific Research
H. Maier-Leibnitz: Science and the Humanities—A Plea for Interdisciplinary Communications
Deborah Lucas: Understanding the human Factors in Disasters.

Alas, it was only a small contribution to Sustainable Development.

Back to Synopsis

To .. ISR Volume 17 and Volume 18. ISR 17/3 *Gold*. Title 383