

Professor Potts's plea for Family Planning [see Title 388] was scheduled by me to precede the *Population Summit of the World's Scientific Academies* which took place in New Delhi in October 1993. It was attended by 58 Academies from all parts of the world. The Summit grew out of two previous meetings, one a joint meeting of the US Academy of Science with the Royal Society of London, and secondly an international conference organised by the Swedish Academy of Science. Both these meetings expressed an urgent concern about the expansion of the world's population and, if predictions were to prove accurate, science and technology might not be able to prevent irreversible degradation of the environment and continued poverty for much of the world.

The Summit was divided into five sessions:

The Complex Reality

Linkages between Population, natural Resources and the Environment

Demographic Transition in a Gender Perspective

Family Planning and Reproductive Health

The Future

and was followed by an International Press Conference. On all the publications of the Summit and on its notepaper, Henry Moore's "Family Group" was used as the logo for the Summit.

A joint statement was signed by all participating Academies and given widest possible publicity in the hope that governments and private decision-makers will implement the solutions suggested. I was able to obtain an early copy of the Statement and reproduced it in full in ISR 18/4 in December 1993. It was formally published in January 1994 when I, together with all other members of the English Scientific Press, received a letter from the President of the Royal Society, Sir Michael Atiyah OM, stating: "Your support is sought in ensuring that appropriate action is taken now to safeguard the future of our children and children's children".

The Statement urged among other tasks:

Achieving a zero population growth within the lifetime of our children

Equal opportunities for women and men, to make individual choices

Universal access to family planning

Elimination of unsafe and coercive practices

Clean water, sanitation, primary health care and education for all

A new ethic that eschews wasteful consumption

The industrialised world to assist the developing world to combat problems

Collective action by all countries.