

Among the numerous problems the scientists identified were education inadequacies of Puerto Rican students, especially in science; low teacher expectations of Puerto Rican students and negative or no counseling; and the need for special programs and institutions. The merging of Hostos Community College with another city college in the Bronx was deplored as a symbol of the disregard of Puerto Rican needs. Hostos had been serving "a unique and vital educational role" in the mainland Puerto Rican community.

Discrimination against Puerto Rican students from kindergarten through graduate school, and against Puerto Rican faculty as well, was described. Participants articulated a need for genuine bilingual/bicultural education, compensatory programs, adequate financial support, and numerous other programs.

The Puerto Rican scientists decided to organize themselves for effective concerted action to increase their own numbers. They wish to identify other Puerto Ricans in science living across the United States and to form a network of such individuals for communication, mutual support, and other activities. They asked to work regularly with AAAS and to be officially included in the OOS purview along with Blacks, Chicanos, and Native Americans.

Two of the Puerto Rican scientists, Maria Hardy, a biologist from Rutgers, and Pedro Barbosa, an entomologist from the University of Massachusetts, participated in the annual meeting of the Committee on Opportunities in Science held in Washington later in May.

A more detailed report of the meeting is available upon request from the OOS.

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Habitat: A Festive Air, Serious Business

Curtis L. Carter, associate professor of aesthetics and philosophy at Marquette University, and chairman of the AAAS American Values and Models of Habitation Summer Research Project, was the official AAAS representative to the United Nations' Habitat Conference in Vancouver. Following is his report of the conference.

A festive air surrounded the serious business of Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held 6 AUGUST 1976

27 May to 11 June in Vancouver, British Columbia.

On the Sunday before the conference opened, Margaret Mead, carrying her forked walking stick, and a Canadian Indian chief, carrying a ceremonial "talking stick," led the opening procession of an interfaith Habitat liturgy. For the 12 days following, there were films, displays of new technologies, mobile workshops, daily international arts performances, and the sober task of studying the problems and possibilities of human living communities.

Some 930 delegates representing 132 nations met to act on the recommendations which had been prepared in advance by the U.N. Habitat Secretariat. In plenary sessions and in three committees they examined and modified the U.N. documents. The final products of their work were a declaration of principles and documents making recommendations for national action and international cooperation.

Heading the U.S. delegation were Carla Hills, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Russell Peterson, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Two complementary gatherings paralleling the official U.N. Conference were the Habitat Forum—a conference of nongovernmental organizations and the Vancouver Symposium—a closed conference of 24 scientists, planners, and humanists.

The forum was housed on Jericho Beach, 4 miles from downtown Vancouver, in several abandoned airplane hangars that had been remodeled by local volunteers using only recycled materials. It hosted displays, presentations, and meetings of conservationists, community activists, artists, alternate and "appropriate" technology advocates, and political and religious groups. Margaret Mead and Buckminster Fuller were among the speakers on a program that included theatrical presentations by folk artists of several countries and an open debate on nuclear energy. Some 2400 representatives from 56 countries, as well as several thousand local and international visitors, took part in forum discussions that led to the preparation of statements distributed through official channels to the U.N. delegates. The Habitat Forum expects to publish these documents this fall.

Forum participants broke down the broad Habitat topics of national settlement policies and strategies into questions of shelter, services, and public participation in decision-making. Discussion of self-help housing, global population is-

sues, technology gathering, women and settlements, water supply, and nuclear and solar energy use occupied much of the forum's time, but the program also branched out into esthetics and philosophy, in such sessions as "The Arts and Human Settlements," and "Social Justice and Human Settlement Policy."

Despite a steady flow of delegates between the official conference site and the forum, communication between the two areas was not as strong as many had hoped. Although Carla Hills and other national representatives were visible at various forum discussions, scheduling and transportation problems sometimes precluded active participation in both the U.N. Conference and the Habitat Forum.

The third component of Habitat, the Vancouver Symposium, convened prior to the official conference to prepare a set of recommendations for the U.N. delegates. The symposium was sponsored by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the National Audubon Society, and the Population Institute. Among the 24 symposium participants were Mead, Fuller, Barbara Ward, president of IIED, and Maurice Strong, former secretary-general of the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment.

With Ward serving as rapporteur, the symposium produced a declaration calling for increased attention to water and nuclear power problems and affirming that "mankind does not lack human and physical resources to create and regenerate truly communities."

One innovative communication technique at the Habitat Conference was the use of visual materials to portray living conditions all over the world. Each country prepared two or more documentary films to communicate selected problems and solutions, clips of which were used by delegates in the plenary meetings to illustrate their points. Some 250 films were available for viewing in a video center, which was open 16 hours a day. Regular showings of the films were scheduled in various conference locations, and a video tape system made it possible for official representatives to see any film at any time by simply requesting that it be shown.

If the Habitat Forum and the Vancouver Symposium did not have direct political influence on the U.N. Conference, they nevertheless acted as a significant force in giving wider scope to the U.N. endeavor. It was this breadth of participation that enabled the conference to accomplish its mission: The establishment of human settlement issues as na-

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tional priorities for the world's countries.

Habitat participants representing governmental and other policy and action groups are now left with the task of upgrading human settlements to meet human needs. An important role for people in the sciences and the humanities, working jointly, will be to provide technical aid and clarification of values in order to promote favorable national and international will to deal humanely with habitat problems.

CURTIS L. CARTER

New Publications

A limited number of the following publications is available free of charge from the AAAS Division of Public Sector Programs:

Energy End-Use Regulation: Beginning the Debate, edited by Gretchen Vermilye and William A. Blanpied, AAAS Publication No. 76-R-1. Proceedings of a regional seminar held 14 October 1975 in Minnesota's Twin Cities area. The report explores implications of employing a variety of conceivable schemes for end-use regulation and the efficacy of end-use itself as a major component of a rational energy plan for the Minnesota area.

Transdisciplinary Studies in Science and Values, edited by William A. Blanpied and Betsy Kwako, AAAS Report No. 76-R-5. A collection of papers presented at a AAAS Annual Meeting symposium, January 1976. The reports concern development of a transdisciplinary framework which would permit diverse issues related to science and values to be analyzed in their broad cultural contexts. Papers also focus on problems inherent in transdisciplinary research in the area of science and values.

Case Studies in Regional Energy Planning, edited by William A. Blanpied and Gretchen Vermilye, AAAS Report No. 76-R-6. Papers presented at a AAAS Annual Meeting symposium, summarizing and correlating results of a series of regional seminars that explored the possible dimensions of energy policy planning in diverse regions of the country.

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