

BIOS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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On behalf of the United Nations Association of the German Democratic Republic, I wish this conference both success and follow-ups in all corners of the world.

Concerning bios and international cooperation, I would like to make a few remarks. In our country, we too, discuss and search for new methods to protect against the so-called "three dangers of our time":

- a nuclear war;
- a Third World population explosion;
- environmental destruction.

To fight against these dangers demands concerted action of governmental and non-governmental forces is necessary. Due to the growing awareness that unity can no longer be guaranteed at someone else's expense of a confrontation, the spirit of cooperation has to materialize. The nuclear and cosmic era leads all countries to keep in close contact. This results in the necessity of seeking new forms to ensure peaceful cooperation and a solution to all growing problems. The development of science and technology and the unusual extreme problems of our time, strengthen the mutual dependance of all nations and demand a realistic basis for a policy of practical cooperation.

Among the political public there is a growing awareness of the new responsibilities towards the social situation of mankind. Joint actions are to be taken in order to relieve the effects of natural disasters. The multilateral aid for the suffering people of Ethiopia and Sudan is a prime example of real international cooperation beyond political contradictions, as well as continental boundaries. The experience of this international action can be the starting point of comprehensive programs of international cooperation designed to resolve social problems in the 1990s. In fact, action upon these problems must be taken as soon as they are recognized, and not when they reach the stage of an acute crisis. It is quite probable that contradictions of global economic development, like the previous problems involving hundreds of millions of people, will not be lessened in the 1990s but will become even more obvious.

The interrelation between the international financial crisis, the massive indebtedness of the developing countries, the arms race and the social cutbacks, confront the international community as the new historical challenge. New advisors have to be brought into the areas of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. The United Nations system offers inexhaustible possibilities to use its potential charities for equally implementing the benefits of international cooperation. In the area of science and technology, trade, energy, environmental protection, transport and communication, economic analysts and prognologists, housing, building, statistics, industry, agriculture and forestry, the United Nations demonstrated its intensity and effectiveness that a mutually advantageous cooperation is not only feasible between east and west, north and south, but also an urgent necessity. Being an advocate of the ideas and principles of the United Nations for many years, I strongly recommend that this audience speak about how we can transfer our ideas and convictions, expressed here so eloquently, to the already established committees and commissions of the United Nations. For instance, to the world committee on the environment which may offer support and allow for our forces to make a greater impact on burning problems, solvable only by international cooperation since their solution needs the cooperation of individual countries, as well as groups of countries.

Effective agreements on the basis of already established forms of relations, as well as new bilateral and multilateral ones would have a far-reaching influence on diminishing the dangers of a nuclear war. They would increase trust between the peoples, and represent a reliable ground for further development of wide political, economic and cultural cooperation.

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