Agenda

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IX. Resolutions

NOTE: Owing to the bulk of these materials, they will be distributed
at the Meeting on July 3. Should you wish to pick up your copies
earlier, a set with your name on it is available from the Institute
receptionist in the main lobby of the Paepcke Building.
Congressional mandate to formulate policy for the Federal Government's role (at home and abroad) in deliberate attempts to change the weather at human command. The Board held a number of public hearings around the U.S. during 1977, and has just completed (for release in July 1978) an ambitious report to the Secretary of Commerce, proposing a first-ever national policy and program in "weather resources management."

The 1979 U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development provides another occasion to think systematically about the part the United States can play in adapting U.S. and international institutions to cope with the "global fairness revolution." The Aspen Institute's Program on Science, Technology and Humanism, led by Paul Doty, is tackling the substance of the matter. At the same time, Special Adviser Thomas W. Wilson, Jr., is serving as consultant to the Department of State in writing U.S. position papers for the preparatory stages of the U.N. Conference. Within the framework of the Program in International Affairs, an effort will be made during the coming year to suggest the mutations in international organization that could make "appropriate technologies for development" something more than a source of North-South debating points.

Coping with Interdependence

In December 1974 a Commission on Coping with Interdependence created by the Aspen Institute was convened by Robert O. Anderson to consider "the accelerating momentum of our interdependence," and what might be done to increase the capacity of American institutions to cope with it. The Commission's blue-ribbon national membership worked through 1975, published five policy papers and a final report, and self-destructed on schedule in a year's time. Its conclusion -- that "the key obstacle to making sense in an interdependent world is to manage our affairs -- and induce others to manage their affairs -- on the assumption that all "domestic" policy has international effects, and all "international" developments have domestic effects -- lived on.

One of the direct outcomes was the Aspen Institute's participation in Philadelphia's Bicentennial Era program "A Declaration of INTERdependence." Harlan Cleveland helped this imaginative enterprise, a project of the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, to develop INTERdependence Assemblies at the conventions of a dozen national organizations during 1976, and brought the leadership of all the Assemblies together with a group of Aspen Institute consultants to think through the implications for U.S. institutions of the new perceptions of interdependence of peoples, of professions and of policies.
Out of this broad citizens consultation came The Third Try at World Order: U.S. Policy for an Interdependent World, a book written by Harlan Cleveland and published in 1977. The Third Try presents a comprehensive yet readable program for what President Carter called "world order politics." Some 15,000 copies are in circulation so far; the book is used in a number of high school and college courses, teacher training institutes, and educational programs of nongovernmental organizations.

In the summer of 1977, at the suggestion of Russell Peterson (now Director of the Office of Technology Assessment), the Program organized a special seminar on "Growth, Values and the Quality of Life," to inquire how changing concepts of growth may affect the governance of "advanced" and "developing" societies. This enterprise has now resulted in a booklet by Harlan Cleveland and Special Adviser Thomas W. Wilson, Jr., with a Foreword by J. E. Slater, entitled Humangrowth: An Essay on Growth, Values and the Quality of Life, (Palo Alto, Calif.: Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, 1978). The creative thinking on this subject is helping shape a number of follow-up activities including the reorientation of the biennial Alternatives to Growth conference in Houston, Texas.

The Program in International Affairs has also been active in forming a new non-profit organization, Global Perspectives in Education, Inc. (with Clark Kerr as Chairman and Harlan Cleveland as Vice Chairman), to develop teaching suggestions and public support for broader international curricula in U.S. elementary and secondary schools. A planning workshop for a broad campaign on this subject is being held on the Aspen Institute campus in Aspen, Colorado, the last week of June 1978.

As part of a broad effort to analyze the troubles with "governance" in modern societies, the Aspen Institute has formed a Committee on Energy, co-chaired by Board Chairman Robert O. Anderson and John Sawhill, President of New York University, with Harlan Cleveland and Paul Doty as Vice-Chairmen. The object is to conduct an annual "policy assessment" of the interacting world and U.S. energy problems, identify who is not doing what about them, and why they aren't. A special project will focus on the energy alternatives open to developing countries; and regular consultations will be undertaken with experts and policy-makers in the other industrial democracies.

The International Affairs and Justice Programs have jointly arranged several activities in the field of international human rights policy -- a week-long 1977 workshop in Aspen, an evening session in Washington, and a resulting publication now in process.
A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies was duly called and held at Wye Plantation in Queenstown, Maryland, on 29 March 1978, convening at 2:20 p.m. and adjourning at 3:30 p.m.

The following Trustees were present:

*Robert O. Anderson  
Lisle C. Carter, Jr.  
Jack T. Conway  
*Gaylord Freeman  
William Comberg  
*William C. Greenough  
Najeeb E. Halaby  
*Robert L. Hoguet  
Paul H. Nitze (Emeritus)  
*James A. Perkins  
*Walter Orr Roberts  
*J.E. Slater  
Shepard Stone  

*Member of the Executive Committee

Gail L. Potter and Stephen P. Strickland, Vice Presidents, and Maureen Corr and Lyn Lindsay, Assistant Secretaries, were also in attendance.

Mr. Robert O. Anderson, Chairman, presided.

Before turning to the Agenda, Mr. Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., was introduced to the Trustees. Mr. Anderson announced that Mr. Houghton was present with his attorneys to sign the Memorandum of Intent (Appendix 1) regarding his gift of Wye Plantation to the Aspen Institute. Mr. Anderson expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Houghton on behalf of the Aspen Institute and said that this most significant opportunity in the Institute's history would enable it to bring dialogues and discussions closer to Washington, which is becoming an increasingly important focal point in the world. Mr. Anderson stated that, prior to the present global significance of Washington, Aspen had been ideally suited for the Institute's Executive Seminar Program. Though Aspen will continue to be the principal focal point for Institute activities during the summer months, Wye Plantation will be used extensively by the Aspen Institute for nine-ten months of the year for all Institute programs and activities, particularly those concerning governance in a free and diverse society. Other institutions with complementary goals and purposes will be using Wye Plantation during the summer months.

With the expansion of the Institute's programs and activities and its continuing internationalization, the opportunities which will be available to the Institute at Wye Plantation, due to its proximity to Washington, are
c) Colin Williams--Special Adviser and Member of the Program Council

d) Daniel Yankelovich--Special Adviser and Member of the Program Council

g) Program on Communications and Society--During the interim period until a permanent Program Director is named, Stephen P. Strickland has been appointed Acting Program Director. Mr. Strickland will be moving to Washington in the fall of 1978 to direct the activities of this Program as well as to coordinate Institute programs and activities at Wye Plantation. Also, Marc Porat has been appointed Executive Director, Washington Activities of the Aspen Institute Program on Communications and Society.

h) Middle East Project--As a result of a grant received from the East/West Foundation, the Institute has initiated a Project which will involve participation in Institute programs of top-level individuals in all professions from the Arab countries. The main objectives of the new Project will be: (1) to expand significantly participation in all programs and activities of the Institute by leaders, experts and scholars from the Arab-Islamic world; (2) to further Western understanding of the culture, religion, traditions and history of the Islamic Middle East; (3) to focus international attention on regional developments and problems through regional and national workshops in the area, and (4) to look at global problems in a Middle Eastern context. The Institute is presently searching for a broad-ranging generalist to serve as Director of the Middle East Project. (Subsequent to the Meeting, Mr. Robert C. Christopher was appointed Director of this Project. Mr. Christopher has been a Contributing Editor of Newsweek magazine and from 1972 to 1977 was the Editor of Newsweek International. Prior to that, he was Newsweek's Executive Editor for three years having joined the magazine in 1963 as Senior Editor in charge of its International section.)

III. Chairman's and President's Report

a) Aspen Institute/Wye Plantation

This item was covered at the beginning of the Meeting.

b) Aspen Meadows/Executive Conferences, Ltd.

Negotiations are currently in progress with Executive Conferences, Ltd. (ECL) regarding purchase of the Aspen Meadows as described in the Letter of Intent (Appendix 3). This agreement would result in the Institute's retaining the academic core property which would be maintained by ECL. The Institute would have free use of it during the summer months, but would pay for off-season use. ECL intends to develop the Meadows parcel as a year-round international conference center.
Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the action of the Officers of the Institute in entering into a letter intent dated February 23, 1978, with Executive Conferences, Ltd., is hereby ratified and confirmed.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers of the Institute are directed to negotiate and sign a definitive agreement pursuant to the Letter of Intent and to take whatever other action may be necessary to carry out the transaction described in the Letter of Intent, with such changes therein as the Officers may approve.

(These negotiations were subsequently suspended.)

c) 1978 Schedule and 1977 Program

The Trustees noted and approved the latest 1978 Schedule of Activities and list of 1978 Fellows as well as the newly printed 1977 Program and Participants list (Appendix 4). Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed that 1978 promised to be the most diverse year to date for the Institute.

d) Status of Programs and Activities

Mr. Slater reported briefly on the Middle East Project, the Executive Seminar Program, special seminars on "The Corporation and Society," workshops on "Financing the Future," and the Aspen Institute Committee on Energy. He also reported that the Hawaii facility was far more successful than the Institute had originally hoped it would be. Both moderators and participants have reported that, in addition to enjoying a valuable experience, they were delighted to spend time in such a reflective and quiet atmosphere, which lends itself to more intensive reading and discussion.

A brief report was made to the Trustees on Mr. Strickland's recent trip to Latin American for the purposes of exploring future possibilities for Institute activities. In addition to the continuing interest of the Mexican government in the Institute's holding workshops and other activities in that country, strong interest and specific offers of cooperation and support have come from Colombia and Venezuela as well as Brazil. Tentative plans call for a first workshop in Latin America in early 1979, preceded by a small planning meeting in Ferreria, Mexico. (Subsequently, Mr. Anderson has offered the use of Las Cruces in Baja, California.)

e) Statesman-Humanist Award

The Trustees were reminded of the April 14, 1978, Statesman-Humanist Award presentation to Alberto Lleras Camargo which will be held in New York City and to which all Trustees are invited.