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Jan Pronk.



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CAIRO SPECIAL DAY 9:

TUESDAY

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CONSENSUS

NGO FORUM

Two weeks of frenetic activities winding up

BY C. GERALD FRASER

The curtain came down on the last full day of NGO Forum '94 Monday, bringing to a close more than two years of intense activity leading to the International Conference on Population and Development. Non-governmental organizations throughout the world participated to an unprecedented extent in the Conference's preparatory committee meetings. They influenced the focus of the Programme of Action in an attempt to empower women worldwide. And they cemented in the minds of people everywhere, seemingly once and for all, the idea that there is an intricate yet complex link between development and population.

Since September 5, NGOs have engaged in a frenzy of workshops and a collection of briefings by governments that once held them at arm's length. The NGOs insured for themselves a place in the UN process and seemed to be assuming an expanding role as a participant in bilateral relations with governments.

At the same time there was more activity than UN conferences have experienced on the part of right-wing NGOs, in this case anti-abortionists, some of whose actions

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ANNA GROSSMAN / THE EARTH TIMES

Reflections: Nafis Sadik, Secretary General of the Cairo Conference, assesses accomplishments and looks to the future. **4**

Delegates to conclude a historic event

BY JACK FREEMAN

At the end, after eight days of conferring, there was nothing left but assent, agreement, compromise and consensus. For all practical purposes, the substantive debate was over on Monday. The Main Committee of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) assented late in the day to dropping the last set of brackets from the text of the Programme of Action, sending the document on to the Plenary for final action. That action is scheduled to be taken Tuesday morning in Cheops Hall of the Cairo International Conference Center. The document will be opened for discussion, one chapter at a time, and delegations will be able to register their objections or reservations, if any. The Vatican has already said it will be making an announcement.

The closing ceremony of the Conference is scheduled for the same hall at 3 PM. Delegates said Monday evening that they thought the last-minute changes in the text were "minimal" and did not in any way detract from its value. Bella S. Abzug, doyenne of the Women's Caucus,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

News from *The New York Times* daily fax report

INTERNATIONAL DATELINES

Fall's slow growth rate ignites debate

For the first time in three years, fall is not bringing a powerful burst of growth for the American economy. It is seen as a decisive sign that the strongest days of the recovery from the 1991 recession may be in the past.

"No one is expecting the Federal reserve, nor the Administration nor the forecasters for the economy to return to the peak growth rate that was reached in recent months," said Alan S. Blinder, vice chairman of the Federal Reserve.

That recognition has renewed the perennial debate over how much economic growth is possible without inflation. One camp says robust expansion could not be safely sustained without driving up prices so much that the purchasing power would be eroded. The other camp argues that the recovery is being cut short way before damaging inflation might occur.

The Blue Chip Economic Indicators' September survey of 50 prominent forecasters, released over the weekend, confirmed Mr. Blinder's assessment.

—LOUIS UCHITELLE

Agassi wins US Open

■ NEW YORK (AP)—Andre Agassi, navigating the most perilous path to the U.S. Open championship in history, battered Michael Stich from the start Sunday and slammed him with a shot at his wrist at the end of a thoroughly ruthless performance.

Agassi never lost his serve in his 6-1, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 victory, putting on such a commanding show that he beat the former Wimbledon champion in every phase of the game.

No unseeded player had ever run a gauntlet of five seeded players as Agassi did. None even beat more than three. Agassi, 24, played better in this match than he did even in winning Wimbledon two years ago in five sets.

I.N.S. clerks accepted bribes

ARLINGTON, Virginia—Up and down the East Coast, the word quickly spread through immigrant communities. Come to the Northern Virginia office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Bring cash. Buy the right to live or work in the United States. Smooth-talking middlemen took care of the details, bribing immigration service employees with gold jewelry, free vacations and cash.

Immigration service clerks, whose take-home pay was as low as \$250 a week, were

eager to participate. Finally the Justice Department began an undercover investigation, and by the time prosecutions were completed last year, employees had fraudulently given more than 4,000 people permission to work and sold legal residency to 1,000 more who did not qualify.

The scale of these abuses, documented in court records and described by some of those involved, has never come to public attention before now.

—STEPHEN ENGLEBERG

Pope urges Baltic reconciliation

ZAGREB, Croatia—In a speech that came close to suggesting the rebuilding of Yugoslavia, Pope John Paul II urged Croats Sunday to use the "unbreakable ties of culture and language" that link the south Slavic as a bridge to peace and reconciliation in the Balkans.

The Pope said he felt nostalgia for the

time "when all the believers of this region were united." It seemed clear that this was the message he had hoped to deliver in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb. But the visit to Sarajevo was canceled for security reasons and plans to go to Belgrade were blocked by the Orthodox Church.

—ROGER COHEN

Clinton claims war authority

WASHINGTON—Joining a two-century-old debate over who has the power to go to war, the Clinton Administration asserted Sunday that it has no obligation to seek Congressional approval for invading Haiti.

Two senior officials, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Madeleine K. Albright, the US representative to the United Nations, responded to growing calls to put the issue of a Haiti invasion to a vote in congress by saying that President Clinton is not required to do so. "We can't tie the hands of the President," Mr. Christopher said on the NBC News program "Meet the Press."

The comments from the two officials come as the Administration seems increasingly committed to launch an invasion of Haiti.

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, the

Republican leader, said Sunday that he may introduce an amendment that would try and force the Administration to seek a Congressional authorization for an invasion.

The highly visible buildup to possible military action in Haiti is providing the latest test of an issue that has vexed US leaders since the founding of the nation. The issue of who has the authority to wage war has been bound up in the Constitution, the nation's history of dozens of military engagements abroad and, of course, the politics of the moment.

—NEIL LEWIS

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BRIEFS

Crimean parliament dissolved

■ SIMFEROPOLM, Ukraine (AP)—The President of Crimea, which has declared itself independent of Ukraine, dissolved Parliament Sunday and imposed emergency rule. President Yuri Meshkov said he was scheduling a referendum for April 9 to resolve a constitutional deadlock between him and Parliament. He said he was assuming "full power" until then.

Liberians flee amid talks

■ AKOSOMBO, Ghana (Reuters)—Liberian peace talks are under way in Ghana, but fighting has continued in Liberia, causing at least 10,000 Liberians to flee to Guinea in the past few days, foreign relief agency sources said Sunday. They said 10,000 to 15,000 refugees had crossed into Guinea from areas controlled by Charles Taylor, the main warlord attending the Ghana talks.

Actress Jessica Tandy dies

■ EASTON, Connecticut—Jessica Tandy, distinguished theater, screen and television actress, died Sunday at her home. She was 85. The cause was ovarian cancer, said her husband, the actor Hume Cronyn. Miss Tandy acted in more than 100 stage productions and won three Tony awards and an Oscar during her 67-year career.

Crash on White House lawn

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A small plane that took off from an airstrip outside Washington, D.C. crashed on the lawn of the White House Monday, killing the pilot, according to news reports. Neither the President nor his family was injured.

It is remarkable, the Secret Service said, that the plane was not shot down before it crashed. Authorities had only seconds to react before the plane flew into White House air space and plummeted to the ground. Authorities searched the wreck for explosives, but none were found.

GERSON da CUNHA

Look what they did to motherhood

Bucharest yielded, "Development is the best contraceptive." The fear was that Cairo would retort, "And contraception is the best development." But that cloud has passed. Bills and assorted procedures have been put in their place. The agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development had, even before Cairo, taken "population activities" well beyond conventional family planning. The ICPD itself, especially with NGOs pushing and shoving, has given population activities a new meaning—for one thing, putting them squarely in the context of women's needs and rights.

Arundhati Ghose, Ambassador of India, says, "Numbers are a method." They are not the only, even the main, goal. "What we want," she says, "along with numerous other countries sharing the same perspective, is



THE OTHER SIDE

improvement in the individual's quality of life. We don't speak any longer just of basic needs. It's the individual's human dignity that's in focus, which is something more than just the minimum in food, clothing and shelter." It is those factors, extras once, that have been shown to affect numbers—apart from being essential in themselves. Examples: education, especially for girls, women's health, basic water and sanitation. "It's the package that will count," says Ambassador Ghose, "designed country by

country, in which family planning is one element. And it's the parents who must decide, not the State." This way, development may take longer but it works. This is why the acceptance of development as an inalienable right in the population context is such a major output of ICPD. Copenhagen is round the corner. That will be a summit, while this is a ministerial meeting—but one that will make its inevitable input, at least in terms of funding.

Incidental but illuminating things have come to pass. Consider what happened in heavily bracketed 3.16—the Objective, no less, under "Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty." One sentence drew particular attention to the socio-economic improvement of "poor women in developing countries." The US added "and developed countries" to that—a rare admission in an international forum of

the dreadful conditions in some inner cities.

Brackets had been put around all of the following and the US moved for their removal in toto: "As women are generally the poorest of the poor and...key actors in the development process, eliminating social, cultural, political and economic discrimination against women is a prerequisite of eradicating poverty, promoting sustained economic growth...ensuring quality family planning and reproductive health services, and achieving balance between population and available resources and sustainable patterns of consumption and production." That's the uni-polar view, then, ladies.

As with the sentiments of 3.16, says Ambassador Ghose, the draft Programme of Action was very largely incontestable—motherhood and apple-pie, she felt, adding, "but look what they did to motherhood."

Grand Mufti speaks of tolerance

BY VIVEK MENEZES

The Grand Mufti of Egypt, Mohamed Said Tantawy, delivered a reasoned message of tolerance to a packed, enthusiastic audience Monday.

"There is no harm in differences of opinion," the Mufti said, speaking in Arabic at the non-governmental organization (NGO) Forum. "The word of Allah necessitates differences of opinion, and if it comes from a healthy mind and tongue, and is directed for the benefit of mankind, then there is nothing wrong."

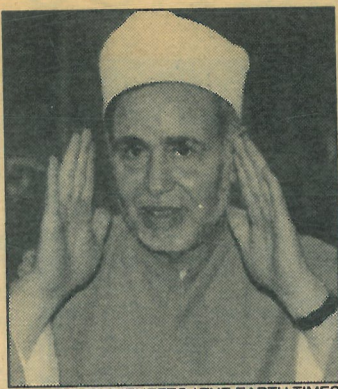
By his very presence at the side of Egyptian Population Minister Maher Mahran, the Mufti refuted the pre-Conference speculation

that he had declared the meetings contrary to the doctrine of Islam.

Hundreds gathered for Monday's meeting, easily the largest crowd yet assembled for an NGO event during the two-week Cairo Conference. The audience listened quietly to the Mufti's patient point-by-point explanation of the Islamic stance on the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Applause broke out on several occasions when the Mufti declared the importance of brotherhood and tolerance even when differences of opinion exist.

The Grand Mufti said that it was impossible for the holy religions of the world to be a source of misery, injustice or



VIVEK MENEZES / THE EARTH TIMES

The Grand Mufti on Monday.

intolerance for humanity. Religions exist, he said, in order to create happiness for mankind.

"Religion calls for tolerance at the highest level," he continued,

"you respect me, I respect you, you listen to me, I listen to you. There should be no prohibition whatsoever on any point of view. If we disagree we should still respect one another."

He outlined the Islamic stance on abortion clearly for the audience, saying, "All scholars and jurists have deliberated and passed their verdict that abortion is forbidden by our religion except when doctors have conducted a complete examination and declared that the life of the mother is in danger."

The Grand Mufti then said that he found it impossible to say that abortion should be fully permissible or fully forbidden. Each case should have its own rule.

Ecology will benefit, say conferees

BY MAYURI CHAWLA

More than 200 non-governmental organizations of the Environmental Caucus agreed Monday that the Cairo Conference was a "breakthrough in cooperation between national governments and NGOs."

This rare consensus among groups with widely differing backgrounds and agendas came about because of the general feeling that the Conference recognized the strong links among population, environmental protection and development.

"We're not done here, this is not the end," said Charlotte Zieve spokesperson for the caucus. "This is a sort of a beginning. No program is correct indefinitely—it has to change and evolve."

"We will learn and improvise with the implementation." Pointing to the mountains of paper all over the Conference Center, the caucus did reserve approval on at least one issue: waste reduction and recycling at the meeting itself.

Members of the caucus also agreed that more attention needed to be paid to consumption issues and patterns.

Among the greatest successes of ICPD, from the environmental perspective, were the integrated approaches adopted towards environmental protection, job creation, access to reproductive health services, family education and the empowerment of women.

Of course there were some disappointments too: not enough on disposal of hazardous industrial waste in the developing world, North-South trade issues that affect the environment, urban to rural migration, environmental refugees and adverse health issues arising from degraded environments.

Sadik to tap NGOs and youths

BY GERSON DA CUNHA

The United Nations Population Fund hopes very soon to work more extensively with non-governmental organizations at the country level.

Nafis Sadik, secretary general of the Cairo Conference and executive director of Unfpa, believes the board will soon give approval to a proposal to do so. This should obviate some of the difficulties afflicting Unfpa-NGO transactions, which now work through government intermediaries.

Sadik spoke informally Monday to representatives of African, Latin American, Asian and European NGOs who dropped by her office, as did Conference Chairman Fred Sai. She said programs are being developed to help NGOs manage their activities more effectively.

The Unfpa will soon send guidelines to its offices around the world, to assist in follow-up to the Cairo Conference. Unfpa already has very good data from 166 annual reports that will assist monitoring



ANNA GROSSMAN / THE EARTH TIMES

Sadik and NGOs.

and evaluation. Dr. Sadik charged NGOs with the special and urgent task of doing all possible to dissipate at home the negatives clouding the public mind on International Conference on Population and Development. "Please tell everybody what the Conference was really about," she

said. She also underlined the role of NGOs in monitoring what governments really did and ensuring they not only said the right things but also fixed budgets accordingly. "You must help make things really happen," she told her audience.

Dr. Sadik also said that NGOs should be involved in global monitoring of the implementation of Conference goals.

NGO representatives pointed out that some home governments were obstructing instead of facilitating NGO operations by burdening them with new regulations. The representative of a Pakistan NGO said that the program of action was now a handle that could be used in negotiations with government.

"You must also try to heal the rift between some people in some religions and the rest of us," Dr. Sadik observed. She was particularly keen on youth becoming increasingly involved in post-Cairo work.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Things to be done now

BY C. GERALD FRASER

Think things don't change? Think again. This year's Programme of Action brims with more than 200 new approaches, new issues, and new actions. New, compared with the 1974 Bucharest World Population Plan of Action and the 1984 Mexico City Recommendations. In all, there are 243 actions in the 1994 document. Only 60 were mentioned in earlier documents.

The program contains an estimated 50 new issues, 100 new approaches, and 40 new actions. The draft came to Cairo full of

new issues: unsuitable patterns of production and consumption, violence against women and gender equality in access to social security, local production of generic drugs and vaccines, female genital mutilation, as well as ethical and technical standards for biomedical research. There is even a new issue on the financing of urban development.

Among the new approaches are proposals for the active involvement of youth in programs relevant to their lives, a recognition of the potential of electronic media—including databases, and assistance in the

building of family-like ties for persons "in especially difficult circumstances"—for example, widows and orphans. Most new actions, appear bureaucratic: developing an understanding of and compiling data on indigenous people, developing a research agenda on population and sustainable development, and the training of guidance providers in matters of sexual and reproductive behavior.

The data on actions, approaches and issues comes from a Secretariat document, "Analytical tools for the study of the draft program of action of the ICPD."

HAPPENINGS

Iran's stand

Iran supports much of the Conference's draft program of action but will continue to highlight its weaknesses, Mohammed Ali Taskhiri, head of the Iranian delegation, said Monday. Iran supports the empowerment of women and "has no dispute with the safety of immigrants and the necessity of technology for sustainable development," Taskhiri said, speaking through a translator.

But Taskhiri said he was concerned that Iran's religious and moral values have been overridden in some areas, such as sex before marriage. Taskhiri said he would ask the Organization of Islamic States to work on devising a development strategy more in line with Islamic values.

—VIR SINGH

'Quality' book

If you haven't already collected enough paper at this Conference, you might want to pick up a new booklet, "Caring For Quality," published by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). It explores the meanings of "quality" in reproductive health care, citing examples from Colombia, Russia, Hong Kong and India. The book says quality is not a word for luxury. It can mean lower costs, cultural sensitivity, and a full range of health care choices.

—CHARLES E. HAYES

More than pleased

Women's groups are pleased. In fact some of them are more than pleased with the way things have gone at the Cairo Conference.

"I believe we have broken taboos and silence on taboo topics," said Bella Abzug of the Women's Environment and Development Organization.

She was speaking at a press conference organized by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on Monday, along with representatives of other women's organizations.

"There has been a discussion about the real lives of women and families, sexuality, adolescent sexual behavior, the phrasing of reproductive health and reproductive rights, and a recognition of HIV programs, use of condoms and a lot of things that were never discussed," Abzug said.

—MAYURI CHAWLA

WWF success

The World Wildlife Federation (WWF) Monday pronounced itself happy that Chapter III, the environmental chapter, remained largely intact and unaltered in the final program of action.

The environmental group had lobbied for the integration of linkages between population growth, consumption patterns and the environment.

Canadians looking for ways to act on program

BY MELISSA GRACE



Ruth Archibald.

"One key thing we are trying to do here is make sure it is a program of action that is usable," said Ruth Archibald, Canada's alternate head of delegation.

This goes way beyond the question of resources, said Archibald, who is also her country's director of the Population, Migration and Refugee Division in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. "Usability" must include consensus in the North and the South, consensus between the two, the multilateral agencies and the international financial institutions," she said. "You can say whatever you want here, but if it's not acceptable, then nobody will ever use it."

Efficiency of resource use is also crucial. That's one reason the preparatory committee spent so much time on the "follow up chapters" (13 and 14), not just to address resources, but efficiency of implementation, Archibald explained.

This is becoming more complicated, as more countries, more agencies and more non-governmental organizations (NGOs) get involved in population programming. Archibald suggested a commission coordinating NGOs would be a good idea.

The 20-20 solution—which proposes 20 percent of developing countries' GDP and 20 percent of development assistance from donor countries be devoted to the social sector—will be reopened for discussion at the Social Summit in Copenhagen next year. According to the Canadians, this is only a step in the right direction. They have called for 25-25 solution. This discussion will also have to include specific answers on how this funding is to be used, and, Archibald noted, these questions, of dollar amounts and implementation, must be kept for Copenhagen, because "We are only in the early planning stage...it depends on where money will go and at what levels."

The population debate is moving away from demographics and toward education, health and reproductive rights goals, Archibald said.

In fiscal year 1992-1993, the Canadian International Development Agency allocated Canadian \$43.6 for population-related programming. Of this, it set aside \$13.6 million for sexually-transmitted diseases research and programing. The remaining money mainly targeted at cutting maternal and infant mortality and making health care a universal right.

INTERVIEW: NAFIS SADIK

Recognizing NGO support

BY JACK FREEMAN

Nafis Sadik settled herself into the chair behind her desk in the ICPD executive suite Monday and looked across at her visitor, ready to answer yet another round of questions.

The penultimate day of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development had been, for her as the Conference's Secretary General, an endless round of press conferences and interviews and photo opportunities, interspersed with quick consultations with aides.

But she was still full of enthusiasm about the subject uppermost on her mind: turning the outcome of this Conference into an effective tool for making people's lives better.

"Now we really have to get down to work," she said, "after all the fine rhetoric."

Speaking of rhetoric, she also spoke of the need to "erase the negative images" of the Conference that were spread by its fundamentalist detractors and spread by the media. She declined to repeat the allegations that had been raised, lest the media be distracted by them all over again.

"The reality, the positive results of the Conference," she said, "have to be made as exciting as those allegations were."



ANNA GROSSMAN

Sadik: Looking beyond Cairo.

There is no question but that she finds the Conference outcome exciting.

"What's clear is that the agenda for women is here to stay," she said. "Change is taking place much more rapidly," and she feels that the change is clearly for the better:

"Because of what we have accomplished here," she said, "family planning programs will become more responsive, more people-centered, more holistic, more concerned with the needs of women."

She said they will also be more concerned with alleviating poverty, with education, health and gender issues.

"Population policy is a key part of the whole development agenda," she said.

Looking back on the three years she has devoted to making this Conference a success, Dr. Sadik reflected on the lessons she has learned along the way.

"We did manage to mobilize a great deal of interest," she said. "But we also learned that antagonism can come from some very unexpected places."

She said the Conference Secretariat had not been able to anticipate all the problems it would encounter in the area of language, translations, (mis)interpretations and nuances.

"When you carry a message," she said, "it must be very clear."

Still, she said, they were able to have various publics take part in the preparatory process, in the debate. And she had especially strong praise for the role of the NGOs.

"NGO voices are heard," she said, "both in monitoring government support of the Programme of Action and in helping to implement it. NGOs keep governments honest—and we should not let up on that."

But she had even more to say on the subject: "NGO support has to be recognized, especially that of the women NGOs," she said. "Without them, governments would not have agreed to such far-reaching recommendations, recommendations that will really change society."

American TV stars shine here

BY JACK FREEMAN

As the Conference moved into its dramatic final 48 hours, TV cameras and tripods sprouted like saplings throughout the Conference Center and the glare of TV "Frezzy" lights assaulted the eyes of every bystander. All familiar faces leaving the Main Committee room were quickly surrounded by reporters sticking microphones in their faces while the cameras rolled.

In this media age, even a conference which seems to be about splitting linguistic hairs—the difference, say, between "fertility regulation" and "regulation of fertility"—is grist for TV journalists.

They are here from all over the world, including American network regulars such as Tom Aspell, Bob Simon and Jim

Expertise? Maybe just professionalism.

Bittermann. One experienced observer of the TV scene told The Earth Times they were assigned here not because of any expertise on UN conferences or on population or development, but rather because they are based here in the Middle East. Some of the TV people say this Conference has not been easy to cover. The Plenary speeches, they say, do not provide much interest. And even if their producers back home find the subject of population "sexy"—and not all of them do, they say—the people speaking into their microphones do not lend themselves to snappy sound-bites.

"Rather than spending our time here in the Conference Center, one TV field producer said, 'we'd be getting a much better story if we traveled out into the countryside and covered Egypt's incredibly successful family planning program at the grassroots level.'"

Some TV people also voiced complaints about facilities in the center, notably the lack of elevated camera platforms, called "risers," in the press briefing room. "Risers let us shoot over the heads of the print reporters," said one cameraman, "without disturbing anyone."

The way it is, we have to set up our tripods in the aisles. That inconveniences the other people, and it's not very good for us either." "But aside from the working conditions," said another cameraman, "this just isn't much of a story for TV pictures."

Down to the wire, up to the minute

BY VIR SINGH

After a week of haggling and horse trading and worrying, it all came down to Monday afternoon. Outside Chefred Hall, reporters, delegates and NGO representatives were reluctant to go anywhere. Some stood up and ate their lunches; others sat on their briefcases. The rest paced.

But after hours of intense lobbying, more shuffling of words, and a flurry of impromptu press conferences, most Conference participants the gist of the Cairo document had largely been preserved.

But even with the consensus on the draft program of action, no one attending the International Conference on Population and Development should be fooled. Interviews in the corridors Monday afternoon made it clear that a lot more needs to be done.

"It's been words, words, words, but at the end of the day it's what you do that is important," said Mary Shilalukey Ngoma, a Zambian delegate. "It's that simple."

The barrage of journalists' questions, however, touched on child support programs, economic growth, funding commitments and a variety of issues. As the afternoon wore on, with no sign of the working group

dealing with Chapter 7, reporters and cameramen trawled the hallway for reactions.

A gray-suited man stood at the entrance to Mycerinos Hall, displaying plastic fetuses to the odd camera. Outside Chefred, one woman shouted: "No brackets! We want consensus!" even before the film the cameras started rolling. Behind her, others held the now-familiar "Bracket Busters" signs for

Consensus, yes, but still a lot of work to do.

all the world to see. Further down the hall, Carmel Kelly of the Boston-based Value of Life Committee expressed her frustration at women who ask for rights without addressing the accompanying responsibilities. "If they want more human rights, they should think of the rights of their child," she said.

Closer to the door, UN conference veterans voiced concern over implementation and other issues. A Nepalese delegate stressed the importance of incorporating

various traditions into the draft Programme of Action, even saying that he "hoped there were dissenters" in today's Plenary.

At a press conference Monday, the head of the Iranian delegation expressed reservations over "ambiguous terminology," especially that relating to sex before marriage. He said he would raise these in speech at the Plenary Tuesday. Marsooedi Soedjak, a NGO member on the Indonesian delegation, felt the Conference had not adequately addressed NGO-government relations. For all the fanfare about increased South-South cooperation, he said, Cairo had not really addressed the issue. Haryono Suyono, the chief Indonesian delegate, is a key player in the initiative, launched last week.

Another Zambian delegate complained that abortion had taken up far too much time. She had expected "a little more discussion" on drought problems, children's health and malnutrition, issues important to her country. Only if donors understand problems, she said, will they provide aid.

Steven W. Sinding, a US delegate, concurred. He said the Cairo Conference had focused "more on resource mobilization than on the quality of implementation." But the latter is equally important, he said.

Environment technology is debated at the NGO Forum

BY JOHN R. G. STANLEY

Environmentally sound development technology doesn't have to be high-cost, or even high-tech. The same techniques used by the Mayan and Olmec Indians in ancient Mexico can provide infrastructure for developing countries worldwide.

These were some of the lessons gleaned from a slide show presented at the non-governmental organization (NGO) Forum Monday. The show highlighted alternative sewage and kitchen "gray" water treatment plants, along with housing construction materials, cisterns, solar water heaters, and food dryers. It was presented by Ecologistas Voluntarios de Tecamachalco, A.C. and the Alternative Technology Group (ATG) of Mexico.

"We try to focus on 'appropriate technology' which we define as technology that peasants can build themselves with the materials available to them," said Margarita Barney de Cruz, of Ecologistas. Her group started as social services organization; it has expanded into alternative technology as a way of meeting people's needs.

Ecologistas has created four housing developments that use wet SIRDO (Integral System for Recycling Organic Waste) systems. These systems separate sewage and gray water. The sewage is transformed into fertilizer in a solar heat chamber that destroys harmful bacteria. The gray water is processed through a biological filter that generates water appropriate to irrigate crops.

Sign-language can be useful

BY MEHREEN SADIK

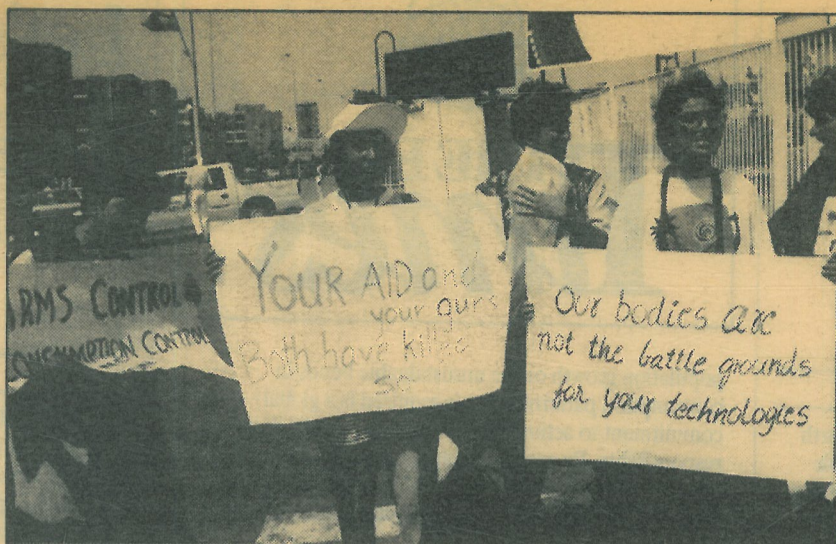
Delegates have talked much about many challenges in the last week: Abortion, funding, empowerment of women, and on and on.

But what about the challenge of getting around Cairo without knowing more than a couple of words of Arabic? What about the hand pointing, smiling, nodding and gesticulating necessary to get your point across to a taxi driver, a security guard, or a waiter who understands not a word you're saying?

This particular guest of Egypt has observed points being communicated, ideas being exchanged, and all forms of interaction between Egyptians and visitors entirely through gesture and guttural sounds. We have all become masters of charades in the last week. The most amusing exchanges seem to occur at the food stalls of the Conference, and at the taxi stands outside. Explaining through arm waving and simple words your sought-after destination or the particular dish you yearn for can be an intriguing adventure, especially since there's no guarantee you'll get what you want.

When you do get to the right hotel or enjoy the meal you requested, it's always a particular victory, especially if bargaining had been involved. The lesson here is that even when it seems difficult there is always a way to communicate.

POINTS OF VIEW



KYU-YOUNG LEE / THE EARTH TIMES

From Unfpa: As delegates inside the Conference Centre moved toward consensus Monday, women NGOs protested lack of access to the facilities.

Scholars and theologians condemn abuse of females

BY ELIZABETH BRYANT

Some of Egypt's most respected scholars and clerics unanimously condemned female circumcision Monday. In doing so, they decried the pain experienced by their mothers, their sisters and, in some cases, their daughters.

"Mecca does not know about female circumcision. The Prophet Mohammed did not circumcise his own daughters. It has been a hateful cult towards Islam," said Sheikh Mansour Abdel Gaffar, amid loud applause from a standing-room-only audience at the NGO Forum.

Backing his remarks with quotes from the Koran and various religious scholars, the Sheikh said circumcision was based purely on traditional pre-Islamic practices.

Mahmoud Karim, professor of gynecology at Ain Shams University, applied medical, rather than religious wisdom. Sudan and

Nigeria are among other countries where circumcision is widely practiced, he said. Karim and other speakers used bare, startlingly graphic language, and many members of the audience seemed shocked to hear details.

They talked not just about health concerns, but the right of women to have sexual pleasure. Beyond the pain and humiliation, Dr. Karim said, women's health was at risk.

The only dissenting voice came from Hassan Zecky, a gynecologist from Khartoum University in Sudan. Practitioners need to differentiate between bad and good circumcision, he said.

He added that partial clitoridectomy was possible without health risks and psychological shock.

"I hope I did not hear right," retorted Caroline Koroma, a women's rights advocate based in Ethiopia, as the audience cheered. "We're talking about not doing it at all."

FEMINISTS

'Victory' claimed by all

BY MAYURI CHAWLA

Both sides claimed victory. US feminists declared a "defeat for the Vatican." Anti-abortionists congratulated themselves on the "defeat of the Clinton Administration."

Both the groups, who have been arguing and lobbying delegates on Section 8.25 of the Program of Action described themselves as successful, and pleased with the consensus.

It is rare enough to find consensus within a group, but how often do opposing groups see eye-to-eye? Delegates who hammered out the agreement, can finally find a reward for their long hours and sleepless nights in this victory.

"In spite of all their pressure and coercion they have exerted on many poor countries, they (the US) have failed to achieve their goals," said a news release distributed by the International Right to Life Federation.

The Feminist Majority Foundation, meanwhile, said in their new release that the agreement on critical portions of the program of action was "the final blow to the Vatican's attempt to derail the progress of

women worldwide." "The program of action places improving the status of women at the top of the agenda of nations across the globe," said Jennifer Jackman of the Feminist Majority Foundation. "The Vatican has isolated itself with its relentless crusade to prevent women worldwide from achieving full equality. They have failed in their attempts to form alliances with Islamic fundamentalist governments and radical forces within Muslim countries."

The Vatican came into the conference with close to 20 allies, Jackman said. By the end of the deliberations, the Vatican's team had dwindled to less than a handful of non-Islamic countries, she said.

Their reactions were varied even on similar issues. International Right to Life Federation said that the document "cannot now be interpreted as a vehicle for exportation of legalized abortion worldwide," while The Feminist Foundation said that the consensus showed the "support of nations for family planning and the use of modern medical techniques to save women's lives."

Right-to-life backers will push efforts

BY JOHN R. G. STANLEY

The International Right to Life Federation (IRLF) claimed victory Monday in the battle over the Programme of Action's language regarding abortion.

At a press conference, the federation promised unceasing vigilance in its war to protect unborn children.

Olivia Gans, Director of American Victims of Abortion, an IRLF affiliate, said, "This is clearly a defeat for the Clinton Administration! In spite of all the coercion they have exerted on poor countries, they have failed to destroy the Mexico City Policy."

She was referring to the 1984 International Conference on Population in Mexico that adopted the language, "in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning."

This language has now been placed in the Cairo document.

"We will be at every future world gathering to ensure that abortion is never condoned on the international stage," Gans said.

"It is a terrible scandal that the worldwide conference on women is to be held in Beijing, where women are kidnapped and forced to abort against their will with the support of the United Nations."

Jeanne Head, IRLF representative to the UN, agreed with the victory assessment, but expressed concern about ICPD procedures. "Misinformation was used to push abortion at the Cairo conference," said Head. "They attempted to portray the Vatican as isolated although most countries do not wish to accept abortion."

Of the 173 nations that Dr. Sadik said accept abortion, only 55 countries allow abortion without severe restrictions. The United States pretends that they wanted to limit abortion all along, when, in fact, they are pushing for a universal right to abortion."

Head said her organization's next important battle would be keeping abortion out of the National Health Plan being proposed by the Clinton Administration.

CALENDAR

Monday

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Cheops Hall; Plenary

12:00 PM
Press Center; Daily Press Briefing

1:00 PM
Press Center; Nafis Sadik

1:30 PM
(approximately)
Nafis Sadik's party
for all ICPD/Unfpa staff

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Cheops Hall; Plenary

6:15 PM
(tentative)
Press Center;
Closing Press Conference
Nafis Sadik

VIEWPOINT

Taking action
to improve our
environment

BY ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL

Two years ago, heads of state attending the Earth Summit called for urgent action on sustainable development. Yet little more than two years later the primary message of The Earth Summit—the urgent call for action—has been obscured by economic recessions, fratricidal conflicts, natural and manmade disaster and escalating poverty. Moreover, while The Earth Summit's Agenda 21 acknowledged the relationship between population, consumption and natural resources, it failed to adopt the policies needed to address population growth and development.

We are placing an incredible burden on this planet. Regardless of the level of development, population growth means increased energy use, increased resource consumption, environmental stress. It cannot be clearer that we are draining our planet's ability to support us.

It is staggering fact that each child born in North America consumes as much energy as 3 Japanese, 6 Mexicans, 12 Chinese, 33 Indians, 147 Bangladeshis, 281 Tanzanians or 422 Ethiopians. And it should not be surprising that consumption patterns in the South are quickly catching up with those of the North. In the booming economies of Asia, the mistakes of the developed world are already being emulated. The answers lie not in an "end-to-development" philosophy, not in a restriction of the legitimate aspirations of developing nations, not through coercive policies or limitation of individual choice, not in deepening ideological divisions. Whether we focus on controlling an unchecked rise in

THE EARTH
Times

population growth or the unsustainable bends in consumption patterns, what is required is a global commitment to action; the assumption of individual responsibility. By each claiming some responsibility for these problems—and acting on our responsibility—we can avoid the acrimonious debates associated with assigning blame.

We can start by saying yes: yes to development programs, such as those to educate and empower women and girls in developing countries to make informed choices; yes to health care for mothers and children; yes to family planning; yes to access for women to credit, jobs and legal rights; yes to targets to which we hold ourselves accountable for action—globally, nationally and locally; yes to the investment of financial resources (initiatives such as 20:20 deserve your serious consideration); and yes to conservation and reduction policies in developed countries.

By working together, developing countries have a unique opportunity to leapfrog the mistakes of the developed world and to build societies that are not as abusive of our Earth or so unfair to current and future generations. As individuals, we are blessed with the ability to choose. We now have a unique opportunity to examine our own life and its relationship within the ecosystem that supports us. Today, when the ICPD approves the Programme of Action, we also have a unique opportunity to take action to help improve it.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell is executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

NOTEBOOK

Let's be sure that
Programme isn't
just a document

BY WERNER FORNOS

No deliberative body has ever produced a document that is literally all things to all people. Nevertheless, the Programme of Action that will be approved today by nearly 180 nations is a rather extraordinary achievement. That such an overwhelming consensus could be reached on matters historically avoided or neglected by many governments is in itself a minor miracle. That 92 percent of the plan was completed in preparatory committees, a process where 50 percent completion rates are closer to the norm, may be a feat unprecedented in UN history. At the outset of the Cairo meeting, a rather large segment of the press covering the proceedings, seemed to be troubled, frustrated or bewildered to learn that United Nations conferees do not constitute a lawmaking body. Some were stunned, perhaps even traumatized, to discover that the resolutions embodied in the final Conference document would not be binding on even a single consenting nation. The question of the usefulness of the Programme of Action was repeated by the media nearly as often as queries regarding delegates' views on abortion an issue that dominated three quarters of the Conference, courtesy of the Vatican, who would impose its will on a world of 5.7 billion people that annually increases by more than 90 million people.

The Programme of Action is not law, but rather a compass to guide efforts to stabilize world population through the remainder of this century and well into the next. But, just as a law requires "teeth" to make it an effective agent for change, so does an action plan. It is now necessary to rescue this important document before it is swept into the dustbins of history and make absolutely certain that it will be a viable force for improving the human condition. The words penned at Cairo must be translated into programs to balance the world's human numbers with its environment and resources.

Werner Fornos is president of the Washington-based Population Institute.

ROBERT L. SCHIFFER

Cairo's place in history

UNITED NATIONS—The Cairo Conference is getting ready to take its place in history. Only time can tell what that place finally will be, but it is not too early to predict that Cairo's impact will be felt globally well into the next century, if not well after that. Many of the great diplomatic parleys that placed their stamp on the course of events—the San Francisco Charter—are remembered by the site where they were held. So why not the Cairo Manifesto?

If ever there was a manifesto charting a new course or a proclamation liberating untold millions, this is it. Chapters were revised and principles adapted, but after all was said and done, the misconceptions clarified, the misstatements corrected, the bitterness dissipated—although the taste of some of it will be hard to forget—Cairo marks the beginning of a new era for women everywhere. They won't all attain it overnight. But they have a road map now that shows them the way.

But it would be a mistake to stop there. Cairo has had other major accomplishments, and it is regrettable that the abortion debate kept us from seeing them. Just to cite one example that has been largely overlooked is that of the mainstreaming of population. If there was any doubt before this, there is none now: No politician or policy maker can ever see population again as an optional extra, a women's issue only; it is now at the heart of all that we do, in every aspect of our lives, men and women alike.

Then there is the coming of age of population within the broader concept of development. Cairo has done that, too, and as such it is not all surprising that the bulk of the Programme of Action addresses quality of life issues. And if we look for other markers on the road map, the Cairo Conference has once and for all placed family

LOOKING
OUTWARD

planning within the broader context of reproductive health. Up to now the world has been talking as if family planning was the be all and end all of a woman's reproductive health. We know better now.

We know better, too, that population is interlinked with economic growth and its impact on the environment. Cairo has been a success because it learned from Rio that we either all win together—large, small, North, South, rich, poor—or nobody wins. This was not an exercise in saying too many children are being born. We had better do something about it. Population poses as many challenges to developed countries with aging populations as it does for countries with high population growth rates, and Cairo has helped us face to that reality.

These are just a few of the issues that did not get the hearing they deserved because the abortion debate diverted attention from them. But they cannot be overlooked. The whole world, the Vatican included, has a stake in facing up to all the many ramifications tied into population. Cairo has helped clear the air. Not only has it set women free, it has freed the minds of all of us to look ahead without blinders on our eyes.

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Jan Pronk: 'Putting our money where our mouth is...'

BY MELISSA GRACE

Jan Pronk, the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands and head of the delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development, met with *The Earth Times* on Monday. Excerpts:

• • •

Will the donor countries increase significantly the amount of aid to population programs, after Cairo?

I suppose so. Some countries have been hesitant about the \$17.5 billion figure, on the break down, and whether the estimates concerned were concrete. My position has been that this is the first world conference on a major global problem with a small amount of money being asked for. So please, in particular Western countries who say this is a global and urgent problem—please then come forward with financial support. It is only fair. Countries, which did make quite an issue of the need to speed up population policies should put their money where their mouth is. So you may expect an increase, and we will also do so.

What additional amount are being pledged, and will the Netherlands increase population assistance?

I will go home and run through my own budget and I will present it to Parliament a week from now. There will be an increase. Also, I think the Unfpa has done a terrific job here. In the past we had some questions about Unfpa, because they were so oriented toward the demographic dimension of population, giving less to the social, developmental and to women's autonomy. Because we had a discussion, we increased our assistance to Unfpa. I think they did a terrific job with this Conference, in conceptualizing the idea. They deserve additional support—definitely.

What other increases do you have in mind?

We in the Netherlands gave assistance to family planning programs through NGOs, Unfpa and IPPF. We have decided now also to give assistance on a bilateral basis.

Why didn't you give aid through



ANNA GROSSMAN / THE EARTH TIMES
Netherlands Minister Jan Pronk.

bilateral channels until now?

Governments in our view should not use quantitative targets only, because targets—at the local level, to reach so many women, to get them to participate in the program—very often, result in the abuse of women's rights. Women are being caught in a net. They are being told that this specific contraceptive is not risky when it is risky. Incentives are then being used as a form of coercion. Now, in this document, rights of women are spelled out very well.

How is population stabilization to be achieved then?

I am convinced that when the world community respects women's rights, that will increase the dignity, the self-respect, of women everywhere.

Women will not have to find their own identity in their children. This will result in the slowing down of the growth rate of the population. Women will decide for themselves the size of their families. Women should not be demographic tools, but an end in themselves, as human beings.

How do we judge gains if not by quantitative terms?

Well, you can base it on the Programme of Action. That is the reason we were so active on 7.1 and 7.2, where the rights are spelled out. I am not completely satisfied on whether to keep the wording with respect to the physical integrity of the human body.

It's a pity that the phrase "sexual rights" is out, and I hope it can come back into the discussion at the Beijing Women's Conference next year.

Tim Wirth: 'Look how far we've come...'

BY VIR SINGH AND
VIVEK MENEZES



Timothy E. Wirth.

Looking beyond today's closing ceremonies, Timothy E. Wirth, Under Secretary of State and head of the US delegation to the Conference said the U.S. is adapting its agenda to the post-cold war world. "We won't be giving countries money in return for allowing us to

locate airbases there," Wirth said, "or fund destructive economic programs like mega-dams in Brazil." In an interview Monday, Wirth said he was optimistic that progress could be made after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Conference has achieved "a remarkable consensus on the need for urgency on population and development issues," Wirth said. "At Rio, it was difficult to even mention population, look how far we have come in just two years." As all countries work to improve development and population problems, they need to focus on increased local activism, Wirth said. Though corruption remains a problem in the dissemination of funds, citizen-run programs

will be essential in the implementation of the ICPD agenda, he said. "We have learned a lot from past mistakes," Wirth said. "Too many people still seem to be viewing the world through the prism of the seventies." The revised U.S. aid program, he said, will focus on three major initiatives:

- addressing population and development issues in bilateral partnerships.
- supporting new initiatives by the World Bank and other international financial institutions to address these issues.
- encouraging new initiatives from the South, especially the South-South partnership officially launched last week.

Activist is ubiquitous

BY CHARLES E. HAYES



Susan Davis.

Susan Davis is a ubiquitous yet elusive figure at UN conferences, breezing between meeting rooms and clusters of NGO delegates.

Though she is usually in motion—instructing staff, clarifying position statements, and heeding every beck and call of her boss Bella Abzug—when Davis does stop for a moment, she manages to appear unruffled. As executive director of Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Davis helps coordinate the concerns of women around the world. During the Cairo Conference, WEDO has been organizing the Women's Caucus at the NGO Forum.

In addition to lobbying pressure, the Caucus educates delegations on the finer points of women's issues. This often garners status on national delegations for some NGO leaders. So is the Caucus an outside agitator or an inside player? Davis was quick to distinguish its role, "It is the government delegations' job to compromise. It is for the Women's Caucus to provide a reality perspective."

The Post-Cairo Task Force of the Caucus will deploy "Women Watching ICPD," an international brigade of "feminist watchdogs," Davis said. These women will act as the Caucus' "eyes and ears" to monitor implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action.

THE QUESTION / VIVEK MENEZES

What's your verdict on Cairo '94?



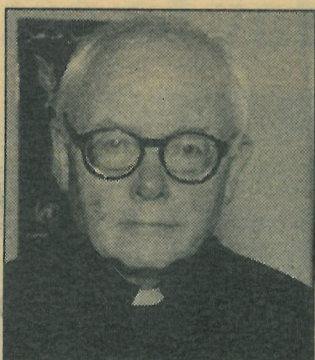
ANN NOSSEIR
Egypt
ICPD

I think it was very successful. We have gained good press for Egypt, many tourists have come to our nation and this center has shown its capability to the world. We have managed to create a great deal of material for future research.



PROF. ADERANTI ADEPOJU
Senegal
Union for African Population Studies/UAPS

Despite the contentions, a great deal of discussion and sensitization on the issues has taken place. It has become obvious that our differences were never that great. The greatest success is that population issues are now looked at in a development context.



REV. JAMES MORROW
Scotland
Humanae Vitae House

ICPD is not over. Everything is being rushed. Decisions of this magnitude, affecting the world for many years deserve appropriate reflection. Unless final decisions are postponed to a future conference, they will lack credibility.



DIMITRIY EOUDINE
Russia
Delegate

The big success has to be proved on the last day. We hope that the document will be adopted, if it is it will be a great success for the world and Egypt. With some good will the final chapters will be settled.

US blockade hurts health services: Cuba

BY CHARLES E. HAYES

Reproductive health services in Cuba have been pinched by the US economic blockade, Cuban delegates told The Earth Times Monday.

Dr. Miguel Sosa, chairman of the National Committee for Family Planning in Cuba's Health Ministry, said his country's currency shortage has caused a death of goods including medical supplies and quality contraceptives.

Dr. Sosa also said that food scarcity had escalated the number of infants born with low birth weight.

In spite of the hardships he attributed to the blockade, Sosa stressed the strengths of the Cuban health system. He said Cuba had produced the lowest rates in Latin America for infant mortality and maternal morbidity.

"In Cuba, we are in a strong position to help the family and women with freedom of choice and rights to reproductive care," said Sosa, who is also chairman of the National Society for Family Planning, an NGO-accredited by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Family planning and women's health are an integral part of Cuba's national health program, and they remain a high priority of the Castro government, he said.

The only positive results in family planning lately had been achieved through the assistance of IPPF, Unfpa, and other international organizations, according to Georgina Fajardo, a member of a women's NGO and an official in the Ministry of External Investment and Economic Cooperation, which apportions foreign aid in Cuba.

Sosa said it was government policy to reduce the number of abortions through the availability of contraceptives.

Due to low funding, however, oral contraceptives and condoms are often of such poor quality that contraceptive failure is on the rise, he said.

The only restriction on abortion in Cuba is the requirement of girls younger than 16 to have their parent's permission, Sosa said.

Women's Caucus ends on upbeat

BY ELIZABETH BRYANT

The last session of the Women's Caucus ended Monday in passionate calls for action beyond Cairo, and a generally unified stance surprising in a group with such varied members.

"This is the real assembly. This is where the messengers of change exist," declared Bella S. Abzug, co-chair of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, standing in front of a packed and cheering audience. "What we have seen here is a women's agenda stated as a charter, as a source of conduct. This is just the beginning." The next step for

caucus participants was agreeing to join a new task force monitoring the Conference agreements after Cairo. Among other duties, the task force is commissioned to lobby against the debilitating effects of structural adjustment, to expose coercive population control policies and to promote greater networking among women's groups.

Equally important, Abzug said, women must grasp and keep their fair share of power. "We're entitled to 50 percent of resources," she said. "We're entitled to 50 percent of decision making, whether it's in the village or in the United Nations."

The 16 sign carriers surrounding Abzug and other panel members testified how disparate women's messages were. "Keep your aid and

Participants urged to grasp rightful power.

cancel our debt," said one. "Arms control, consumption control, not population control," said another. "International agencies + multinational

companies = population control policies," said a third.

Beyond their general feelings of accomplishment, several participants said the caucus had been dominated by too few voices. "Do old people feel part of this? Do Southern countries feel dominated by the North? That, I'm not so sure," said Jan Reijnders, representing a Netherlands non-governmental organization (NGO).

Martha Pushparani, of India, said she was disappointed there had not been more talk on development issues. "We didn't have a common network," she said, describing the lack of organization among Southern NGOs. "It was our own fault."

NGO Forum winding up in Cairo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

brought about clashes with security forces.

The president of the Independent Women's Health Coalition, Joan Dunlop, said Monday that the NGO forum is now "an intake mechanism for the issues of the movement, whatever the issues happen to be."

"People come here who don't know the subtleties of the document, who aren't really interested in the meeting," Dunlop said. "They come here to share a moment-in time, to get reaffirmed in their own values, to find companionship. To find what I call empowerment, which is self-confidence, solidarity, and a sense of being able to realize dreams."

Little by little, the non-governmental organization-cum-UN movement is growing. Cairo's NGO Forum '94 was different from its predecessors in Vienna

Worldwide NGO movement gathering strength, resources.

and the NGO forum birthplace, Rio—the 1992 Earth Summit.

In a nutshell, here, there was more. More people. More workshops. More members of NGOs on national delegations. There are more pamphlets, books, and posters to lug home. And more textiles, T-shirts, scarves, garments, and books to buy. Many NGOs here have been sponsored, with substantial per diem allowances, by major NGOs. And their practice of subsidizing trips for many persons from developing countries has created an uneasiness among some.

The organization of the NGO Steering Committee has been different from Rio. There have

been no NGO hierarchy-called news conferences, no daily news releases issued by the committee on, among other things, the number of members of NGOs attending the forum, no information on the number of organizations that showed up.

A statement from the NGO Planning Committee, issued early in the conference, said, "About 4,000 NGO delegates representing 1,500 organizations in 133 countries had registered as of Tuesday, September 6." The statement also said 3,500 national delegates and more than 3,800 media persons had registered. Networking is a big activity here, but some persons were concerned

that there was little networking between groups of different cultural-linguistic backgrounds. The feeling was that little contact existed between Mideast Arab NGOs with Northern and Latin American organizations.

Two dozen NGOs, however, issued a two-page statement began, "We demand attention to the 'D' in ICPD." The statement opposed an "open market approach to human development" and urged signatories of the Programme of Action "to respect the right of the South nations to design and control their own economic reconstruction and social development policies and programs."

Among the signers were the World Council of Churches, the Arab Women's Caucus, the World Young Women's Christian Association, Voluntary Health Association of India, and Self-Employed Women's Association, of India.

Delegates meet Tuesday to conclude historic parley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

concluded, saying that the compromise language of the consensus "maintained the essence of the document, an up-to-date statement dealing with the real lives of people."

One woman NGO in the corridor outside Chefren Hall, where the committee was meeting, described herself and her colleagues as "very happy." Another woman standing nearby said the word she would use to describe herself was "ecstatic."

The last remaining dispute over the text, the section of paragraph 10.12 calling on governments to "recognize the right to family reunification" for migrants living within their borders, was resolved late Monday afternoon. The compromise language deletes the

word "right" but calls on governments to "recognize the importance of family reunification" in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights accords.

The dispute over the future cost projections in Chapter 13 was resolved by inserting a sentence stating that "these are cost estimates" and must be updated based on experience.

One of the major problems in Chapter 7, on reproductive rights and reproductive health, was over the phrase "fertility regulation," for which the World Health Organization had supplied a definition that included abortion. The compromise solution was to remove "fertility regulation" and replace it with "regulation of fertility."



ANNA GROSSMAN
Abzug and reporters.

The substitution was considered enough to achieve consensus because "regulation of fertility" had not been defined by the WHO.

Other compromises: In paragraph 5.5, the dispute over the language calling for

elimination of "all forms of coercion and discrimination in policies and practices related to marriage, other unions and the family" was resolved by chopping the sentence off after "practices." Conference sources said the host country, Egypt, had insisted on removal of the phrase "other unions" because Islamic critics had convinced so many people that it referred to homosexual liaisons. Caribbean delegates had fought to retain the language, saying it was needed to cover alternative family forms that were the legacy of 300 years of slavery, but they were unsuccessful.

In the section of Chapter 7 dealing with reproductive rights of adolescents, the compromise language called for adolescents to have access to reproductive health services subject to "parental

guidance" but not parental consent. Susan Davis of the Women's Caucus described the final document as "a rich feast for people who have been working in the trenches for years to win approval of these issues."

Ambassador Nicolaas Biegan of the Netherlands, vice chairman of the Main Committee, won lavish praise from several delegates for his work in achieving the consensus.

When it was over he told reporters that he admired the diplomacy of the Vatican, but he said its delegates "have not turned the spirit of the document, which is freedom of choice" and support for artificial contraception.

He added that if he were the Vatican he would "think twice about participating in such a conference in the future."