

Letter to World Citizens

7/7

What Did It All Mean?

(Following is an edited version of the speech delivered by Garry Davis at the conclusion of the synteegration held in Burlington, Vermont.)

Throughout history, a few individuals, whom we revere, have defined holistic codes of conduct for humanity. From the Decalogue, to the Sermon on the Mount, through the Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence, and on to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, these codes have expressed all-encompassing and unitary principles. They have referred to the human race as one and indivisible. “*Thou shalt not kill,*” for instance, has been a recurring theme.

Today, we are extending and fulfilling that ancient promise at these synteegrity meetings. We, the people, are at last becoming the new lawgivers. We are about to define codes of conduct between us on a global scale. All the tools are at hand. All the past masters, teachers, and saviors are still here in principle to lend us their wisdom.

This synteegration process is an extraordinary method enabling us — by means of the technosphere — to assure one another of our unity. In order to affirm the oneness of humanity, the only remaining task is to organize the complexity which makes up the human race allied with its home planet.

In talking about “sovereign world citizens” governing “our world,” we are committing ourselves to a timeless principle in a whole new context. We are not used to the fact that we are indeed the world’s governors, or should be, nor that we are, indeed, a family. We are infected with reductionist or relativist notions and types of government, nationalism being the latest manifestation. And yet we are continually bombarded with the fact that we, the people, are sovereign, that we have human rights, one of which is to choose our own political allegiance.

Prior to this synteegration, many of you didn’t understand what sovereignty meant. You had to ask yourselves: Am I sovereign, or is the state sovereign? Is God sovereign? Or humanity? The answer, it seems almost miraculously, was revealed in the very democratic process you have just experienced.

We entered that process as individuals. We came out as bonded world citizens. You have bonded not only to each other, but also to everyone else who has just undergone this same process. Maybe you’re not aware of it yet, but you have added a vital dimension to your life.

You were the pioneers of that process. You launched it. The Infosetters who are going to continue after you will have the benefit of your work here, your statements. And not only your own, but the statements of 30 other Infosets throughout the world. They are in the public domain now, available to the next Infosets and all that will follow.

But the important fact is in the process itself. We have here, through Buckminster Fuller’s and Stafford Beer’s genius, a method of communicating our sovereign will to one another in a continuous and global fashion.

The power of public opinion is the greatest power of all. And we are putting public opinion into a new and global focus. We are focusing it down on to the specific problem of world governance. That by itself ensures a new code of conduct.

How should we act toward one another on planet Earth? Given the divided world of nationalism and religion, that is a great problem. Well, that, too, was decided here in microcosm. We entered this process with all sorts of personal opinions and divided notions, but we were obliged to act out a new code of conduct with each other, determined by the unique structure of the protocol itself, the icosahedron.

The world is complex, that's true. And this is precisely why the protocol was designed: to cope with complexity. We represented complexity in these three days. In short, we proved that we can reason together, that we can act together, agree together, even disagree together while coming to positive conclusions. We proved that we are indeed a family.

This is why it is called a Neighboset. We gathered in Burlington; in Dhaka, in Jaffa, in Toronto, in London, etc. And those microcosmic wholes are really part of a macrocosmic whole, because of the technosphere, that seamless web of communication, like the human nervous system. They were local Neighbosets but all linked to the Global Neighborhood.

Very few of us knew what was going to happen when we arrived here at the Edmunds School. But you dealt with the complexity of the process, with skepticism, with rejection even, with fear maybe, all the while asking yourselves, "What am I doing here?" and saying, "I don't agree with this program, this protocol, it's too restrictive." Yet the complexity of true democracy worked its magic. It's an awesome experience. You haven't lost any individuality — quite the contrary, you've enriched your individuality, as in a symphony orchestra, when we're all playing our own instruments yet are part of the greater whole.

I was delighted to learn that "We're going to continue this magic world, our iteration. And we're going to have action out in the street." That's exactly what it's for: public action. Because this is not merely an academic exercise, not just theoretical. We are deciding what we are going to do in the world.

Action from principled statements is a wide open field. As the Infosets continue, this is going to become more and more important, because as more statements are generated, a groundswell of global public opinion will arise for the first time. It will take the form of a dynamic world referendum.

Hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world have already exercised their right to claim world citizenship. Many of them are stateless. And there is already a world government. It was declared 40 years ago this September 4. This government grows at the grassroots — through people like you and me. It identifies us as world citizens.

Next year we will move onto the technosphere itself. You will be able to sit at a computer and participate in a global Infoset, a Globoset. This evolution will produce a quantum leap in political consciousness impossible to imagine today.

For the present, you will receive a certificate from the World Citizen Foundation attesting to your participation in an Infoset. A holographic pin is also in the works. These are part of a powerful symbolic language, just like the World Passport, enabling you to recognize and communicate with one another on a global basis.

This is a wondrous thing that has happened; you're all to be congratulated, for despite all our differences, we all remained together. That is the essence of good government.

It starts here.