

# Letter to World Citizens

## Garry Davis

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### San Francisco Bound!

I attended both the World Citizen Assembly and the World Federalist meeting in San Francisco in June during the 50th anniversary commemoration of the signing of the United Nations Charter.

I also attended two concerts of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Lord Yehudi Menuhin. The first was in an outdoor amphitheater with majestic eucalyptus trees providing the backdrop for the triumphant music. The second was at the splendid Davies Symphony Hall in downtown San Francisco, with England's Princess Margaret, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and a myriad of diplomats and local high society in attendance.

Maestro Menuhin, in a short speech before the concert, spoke of "global consciousness" as a prerequisite to world peace, delicately omitting mention of the United Nations.

Backstage in his dressing room following the concert, I met the two young soloists, Yoo-Hong Lee, cellist, and Wei-Wei Le, violinist, who were delighted to hold the World Flag as a symbol of the universality of music crossing "all boundaries of language and culture," as Queen Elizabeth noted in her message to the august gathering.

While Princess Margaret did not shake hands with commoner me as she wafted by to congratulate Lord Menuhin, Boutros-Ghali, immediately following her, did do so—much to my amusement. (He receives, as did his predecessors, copies of all our correspondence to heads of state regarding human rights violations.) I did not inform the U.N. chief that while Yehudi Menuhin was serving as Unesco's Ambassador of Goodwill, he was also holding the post of coordinator of the World Cultural Commission of our world government.

Sad to relate, both the World Citizen Assembly and the World Federalists orient their entire program toward "strengthening" the United Nations. Neither organization has the foggiest notion of how to do it. The reason is simple: It can't be done!

Moreover, a program to "strengthen" the U.N. has the effect of denying the necessity for world government. In short, their version of world citizenship neither includes nor accepts world government. It is a hypocritical facade.

Tom Paine in *Common Sense* derided "sunshine patriots." The same applies to those who pretend to be world citizens yet refuse to link that status to the only government affirming and administering that citizenship. These who vitiate the claim of world citizenship are like self-professed Christians who advocate a strong national defense.

As for the apathetic World Federalists in particular, they have even dropped the word "government" from their lexicon due to a tardy recognition that nations will not and cannot create a world federation.

The nominal president of the World Federalists is Sir Peter Ustinov, whom I met in London in 1953 when I petitioned Queen Elizabeth for the right to work — "Jolly good," he remarked backstage at "The Love of Four Colonels" when I showed him my petition to Her Majesty; "When are we going to do the movie?" I issued Ustinov a WSA World

Passport during a cocktail party at the San Francisco State University campus. That evening, at a dinner sponsored by the United People's Assembly, Sir Peter remarked that he now had four passports, the last one "shoved into my pocket this afternoon by World Citizen Garry Davis."

I learned from my old friend Frank Bourne that the Japanese contingent at the federalist meeting were to hold a special evening session on "mondialization" (*Fr. sp.*). I knew the extent of the mondialization movement in Japan in the '60's when over 300 cities, towns and provinces including Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Kyoto, Yokohama, and even Tokyo had declared The over 900 cities are now listed in the World Citizen Web on the Internet.) My attendance would be welcome, I thought, because, one, I was also living in a mondialized town, Burlington, Vt., and two, I could share some background information on how it all started.

Hanna Newscombe, a pioneer world citizen from Dundas, the first city in Canada to mondialize, addressed the group first. She opened her remarks by stating that mondialization began simultaneously in France and Japan in 1949! Mondialization, Canadian-style, she then claimed, was designed to support the United Nations! Dundas flew the UN flag, citizens were "taxed" to support the UN financially, and finally, mondialized towns, according to Hanna, were somehow meant to "strengthen" the UN.

However, there was nothing in the original charter adopted by Cahors, France, and subsequent French, Belgium, German or English towns about supporting the UN. No charter I know even mentions the UN. Quite the contrary. Mondialization was and is based on community and individual sovereignty not state sovereignty which is the basis of the UN. I would have to set the record straight, I thought.

After expressing my delight to being there, I recounted the historic beginnings in July 1949 and its basic reason: to protect communities from future wars by world law. When in Japan in 1989, I said, I issued honorary world passports to the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the first mondialized Japanese cities. Our Pacific Rim office, I announced, was at Nakano-ku, next door to Shinjuku, where the mondialist committee as well as the world federalists had their offices.

A prominent professor from Wasada University wanted a world passport, which I issued the next day in the University restaurant.

Ex-U.N. Under-Secretary General Robert Muller, now Chancellor of the Peace University in Costa Rica, was very much in evidence during the festivities, addressing a Youth for Democracy meeting on the necessity to act as individual world citizens. Muller graciously mentioned yours truly as a role model. He also served as the "official presenter" of the United People's Assembly's "action resolutions" to Boutros-Ghali. Unfortunately, these resolutions omitted world citizenship from an otherwise admirable, if U.N.-oriented, document.

In marked contrast to the official gatherings, a group of homeless citizens advocating "Food Not Bombs" were gathered outside the police-marked parameters on Market Street. "Building an Alternative to Transnational Corporate Greed," was their slogan. I must say it was a refreshing antidote to the totally deficient programs of the "official" organizations.