

TILLHÖR ARKIV STF  
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Makuleras DOK

To

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

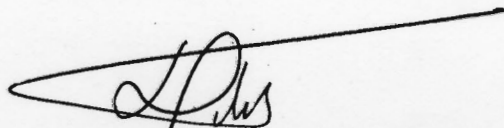
As the official representatives of the international community of engineers in every category under the auspices of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), Pan-American Federation of Engineering Societies (UPADI) and European Federation of National Associations of Engineers (FEANI) we would like to direct a statement to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

In the light of the deep global concern for the future of mankind and the urgent need to provide a continuing basis for maintaining a tolerable form of existence it is necessary to understand and control the forces behind the development that so far have brought so much good and at the same time have done so much damage to the human environment. The strongest force that mankind can find to construct a better world is technical development through new technology. It is most important to stress that technology does not in itself develop according to some particular law of nature, but must be looked upon and handled as a tool which can and should be directed for the benefit of mankind, and for the general improvement of the environment. We feel that this Conference has not recognized the overriding importance of enlisting and directing as quickly as possible a massive participation and co-operation of the professional and technical community together with the industrial entrepreneurs.

In order to provide maximum benefit at this time, there are reasons to focus the major interest of engineering technology on one point. The flow of matter from nature through man and society and back to nature increases according to the accelerating rise of the world's population and the level of individual consumption. The growth and development of this flow in our society until now is not in harmony with nature and does not have the essential character of an eco-system. In our haste to exploit fully our newly found wealth for the present generation of our more affluent societies wastes often amount to more than half of the natural resources consumed in the total cycle of extraction and final effective utilization, and constitute virtually all of the products which contribute to our current pollution problems.

In most of our primary extractive industries, and more particularly those relating to the mineral and forest industries, alternative processes and methods are available and amply demonstrated, which can greatly enhance the volume and total value of the products produced from the same quantity of natural resources, and thus reduce in a very substantial way our largest component of pollution. The requirements for the segregation and recycling of wastes from human consumption are also well known and provide another valuable tool for reducing our total pollution load.

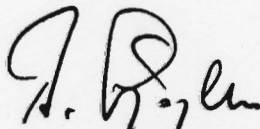
The combined effect on the environment of a widespread philosophy of recycling and the reduction of wastes at all levels is of enormous value and importance and it provides a strong motive for nations around the world to collaborate in a dynamic and immediate forwardmove in this most important phase of environmental improvement. The engineering profession will insist on becoming a major part, on an international basis, of this new venture towards creating a better world.



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Stockholm June 12th 1972