

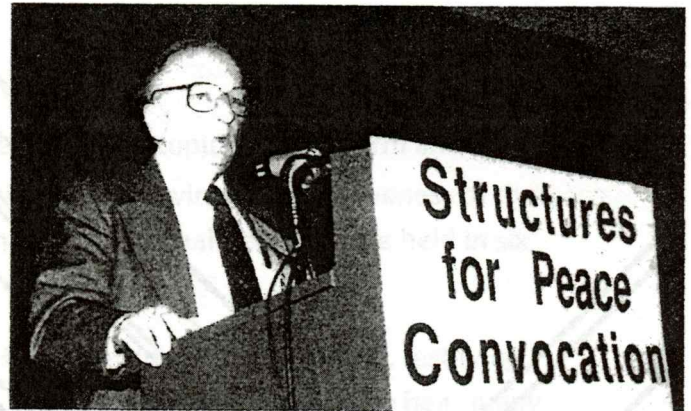
## Sunday Morning Plenary

# 5. What Structures Can Save the Environment, Promote Development and Insure Human Rights?

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Let me begin by telling you something I learned at Nuremberg. As an enlisted man, I served as a sergeant in the infantry from the Normandy beaches through the Battle of the Bulge. Because of my studies at Harvard Law School, my assignment just as we were about to enter Germany, and even before we ran into atrocities, was to try to capture war criminals and to secure evidence of war crimes. I had occasion to enter almost all of the concentration camps as they were liberated by the American armies. I have seen crematoria still burning and more.

After the war was over, I was recruited to go back to Nuremberg. In one of the 12 Nuremberg trials that followed the big trial, I was chief prosecutor against 22 defendants who had murdered over a million people. Who were these people? They were much like you and me, well educated people, most had doctorate degrees. They were commanding officers of the special extermination squads, doing this for the idealistic reason of trying to create a better world as they saw it.



They had become efficient killers in the death factories. They had learned how to use their victims' hair and teeth; how to use their fat for soap. I asked myself, "What do I ask the court for—take these 22 men and chop them up into a million pieces and burn them?" I thought about it and I asked the Court to affirm man's right, (I meant woman's right too) to live in peace and dignity regardless of race and creed, because that seemed to me to be the essence of the crime. They had killed people because they didn't share their heritage or ideology.

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As a result of these trials, certain principles of law emerged. There was a charter which defined the crime against peace as aggression. **Aggressive war would be a crime.** We declared for the first time that the traditional way of settling disputes would no longer be tolerated. We said there would be such a thing as crimes against humanity, when the offended body is not just the individual victim, but the offended body is all of humankind. We said that the head of state would not be immune. These principles were ratified by the UN General Assembly. They weren't pulled out of thin air; for centuries humanity was asserting these rights. We merely declared them and confirmed them.

During the Vietnam war it became clear to me that the world was headed for an even bigger holocaust. I withdrew from the practice of international law and devoted myself exclusively to working on world peace.

I'm supposed to tell you about structures to save the environment, promote development and protect human rights. What we need is world government. What I'm

talking about really is **international law and order.** We need planetary management to talk about all these resources—environment, development, and human rights.

What structure do we need most of all? The structure of the mind and heart. We must replace the present system of stabbing and grabbing with a new system of **caring and sharing.** We must have the passion that you heard from Ambassador Stephen Lewis of Canada last night because Africa is being starved so that white men and women may maintain their standard of living.

Let me tell you a little about hope. **Our hope is not just based upon dreams.** It is based upon the reality that we are moving in a certain direction. There can be no instant evolution, and there can be no painless revolution. This will take time, compromise, and willingness of spirit. The work you do today will not produce results today.

You must begin to scream. Speak up. Don't be intimidated! You're not the crazy ones. It's the ones called "realists" who are planning the destruction of this planet. Write your Congressman. Speak up. **Sing a song of peace.** Do whatever it is that you have to do for peace, because if you do it, we'll have a chance to save this planet.