

**Much Work Still To Do**  
**By TERRY ELLIS**  
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A short message at the top of the Cousteau Society's web page, French edition, says it all: "The Commander Jacques Yves Cousteau left us on the 25 of June 1997 to rejoin the world of silence."

More than 1,000 people filled historic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on June 30 for one of France's largest memorial services in decades. They included French President Jacques Chirac, government officials, diplomats, average citizens and those who with Cousteau have explored the oceans, rivers and lakes of the world for more than 50 years.

Several thousands more gathered outside in the rain to mourn one of the world's most famous, outspoken environmentalists.

For the last three months, work at the Cousteau Society's Paris office had slowed down, as people waited for the commander to come back after an illness, spokesman Gregoire Koulbanis said. Now they are left with an almost legendary legacy — a red wool cap to fill.

Cousteau's recent work included three priorities, Mr. Koulbanis said — priorities for action that illustrate his commitment to the future:

- **A global referendum on atomic weapons.** Cousteau was a passionate enemy of nuclear weapons who believed they are "an intolerable menace to humanity and its habitat." He resigned as chairman of Chirac's newly created Council on the Rights of Future Generations in September 1995 to protest France's resumption of nuclear testing. Cousteau believed that a worldwide opinion poll on atomic weapons, which his society is conducting, would be difficult for political leaders to ignore.
- **The Bill of Rights for Future Generations.** By December 1993, Cousteau had solicited 5 million signatures on this bill, which urges the world to consider the rights of future generations who "will pay the ever-mounting bill" for ecological destruction. The bill will be presented in November to the General Assembly of UNESCO, where it stands an 80 percent chance of approval, Koulbanis said.
- **Calypso II.** During the past year, Cousteau oversaw studies for a "truly ecological ship" to carry on the tradition of her namesake, which sank in Singapore harbor.

Cousteau's words, particularly in his new book published Tuesday, *Man, Octopus and Orchid*, often sounded pessimistic. But underlying them was something akin to a prayer for the future — a resolution he wanted to plant in the people around him.

"His philosophy was that we have to be utopian and realist," Mr. Koulbanis said. "He was an optimist because he was always projecting into the future, but he also knew that the world is not in such good shape.... He left us much work to do. We have to do it. We will do it — because he asked us to keep going."

**WT**