

BAY AREA PEACE ORGANIZATIONS UNITE

On June 12, the atmosphere in San Francisco's Ikeda Auditorium was electric with the excitement and energy of a dozen people who had attended the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference in the Netherlands, May 13–15. The meeting was the first for the newly created S.F. Bay Area Coalition for Peace and Justice, co-sponsored by the local SGI-USA Youth Peace Conference. Representatives of more than two dozen Bay Area peace organizations learned about HAP and began building a working coalition.

Speaking about the change in HAP from its founding 100 years ago by the Russian and Dutch governments to its status as a civil movement today, student division member Alex Bardales said: "There were lots of government and U.N. people attending. I imagined them to be encouraged by meeting common people."

SGI-USA member Sue Zipp also attended the HAP Conference and spoke for Millennium People's Assembly Network and Campaign For a More Democratic Society. She was instrumental in setting up a "Culture of Peace" meeting, co-sponsored by the SGI and the United Nations, that was held in tandem with the HAP Conference. The HAP is designed to stimulate ideas of practical steps toward peace, she said, that will mesh our ideals with the simple realities of life. "We have to look at the next 100–500 years," she said.

The Coalition plans to pool resources for an International Day of Peace activity on Sept. 18. The day was proclaimed in 1981 by unanimous U.N. resolution and is observed every September.

— *DONNA PARTEN*