

31 May 1987

Dear colleagues,

Greetings from Caracas to your Primary Unit. Hope this finds you well. Our last PU report to you was 7 months ago in October 1986 when we sent you a copy of our new full color brochure. So much has happened since then that we are still in a daze. And the transformation is continuing! I'm sure that you are experiencing some of this as well. Some of the highlights of the past 7 months are:

1. JEAN HOUSTON'S RESTORATIVE VISIT: In March Jean Houston spent 2 weeks in Venezuela with the ICA. She spoke to 711 people, was on national TV, held two seminars with 216 participants, took a "traveling seminar" with the ICA to the villages of Barlovento, the barrio of Las Minas, Mt. Avila, the Caribbean Sea, participated in a marketing luncheon and an education luncheon. And we made US\$12,000! One third for expenses, one third for Jean and one third for the ICAV. When Jean left she said that her trip had been restorative for her rather than draining as are most of her trips. That was our experience as well. We also experienced the 2 weeks as a great reconciliation of community development, the New Age, marketing, the Order's destinal role and the new education. But the Research Synergism Node in Toronto sent out a great summary of all of this in The Node, so we will stop here.
2. SETTLING DOWN AT "THE LITTLE FORESTS:" Also in March, the day after Jean left the Caracas PU and many colleagues from around the globe moved the Caracas Anchor House into Quinta Los Bosquecillos, (Little Forests House) - a 23 room, 7 bathroom, 3 balcony, 3 patio, Spanish Seville style house with 900 square meters of garden. The house is located on a corner of a major street very near to downtown and to Mt Avila. This was after 4 months of arrangements of 2 mortgages by our president Alejandro J. Lara and a tax exoneration by the Minister of Justice. This is the new, permanent Centre of Human Promotion for the Caracas PU. Renovation is continuing after 2 months of work. We now have 2 phones, water, new plumbing, new roofing, electricity, gas, new plaster and new paint. Many work days later! And several more to go. This facility has altered our sense after who we are and our long term role in the society. (photo enclosed) And a great investment!
3. CAÑO NEGRO'S NEW ROLE: In addition to all of its other improvements, Caño Negro now has a new plaza and a new elementary school. In March and April, with funds from the Australian Embassy, we have rebuilt the second floor of our 11 room training centre, bought new tables, chairs, beds and fans. We intend to hold many training courses, retreats and research events in Caño Negro. Everyone is impressed with the people of Caño Negro, including Jean Houston!



VENEZUELA

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Fomentar
la participación
para crear
la Venezuela
posible
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4. GLOBAL GLUE COMES TO CARACAS: Also in March (what a month!) the Caracas House was honored by the presence of the IDF team from Brussels, the Research Synergism Node from Toronto and the Global Panchayat from Hong Kong. Their participation was very helpful in assisting us in re-focusing our approach to collaboration and networking while maintaining our continuity with our heritage. They also gave us added self-consciousness and courage. It was also fantastic to have colleagues from Lima, Guatemala City, Mexico City, Santiago as well of course from our two programme houses in Kingston and Rio de Janeiro.
5. A NEW BOARD AND NEW STATUTES: In October ICAV elected a new, powerful, active Board of Directors - 11 in all. Eight persons are non-Order members and 3 are Order members. The role of our president Alejandro J. Lara and other directors in fund raising, PR, institutional relations, legal and fiscal matters, program directions and societal sensitivity cannot be over stated. Before this Board our Boards had been pretty much on paper only. In March the members of ICAV voted in new, statutes which bring the ICA up to date in relation to Venezuelan laws and forms, although ICA has been officially registered since 1978. The statutes are signed by all members of the Caracas house and the 8 non-Order directors. This gives the Order a legal vehicle until such time as we incorporate the Order as such. We are currently brooding on the possibility of 3 legal entities: a civil association (which we currently have) for our organizational nature; a foundation for capital formation and for our networking nature; and a staff association as the Order Ecumenical as our community nature.
6. A MARKETING DIVISION: We have actively shifted to programme marketing of human development technologies of community development, organizational development and individual development to the 4 communities (networks) and the 4 sectors of society.
7. THE MIRANDA LABORATORY: The Miranda Lab is continuing without the Rotary grant and sponsorship. Chase Manhattan Bank has donated US\$10,000 for a national volunteer programme to backup the Miranda Lab. We are currently looking for other sponsors both local and extra-national or multi-national for the Miranda Lab. (report enclosed)
8. CITIBANK BREAKLOOSE: In May we have done LENS and facilitation training in Kingston and Miami with Citibank - which could lead to LENS and community development (health and literacy) work with Citibank in 11 new nations as well as Jamaica and Venezuela.
9. DESIGN CONFERENCE WITH COLGATE-PALMOLIVE: Also in May we conducted a design conference for Colgate in Caracas which could lead to US\$7,500 in programmes.
10. NEW DEEPENING IN THE HOUSE: House life is taking on a new depth with more dialogue, exercises, concern for mutual honoring and contacting the Source-levels for each person daily. PU interchange has also been deepened with Nira Fialho in Caracas from Rio and by sending Jacobo and Steve to Kingston for 2 weeks and Antonio to Miami for 1 week (with the Kingston team.)

11. PRESS COVERAGE OF ICA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN VENEZUELA AND LATIN AMERICA: In May there were 4 articles about the ICA's 10th anniversary of human development in Venezuela in 3 major Caracas papers. We are beginning to learn how to utilize the press for promotion. (articles enclosed) One of the articles focuses on Caño Negro which recently celebrated its Patron Saint's Festival with a special 10th anniversary luncheon with speeches and toasts. The entire event was videoed.
12. EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING: Following up on the educators luncheon held in March while Jean Houston was here, we hosted an education network meeting at our Centre in May. The group decided to meet every 2 weeks to share resources and to create a plan of action.
13. RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCIES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR: In March and April we worked for a seismographic firm, SISMOVEN, in a town of 9,000 people named El Nula, in the state of Apure, near the Colombian border. (brochure enclosed) We are also preparing to hold a Symposium for the Llanos (prairie) in Guasdalito, Apure, paid for by CORPOVEN, one of the government's oil companies.
14. PLANNING BY THE LARGER WE: In May we have spent 3 weeks preparing for planning and planning. One Saturday we held a LENS type 5 year Vision workshop at our Centre for the Caracas house and colleagues from Chase Manhattan Bank, S. C. Johnson, Lagoven oil company, the University of Simón Bolívar, Goodwill Industries and the village of La Boca, Barlovento. It was a great happening. (charts enclosed) We later followed up with LENS workshops on contradictions, proposals and tactics. In June we will hold a Board of Directors Retreat for planning and facilitation training.

Accept our collegial salutations and deep wishes for your well-being - your courage, care, creativity and corporateness. We hope to hear from you soon.

Take care,

Rob Woule

for the
Caracas Anchor House
The Caracas Primary Unit

PS: With all assignments in place and with new national volunteers in Caracas and Rio we are now a Primary Unit of 51 persons, 37 adults and 14 children and youth!