THOSE WHO CARE

People asked me, "Who is the Institute of Cultural Affairs?" and I say that we are a notforprofit global group who's concerned with community development and methods of effective action and they say to me: "I don't mean that. I mean, who are you really?" "What makes you tick?" That's a hard question but I came to the place where I gave them, "The answer I noticed is in your book, on that first thin page; we are just those who care; we just care." We are part of those around the world who care and as I move around in various parts of the world I'm finding more and more people who just care. I don't mean care about the things that you are familiar with, that are close to you simply. I mean who care about this world, and care about what's happening in it. You care about the past journey, not only just of your own people, but of all people. You care about creativity. Not only do you care about the long journey of all mankind and all of the effort and suffering, you care about the future; you just care. You don't know any more than anyone else, and you don't have any easy solutions to anything! but you just care. Economists in our country call this the "invisible college." There were people who are around this world who are not formally related, but they were people who cared and therefore were sort of an invisible fellowship. I find these people in all places. I found people who care and I also found people who didn't care. I have to deal with government people quite a bit these days and I find walking into a man's office and you almost sort of "feel" he cares or he doesn't care. Last week I went to see Mrs. Gandhi's Chief Minister in her cabinet and he cared; it encouraged me. You know, if she died, he'd be Prime minister. I think, Mrs. Gandhi cares too. I went to another cabinet minister and felt he didn't care, but the other one cared. I also think that those who care around the world are finding out that other people care. I find that extremely encouraging.

My point is that when I got up this morning, I asked a serious question about all of us gathered here. We are teachers. We are planners. We are social workers. We are businessmen and women. And then I said, "Now .. who are we really?" I decided that none of us would have come to something like this very likely if we were not either self-consciously or un-self-consciously part of those who just care. And today we are going out to the local people of this beautiful island because in some way or another we care. If you don't mind we're gonna postpone the overall orientation until tomorrow morning so that we can get out into those villages quickly, and then when we bring back the information we get a context of what this is all about.

This time in history calls for action; and so we start out acting, and then get the contexting, the framework tomorrow morning in detail. Notice that today we are concerned with the latent operating vision which is present in the mind of common local man in Jeju. Mr. Wiegel in a moment will brief us of what we have to do. I suppose it's obvious to you that we're gonna work hard, very, very hard for these few days we are together, and each morning we will have a plenary session. We'll set aside the whole morning for us working together and thinking. Now when we get through with our thinking in the morning! well then we'll go back to work but we'll have the whole morning for plenary, in the afternoon and in the evening then we would work in units of ten teams of 10 or units of 5. Then the next morning we come back and pour in what insights and data we have and gestalt it as a whole group in the plenary session. That'll give us a sort of a rhythm but we are anxious that very shortly we get the wheels turning and that we get out to the villages on this island. You don't mint going directly to work, I suppose.