

LET'S MAKE LUNCH, NOT WAR!

CONYERS CALLS FOR BROAD OBSERVANCE OF 'STEALTH' HOLIDAY ON JANUARY 1, 2003: DC TO HOST EMBASSY-RELATED 'GLOBAL FAMILY POTLUCK' FOR ALL NATIONS

"In this time of mounting international danger, there is a largely unseen vehicle for reconciliation that can be employed quickly and dramatically to help reduce tensions and renew hope in our troubled cities, neighborhoods and nations," says Representative John Conyers, Jr., Democrat from Michigan. "It exists; it's real, but we need much broader observance this New Year's Day if it is to realize its potential. Let's make lunch, not war!"

That 'largely unseen vehicle' Conyers speaks of is the global "One Day of Peace and Sharing" holiday that will be celebrated for the third time on January 1, 2003. It commemorates 'the world's first deliberate day of peace' which was observed by one hundred nations and twenty-five U.S. states on January 1, 2000. (www.onedayholiday.org) OneDay involves a sharing of food and pledges of nonviolence by people of all faiths, cultures and nationalities. Made permanent by the US Congress in 2000 (Paul Wellstone's S.Con.Res.138) and by the UN General Assembly in 2001 (Res.56/2) 'OneDay' enjoys the backing of many heads of state, including those of Argentina, Iceland, Guatemala, Honduras, Bulgaria, Philippines, Cyprus, Bolivia, Mozambique, Romania, Slovenia, and the United States.

According to Linda Grover (co-founder, with Conyers, of the new holiday), "OneDay offers a chance for the people of the world to begin to act like a human family. If enough people knew about it, it could perhaps become the miracle catalyst that starts to turn things around. We've all seen how the Martin Luther King holiday, originally sponsored by Congressman Conyers has changed many people's basic outlook on race. And as President Bush has said, 'This [One Day] celebration represents an opportunity to reflect on our hope for a new year that brings peace, safety and freedom to all people.'"

Conceived and promoted by children, endorsed by religious leaders of all faiths, "OneDay" is now under the aegis of Global Mothers Foundation, a new international organization dedicated to building a world of peace and sharing. U.S. cities holding OneDay celebrations on January first include Portland, Oregon, Salt Lake City, Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan and Warrenton, Virginia, with various other celebrations planned internationally.

"We hope people *everywhere* will come out on January first to demonstrate our universal desire for peace and sharing," says Grover. "The simplest way to celebrate OneDay is to just get a loaf of bread, go outdoors at noon on January first and break bread with someone new. It can't hurt and it might help. We all 'have a dream that OneDay' the madness will end; I believe it's urgent we do something *now* to make that happen."

The official global focus event for 2003 will be held from 11-2 p.m. on January 1 in the gymnasium of the University of the District of Columbia, where a media/model "Global Family Potluck" will feature one family from every country sharing a favorite food with another family. Hosts include the District of Columbia, Global Mothers, Senator Mary Landrieu, Representative Mary Bono and Congressman Conyers. The event will focus on children's very visual efforts at expressing their wishes for peace. Families wishing to represent their country should call their embassy or 800-401-2011.

CONTACT: Ray Carrier (202) 544-8505 or Linda Grover (202) 276-7766

www.onedayholiday.org globalmothers@aol.com