

Reconstruction of a New Global Order

-Beyond Crisis Management-

The Report to the Global Commission for a Post-Cold War Global System

March 1992 The Japanese Committee for a Post-Cold War Global System,

Edited by **Dr. Kazuo Takahashi**

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Dr. Kazuo Takahashi

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Preface

In the face of the rapidly unfolding dramatic events over the course of 1989 and 1990, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation has sought to develop projects that would be of value to the world community at large. One major attempt has been to formulate a long-term perspective of global society in the hope that it would serve as a cornerstone for decision-makers as well as the attentive public in enhancing the range of options that they must examine to deal effectively with the increasing number of crises expected in the coming period.

The Global Commission was expressly formed for this purpose in the summer of 1991, consisting on top experts on global affairs from around the world. The Japanese Committee, whose mission was to provide the basis for deliberation by the Global Commission had been organized in the spring of 1991, comprising leaders of the Japanese political, business and academic communities.

The discussions held at the Global Commission were indeed extremely stimulating and often challenging. The relevant questions put forth were addressed from a genuinely global perspective. The Japanese Committee's examination of the papers prepared by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation proved to be a thought-provoking exercise. When the Committee addressed the issues presented by the Foundation, their primary criteria for evaluating them were the

experiences and perspectives of Japan.

This is accordingly a good opportunity in which to extend my appreciation to each member of the Global Commission and the Japanese Committee for their generously spending time with us and for their intellectual efforts. My sincere hope is that this report, which is the product of every contributor, will be of benefit to as many decision-makers and members of the attentive public as possible in their ongoing endeavors to create a long-term, constructive direction for the world community.

It is my fervent wish that the 21 Century will be a period of peace and prosperity for mankind, in contrast to its past history's tragic character of war, revolution, famine and environmental disaster.

Learning from these unfortunate experiences, and working more toward the constructive developments possible through scientific and technological advances, I hope that mankind will be able to navigate the present dangerous period of history safely into a more stable world system in the early years of the next century. The efforts of the Global Commission and of the Japanese Committee as reflected in this report are but a modest contribution to this objective.

Saburo Kawai

President

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

I . Introduction

Having entered a rare period in history of dramatic change over the past several years, world society will continue the process of systematic transformation in the years to come. The epicenter being Moscow, the origins of the present change can be traced to a number of factors, including science and technology, the relationship between man and society, and indeed more broadly the question of humanity.

Given the rather basic nature of the sources of the current dramatic change in world society, tremors from the epicenter will continue for a fairly long time. Crisis management will continue to be the central requirement of the world community. Crisis management has to be applied not only to such troubled situations as the collapse of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia but also to such new positive processes as the reconstruction of Cambodia, the transformation of South Africa, and the creation of a new Middle Eastern order.

In order to deal with these crisis situations, which will take place in a number of other places in the coming period, the world community has to develop policy instruments for effecting efficient crisis management. At the same time, it is essential for leaders to handle these crises based on a long-term perspective. A perspective from a

soft-landing spot in the future will contribute significantly to the choice of proper approaches to difficult problems expected to arise in the turbulent period. Therefore, it is vitally important for the world community to formulate a long-term vision at a time when crisis management is the essential task of its political leaders.

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation thus considered it essential to contribute to this formulation of a long-term perspective in the global community. Having explored a number of approaches over the course of 1989 and 1990, it was decided that a two-tier structure would be conducive to the tasks of this exercise. One tier would consist of top experts on global affairs from around the world. The other would comprise a group of Japanese figures totally familiar with this subject.

The global group should consist of a relatively small number of people representing the entire world community. The Japanese perspective, which will become an increasingly important factor in the world, would be formulated through the participation of all of the major leadership segments of the country. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation would take on the task of organizing these groups as well as of playing a central role in contributing inputs to the deliberations of these two groups. With the support of a great many of people, this broad idea was translated into action in 1991.

This exercise assumed the following. The Global Commission met twice, in Kyoto in October 1991 and in Tokyo in February 1992. Before each meeting the Japanese Committee met twice to discuss the draft of the issues prepared by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The first meeting of the global Commission discussed the issues paper, titled “Reconstructing a Global System”, which dealt with such questions as changing parameters and actors in the global society and the structure of the emerging global order. The second meeting considered a report, entitled “Reconstruction of a New Global Order —Beyond Crisis Management”, dealing in particular with scenario analyses. The present report has been redrafted to reflect the key points raised during the discussion of the Global Commission’s second meeting.

The time frame of this exercise was 20-30 years into the future. This time horizon was chosen in order to highlight the world community’s having passed the stage of crisis management. While there may be in 20-30 years time a number of new elements which are unimaginable now, most of the crucial elements that will constitute the fundamentals of global society then should be discernible in the present world community. The exercise was pursued with this assumption in mind.