

The survival of mankind is being threatened on all sides. There are already enough nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons in existence to kill every human being on the planet many times over. Our atmosphere, our soil, our inland waterways and even our oceans are being poisoned at an astonishing rate – some of the poisons (such as DDT and strontium-90) are scarcely thirty years old. Many vital non-renewable resources (such as petroleum) are being used up so fast that they are expected to give out within a few decades. The earth is presently groaning under the weight of 3.5 billion people – yet in thirty years time there will be seven billion or more if current rates continue. And, as the competition for dwindling resources grows keener, the prospect of all-out war becomes increasingly likely.

All of these threats are closely linked to the advance of scientific technology and the unexamined preconceptions of technological society. For this reason, scientists have both a special responsibility and a special role to play in this crisis. The aim of “SURVIVAL” is to create an alliance between scientists and non-scientists to fight for the survival of mankind, and of all life on earth, which for the first time in the four-billion year history of evolution is faced with the threat of annihilation through an irreversible process of biological degradation brought about by contemporary industrial society or by massive military conflicts. It is time for scientists to wake up to the great moral concerns of today and to their own obligations toward humanity. They can no longer afford the luxury of disinterested research at the expense of social responsibility; the problems are too pressing, the prospects are too uncertain, and the time is too short.

One of the principles governing all action of the SURVIVAL movement is its educative and auto-educative value. Scientists have to educate themselves so they can help to educate others. They can perform a vital service by communicating this information to the public in easily understandable terms, thus helping to stimulate a spirited public dialogue based on factual information and creative critical principles. Science has to be “demystified” – stripped of the aura of “black magic” which it has assumed among most people – and the cult of the expert as decision-maker has to be destroyed. Choices which affect the future of the race or the public health and welfare belong in the public arena; everyone should have the essential scientific facts available to him.

We are also convinced that mankind will not survive without a profound transformation of the existing social and political structures on the national and international levels. Any realistic appraisal of alternatives will necessarily involve a thorough analysis of the socio-political causes of war, pollution, waste, etc. The fight for survival will automatically include a political fight. However no common platform has been worked out, and it seems premature to do so now. It is hoped that such a platform will emerge in the course of positive action and on on-going dialectical process. But the problem is not only a social and political one; far-reaching changes on the part of the individual will also be necessary, based on a set of values very different from those prevailing today. We have been so steeped in the notion that Growth is Progress that we can no longer recognize cancerous growth for what it is! If we are to survive, we must think in terms of stability and equilibrium instead of unlimited expansion. We must outgrow the foolish belief that conspicuous waste, planned obsolescence, and exponential growth can bring about a sustained improvement in the quality of life, when in fact the quality of life is visibly deteriorating all around us. Radical changes in life-style, a

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dramatic re-ordering of priorities, a creative reassessment of what "progress" means, a profound rethinking of man's place in nature – not as exploiter, but as fellow-creature – these are some of the psychological changes that are required. The economic counterpart of such a change in mentality will be manifested in the suppression of waste of all kinds, recycling and reclamation of reusable materials, and the limitation of agricultural and industrial production to the satisfaction of genuine human needs rather than artificially created ones. All these transformations – social, political, psychological, and economic – will have to take place step by step and simultaneously, for none of them can be accomplished independently of the others.

Membership in SURVIVAL is open to all. It is an international and inter-professional movement, with members currently in France, Spain, Canada, U.S.A., Germany, Switzerland and England. We don't want to create a movement of scientists alone, but rather a vehicle of common action between scientists and non-scientists. Academics often approach down-to-earth problems from an overly theoretical point of view. They are seldom inclined to organize really effective action, as they are so used to indulging in purely speculative or intellectual activity. Working with people from other stations in life can be very beneficial in shaking scientists out of their academic lethargy and bringing them to the realization that their interest lies with the people rather than with the establishment. This is the main feature which distinguishes SURVIVAL from other groups espousing similar principles and pursuing similar aims.

Another feature which we stress is the importance of personal commitment and personal action. There is no point in joining SURVIVAL if it is just a matter of paying some dues and then doing nothing. People have to stop shifting responsibility onto the shoulders of others; it is the responsibility of each one of us to act for the survival of all. This responsibility entails educating ourselves on the principal aspects concerning our survival and actively discussing them in private and in public with our friends, colleagues, fellow workers, students, etc. It can express itself in the form of boycotts, demonstrations, joining local action-oriented environmental groups, writing letters to newspaper editors, raising funds for environmental lawsuits, etc. In the case of scientists, SURVIVAL strongly advocates the renouncing of military contracts (even those which are supposedly of a purely scientific nature), boycotting and/or picketing scientific meetings subsidized by military money, refusing to do research for firms pursuing flagrantly injurious policies, etc. Activities such as these are extremely useful in bringing the issues to the conscious attention of others, thereby awakening their consciences and stimulating a broader and deeper awareness of the manifold interconnections between all these factors which threaten our survival.

*We are not a splinter group. We are ready and willing to collaborate with any individuals or groups who are pursuing similar aims. Our objective is not so much to get adherents to SURVIVAL as to activate people who have so far been inactive. The most important task at present is to inform ourselves and others on the scope of the problems confronting mankind, and to promote and encourage new approaches to these problems. One means for doing this is our journal *Survival*, which currently appears in two editions: one in French (printed in Paris and distributed mainly in Europe), and one in English (printed in Canada and distributed mainly in North America).*

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