

RELEASE

The Founding Convention of the Cultural Environment Movement (CEM) will meet on March 15, 1996 on the campus of Webster University, its host and a co-sponsor. Preceding the Convention will be the first International Broadcast Standards Summit of leading program standards experts and regulators from several countries.

CEM is a coalition of independent grass-roots citizens' organizations and supporters in every state of the U.S. and 57 other countries on six continents. The Founding Convention, an invitational assembly, is the first time that delegates of affiliated and supporting organizations and other leaders meet to set up a representative structure, elect a Coordinating Council, and develop an action program.

Delegates to the Convention represent the leadership of a wide range of social and cultural organizations and concerns, united in working for freedom, fairness, diversity, responsibility, respect for cultural integrity, the protection of children, and democratic decision-making in the cultural mainstream of all countries.

Convention speakers include Joan Brown Campbell, General Secretary, National Council of Churches; Dorothy Gilliam, *Washington Post* columnist and Immediate Past President of the National Association of Black Journalists; Bill McKibben, author of *The Age of Missing Information*; Robert McChesney, historian and author of *Telecommunications, Mass Media and Democracy*; Sumi Sevilla Haru, Immediate Past President of the Screen Actors Guild; Riane Eisler, cultural historian, author of *The Chalice and the Blade: Our History our Future*; Fred Garcia, Acting U.S. Drug Control "Tzar;" Lynn Curtis, President of the Eisenhower Foundation; Keyan Tomaselli, Director, Centre for Cultural and Media Studies, University of Natal, Durban, South Africa; Nicholas Johnson, former FCC Commissioner (invited); and Teresa Heinz, Chair, Heinz Family Philanthropies (invited).

Performances by the Infinity Dance Theater, Red Path Native American musicians, Key of See Storytellers, Artists for Recovery, Charlie Murphy youth development worker, Neddie Astudillo Latin American community activist and singer, Samba Bom Brazilian band, and other artists will be special features at the Convention.

The International Broadcast Standards Summit will meet in the morning of March 15 preceding the formal opening of the Convention that afternoon. Participants will discuss national programming policy priorities, issues involved in the development of international standards, and the draft of

a universal People's Communication Charter to be submitted to the Convention.

Attending the Summit will be Keith Spicer, Chairman of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, Colin Shaw, Director of the Broadcasting Standards Council of Great Britain, Yassen N. Zassoursky, President of the Licensing Authority of the Russian Republic, Cees Hamelink, Director of the Centre for Communication and Human Rights in Amsterdam; Ronald L. Cohen, National Chair of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council; and heads of broadcast standards councils, communications commissions, and other experts from the U.S. and other countries still being confirmed. Jeffrey Cole of the Center for Communication Policy at UCLA and Kathryn Montgomery, President of the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Media Education will chair the morning and afternoon sessions, respectively.

For additional information about CEM and invitations contact Sheila Witherington, Director of Operations, CEM, 215 387 5303, fax 215 387 1560, e-mail BWITHE@ASC.UPENN.EDU. For Convention and Summit program information and interviews contact George Gerbner, Founder and Chair, the Cultural Environment Movement, Tel/fax 215 387 5202 or 610 642 3061, Fax only 215 387 1560, E-mail FGG@ASC.UPENN.EDU

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