

## The Future of the International Union

At the IU Executive Committee meeting in January '96, there was a brain-storming session in response to President Godfrey Dunkley's proposals for strengthening the organization and outreach efforts of the IU. Here is a summary of the ideas discussed:

— The IU is the only truly international Georgist organization and it is an accredited UN NGO member. It therefore makes sense that it should become the umbrella body representing the collective majority opinion of all Georgists. Therefore it remains essential that individuals — who may be the only Georgist in an entire nation! — are allowed to become members in their own right. Georgist Corporate bodies all over the world should become "Corporate members"; all of their individual members being accorded an "Affiliate" membership in the IU. This would make the IU a credible international organization with thousands, rather than hundreds, of members. What Georgist would not be proud to be an Affiliate member of such an organization?

— If each Corporate member paid an annual £15.00 (with discounts for students and pensioners) and each Affiliate paid £5.00, then the IU would be able to employ a part-time secretary and UN NGO representative.

— Every effort should be made to spread our ideas worldwide through the contacts made at the United Nations and the medium of electronic mail. Papers or resolutions disseminated in these ways could have far more exposure and value than those delivered at our conferences.

— The Georgist movement should take a huge step forward into modern methods of communication. After all, as Henry George himself said, we are mainly marketers and promoters. George's ideas need new packaging, new market planning and promotion.

— Above all, we must focus our efforts on practical applications. The world is reaching a crisis situation, and it is time to curtail both effort and funds spent on pure theory. Georgists have prepared themselves for decades; now we must apply our knowledge, for it is sorely needed.