

UNESCO PEACE PACK BRINGS PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE CLASSROOM

Paris, January 20 {No.98-9} - UNESCO has produced 1,000 peace packs rucksacks containing educational material about peace and human rights - as part of a one year experimental project to provide schools around the world with effective educational aides. This initiative coincides with this years 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UNESCO is distributing these rucksacks to institutions which are part of its Network of some 4600 Associate Schools in 147 countries.

Teachers and educationalists can add material targeting the specific needs of the region or community they work in so as to increase the pertinence of these peace packs to local conditions. UNESCO is hoping to be able to distribute more, improved, peace packs following the experiment but will require sponsors to help finance this costly programme.

The brightly coloured peace packs come in the form of a rucksack, or back pack. They have been designed for elementary school teachers.

They include: A teachers handbook on how to use the items in the peace pack and ideas for classroom activities to reinforce peace in the curriculum; a poster of the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; a booklet about the United Nations, its activities and the principles of international co-operation which underpin the world organisation; seven activity cards about peace, tolerance, the environment and more; cards with the appeals to world leaders by the 500 children from all over the world who took part in the seven Sub-Regional Childrens Culture of Peace Festivals of 1995; a video featuring highlights of the Festivals; a poster reproduction of a peace scroll produced by children during the Festivals; a series of posters about tolerance and peace; the illustrated UNESCO brochure - What is a Good Teacher? - of children explaining what it is that makes a good teacher, in English, French and Spanish; and two ready to sew pencil puppets and a mask.

The pack also contains an evaluation sheet which teachers are invited to return to UNESCO with their comments in view of improving the peace pack which is to help teachers prepare their pupils for peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution in a multicultural world.