



AMERICAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
CLUB OF GENEVA

## **Mikhail Gorbachev - 1997**

"In Search of a New World Order"

Nobel Peace prize winner, former President of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev, presided over the birth pangs of a new democratic Russia, one of the world's largest countries: by "pushing open the gates of reform, unleashed a democratic flood that deluged the Soviet universe and washed away the cold war." TIME Magazine, Tatsyava Tolstoya.

The keynote of Mr. Gorbachev's speech was the need to share. Any new system, he said, seen in all its aspects-political, social, and environmental-must be inclusive of all humanity, not just the "Golden Billion". If there are another five billion people or more who do not even have enough to eat, let alone the comforts and luxuries that we take for granted, how can we hope for peace? The past cannot be a guide for the future, but the late 1980s showed the way-the end of the cold war, real steps to nuclear disarmament, German reunification-but the impetus has been lost. Problems persist today in Bosnia, Albania, Chechnya, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and many other impoverished countries.

He was emphatic about the need to find a new role for the United Nations and the importance of giving the Secretary-General the support necessary to fulfill his responsibilities -not the lack of support that made Boutros-Ghali's tenure of the office so difficult. What is absolutely certain, he said, is that we need *qualitative solutions for all*. We need to abandon the idea that a *laissez-faire* approach will solve the situation. Nor should we countenance any attempts by a single super-power to lead on its own. It's an interdependent world; it needs a multipolar system, a collective strategy and a scale of human values.

"I believe", Mr. Gorbachev said soberly, "that the challenge before us is nothing less than the survival of humanity. Great powers should abandon their rivalry. We need a collective strategy for the world. We need new criteria for the economy and for profit. Time is of the essence. A global consciousness is emerging-it gives me hope".

Mr. Gorbachev came to Geneva, the world centre of humanitarian activities, for a Green Cross International meeting. Mr. Gorbachev is its president and Mr. Shimon Peres, with whom he shared the American International Club's Gala Dinner rostrum, with over 600 guests in attendance, is also on the board of the Green Cross. The AIC was honored to be able to welcome these two great leaders and Nobel Peace Prize winners on one very special evening. Mr. Gorbachev founded in 1993, the Green Cross International, which he believes will have a catalytic role to play in the world's future. Its stated objective is to facilitate a change in the relationship between humankind and nature to create the mutual balance essential for sustainable development.

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