

A Manifesto from Moscow

A group of activists meeting in Moscow discussed how to improve the promotion of land-and-tax reform plans worldwide. They met in the Hotel Rossiya, next door to the Kremlin, on May 22 — the day after presenting evidence at a congress on land policy co-organised by the State Duma of the Russian Federation and the London-based Land Policy Council. They issued a statement after the meeting listing the points of agreement:

WE BELIEVE that Georgist organizations worldwide have not been as efficient as they could be. We should

- ☞ begin an open discussion regarding investment and spending strategies, our view being that there has been too much concern in preserving the "Nest Egg" at the expense of promoting the cause.
- ☞ finance the creation and distribution of books on a continuous basis, published when possible by good commercial or university presses. An important objective of this effort is for one or more of these books to capture the public imagination in the manner of George's *Progress and Poverty*.
- ☞ pool our resources to produce a popular world-wide journal relinquishing our individual journals and publications (to the maximum extent possible).
- ☞ support a coordinated effort to extend our educational activities to the internet, as well as investigate the use of CD ROMs and other new technologies in our educational programs.
- ☞ inform known activists in less developed countries in an effort to forge partnerships and thereby identify opportunities for implementing our model of reform as an example to the rest of the world.
- ☞ identify a general strategy for achieving significant breakthroughs in each developed country, and particularly those where there are Georgists actively engaged in reform
- ☞ create a membership-run organization with the sole purpose of raising funds to support activism, distributing all (but a small operational reserve) of its annual income to finance the activities most likely to further the above aims. An elected program committee would evaluate program submissions and make recommendations to the membership, who would vote approval or rejection.
- ☞ finance the development of a computer-based, multi-factor statistical forecasting model of the economies of particular countries. These studies ought to become the basis for consulting services to governments and private groups on a contract basis.
- ☞ incorporate into our analysis a deliberate interdisciplinary approach that stresses not merely economic efficiency but issues

presently treated as political science, the law, sociology, anthropology etc.

☞ establish an international scholarly forum for the discussion of sociopolitical principles, public policy issues and the implications of collecting rent as public revenue. If possible this forum ought to be conducted at a permanent center that would also house research, educational programs and activist training.

☞ not overstate the benefits to be obtained by steps in the direction of public collection of rent, especially small steps.

☞ initiate discussion on the issue of compensation for those who lose from the implementation of public collection of rent.

☞ finance an academic program, M.A. or PhD, to encourage scholarly work from a wider range of scholars on issues of concern to us.

Participating in the discussions were: Ronald Banks, Chairman, Land Policy Council, London; Edward Dodson, Board Member and former President of the Henry George School of New York; Dr. Kris Feder, Associate Professor of Economics, Bard College, New York; Fred Harrison, Director, Land Policy Council; Dr. Michael Hudson, a Wall Street analyst; Sir Kenneth Jupp NC, former English High Court judge; Dr. Duncan Packard, a Scottish land owning farmer and former Leeds University lecturer; Dr. Nicolaus Tideman, Professor of Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, newly elected President of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.