

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ENCOUNTER



Dinard • St Malo • France
12 to 17 June 2001



SPORT FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

HIGHLIGHTS AND RESULTS

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Preface

500 faces with one and the same smile, looking towards friendship



Creating solidarity, transforming it into friendship and sharing a common passion for peace, tolerance and a team spirit by promoting respect for cultural and regional diversity: these were the proclaimed aims of the “International Friendship Encounter” held on the Emerald Coast of Brittany from 12 to 17 June, 2001.

This Encounter brought together 500 young people from nearly 60 countries by means of a large-scale international mobilization and afforded them the opportunity to demonstrate the contribution of sport to a culture of peace by participating in sports and cultural activities. Through these activities the young participants and their teachers came to realize the importance of the values which are universally shared through physical education and sport and to grasp the true sense of the universal maxim: *mens sana in corpore sano* (a healthy mind in a healthy body) which is essential for the intellectual and physical development of young people and of all humankind.

The variety of the sports and cultural activities made available to the young people revealed the scale of their needs and their expectations, generating an impact and spin-off that far exceeded our hopes and the targets that were set.

The progress of the “International Friendship Encounters” since 1997 has paved the way for international participation by attracting ever increasing and highly encouraging requests, both from the countries that took part and from those that have heard about the event. This augurs well for future Encounters.

I had the honour to participate personally in this Encounter and saw for myself the joy and enthusiasm of the young participants. I wish you every success for future Encounters.

John Daniel

UNESCO Assistant Director-General
for Education



A daunting challenge.

It was a daunting challenge: bringing 500 boys and girls together from 60 countries and setting the scene for an awakening of friendship by means of a sports encounter. That was a very new experience for UNESCO.

These young people were able to overcome political differences and linguistic barriers and show that competition is not tantamount to hostility, that to surpass oneself is more important than to outmatch others and that tolerance is beneficial to all. They were able to demonstrate that it is just as necessary to respect other people and freely accepted rules in society as it is in sports activities, and that trying to understand others is never a waste of time.

Sport requires discipline and so it also reminds people that there are no rights without duties, that the duties we accept guarantee the rights of others.

The French National Commission is pleased to have participated in this joyful celebration of friendship. If young people can adopt this virtue with the enthusiasm that characterizes their youth, we may hope that the adults they are soon to become will understand in turn that human rights are not an abstract concept and that they should be applied at all times by every individual in social interactions. Human rights are always talked about in the plural, and that is legitimate. They are indeed diverse and therefore the concept itself is difficult to grasp. However, it is precisely because of their diversity that human rights should be the constant concern of all. Nothing would be worse than to restrict them to a specific area – whether legal or philosophical.

The French National Commission upholds a view of human rights that cuts across the definitions. It sees human rights as being important in themselves rather than just for us.

Jean Favier

Chairperson of the French National
Commission for UNESCO

We want a healthy mind in a healthy body: sport for all, boys and girls.
Let's reinforce solidarity and friendship in all parts of the world!

Youth

We, young people participating in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network in sixty countries from all parts of the world met in Dinard/Saint-Malo, Ille-et-Vilaine, France, 12-17 June 2001, we are very concerned by:

- > The lack of youth awareness of all the positive dimensions of sports,
- > Decreasing youth participation in sport activities,
- > Insufficient sports opportunities and facilities for young people and especially for girls,
- > The lack of physical education and sport infrastructures, as well as lack of commitment to invest in sports,
- > The existing gap between rich and poor countries,
- > Increasing violence and the abuse of drugs, tobacco, alcohol consumption,
- > The disappearance of traditional sports and games.



APPEAL

16 June 2001

We call for urgent action since we, young people, feel that Physical Education and Sport help young people to:

- > Be in a better health both mental and physical,
- > Feel more fulfilled and have more confidence in ourselves,
- > Help us young people to succeed better in our studies,
- > Learn to live together with respect to rules, self discipline, honesty, cultivate tolerance for cultures, differences and beliefs,
- > Be an active and responsible member of society, and prevent all kinds of social exclusion,
- > Prevent and eliminate violence, racism and prejudices,
- > Spread solidarity to deprived people and people in difficulty,
- > Encourage and enable girls and women to have equal opportunities,
- > Ensure a culture of peace and real international co-operation.

Consequently, we invite Youth worldwide to take the following action:

- > Participate maximum in sports,
- > Refrain from taking drugs and from doping,
- > Be responsible because we are the ones building the future,
- > Behave in a spirit of good sportmanship (fairplay, teamspirit),
- > Do not get discouraged and do not give up because you are not yet a champion, because competition is only one aspect of sport,
- > Get rid of all kinds of prejudices,
- > Students should donate time, money, equipment for less fortunate children and young people.



We invite Physical Education and Sport Teachers to:

- > Encourage all students to do their best knowing that they all have different capabilities,
- > Explain better to students all positive aspects of sports,
- > Propose to students a wide range of sport activities and let them choose what they want to do,
- > Do not give your students more pressure than they are able to stand,
- > Have more mixed sport activities for girls and boys.



We invite the Media (press, radio, television, Internet) to:

- > Cover important events such as our International Friendship Encounter,
- > Encourage young people to do sports: video clips, commercials, talkshows, covering youth championships,



- > Focus on a wide range of sports not just the most popular ones,
- > Give much more media coverage to female sports.
- > Forbid any advertising for tobacco and alcohol in all parts of the world.

We invite the top Athletes:

- > To set a good example and encourage young people to take part in sports by sharing their experience and explaining to them the advantages of sports,
- > Devote regularly part of their time to support young people's sport activities by visiting sport clubs and practicing with them regularly,
- > Volunteer and share some of their earnings in order to sustain sports development for young people to struggle against violence



We invite National Authorities, Decision Makers (Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Culture, National Olympic Committee, etc.) to:

- > Pay more attention and give more support to events such as the International Friendship Encounter,
- > Give more training and sports facilities to Physical Education and Sports teachers,
- > Mobilize and better co-ordinate the contributions of Ministries (Youth and Sports, Education, Health, External Relations, Public Works, etc.) to support the development of sport activities for young people,
- > Organize youth exchanges between countries to learn more about their traditional sports and game



We invite the International Sports Federations such as the International Soccer Federation, the Formula 1, etc:



- > Share some of their earnings in order to sustain sports development for young people in support of non-violence on the fields and in the stadium,
- > Zero tolerance for doping,
- > Ensure women in high decision making positions which are mostly occupied by men

- > increasing its efforts in asking national authorities to be more committed and give more support for youth and sports,
- > mobilizing top athletes to continue to co-operate and assist in developing the Friendship Road



We propose to the International Olympic Committee:

- > Organize olympic sport activities for young people between the ages of 10-18 as well as for young people with special needs,
- > Reinforce support for athletes from all disciplines in all countries so they can fully participate on an equal level in the Olympic Games

We invite the United Nations:

- > To be strongly involved in developing with UNESCO the Friendship Road and organizing other future encounters.



We invite UNESCO to support us by:



- > Helping organize National Friendship Encounters and continue to promote sports for a Culture of Peace by building the Friendship Road,
- > Being the bridge between young people and decision makers, diffuse our Appeal and seek support for its implementation,
- > declaring the 16th of June an international sports day for friendship and solidarity,
- > organising every 2 years an International Friendship Encounter,



The Encounter sought to mobilize educators and hundreds of young people from around the world, in particular from ASPnet (Associated Schools Project Network) schools, to participate, in a spirit of fellowship, in a programme promoting "Sport for a Culture of Peace".

1. Objectives of the Encounter

The International Friendship Encounter thus aimed to reinforce the ethical and humanistic dimensions of physical education and sport by fostering cooperation and intercultural dialogue, as well as promoting health, well-being and equal opportunities. Beyond the actual event, this international encounter was meant to encourage the development of a general outlook based on respect for human dignity and diversity in order to help young people and teachers of physical education and sport build a world of friendship.

Sport for a culture of peace: the International Friendship Encounter aimed to provide young people with a forum for joint expression and reflection on the basis of experiences in sports, cultural, artistic, economic and social activities. Participating young people and teachers from the five regions of the world came to the Encounter to uphold this spirit of friendship and mutual respect among their peers.

Besides the sports and cultural activities the Encounter created an opportunity to share experiences and to organize debates between the young participants and experts. The Encounter ended with the drafting of a Youth Appeal for Friendship aimed at decision-makers and young people worldwide.

The Appeal's main objective was to establish and communicate the view that young people have of physical education and sport today as well as their hopes, expectations, proposals and commitments for the future.



From 1997 to 1999, a series of successful National Friendship Encounters for youth on the themes of friendship, sport, culture and peace was organized under the Physical Education and Sport Programme in several Member States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Guyana, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Peru, Togo, Uruguay and Uzbekistan) in the framework of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

These encounters mobilized many young people, who thus actively demonstrated their determination to promote a spirit of fair play and social harmony through sport. As citizens of a world in which they would soon be full players, they expressed the wish to see UNESCO organize similar encounters at the international level.

This Encounter was also a follow-up to the World Conference on Education and Sport for a Culture of Peace that took place at UNESCO in July 1999, and to the first World Parliament of Young People, held in October 1999 at the French National Assembly and at UNESCO in Paris, which led to the proclamation of the Youth Manifesto for the Twenty-First Century. The latter indeed recommended the organization of "international sporting events where each team would be composed of young people from different countries".

Furthermore, the Third International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS III), Punta del Este, Uruguay, 30 November to 3 December 1999, examined a strategy and recommendations aimed at promoting the development of physical education and sport internationally and at national level.



The Ministers insisted on the importance of physical education and sport (PES) as part of the process of continuing education and of social and human development in general. They also stressed the potential of PES as a facilitator of social cohesion and mutual tolerance.

The resulting recommendations were a strong source of inspiration for the first International Friendship Encounter, in particular the suggestion that "ASP Schools (Associated Schools Project) be included in the implementation of objectives and activities in the field of sport since they are one of the worldwide networks through which the objectives and goals of the culture of peace are promoted".

Lastly, the first International Friendship Encounter took place within the framework of the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations and of the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001) as well as of the United Nations International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

3. Partners and co-organizers

The International Friendship Encounter was the result of a remarkable combined effort by partners who contributed their diverse skills and abilities to ensure the meeting's success.

ASPnet (Associated Schools Project Network) and the Section for Preventive Education and Sport of the Division for the Promotion of Quality Education United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) were co-organizers of this first International Friendship Encounter.

According to its Constitution, UNESCO's primary objective is to "contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations".

The French National Commission for UNESCO, whose task is to promote and carry out UNESCO objectives and programmes in France, was the other main co-organizer of the event.

The French Ministry of Youth and Sports and its local institutions, including the Centre régional de l'éducation populaire et des sports (Regional Centre for Sports and Popular Education) in Dinard and the Regional Direction for Youth and Sports, contributed to the success of the event by providing the technical and logistical means needed for the activities and or the accommodation and supervision of the young participants.

The local authorities (City of Dinard, City of Saint-Malo, Regional Council and General Council of Ile-et-Vilaine) made their infrastructure and facilities available for the meeting.

The French National Olympic and Sports Committee participated in the selection of subjects to be discussed and mobilized some fifty experts to lead the debates with the young participants.

A number of private companies and associations also offered their skills and services and thus contributed to the success of the event.





4. Participants

The mobilization effort was by all standards successful, with the participation of some 500 young people from 55 countries worldwide, whose selection aimed at ensuring the best possible geographical balance.

Each country was asked to send a group of 4 to 6 students between the ages of 14 and 17 (with both genders equally represented) and an educator – preferably a physical education and sport teacher.

Priority was given to students and educators representing one or several schools from the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) in their country and meeting a number of criteria established by the organizers, such as being in good health, having some experience in sports, and taking an active part in the life of their school and in ASPnet activities.

In addition, the young participants had to be able to present a group performance in the field of either culture (dance, music, singing, etc.) or sport, and have a team spirit and the ability to live in a group and express themselves in public. Another requirement was open-mindedness and a genuine desire to meet young people from other countries and cultures.

The educators had to be active in the life of their school and within ASPnet, and have both a keen interest in international cooperation and the ability to exercise responsibility over their group of young people throughout the Encounter.

As teachers, they were also required to “cultivate” a team spirit, a sense of sharing and solidarity, and an openness to others, and to have the ability to propose innovative ideas on the significance of physical education and sport in the educational process. A final requirement for both students and educators was the ability to speak either French or English fluently in order to ensure that a genuine intercultural dialogue would develop.

Before the Encounter:

As a preliminary to the Encounter the national ASPnet coordinators had been asked to organize discussions between students and educators for the purpose of reviewing the subjects that would be developed during the Encounter. This was done to ensure the best preparation for an intercultural dialogue about sport for a culture of peace and to facilitate the drafting of the Appeal. The subjects to be discussed were mentioned in the confirmation documents that were sent to participating countries:

Physical education, sport and society

- > **Physical education and sport as a means to combat violence: in society, in sporting events, in the practice of sports;**
- > **Physical education and sport as a means to combat all forms of exclusion;**
- > **The significance of physical education and sport in the promotion of the spirit of fair play, respect for rules, discipline and the team spirit;**
- > **Physical education and sport as a means to bring together young people from different cultures, countries and continents in a spirit of mutual respect, intercultural dialogue and friendship;**
- > **Equal access opportunities for both genders in physical education and sport;**
- > **The importance of physical education and sport in personal health and in physical, psychological and emotional well-being;**
- > **Preventive education for a sound practice of sports as a means to combat drug abuse, tobacco and alcohol consumption and to cope with the issue of doping;**
- > **Practice of traditional games and sports in the framework of intercultural exchanges;**
- > **Sport for all and at all stages of life;**
- > **Proposals aimed at improving and developing physical education and sport.**

The participants, after careful selection, were thus asked, before the Encounter, to summarize their thoughts and proposals for young people and decision-makers worldwide. A number of texts and suggestions were sent for review to UNESCO and to the French National Commission for UNESCO. This facilitated the preparation of debates on and the exchange of views and experiences during the Encounter regarding the ethical dimension of sport.



5. Location

The Emerald Coast

The Emerald Coast takes its lovely poetic name from the shimmering green sea along the Atlantic coast of Brittany. With its jagged coastline, it boasts many resorts and spas, as well as beautiful mansions and ship-owners' houses, reminders of the area's maritime past.



The department of Ile-et-Vilaine on the Emerald Coast is endowed with an exceptional cultural and natural heritage. Because of its maritime history the Coast has acquired a tradition of openness to the world and of trade

and cooperation. This made the area an ideal venue for an international gathering such as the Encounter.

> **Dinard**, the garden city on the shore with its lavish architecture, is the site of many international cultural and sporting events through which it demonstrates the growing interest it takes in the wider world.

> **Saint-Malo**, the "pirate" city with its legendary ramparts, marinas, opulent commercial harbour and long-standing tradition of openness to other peoples, was another ideal setting for an encounter of young people from all four corners of the globe who will help to shape tomorrow's world. These two beautiful nautical towns with their impressive landscapes and first-rate sports facilities thus joined forces to contribute to the success of the Encounter, a gathering that combined sport and culture.





Arrival

Sport for a Culture of Peace. How?

The delegations from 55 countries were greeted at the airport or at the railway station and taken to their lodgings near Paris, where they were able to rest and enjoy some refreshments while waiting for the rest of the participants.

In Paris, several guided tours were organized for the participants, most of whom were coming to France for the first time. Among other places they were taken to see the Stade de France, the famous stadium that was built for the World Football Cup in 1998, and the Eiffel Tower – by night. They were also given the opportunity to travel on the Parisian underground railway, the Métropolitain, whose centennial was celebrated that year.

On 12 June, they travelled to Brittany, the venue for the International Friendship Encounter, on a “friendship train” especially chartered to transport the delegations.

By then the participants had had the time to get to know one another. At Saint-Malo railway station they were met by the local organizers and Vents et Marées (“Winds and Tides”), a local group of singers specializing in traditional sea shanties. The young people were then taken to their respective lodgings in Dinard and Saint-Malo.

Opening ceremony: a multicultural musical event

The Encounter rapidly became a mass gathering of young people from ASPnet schools and countries worldwide. When they donned their traditional clothes, Brittany suddenly took on the colours of the rainbow. Everyone attending the opening ceremony on 13 June 2001 at the gates of the city of Saint-Malo, on the Esplanade Lamennais in front of the ramparts, thus had the opportunity to discover some customs and features of different cultures during the musical and costumed dance performances.





Delegations: Haiti, Qatar, Republic of Korea, France and Bulgaria



Delegations: Viet Nam, New Zealand, Sweden and Poland



Welcome speeches also saluted the opening of the International Friendship Encounter, Sport for a Culture of Peace. The first speaker was Mr Fouligné, Deputy Mayor of Saint-Malo, who on behalf of the mayor greeted “all these young people gathered here as ambassadors of friendship and peace. [...] May the light of hope shine throughout these five days of friendship”.



Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, on Sport for Development and Peace and a former head of the Swiss government, stated that “the connection between peace and sport is self-evident! Sport facilitates contacts between individuals or between groups, as is the case here [...] where many different languages are spoken [and] the most diverse cultures are able to intermingle”. Mr Ogi handed over to the young people attending a set of game balls donated by Adidas.



Jean Favier, a historian and Chairperson of the French National Commission for UNESCO, said how pleased the Commission was to share responsibility for the organization of this great celebration of friendship. He also expressed the following wish: “If young people can adopt this virtue with the enthusiasm that characterizes their youth, let us hope that the adults they are soon to become will understand in turn that human rights are not an abstract concept and that they should constantly be applied by every individual in social interactions”.



Hamid Oussedik, Chief of the Section for Preventive Education and Sport, pointed out that “despite the sense of rivalry that is inherent in competition, sport can and should be a factor of unity and fulfilment, a means of achieving understanding and solidarity on an international level, an irreplaceable instrument of universality”. It is in this context that UNESCO strives to boost the efforts of all those who act to enhance sport’s humanistic mission and values and to make sport an integral part of the process of continuing education as well as a tool of fulfilment and friendship, an instrument of peace and development, because, “if sport has a meaning, it can only be found by turning towards humanism”.



A selection of top-level athletes then addressed the young people, who were eager to hear the view of sport held by people who practise it at the highest level:

Bernard Lama (France), World Football Champion from “Les Bleus”, the French national team, argued in favour of multicultural sports teams and their contribution to the fight against racism.



Susie O’Neill (Australia), twice Olympic Butterfly Swimming Champion in Atlanta and Sidney, made an enthusiastic plea on behalf of universal access to sport, telling the young audience “anybody can be a champion like me”.



Regla Torres (Cuba), a volleyball champion who was voted “Best Athlete in the World”, spoke of the need to raise young people’s awareness about the power of sport in the balance of peace.



All the athletes emphasized the close connection between sport and friendship and strongly encouraged young people to cultivate this precious tie.

After the speeches, participants representing different continents performed a series of musical and dance numbers – first the students from Norway, then the students from Uruguay, who danced an impressive tango. Haiti and Costa Rica displayed their brilliant colours and the Rwanda delegation dazzled the audience with a dance celebrating their joy at participating.

The performers even managed to draw some of the attending personalities into the dance while the athletes joined in with enthusiasm, on the stage at the foot of the Saint-Malo ramparts. Lastly, the students from New Zealand presented two Maori dances in traditional costume.



The Encounter thus began in a joyful musical atmosphere.

The next day, the young participants began to engage in a wide variety of sports and physical, cultural and intellectual activities. Educators also had regular meetings aimed at discussing physical education and sport and at making proposals for the improvement of sports education, to better serve the ideal of a culture of peace and non-violence.



Sport as a Vehicle for Peace and Dialogue Among Young People and Cultures:

In order to involve the young participants as much as possible in discussion and action to reinforce the role of sport as a facilitator of peace and non-violence, three different types of activities were included in the programme of the Encounter: sports, cultural and intellectual activities.

7. Main focal points of the Encounter



Sports

A. TEAM SPORTS

Marville Stadium, Saint-Malo

- > Football
- > Rugby
- > Field hockey with mixed multicultural teams

1. Objectives:

To live and play together in a spirit of fair play and respect for the rules, intercultural dialogue, access to sports for girls, etc. The idea was to encourage all participants to achieve a feeling of unity while developing the will to cooperate in friendship.

2. Unique features:

The teams were mixed and consisted of young people from different countries. All the participants were thus given the opportunity to either practise or discover the three team sports: INITIATION AND GAME





ounter



B. DISCOVERY SPORTS

Plage de l'écluse, Dinard

- > Rowing
- > Kayak
- > Golf
- > Fencing
- > Circus
- > Sand ball

1. Objectives:

To introduce the young people to various new physical activities, bringing out the diversity of these discoveries by means of an educational approach and actual practice.

2. Unique features:

The participants formed small teams and engaged in a variety of games that require skilfulness, solidarity, creativity and initiative.

Each challenge called for physical strength, flexibility, agility or a good sense of coordination.



Thus the young people not only enjoyed themselves but also realized the value of traditional games which are often easy to practise and usually require little equipment.





C. TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES

Parc des Marettes, Dinard

1. Objectives:

To strengthen values, cultural identity and intercultural dialogue through a better understanding and appreciation of traditional sports and games and of the recreational heritage of the countries represented and the host country.

2. Unique features:

The participants formed small teams and engaged in a variety of games that require skilfulness, solidarity, creativity and initiative. Each challenge called for physical strength, flexibility, agility or a good sense of coordination.

Thus the young people not only enjoyed themselves but also realized the value of traditional games which are often easy to practise and usually require little equipment.





Cultural activities

La Briantais, Saint-Malo

- > Drums and African dance
- > Traditional music and dance from Brittany
- > Hip Hop music and dance
- > Discovery of traditional dishes from Brittany: cooking and tasting.

1. Objectives:

Participation in play activities aimed at acquiring a better understanding and appreciation of other cultures, thus promoting a spirit of international cooperation and tolerance. Opportunity for the young people to share a moment of joy and friendship.

2. Unique features:

Under the guidance of experts, the young people selected a creative workshop that helped them participate in an intercultural dialogue through dance, music and even local food traditions



A crucial component of the Encounter, the debates were organized between participating young people, top-level athletes (including Béatrice Hesse, French Olympic Swimming Champion, Disabled Sports, and Sébastien Flute, French Olympic Archery Champion) and sports experts (mainly members of the French National Olympic and Sports Committees). They focused on the ethical and humanistic dimension in the practice of sports.

Debates on sport, peace and non-violence



2001 was the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations and the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and this also served as a source of inspiration for the debates.

Before the Encounter the participants had prepared contributions on the themes in their home countries. The thoughts and comments they brought to the debates were used as a springboard for the discussions:

- > Prevention, sports and health
- > Equal access opportunities for both genders in the practice of sports
- > Non-violence and fair play, violence, racism and doping – disdain for victory at any cost
- > Integration through sport

These four current topics of great significance were discussed by the participants in groups of approximately 30 under the guidance of an expert in the relevant field. All debates resulted in the drafting of recommendations aimed at improving physical education and sport, and constituted an important step in the subsequent drafting of the "Youth Appeal" by a delegation of 11 participants from five continents chosen by the students.



Sébastien Flute,
Béatrice Hesse

A. PREVENTION, SPORT AND HEALTH

This section focuses on the medical and social aspects of sport:

- > The sports that people practise should be appropriate to their age, build and personal abilities and limitations, in the interests of physical well-being and pleasure.
- > In the practice of sports it is essential to respect the body and abide by the rules that define relations with one's peers, in order to achieve harmony with oneself and others.
- > A healthy and balanced diet must be maintained to facilitate self-expression through sports.

Well-being, respect, good health, a personal heritage worth protecting - these words were recurrent in the debates. The discussions naturally focused on the need for quality physical education in the framework of a healthy regimen that facilitates social integration. A necessary condition for this goal to be achieved is the cooperation of coaches and teachers from all disciplines in warning young athletes about the dangers of substances which can harm their bodies (such as alcohol, tobacco and drugs).

Because it has the ability to overcome the language barrier, sport was thus recognized by all participants as a crucial instrument of communication and dialogue.

B. EQUAL ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH GENDERS IN THE PRACTICE OF SPORTS

Though both genders are equally entitled to practise sports, there can be differences between boys and girls:

- > Natural build and exertion capacity.
- > School organization and facilities available for athletes of all levels.
- > Some local, national or regional customs do not allow women to have a leading role (as trainers) and to practise sports that require them to uncover their body in public.
- > The influence of the media, which mainly cover the so-called male sports, on the image of sports practice. "Male" competitions are more common and are deemed more profitable by sponsors.

The public at large must become more aware of the need to give girls and women better access to the practice of sports. In this respect, the mixed, multicultural teams formed during the Encounter were viewed by all participants as setting a standard, and this innovative step was an eye-opener.



Sigrid Niedermayer,
Associated Schools
Project Network

C. NON-VIOLENCE AND FAIR PLAY, VIOLENCE, RACISM AND DOPING – DISDAIN FOR VICTORY AT ANY COST

In this section the recommendations dealt with the need to use sports as a genuine tool of communication and education overcoming all cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic barriers.

Multicultural sports teams are a striking illustration of this ideal because despite the differences between the players all team members have the same goal in common and are able to pursue it in a spirit of harmony and solidarity.

- > Sports must be practised with a positive outlook and an open attitude toward others.
- > The practice of sports as a hobby must be encouraged.
- > The goal is not to win at any cost but to do one's best, whatever one's physical abilities.

In the organized practice of sports, the spirit of fair play must be recognized and rewarded in results assessment. When absent it must be promoted via information and education programmes that emphasize the key message: "what matters is to participate".

It was thus recognized that sport is a decisive facilitator of good citizenship and of contact and dialogue between individuals, and that it is a prime vehicle for the promotion of peace, justice and tolerance provided that sports rules are understood, accepted and applied by respecting others.

D. INTEGRATION THROUGH SPORT

During this debate, the participants reviewed national situations and pointed out the fundamental harmony between general and physical education, which together contribute to a balanced education system that answers at once the needs of the mind and of the body.

The various activities and debates organized during the Encounter were a concrete illustration of that harmony, and they also demonstrated the power of integration contained in friendly group encounters that target a single objective.

All agreed that athletes should act as role models for young people and strive to promote through first-hand accounts the ethical values and benefits of sports.

During this debate the participants also worked in subgroups on creating educational projects for the integration of young people in society through sport.

The projects brought out the desire for genuine collaboration between teachers, sports professionals and prominent athletes to help through sport with the integration of young people in difficulty:

- > in institutions containing infrastructure and equipment supplied by sports companies and which house and raise underprivileged children who are regularly visited by prominent athletes.
- > through international friendship encounters between countries with different economic levels to promote the practice of inexpensive sports.

Four teacher sessions were organized to allow educators to exchange their ideas and practice concerning the improvement of physical education and sport.

The participants were mainly physical education teachers. Some language teachers and school heads also attended. They all enjoyed the multicultural working groups and had productive debates in English, French and/or Spanish. The groups all agreed to express their observations and suggestions in the form of recommendations.

Special teacher sessions

- > improve training for physical education and sport teachers;
- > view physical education as a fundamental right and an important factor in the physical and mental health of young people;
- > give physical education a genuine place in the education system and in the curriculum; broaden its status and scope to include traditional sports and games, as these curricula and methods are outdated and ill-adapted and the training for educators is poor or non-existent in some countries;
- > promote traditional sports and games to reinforce young people's identity and values and compensate for the lack of funds, infrastructure and equipment;
- > supply more adequate means for physical education, make the necessary equipment and infrastructure available to the broad community;
- > (for educators) teach the values attached to sport while stimulating students' interest and enthusiasm and encouraging positive attitudes. Some countries bemoan the lack of interest in sport among their young people, and the growing appeal of television, computer and video-game screens, whose effect is to isolate young users and keep them inside the house. These countries recommend the establishment of a fair and balanced set of guidelines to create an equilibrium between modern needs and core educational needs;
- > the practice of sports is an important factor in personality development and it helps young people recognize the value of mutual respect and the notion of limits. It also enhances sociability and plays a role in the building of moral character through group activities. In concrete terms, the practice of sports teaches young people to respect others, including adversaries, to recognize defeat and victory, to apply the rules and the principles behind the rules – in summary, it is the apprenticeship of democracy and good citizenship;

- > the integration of disabled young people in schools and physical education classes would benefit the entire social group;
- > equal access for both genders is a necessity though the circumstances of physical education may differ from one country to another and cultural traditions and attitudes may have various consequences on the practice of sports; success will be achieved only if the teaching is adapted to the particular cultural, social and traditional context of each country;
- > increased opportunities for meetings between top-level and physically challenged athletes (ex: through participation in Paralympic Games) can have a considerable impact in terms of role models;
- > a different evaluation procedure should be introduced and promoted which would reward participation, cooperation and fair play instead of solely focusing on physical performance;
- > exchanges of experience between countries should be encouraged; in particular, ASPnet should be asked to organize more encounters and exchange programmes, such as twin schools and mutual assistance projects between schools

Cultural visits



The participants in the Encounter were given a tour of two of the most prominent cultural sites in the French heritage: the Saint-Malo ramparts and Mont Saint-Michel, which has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1979. This visit provided a glimpse of the natural, historical and architectural heritage of the region and of the country, France, which hosted this first International Friendship Encounter.

The "Wonder of the West", a gothic-style Benedictine abbey dedicated to the archangel Saint Michael, and the village that sprung up behind its walls stand on a small rocky island, on a vast expanse of fine sand regularly flooded by powerful tides. The construction of the abbey in this difficult site, between the eleventh and the sixteenth centuries, was a technical and artistic tour de force which sustained the young participants' interest during the visit.

"On the final day all the participants in the Encounter formed a human chain across the bridge that connects Saint-Malo and Dinard. This too was an awesome experience. We had all been given different coloured tee shirts and despite the rain, it was a wonderful colourful sight seeing so many young people holding hands across the bridge. If only achieving world peace could be so simple and so much fun!"
Megan Lourie, teacher in charge of the New Zealand delegation.

8. Highlights of the Encounter

The Chain of Friendship



Teenagers from across the world and from across Brittany holding hands in a human chain of solidarity and friendship on the Rance River dam – that was how the Chain of Friendship appeared on the morning of Saturday, 16 June 2001. The dam between Dinard and Saint-Malo suddenly became a special place, a symbol of union and international cooperation.

The participants in the Encounter had been hiking in two separate groups. The rain had not dampened their enthusiasm and they met on the bridge, coming from Dinard and from Saint-Malo. There they were joined by the organizers, athletes and other attending personalities and, together, they sang songs of friendship filled with joy and hope.

This was a very intense moment which lived up to expectations. After a week of sharing, the young participants proudly showed everyone that the peoples of the world can agree and live together in harmony and mutual respect. The sun made a much appreciated appearance to salute the finale of this striking initiative.



The Youth Appeal

Eleven students representing the five regions of the world were selected by the young participants to form a drafting committee. After holding several meetings the committee produced the "Youth Appeal" which addresses young people across the world as well as decision-makers, athletes and international organizations.

- > Ahmed Fouad Ahmed Al Kindi (United Arab Emirates)
- > Charlène Massolin (France)
- > Davy Songré (Burkina Faso)
- > Hanne Paulsen (Norway)
- > Kim Thi Nguyen (Viet Nam)
- > Meokgo Mashishi (South Africa)
- > Milda Petraityte (Lithuania)
- > Nadège Lyndjake (Togo)
- > Renzo Tucac Ginesetti (Uruguay)
- > Sabah Semati (France)
- > Youngjun Kim (Republic of Korea)

The appeal was written in English and French, the two official languages of the Encounter, under the guidance of UNESCO representatives and of David Enault, a journalist from Agence France Presse. It contains recommendations aimed at improving the quality of sport practice and of physical education.

It is an appeal to the world from all the students who participated in the International Friendship Encounter. The members of the drafting committee speak on their behalf, reporting the contents of the week's debates and discussions.

The "Youth Appeal" is directed at young people, physical education teachers, decision-makers and national and international authorities. It carries a message of peace, solidarity and international cooperation promoting Sport for a Culture of Peace. It emphasizes the educational value of sport and its significant role in the process of peace, non-violence and integration for young people in today's multicultural society.

The Info-Flash

A newsletter in English and French, Info-Flash, covering developments and highlights, was produced daily by a drafting committee organized with the cooperation of journalists and photographers. Info-flash was distributed to participants every evening, providing an opportunity to view a brief summary of the day's events with comments and photos and the programme for the next day.

The participants were also given a CD-ROM of photos of the week's events – competitions, debates and discussions on sport, its educational value and contribution to a culture of peace.

All who attended the Encounter agreed at the end of this most productive week that universal access to a balanced quality education in optimal conditions was of paramount importance



On Saturday, 16 June 2001, participants and organizers gathered for one last multicultural celebration at the Centre Equestre du Val Porée in Dinard. Like the Encounter itself, this was an intense moment aimed at symbolically bringing together all of Humankind

10. Closing - An emotional moment



**Ms Sonia Mendieta
de Badaroux, Chairperson
of the Executive Board
of UNESCO**

**Mr Jean Favier,
Chairperson of the French
National Commission
for UNESCO**

**Mr John Daniel,
UNESCO Assistant
Director-General
for Education**

**Mr Marius Mallet,
Mayor of Dinard**



Marius Mallet, the Mayor of Dinard, declaring the official closing of the first International Friendship Encounter, planted the symbolic Tree of Friendship with the assistance of the local authorities and the representatives of world youth.

John Daniel, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, representing Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, observed in summing up this international event that *"everyone now sees clearly that the education system must give sport an appropriate place to strike a balance and strengthen the links between physical activity and the other strands of education"*.



He then introduced the Youth Appeal, which was read out aloud in English and French to all participants and attending public figures by



- > Kim Thi Nguyen: from Viet Nam, representing **Asia**,
- > Charlène Massolin: from France, representing **Europe**,
- > Davy Songré: from Burkina Faso, representing **Afrique**,
- > Renzo Tucac Ginesetti: from Uruguay, representing **Latin America**
- > Ahmed Fouad Ahmed Al Kindi, from the United Arab Emirates, representing **the Arab States**.

As was the case throughout the Encounter, the importance of intercultural dialogue was emphasized. As the celebration continued, Bulgaria, Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, South Africa, Romania, Martinique, Nicaragua and Rwanda presented facets of their culture on stage through music, dance and/or sports displays.



A "Participation Medal" was offered by UNESCO to each student and teacher who had taken part in all the activities in a spirit of fair play, openness to others, mutual respect and solidarity. Each delegation also received a "Friendship Cup" from John Daniel, and a laurel branch, the Olympic symbol, was presented to all the teachers as a group.

After the official speeches, music concluded the event. Tony Irvine performed John Lennon's song Imagine – a perfect choice for the occasion ("Imagine ... a brotherhood of men ... all the people sharing all the world ...") Then Chico Bouchikhi, the musician and singer who founded the French group "The Gipsy Kings" sang heart-warming peace songs with his nephew Pachai.



After the meal shared beside the Centre Equestre, participants and organizers watched a gigantic fireworks display from the main lawn – a finale that made all eyes glitter and rejoiced all hearts.

This event was covered by the local media, which conveyed to those who did not attend the emotion and messages generated by the first International Friendship Encounter. Coverage of the entire week had been provided by a team from Ouest France, the local newspaper, and a UNESCO audiovisual team headed by Mr Oudatchine, whose story on the Encounter was broadcast on CNN. This was a stimulating example of friendship and solidarity that went well beyond the limits of sports encounters.

On 17 June 2001, young people from across the world hugged for the last time on the Paris-bound "Friendship Train" before returning to their faraway home countries at the end of an unforgettable week full of symbolism. The message of peace and friendship had broken through, and it will remain in the memory of many. Gilles, a participant from Switzerland, went so far as to say: "This Encounter has changed my life".

These young people are bearers of hope. They will build the world of tomorrow on the foundation of the principles they have absorbed from a rich and balanced education, one that promotes an awakening of the mind and body through the values of humanism.





In this respect, the first International Friendship Encounter provided a very meaningful and concrete illustration of what international solidarity means in the context of promoting education for a culture of peace, especially through physical education and sport.

The Encounter's short-term objective was the mass mobilization of young people in support of sport and physical education for a culture of peace. It seems that this objective was reached. The week of exchanges through sports and debates on the educational value of sport was extremely productive.

This extraordinary Encounter was an opportunity to initiate an intercultural dialogue of solidarity. As such, it was a strong contribution to the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations and to the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

It must indeed be kept in mind, as the young participants themselves pointed out, that no one is born a racist but that people become racists, and that one of the main causes of racism is ignorance.

"During this world meeting, the young participants have seen more than they could immediately grasp and they have learned more during these few days than it will ever be possible to teach them at school" – Megan Lourie, physical education teacher from New Zealand.

In the longer term, the Friendship Cup presented by UNESCO to each delegation will connect with the symbol of the "Road of Friendship", which will start at the site of the Encounter and stretch across the world through each participating country with the assistance of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

To underscore the importance of this celebration of the ethical values of sport, a delegation of five participants was selected at the end of the Encounter to convey its message contained in the Youth Appeal at the World Scholar Athlete Games at the University of Rhode Island in the United States between 22 June and 1 July 2001.

These games were organized by the Institute for International Sport and brought together some 2.000 young participants from 151 countries. The encounter was extremely productive and focused on sports, artistic activities and debates on sports ethics, peace and health. Among the event's highlights were a visit to United Nations Headquarters in New York and memorable opening and closing ceremonies.



The "Road of Friendship" was thus opened with the closing of the first International Friendship Encounter in Dinard and Saint-Malo. The "Road" is intended to raise awareness and mobilize young people around the world about physical education and sport for a culture of peace. It will publicize the Youth Appeal and act to apply it, and it will encourage the organization of local, national and regional friendship encounters. UNESCO will also organize regular International Encounters (once every two years) to ensure the continuation of the dialogue and intercultural exchange that have been established as recommended in the Youth Appeal.

The "Road of Friendship" is a genuine international campaign whose progress will be charted in a Road Diary. The Diary will facilitate the development of instructional aids applying the principles and recommendations that have come out of the various encounters in support of better physical education for all as a vehicle for UNESCO's ideals.

Emphasis will also be placed on "sport and health", especially in the area of preventive education concerning the fight against AIDS.

"Physical education is not an end in itself. It is at once a means of self-fulfilment, an instrument of education and emancipation and a method of socialization and integration".

Koichiro Matsuura,
Director-General of UNESCO



One year later...
A testimony by Mélanie Ricquebourg,
La Réunion, France.

« I am writing to you on behalf of all of my friends from The Réunion Delegation, who were invited one year ago to attend the International Friendship Encounter. I am writing to you to thank you for having invited me to take part in an unforgettable experience which gave us new motivations for our future and to share our friendship beyond the superficial barriers of "races".

This trip gave us the opportunity to incorporate in our daily life little things that completely opened us to the wider world instead of closing ourselves up, in our small world. Such awareness building develops on several fronts including linguistics. The simplest fact to want to learn better foreign languages becomes much more important because we realize suddenly that they can be a daily tool (especially for corresponding and one should not believe that "the others will learn French").

Also and after the "cultural interaction" in which we took part for more than six days, one discovers a "thirst" for culture, one feels a real and strong will to know about the life of others. And finally, we open up to the outside world especially through information. Obviously, five days are not enough to get to know 500 young people but even if we do not remain in contact with them, we try to follow what is happening in their countries. And if sometimes we rejoice, just knowing that all is well for one or for the other, one also feels unfortunately bad, sad and even afraid when we learn about difficult situations, for example in Argentina...

I do not always understand what was able to bring us so close together, I would even say "to unite" us because we are more than just pen pals, maybe the fact that we became "a human chain" (a very good symbol I believe because it was a very strong highlight of our stay), or to be brought together for a good cause and to have understood that we were all young people with the same hopes, ideals, expectations, which go well beyond the superficial notions of "races" and of "differences" which they try to teach us.

I still feel deeply, more than one year afterwards, this strong link, which we have kept! I feel that the most moving testimony of friendship which one can give after having lived together only one week is from this person who writes to you saying that "his/her house and heart are always open to you" (Ida Ohlsson, Sweden), or the one "in spite of this rapid separation, the only wish which I now make is that your whole life will be filled with the same happiness that we had this week" (Renata Kfour, Brazil). But I believe the most touching and realistic declaration came from one of my dearest friends at present, Martin Novak (Slovakia) who in sending me his message and in referring to the Saturday night party "that in his whole life he will never be as happy as he was that night and that he will never have so many friends together at the same place".

Hence, I thank you once again, a last time, for this profound joy and this unique feeling of pure friendship that we were able to live one year ago together with 500 friends, thanks to UNESCO and its partners! ...

Whatever will be, and to finish this letter, I thank you again and wish that many other adolescents will have the same opportunity, which we had a year ago».

A delegation from La Réunion (France), which is grateful to you.

Liste des pays présents



1 Albania



2 Argentina



3 Benin



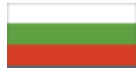
4 Bosnia and Herzegovina



5 Botswana



6 Brazil



7 Bulgaria



8 Burkina Faso



9 Canada



10 Costa Rica



11 Croatia



12 Cuba



13 Denmark



14 Ethiopia



15 France



16 Gabon



17 Georgia



18 Germany



19 Greece



20 Guyana



21 Haiti



22 Israel



23 Lebanon



24 Lithuania



25 Madagascar



26 Mali



27 Morocco



28 Namibia



29 New Zealand



30 Nicaragua



31 Norway



32 Poland



33 Portugal



34 Qatar



35 Republic of Korea



36 Republic of Macedonia



37 Republic of Moldova



38 Romania



39 Russian Federation



40 Rwanda



41 Senegal



42 Slovakia



43 Slovenia



44 South Africa



45 Rwanda



46 Sweden



47 Switzerland



48 Togo



49 Tunisia



50 United Arab Emirates



51 United Kingdom



52 Uruguay



53 Uzbekistan



54 Venezuela



55 Vietnam

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2001-2010

International Decade
for a Culture of Peace
and Non-Violence
for the Children of the World



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