

# EDITORIAL

*While working on the UNCED issue we have tried not to neglect other areas where important changes are occurring. In this respect we are pin-pointing changes in the Russian Federation (see page 175), as well as developments in Sri Lanka (see page 182), and Kenya (see page 164).*

*In February 1992, in the first step of UN Secretariat reforms, UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali created a single Under-Secretary-General for economic and social matters, merging several offices: The office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation is now under the new Under-Secretary-General, without conveying to the new office all of the former Director General's inter-agency coordination functions. Its new status is lower than that of the Director General. UNEP, UNDP and UNCTAD are among the UN programmes that remain independent of this structure.*

*In May, UNEP's Executive Director temporarily re-organised some of the functions of his senior staff, following the retirement on grounds of age of William Mansfield and Sven Evtsev. In order that their experience shall continue to be available in the months ahead, the Executive Director has asked both to continue working as his Special Representatives. It was clear that any final changes would have to await the outcome of Rio.*

*Readers will now see in the chapter on "international institutions" of Agenda 21 (see page 298), that UNCED has recommended that special attention be paid to UNEP and UNDP. UNEP is to be strengthened in its existing mandate to promote international cooperation in environmental policy, environmental monitoring, assessment and early warning, and general information dissemination and awareness-training. It is now specifically called upon to further, inter alia, the development of international environmental law and its implementation and to support requests by governments to help them improve national legal and institutional frameworks, in cooperation with UNDP efforts in capacity-building.*

*However, there was no discussion as to how adequate financial resources could be secured in order that UNEP can carry out these tasks.*

June 17, 1992

*— Jeffrey R. Beatty —*