

# CAUX

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## Press Release

### A VALUES-CENTRED FUTURE - CAUX BUSINESS CONFERENCE

People were unprepared for the global re-adjustment that the fall of the Berlin Wall had set in motion, a leading German academic said this evening. Professor Dr. Klaus-Heinrich Standke, President of the Internationale Akademie Schloss Baruth, in Berlin, and special advisor to the Director-General of UNESCO, spoke in the opening session of the 25th annual Caux Conference for Business and Industry, on the theme of 'Learning to create a values-centred future'.

Speaking on 'Values and the new Europe', Standke, who has trained hundreds of post-communist managers, asked, 'Is Europe becoming a second-rate power, and are we actors in or victims of globalisation?' We are in a kaleidoscope of power relations, he noted, quoting the present crisis in Kosovo, where Europe has turned to the United States, because Europe has failed to speak with one voice, but then blames the Americans for dominating. He quoted Kissinger's plea for one phone number, one person to call, to consult on policy decisions in Europe, instead of having to talk to each of the Foreign Ministers concerned. There is no European identity, Standke noted with regret.

The problems are of a magnitude that we have never experienced before, Standke continued. Full employment might be no longer possible, but the challenge was to ensure work for all in Eastern and Western Europe, he said. We need more than one Caux, with this kind of setting, for decision-makers to meet, for company chairmen who need to learn to include social as well as economic factors in their decisions, he said. How can we get away from the exclusive concern with share-holder values, he asked? Europe had to put North-South relations at the top of the agenda for the coming century; they were quite absent at present. Standke called for a wider debate on universal values, and a search for a global ethic.

The international conference centre for Moral Re-Armament in Caux, Switzerland, will draw some 2,000 people during the coming six weeks of conferences on the overall theme of 'Changing the Ways of the World'. The summer conferences opened on Saturday with a weekend on Switzerland, 'learning from the past, learning from others, and searching for value-centred leadership'. This included exchanges of experience between Swiss, facing their past from the Second World War period (treatment of Jewish refugees, sales of Nazi gold, and the dormant bank accounts issue); Germans from East and West, looking at their Nazi and Communist pasts; Australians sharing their experiences of trying to deal with their past treatment of the Aboriginal people; and black and white participants from the USA speaking about their struggle to overcome racism.

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