



FIRST CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS STAKES

Lyon City Hall, July 1st-3rd, 2004

PRESS RELEASE

Institut Aspen France is organizing its first international conference on “*Religious Stakes*”, to be held from July 1st to 3rd, 2004, at Lyon City Hall.

International and domestic news makes reflection on the stakes of religion particularly relevant. The resurgence of religious phenomena around the world, their impact on the evolution of national and international politics, on cultural evolutions and on life in our societies give rise to contrasting assessments and questions, notably in this period of adaptation to major changes and new forms of modernity. Faced with the many questions that these phenomena and their consequences bring up today, Institut Aspen France felt the need to organize a rigorous, diverse and open discussion.

This first meeting will be dedicated to the topic: “**The Question of Religion in the Western World: State, Religion and Society**”. This will be a privileged opportunity for open, cross-cultural discussions on religious phenomena in our Western societies (session I), the relationship between religion and the State (Session II) and the return of the religious dimension in economic and social life (Session III).

In keeping with the Institute’s methodology, the conference will bring some forty participants to the Aspen Table, decision-makers from various countries and outlooks (those in charge of different religions, economic and political leaders, journalists, academics and heads of associations), including: **Hassan Abouyoub**, Moroccan Ambassador to France; **Jean Bauberot**, Honorary President of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes; **Peter Berger**, Director of the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs (Boston); **Pierre-Antoine Bernheim**, author and historian; **Jérôme Binde**, Director of UNESCO’s Division of Foresight, Philosophy and Human Sciences; **Malek Chebel**, author and anthropologist, **Pastor Jean-Arnold de Clermont**, President of the Council of the Protestant Federation of France; **Regis Debray**, President of the European Institute of the Sciences of Religions; **Lama Denys**, Lama Rimpoché, Sangha Rimay; **Mario Giro**, Head of International Relations for the San Egidio Community; **Bawa Jain**, General Secretary of the World Council of Religious Leaders (Millennium World Peace Summit, New York); **Frédéric Lenoir**, Philosopher and author; **Katherine Marshall**, Director and Counselor to the President on Development, Dialogue on Values and Ethics, World Bank; **Brother Samuel**, Head of Philosophical Education at Maison Saint-Joseph, **Jean-Jacques Wunenburger**, Dean of the College of Philosophy at Université Jean-Moulin.

Institut Aspen France is an independent, non-partisan international forum for discussion and dialogue, with Mr. Raymond Barre as Chairman and Jérôme Huret as President. It is affiliated with the Aspen Institute in the United States, Berlin, Rome, Tokyo and New Delhi. Its goal is to organize informal meetings between leaders and players from the fields of economics, politics, academia, trade unions, culture and the media so as to encourage better mutual understanding and to gain a better outlook on the economic and societal changes facing them.

Institut Aspen France

119 rue Pierre Corneille, 69003 Lyon – France

Tel: + 33 (0)4 72 41 93 12 – Fax: + 33 (0)4 78 42 10 41 – contact@aspensfrance.org