

Chapter I

WHY HAVE A SISTER CITY?

Our world has become a world of cities - three quarters of the global population will live in urban communities by the end of the decade - and the common concerns of their citizens cut across dividing lines of language, customs and geography. Eventually, the heavily populated portions of the planet will share the problems of a single world city and the local levels of government, those closest to the people, will have the most to say to one another.

The Sister City Program, which already links hundreds of American communities with cities in over 65 nations in rewarding exchanges of people and ideas, anticipates this dialogue between global neighborhoods. It is only recently that the foreign relations of cities and those of their individual citizens have entered the international arena; but, they are already a powerful force for

