

# The ACORN

## A Gandhian Review

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### To the Reader:

For some time we have been observing with much interest the development of the Green movement throughout Europe and North America. We are sure that many of our readers have been doing the same; perhaps, some of them are themselves actively involved in various activities associated with the Green movement. Who are the Greens? What is the Green philosophy? Is the Green movement a political or a social movement? Or is it, more fundamentally, a cultural movement seeking a new way of life, or even a movement calling for humanity's self-transformation? Perhaps, it is all of these. In the next issue of *The Acorn*, we are planning to include articles devoted to these and other related issues.

We are interested in the Green movement from a Gandhian standpoint: we want to do a Gandhian appraisal of it, sorting out what is and what is not Gandhian in it. In so doing, we will pay special attention to the West German Green Party as a paradigm case. Without doubt, the German Greens are the most visible of all Greens, both in success and failure. They have articulated their fundamental principles of nonviolence, peace politics and grassroots democracy. They have proposed a comprehensive program dealing with various problems ranging from world peace, disarmament, defense, environmental protection, social and economic justice, and human rights, to transportation, health, zoning, food and so on. Their radicalism and utopianism are unmistakable. But so are their contradictions and differences in their notorious factionalism; indeed, they often depart from their own principles in their constant squabbling. What can we say then about these Greens, especially from a Gandhian standpoint?

As we are planning a special issue on the Green movement, we invite our readers who are already familiar with this important development to reflect on it (to be sure, from a Gandhian standpoint) and send us their reflections for inclusion in the next issue. These pieces may be in the form of an article or a letter, depending on their length. (Obviously, we cannot include all submissions, especially long ones.) Please send your pieces by the end of July, 1988.

The Editors