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My message to the inauguration of the Stone-circle ONLY ONE EARTH

My name is Loren Acton. I am a solar scientist, an astronaut, and a friend of Sweden and all who care deeply of the health of the environment on our wonderful planet Earth. My wife, Evelyn, and I send all of you gathered at the Ethnographical Museum of Stockholm warm greetings and best wishes on this World Environment Day.

I wish it had been possible to gather with you in person for the inauguration of the stone circle, made with stones from all counties of Sweden and many countries of the world beyond. It is a beautiful symbolism that these stones have been brought together by we humans into a circle just as we must come together to understand and deal wisely with important environmental issues.

The Creator must like stones – because there are so many! Stones, just like we ourselves, are made of elements created in the explosion of giant stars, called supernovae. These gaseous elements are gathered together into new star-forming regions under the influence of gravity and new stars with their planets are formed. On and within these planets, through the marvellous processes of Nature, stones of many kinds and all forms of life come to be. Thus, the creation of your stone circle is, in a way, a culmination and acknowledgement that we and our environment here on Earth all goes back to the stars of the sky. Is it not a wonderful thing that humankind has the mental tools to begin to understand and to appreciate, through science, all of these things?

It was a good and positive action that fifty years ago, here in Sweden, it was decided that the United Nations should have an environmental program and that UNEP was soon inaugurated for this purpose – to look after the health of our fragile environment.

Let us all be thankful for good environmental steps taken in the past and continue to do our very best to take advantage of what we are learning every day from science and experience to make wise choices and undertake wise environmental actions for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you and to participate, if only in thoughts, in the inauguration of the stone circle celebrating ONLY ONE EARTH.