

## Thomas Hammarberg

### A School for Children With Rights

Der Schwede Thomas Hammarberg ist im Umfeld der Menschen- und Kinderrechtsorganisationen sehr bekannt. Er war von 1976 bis 1979 im Vorstand von Amnesty International und von 1980 bis 1986 ihr Generalsekretär. Von 1986 bis 1992 war er Generalsekretär von Rätta Barnen, der schwedischen Organisation von „Save the Children“. In dieser Zeit half er auch aktiv mit, die Kinderrechtskonvention zu gestalten. Zur Zeit ist er Berater des schwedischen Außenministeriums in Menschenrechtsfragen und Spezialemissär des UN-Sekretariats für Menschenrechte in Kambodscha. T. Hammarberg hat eine rege publizistische Aktivität und hält auf der ganzen Welt Vorträge über Menschen- und Kinderrechte. Dieser Beitrag ist ein Auszug aus „A School For Children With Rights“ erschienen 1998 in Florenz/Italien und herausgegeben vom UNICEF International Child Development Centre. (S. 20-25)

#### 6. Mutual Respect

The inner life of the school must reflect its educational message, including the values of human rights, such as the importance of tolerance and respect for those who are different. Democratic learning requires respectful relations in the school. The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that the human dignity of the child should be respected: "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention" (Article 28, 2).

One important task is to give children the tools for peaceful conflict resolution. It is

thus most important that teachers themselves do not use violence against pupils. However, *violent abuse* is a *major problem* in *school life world-wide*. Very few Governments have taken effective measures against this. Teachers in a number of countries continue to use violence as a means of trying to establish discipline. One contributing factor is their often impossible work load, with large classes, insufficient assistance and little support from outside.

Corporal punishment in schools is explicitly permitted in a number of countries and, sadly, is seen as routine. This is in violation of the Convention. The Government in postapartheid Namibia, however, tackled this problem and recommended a non-violent approach;

