



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

UNA-USA Newsletter - Nashville Chapter

P.O. Box 121745, Nashville, TN 37212 [www.una-nashville.org]

Fall 2009

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Fall Meeting and Dinner

Monday, November 9, 2009

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**“The Obama Administration’s Foreign Policy Challenges and the Role
of the UN: A Practitioner’s Perspective”**

Featuring

Ambassador Thomas Miller

President and CEO, United Nations Association-USA

**Massey Board Room, 4th Floor Massey Business Center
Belmont University**

(Parking in garage of Inman Health Science Building*)

Reception 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Program 7:00 p.m.

Reservation Required

Call (615) 870-8446 or email una-event@bellsouth.net
by noon Tuesday, October 27

(Please specify if vegetarian meal preferred)

Cost: \$25.00 (Program only is free)

Ambassador Miller devoted 29 years to the US Foreign Service, working on policy issues in the Balkans, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. During his career, he served as Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina (1999-2000) and to Greece (2001-2004) as well as negotiator for Cyprus. Most recently, Ambassador Miller was the Chief Executive of Plan International, a \$650 million international agency that focuses on improving children's lives in developing countries. He has also taught university courses on international relations and diplomacy.

In May 2009, Ambassador Miller was appointed CEO and President of the United Nations Association-USA. He resides with his family in Washington, D.C.

***Parking** - Entrance to Inman Garage is from drive to the left of the building from Wedgewood Ave. Take elevator to the 2nd floor of the Inman building and follow signs to cross walk to Massey building and to the elevator to the 4th floor.

President's Corner

Our Fall Dinner is usually scheduled to coincide with United Nations Day, October 24. However, this year we are meeting two weeks later, on November 9, in order to welcome to Nashville the new national president and CEO of UNA-USA, Ambassador Thomas Miller.

We will all have the pleasure of listening to him in person on November 9. In the meantime, I would like to use this space to share with you an article that he wrote, with UNA-USA co-chairs William J. McDonough and Thomas R. Pickering, that addresses key issues of concern to UNA-USA. This article was published on the op-ed page in the *International Herald Tribune* on September 22, the day that President Obama addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations.

I most sincerely hope that you will join us at the dinner on November 9 as we welcome Ambassador Miller.

Mary Pat Silveira
Nashville, Tennessee

'Do as I Do' Diplomacy

Written by William J. McDonough, Thomas R. Pickering and Thomas J. Miller and reproduced from the International Herald Tribune, September 22, 2009)

When President Obama steps to the podium at the opening session of the 64th U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday he will be making his inaugural address on the world's stage. This occasion will provide a singular opportunity for the president to move forward with his promise to restore America's global standing, and he can do so by invoking a somewhat forgotten tool of U.S. foreign policy — international treaty law.

Since the middle of the last century, the pursuit of a commonly accepted, rules-based international system has been a defining objective of American foreign policy. This was particularly true in the period immediately after World War II, when the United States led the way in creating a regime of multilateral treaty-based institutions. Since then, however, U.S. support for the international rule of law, as expressed through the ratification of international treaties, has been uneven at best. In recent years, American willingness to support multilateral treaties has hit an all-time low.

'Do as I Do' Diplomacy: (Continued)

To be sure, the Obama administration has taken a number of significant and concrete steps to renew America's support for international law, including working with Congress to ensure the United States fulfills its U.N. Charter obligations to pay its assessed share of the organization's expenses. The administration also has expressed support for U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. More recently, in late July, the administration signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

These are important steps in the right direction. Yet as long as the United States remains on the outside of widely supported treaty regimes by not ratifying them (many of which we played a lead role in drafting) America's global influence will not be all it can be. In today's ever-globalizing world, our reluctance to endorse multilateral agreements undercuts our ability to develop and participate in the coordinated global efforts that are increasingly necessary to effectively confront transnational challenges like climate change, human trafficking and nuclear proliferation. International treaty law provides the requisite framework for such collective action.

An international law-based system allows nations to be held to shared standards of conduct and facilitates efforts to mobilize the international community against those that break the rules. Failure by the United States to join multilateral treaty regimes reflecting fundamental American values, such as those protecting the rights of women and children, undermines our ability to successfully promote those values abroad. Our ability to speak out and hold other nations to their commitments is handicapped by our failure to assume those same obligations for ourselves.

In a speech last month at New York University, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, Susan E. Rice, declared that America's influence abroad is stronger when we lead by example. When President Obama takes the stage in the General Assembly Hall, he can make immeasurable progress toward his goal of reclaiming U.S. moral authority by strongly reaffirming America's commitment to ratifying widely endorsed international treaties that we have already signed. By pledging to his fellow leaders that America will end its self-imposed exile from these important global agreements, the United States will strengthen the force of its example and its ability to promote core U.S. values and national interests.

ABOUT UN DAY 2009

The UNA-USA has dedicated its 2009 United Nations Day commemoration to Goal 8 of the UN Millennium Development Goals. This goal, to develop a Global Partnership for Development, is an issue that has profound implications for development, education, health and economic conditions in countries and regions across the globe.

Among the major challenges for the US in effectively meeting this goal is increasing its official development assistance (ODA). The US is currently the single largest provider of ODA in total dollars but lags behind many Western European nations as a percentage of gross national income (0.22% of GNI in the US versus both the 0.47% average of major donor countries and the UN's target rate of 0.7%). Additional efforts are needed as well in keeping US trade promises to developing countries and supporting further debt relief programs.

RESTORING US CREDIBILITY THROUGH GLOBAL COOPERATION

This year, UNA-USA has adopted an advocacy campaign with the theme of "*Restoring US Credibility Through Global Cooperation*," This campaign seeks to strengthen US government policy on six critical global issues: strengthening the US-UN relationship; advancing human rights and international justice; renewing the United Nations; building international consensus on climate change; achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and promoting arms control and disarmament.

CALL FOR US TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The International Criminal Court (ICC), which since 2003 has been investigating atrocities and holding individuals to account for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, is a UN success story. The ICC is about to hold a review conference to evaluate its performance and to shape its future. The US supported the establishment of a permanent international criminal court, but has so far been absent from the preparations for this review conference.

Take action: Write President Obama by going to <http://capwiz.com/unausa/home/> and telling him that the U.S. should be part of the dialogue on the ICC.

HELP STRENGTHEN THE US VOICE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS

On Wednesday, August 26, 2009, advocates around the country participated in a national call-in day to support US ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

This day of action coincided with Women's Equality Day, which commemorates the date American women won the right to vote 89 years ago. Unfortunately, US efforts to help ensure that women around the world are able to vote and enjoy equal rights today are undermined by our failure to ratify CEDAW.

Drafted thirty years ago, CEDAW has been ratified by 186 countries, including every democracy in the world, except the United States. The treaty provides a global standard for women's rights, a critical tool for holding governments to account.

Although the national call-in day has passed, you can still help strengthen America's voice in support of international human rights and women's equality by contacting your Senators today and urging them to support immediate ratification of CEDAW.

To call your Senators, dial 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected.

ATTENTION STUDENTS

The UNA-USA's Student Alliance is growing in strength, with new chapters at schools and universities across the country. Any student interested in starting a Student Alliance group should visit: www.unausa.org/studentalliance.

Entries for the UNA-USA National Essay Contest are due by January 5, 2010. The topic this year is "An International Partnership for Development Details are available at <http://www.unausaessaycontest.com/>

TRICK OR TREATERS

Pick up your UNICEF Halloween collection boxes at Pier 1, Hallmark Cards or Baskin-Robbins stores. Donations to UNICEF may also be made online or by cell phone. Cell phone users may text "TOT" to UNICEF (864233) to allow a one time \$5 donation to be added to their cell phone bills.

UN Association Seminars

November 19, 2009

Dr. Raymond White will speak on the role of Project C.U.R.E. in fulfilling the objectives of the World Health Organization. **Green Hills Public Library, at 4:30 p.m.**

January 21, 2010

Mary Pat Silveira, retired UN staff and President of the UNA-USA Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter, will address "Environmental Issues and the Former Soviet Union Republics. **Green Hills Public Library, at 4:30 p.m.**

February 18, 2010

Dr. Lee Camp, Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics, Lipscomb University, will discuss the "Doctrine and Practice of Peacemaking in Christianity and Islam". **Green Hills Public Library, at 4:30 p.m.**

All Seminars are free and open to the public. Please contact us by email at info@una-nashville.org if you are interested in giving a seminar.

In Memoriam

The Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter of the UNA-USA mourns the passing of Board member [Betty K. Johnson](#) on August 21, 2009 and of [Virginia Clemmer](#), the mother of Board member Cathy Folk, on September 10, 2009. We extend our deep condolences to their families.

Save a Tree!

Help us to contribute to the environment.

Sign up to receive the UNA Newsletter via e-mail, please contact Tim Stewart, tim.stewart@belmont.edu

Thanks!

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