



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]

Spring 2010

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ANNUAL SPRING MEETING AND DINNER

April 20, 2010

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

**“US Priorities in the UN Security Council: Peacekeeping,
Sanctions and New Horizons”**

Featuring

Mr. William K. Davis

Director, UN Center in Washington, D.C.

Belmont United Methodist Church

Community Center

21st Avenue South at Acklen in Hillsboro Village

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 on Saturday, April 17

Please specify if vegetarian plate preferred

Cost: \$25.00 (student scholarships available)

Persons cancelling after April 17 are liable for the cost of dinner

Program only is free

Mr. Will Davis is the UN's senior representative in Washington, D.C., serving as spokesman for the organization with the US government, the media and the business community to further the relationship between the United Nations and the United States. Before joining the UN, Mr. Davis was Director for Global and Functional Affairs in the US State Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs. From 2001 to 2004, he was the Deputy Head of the Public Affairs Division for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an international organization based in Paris, France. From 1990-1998, Mr. Davis worked in the US State Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and on the staff of the White House's National Security Council.

President's Corner

Another year has passed, and we are heading into our Annual Spring Dinner and Meeting. For the program, we welcome Mr. William Davis, Director of the UN Center in Washington, DC. The annual meeting of the chapter will focus both on elections of our new officers for the 2010-2012 period and on consideration of new proposed Bylaws for the Chapter.

The Bylaws were last amended in 1991. Since that time, a number of things have changed in both the National UNA-USA and the local Chapter, and these need to be reflected in the Bylaws. In addition, the Board considered it important to add the office of an historian to ensure that – as the oldest Chapter in the US – we maintain a record of our 55 years of existence. More specificity also needed to be brought to the functions of all of the offices and committees.

Finally, the Board proposes that the official name of the Chapter be changed to the Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter, to honor our native son, longest-serving US Secretary-of-State, Nobel Peace Laureate and “Father of the United Nations.”

Letters and emails have been sent to all Chapter members advising them of the proposed By-law changes. We urge all members to express their views and to participate in the final vote on the Bylaws at the 2010 Spring Meeting. [The texts may be found at <http://una-nashville.org/bylaws.html>]

Thank you.

Mary Pat Silveira, President

International Women's Day

March 8th was International Women's Day. In her remarks at the UN to commemorate this day, US Secretary-of-State Hillary Clinton identified equality for the world's women and girls as the central challenge that will determine the peace and progress of the 21st century. She noted some of the remarkable advances for women globally since the Beijing Conference on Women 15 years ago, but also stressed the harrowing new challenges that are faced by women in some regions, including a spike in politically motivated sexual violence.

Help capitalize on this important moment by sending a letter to President Obama, asking him to strengthen America's voice in support of women's rights by pushing Congress to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

APPOINTMENT OF NEW UNA-USA PRESIDENT

UNA-USA has named Edward Elmendorf as its new president and chief executive officer. Elmendorf came to the post after chairing the UNA-USA's Council of Chapters and Divisions. Prior to June of last year he served four years as president of the Washington, DC chapter, the largest in the country.

Elmendorf replaces Ambassador Thomas Miller, who has left the organization to take another position. (Readers may recall that Miller was the keynote speaker for the Nashville chapter's 2009 fall dinner.)

Elmendorf is a career diplomat, beginning his service by working at the US mission to the UN under Adlai Stevenson. He went on to become a staff member at the UN, and later worked for 30 years for the World Bank. After retiring from the World Bank, Elmendorf taught at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

TSU Participates in National Model UN

Students from Tennessee State University's International Affairs Society are participating this month in the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City. Approximately seven students and one faculty member are expected to attend. The Nashville UNA chapter helped to underwrite their expenses.

The students, under the supervision of Dr. John Miglietta, former Nashville UNA president and current board member, will represent the country of Georgia at this year's conference. The National Model United Nations Conference is the largest in the world, with over 4,000 students from 20 countries meeting to simulate United Nations participation.

This is the ninth year that TSU students have participated. Last year TSU won an Honorable Mention Delegation Award while representing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

101 UN Personnel Lost in Haiti Earthquake

The United Nations held a memorial service on March 10 at UN Headquarters in New York to honor the 101 UN victims of the Jan 12 earthquake in Haiti and to commemorate the single greatest loss the world body has suffered in its 60-year history.

The 7.3-magnitude quake brought down the Christopher Hotel, which houses the UN headquarters in Port-au-Prince, and other building hosting the UN's local offices. Among those who died were the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Haiti, Hedi Annabi, and his Deputy, Luiz Carlos da Costa.

UN Reviews US Human Rights Record

You have an opportunity to comment on human rights in the United States. This December, the UN's Human Rights Council will conduct its first review of the US human rights record. Each member State of the UN is evaluated every four years, in a process that includes reports by the country in question, UN summaries and information from nongovernmental organizations.

In preparation for its review, the United States government has begun to contact local and national civil society groups to discuss human rights issues relevant to the US. Persons and agencies may report their domestic human rights concerns to the US State Department web site: www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/dec/133606.htm. As noted by the American Civil Liberties Union, the review could emphasize issues that are often overlooked in the US, including immigration laws, post-Katrina reconstruction efforts, the treatment of Muslim communities and racial profiling. Let your voice be heard!

The State Department is also consulting with major nongovernmental organizations both at home and abroad, including Amnesty International, to air their concerns about US conduct in Iraq and Afghanistan and other matters.

The US joined the UN's Human Rights Council in September 2009. The Council is an inter-governmental body within the UN system composed of 47 elected members tasked with strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights globally.

US Initiates Participation in ICC

The United States is taking steps to reengage with the International Criminal Court (ICC). US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp announced recently that the US would participate as an observer at the ICC's Review Conference in June 2010 in Kampala, Uganda. Rapp described this participation as a stock-taking exercise to ensure that the ICC is more effective in taking cases involving atrocities of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The ICC has 110 member nations, but the US is not a party. President Clinton on the last day of 2000 signed the US treaty with the Court, but it was not submitted for Senate ratification. President Bush opposed participation, and subsequently Congress prohibited any kind of direct funding of the ICC. However, by 2005, following the atrocities in Darfur, the US as a member of the Security Council did not veto the referral of that case to the ICC, and it has opposed any effort to stop or stall investigation of that case.

Readers may remember John Washburn, who spoke at our Fall Dinner in 2006. As Convener of the American NGO Coalition on the ICC, he has worked tirelessly for US participation in the Court.

Tennessee Assembly Opposes UN Treaty

The Tennessee General Assembly is calling on the US Senate to oppose ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The state senate voted overwhelmingly in February to join the House in approving a joint resolution opposing the treaty.

The action, which has only the effect of expressing the legislature's sentiments, was opposed by only three senators: Harper of Nashville, Marrero of Memphis and Berke of Chattanooga. Senator Haynes of Nashville was counted as present and not voting.

In the House, 70 Representatives were in favor and 20 opposed. Those opposed included Armstrong, Bone, Borchet, Brown, Camper, Coleman, Cooper, L. DeBerry, Favors, Hardaway, S. Jones, U. Jones, Miller, Naifeh, Richardson, Shaw, Sontany, Tindell, Towns and M. Turner. Representatives Pitts and Rowland were present but did not vote.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. It specifies human rights that children should have everywhere, including the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse (including sexual abuse) and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention in 1989, and it came into force one year later after ratification by the required number of States. As of November 2009, 194 countries had ratified the Convention. Only two countries have not – Somalia and the United States.

UN Female Peacekeeping Chiefs Double

The UN recently increased the number of female peacekeeping mission chiefs from one to two with the appointment of Ameerah Haq to take over the post in Timor-Leste, formerly East Timor. Ms. Haq joins Ellen Margrethe Loj of Denmark who heads the peacekeeping ranks in Liberia.

These women are two among the top civilians coordinating 16 major missions around the world. They work as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General. Ms. Haq came to her appointment following difficult assignments in Sudan and Afghanistan. The secretary general appointed Ms. Loj to head the UN's Liberian peacekeeping mission in 2007. The UN has maintained troops and police in Liberia since the 2003 ceasefire in that country's civil war. Ms. Loj was the Ambassador to the UN from Denmark from 2001 to 2007 and briefly served as Denmark's representative to the Czech Republic before her appointment.

UN Association Seminars

Our last seminar of the spring is in May. Seminars will resume in the fall.

May 27, 2010

Professor Frank Robinson, Vanderbilt University History Department will speak on the history of Haiti

and

Mr. Mike DuBose, staff photographer, United Methodist News Service will share photos that he took in Haiti the week after the recent earthquake

Green Hills Public Library, at 4:30 p.m.

If you are interested in giving a seminar, please contact us at by email at info@una-nashville.org or call 615-870-8446.

All Seminars are free and open to the public.

Save the Environment and Dollars!

So that we may contact you with news and information most efficiently, please **give us your email address**. Send it to **Mary Pat Silveira at mpsilveira@usa.net** THANKS!

Be an Advocate!

Many issues remain on the agenda for 2010! Join others in taking action: Sign up for E-action alerts at <http://capwiz.com/unausa/home/>

Your Support is Appreciated!

Please be sure and renew your membership when it comes due, or consider joining the UNA if you haven't already. You can join at our website, <http://www.una-nashville.org>, or contact our office at 615-870-8446 and we will send you a brochure. Our main sources of income are a portion of each member's dues, and annual contributions from our members and friends.

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