



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

UNA-USA Newsletter - Nashville Chapter

1016 18th Ave. South, P.O. Box 121745, Nashville, TN 37212

Fall 2006

(615) 321-1200



President

John Miglietta

Vice-Presidents

Cathy Folk

Andrea Maneschi

Secretary

Frances Duvall

Fran Mazzaferro

Treasurer

Richard Duvall

Membership

Dorothy Anderson

Immediate Past President

Tim Stewart

Government Relations

Joe Sills

Bill Zechman

Board of Directors

Theron Corse

Ann Deol

Marshall Eakin

Fran Farthing

LeShawnda Fitzgerald

Henry Foster

Rebecca Freeman

Carrie Gentry

Jo Gish

Virginia Grantham

Bill Harkey

Stephen Mallet

Ken Marcom

Win Myint

Mansfield Neely

Sam Purushotham

Don Peterson

James Quirin

Dan Rosemergy

Henry Sullivan

John Williamson

**Published by the United Nations Association – USA
Nashville Chapter**

Celebration of United Nations Day

October 17, 2006

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

***“UN and the International Criminal Court
Cooperation Despite U.S. Opposition”***

Featuring

***Mr. John Washburn, Convener, American Non-governmental
Organizations Coalition on the International Criminal Court***

**Appleton Room, Jubilee Hall
Fisk University**

Directions from Downtown Nashville – West on Charlotte,
right on D.B. Todd, right on Jackson, left on 16th,
left on Meharry, park on Meharry or in lot on the left

Reservation Required

Call the UNA-USA office at (615) 321-1200
by Friday, October 13, 2006

Cost: \$16.00 for adults and \$12.00 for students*
(Vegetarian Option and Scholarships available)

Mr. John Washburn, Convener, American NGO Coalition on the International Criminal Court (ICC), also directs the UNA-USA’s other activities concerned with the ICC. In addition he serves as Co-Chair of the Washington Working Group on the ICC. As a consultant with the International Coalition of NGOs for the ICC, he has attended most of the UN’s negotiations on the ICC since 1994, including the 1998 diplomatic conference in Rome.

Mr. Washburn was a director in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General from January 1988 to April 1993, and then served as a director in the Dept. of Political Affairs at the UN until March 1994. Mr. Washburn was a member of the Foreign Service of the United States from 1963-1987. Additional information about Mr. Washburn can be found in the President’s Corner section of the newsletter.

** Please note that the United Nations Association has to pay the caterer based on the number of reservations we have. Therefore those who make a reservation and do not show up will be asked to make a donation to the chapter to cover the cost.*

President's Corner

Summer is rapidly fading and fall is upon us. I hope that it is going well for you. The UNA-Nashville Chapter is busy with a number of programs and activities designed to challenge people to think about the world around them and how they are connected to it.

One of the ways we're doing this is by hosting Mr. John Washburn, specialist on the International Criminal Court from the UNA-USA for our annual Celebration of UN Day on Tuesday, October 17. As mentioned on the front page, he will be speaking on "UN and the International Criminal Court: Cooperation Despite U.S. Opposition".

Mr. Washburn brings a wealth of perspective having served, in addition to the capacities mentioned on the front page, at the State Department as a member of the Policy Planning Staff responsible for international organizations and multilateral affairs. He also has served in various assignments in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs and helped to establish, and served as Deputy Director, of an office in the Bureau to further the coordination of American bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. While serving in the Bureau of International Organizational Affairs Mr. Washburn was a member of U.S. delegations to various sessions of the UN General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Committee for Program and Coordination.

We are pleased that Mr. Washburn will also be joining us on Thursday, October 19th for our Monthly Brown Bag lunch series where he will be speaking on "The Partnership of the United Nations and the International Criminal Court". We hope you can join us for both programs.

Please take time to read Cathy Folk's article on the 2007 UNA High School Essay contest. We're pleased to be sponsoring a local competition again this year. Please encourage high school students and teachers of high school students to check it out.

Again, if you're not already a member of our UNA Chapter, please visit our website www.una-nashville.org to find out how you can join!

Have a great rest of the fall, and I hope to see you at our upcoming programs!

Best Wishes,

John Miglietta

What to Expect as the 61st General Assembly Begins

by William H. Luers, President, UNA-USA

The United Nations General Assembly opened its 61st session on September 12 with its first Muslim woman president. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of Bahrain was chosen by acclamation in June to succeed Jan Eliasson, who returned to his job as Swedish foreign minister in Stockholm. Several topics are on the agenda, including the election of a new secretary-general, the Iran nuclear crisis, global terrorism and Darfur.

The real "business" of the UN General Assembly is done among heads of state and chiefs of delegations of 192 member states who look to the UN at this time to discuss most of the key global and regional issues that face the world. There is no other place that offers so many varied opportunities for government leaders to gather and converse about their priorities, including the peaceful resolution of disputes, in a diplomatic setting. The UN General Assembly may be considered a "talk shop", but in this era of globalization and terrorism, there is much more to discuss and decide upon than ever before.

There are inevitably certain core issues that form the backdrop of nearly every speaker who participates in the lengthy series of speeches that constitute the "general debate", which began on September 19 and ends some two weeks later. This year some of those key issues will be:

- **The polarized atmosphere at the UN** has grown in the past year between the so-called Group of 77—a block of 132 developing nations also known as the G77—and developed nations, in particular the US. The increased level of rancor was revealed most recently at the meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Havana on the eve of the general debate at the UN. As the anti-US rhetoric grows, it is clear that the larger and more vocal presence of new powers including China, India and Brazil—each of which has important relations with the G77 and the US—has increasingly tended to moderate the shriller voices. Once again, however, the potential for anti-US rhetoric is disturbing as leaders of that movement including Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran seek a larger voice within the G77 and on the world scene.
- **The new and enlarged role of the UN in the Middle East** is likely to be noted by many. The significance of the increased UN peacekeeping force on the Lebanese border and the prominent part that the UN Secretary General played in bringing about the ceasefire may open the door to a new, more constructive role for the organization—particularly given the somewhat diminished capacity of the US and the EU to act as intermediaries.

(continued on next page)

Many will explore whether there will be side discussions on reviving a Middle East plan that would deal not only with the Lebanon/Israel relationship, but with Palestine and Syria as well. Could the road map or a new version be restarted?

- **Progress on UN reform will be praised and criticized** as each leader expresses his/her view on whether reforms have progressed well or whether fundamental aspects of this universal body still need more significant reforms. The US and EU can be pleased that many of their priority reforms have been set up such as: (1) the new ethical and financial accounting practices; (2) a new Peace building Commission; (3) a new Human Rights Council to replace its discredited predecessor (albeit without US support); (4) a new Democracy Fund; (5) and the Secretary General's enhanced flexibility in spending priorities and management decisions. But the laments will come from those who believe the "mandate reform" process is bogged down; the UN Security Council expansion and reform has been taken off the table; and no real reform has been taken regarding the workings of the UN General Assembly. Many in the G77 will argue that the reforms are driven by the permanent members of the UN Security Council who seek to extend their grip on the UN Secretariat to the detriment of the General Assembly.
- **Iran's nuclear program** is one of the hottest topics before the UN Security Council as the US and its European partners seek to move toward a sanctions regime if Iran does not cease its enrichment of uranium. Many of the G77 member states are likely to express support for Iran's program at the UN General Assembly and in the corridors, while China and Russia on the sidelines seem inclined to delay sanctions. Iran's seeming willingness to reach a middle ground in order to continue negotiations is likely to be the subject for debate in many of the bilateral and multilateral gatherings in and around the General Assembly.
- **Financing for development** continues to be a major theme for the vast majority of member states who tend to be much less interested in the issues of nuclear programs, UN reforms in general, or the Middle East than they are in economic growth, trade and financial markets. Some leaders of developing nations might be asking what new commitments developed countries are willing to make at this General Assembly session that offer some hope for their populations, whether it be in the areas of combating disease, the opening up of trade or the increase in development assistance and investment. Ultimately, the polarization of the world body flows in large part from the huge disparity in the number of shares that member states hold in the global economy.

From <http://www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=jfKRI8MPJpF&b=2071315>

2007 National High School Essay Contest on the United Nations

Each year since 1986, the National High School Essay Contest on the United Nations has inspired students to engage global issues and the work of the UN through scholarship and critical thinking. **This year, the contest will focus on one of the Millennium Development Goals, Goal Five, which calls on the world to make motherhood safe by improving maternal health in developing regions.** By reducing the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015, we can end the untimely deaths of hundreds of thousands of women and the suffering of their families and communities.

The specific question for this year's essay is **"What can the U.S. do to help improve maternal health around the world?"** The essay is to be written in the form of a letter to the President of the United States. Essays are solicited through local UNA-USA organizations. Our chapter is currently mailing cover letters and fliers describing this contest to approximately sixty public and private high schools in Middle Tennessee. We are using email, also, to contact those schools with web sites. We are sending contest information to high school faculty who sponsor Model UN Programs within their schools and high school teachers of Social Studies and English. The successful authors of these essays must do extensive research, with some pertinent references provided, and also offer their own original ideas for the improvement of maternal and infant health around the world.

In order to encourage wider participation in this important educational tool, our Nashville Chapter Board of Directors has voted to increase the prize money to be awarded to our local winners. The Nashville Chapter first place winner will receive \$1000. This essay will be forwarded to the New York office for consideration in the nationwide contest. The writer of the second place essay will be awarded \$500 and the third place winner \$250. Your generous contributions to our Nashville UNA-USA Chapter help to make this essay contest possible and successful.

At the national level, the prizes are \$3,000 for first place, \$1,500 for second place, and \$750 for third place. The national winner and one adult are also awarded airfare and accommodations to attend a special UNA-USA event in New York City in March, where the national winner will be recognized. The national winner two years ago was from Middle Tennessee.

The deadline for local entries is December 12, 2006. Complete details on how to enter can be found at www.unausa.org/essaycontest. Please encourage your high-school-age friends and their parents to investigate this educational opportunity. Our web site www.una-nashville.org will also carry information and a link to the 2007 Student Application Kit.

Cathy Folk
Vice-President, UNA-Nashville Chapter



Brown Bag Luncheon Series

Pack a light lunch and join us for these “brown bag” foreign affairs seminars, another educational service of your Nashville Chapter, UNA-USA:

October 19, 2006

The Partnership of the United Nations and the International Criminal Court – Mr. John Washburn, Convener, American NGO Coalition on the International Criminal Court, UNA-USA

November 16, 2006

TBA

December 21, 2006

TBA

All Luncheons are free and open to the public at the Nashville Peace & Justice Center, 1016 18th Ave. South, 12:00 –1:30 p.m.. Parking available at the Scarritt-Bennett Center directly across 18th Ave.

United Nations Association
Nashville Chapter
P.O. Box 121745
Nashville, TN 37212

Your Support is Appreciated!

Thanks to our many friends and members for your generous support. Dozens of you serve on boards and committees, volunteer to staff our offices, organize our programs, and provide ongoing financial assistance to help make everything possible. We couldn't do it without you!

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 615-321-1200 and we'll 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.

As always, we welcome donations any time throughout the year. Please send your contribution directly to the UNA, P.O. Box 121745, Nashville, TN 37212. Do not send a gift for our Nashville Chapter with your dues to New York. Thanks to everyone who is supporting us in this way.

NON- PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1968
Nashville, TN