



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

Summer 2004

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Special Summer Luncheon and Plenary

August 14, 2004

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

“Is Constitutional Democracy in Iraq Possible?”

Featuring

Judge Gilbert Merritt,

US Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

**Belmont United Methodist Church
21st Ave. & Acklen Ave., Hillsboro Village**

Reservation Required

Call the UNA-USA office at (615) 321-1200

by Tuesday, August 10

(Vegetarian plates available)

Cost: \$12.00 for adults and \$9.00 for students

(Scholarships available)

Judge Gilbert Merritt – Judge Merritt was part of a 13 member delegation from the U.S. Justice Department which traveled to Iraq to assess and help rebuild Iraq’s judicial system in May-June 2003. He has also made trips to Russia and India to work with their judicial systems.

Merritt's mission during May and June of 2003 was to assess the state of the Iraqi courts for the Coalition Provisional Authority and to find the judges who could rebuild a new legal system for a post-Saddam Iraq.

Judge Merritt will give an update on the current situation in Iraq and share insights from his special perspective. For additional information about Judge Merritt’s work in Iraq, please consult the *Tennessean* archives at <http://www.tennessean.com/nation-world/archives/04/06/53700060.shtml>. Links to his correspondence from Iraq can be found there as well.

**A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW
PRESIDENT OF THE NASHVILLE
CHAPTER OF UNA-USA**

I greatly appreciate the confidence you all had in electing me President of the chapter at our Spring meeting. I have been a member of the UNA and a board member of the Nashville chapter for the last several years. During that time I was the organization's representative on the Board of the Nashville Peace and Justice Center. I am currently serving on the Executive Committee of the Peace and Justice Center as a member-at-large. I have lived in Nashville for about five years. I am an Associate Professor of Political Science at Tennessee State University. My teaching and research interests include American Foreign Policy, Middle East Politics, International Law, and American Politics. While at Tennessee State University I have become very active in Model United Nations. I am the faculty advisor to the International Affairs Society which has participated in several national and regional Model United Nations Conferences in the last few years.

I am looking forward to a very successful year of activities. We have an exciting summer luncheon planned featuring Judge Gilbert Merritt on *Is Constitutional Democracy in Iraq Possible?* Judge Merritt was in Iraq last year and should have some very keen insights on this issue. In addition we will continue with our monthly Brown Bag lunch presentations beginning in September. Special thanks to Dr. Donald Hancock of Vanderbilt University for his leadership on this program. We will publicize a schedule of dates and topics once they are available. I want to thank all of the Board Members for their service and to our Immediate Past President Tim Stewart for all of the assistance he has given me the last several months.

I would appreciate any advice/suggestions the general membership has for programs and activities. You may email me at jmiglietta@tnstate.edu Also please remember that throughout the year we will be selling UNICEF merchandise. Please contact Frances Duvall in the office (321-1200) if you have any questions concerning this.

Hope to see you at the Summer Luncheon August 14!

Best Wishes,

John Miglietta



**House Passes Bill Providing Assessed
Contributions to the U.N. System;
Amendments to Cut U.N. Funding
Defeated, July 13 from UNA-USA Website,
<http://www.unausa.org>**

On July 8th, the House approved its version of the fiscal year 2005 appropriations bill funding the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, and the federal judiciary. Included in the annual Commerce-Justice-State bill are dues payments for the U.N. administrative budget, eleven U.N. specialized agencies, U.N. war crimes tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, as well as anticipated assessments for U.N. peacekeeping operations. The House-passed bill, H.R. 4754, provides full funding of the President's request for these budget items, including \$362.1 million for the U.N. regular budget (an increase of \$21.3 million over the FY2004 level due to a U.N. budget adjustment for inflation and currency exchange rates); \$650 million for U.N. peacekeeping; approximately \$420 million for U.N. specialized agencies; and \$31 million for the U.N. tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The bill also includes up to \$6 million to cover the cost of securing a loan for the renovation of U.N. headquarters in New York. H.R. 4754 passed the House by a vote of 397-18 (roll no. 346) and was subsequently referred to the Senate.

**Three Amendments to Withhold
U.N. Funds Voted Down**

During floor debate of the bill, Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) offered one amendment to prevent the payment of U.S. dues to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and introduced another that would block funding for all U.S. assessments to the U.N. system. In addition, Rep. Nick Smith (R-MI) offered an amendment of his own that would have cut \$20 million in funding for the United Nations and redirect it to the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Paul said that he introduced his UNESCO amendment, an identical version of which was defeated last year, because he believed that the organization threatens U.S. sovereignty and wants to control the U.S. educational system. It was defeated by a vote of 135-283 (roll no. 333). Paul's amendment to defund the U.N. and its specialized agencies, which he has regularly introduced in the past, was voted down by an overwhelming 83-355 vote (roll no. 335). He had argued that this amendment, as well, was necessary to protect U.S. sovereignty. The Smith amendment, which was offered due to concern about the accusations surrounding the U.N.'s management of the humanitarian Oil for Food Program in Iraq, was rejected by a vote of 129-291 (roll no. 342).

**Excerpts from "U.S.-U.N.
Relations: Presidential Candidates -
Views on the United Nations and
U.N.-related activities",
<http://www.unausa.org>**

Issues in brief

U.N. Role in Iraq:

George Bush - U.N. Role in Iraq: Established with the United Kingdom the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) as the temporary governing body of Iraq. The U.N. has recognized the CPA as the lawful government of Iraq, but it plays no formal role within the CPA. Has said the U.N. would not "spend our money, the money that was appropriated by the United States Congress...but they will play a vital role in helping the Iraqis determine the proper course to democracy." Has worked with U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi in determining the form of government and appointment of officials to receive sovereignty on June 30th, 2004. Has welcomed the work of the United Nations election assistance team, which is developing plans for January 2005 elections. Sponsored U.N. Security Council resolution 1546 that, among other things, articulates a role for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Iraq, including playing "a leading role" in convening a national conference, supporting preparations for elections and supporting the drafting of a national constitution.

John Kerry - Favors creating an international mission authorized by the United Nations. Favors the creation of "a coalition of key countries including the permanent members of the UN Security Council, to share the political and military responsibilities and burdens of Iraq with the United States." Supports the Brahimi plan for an interim Iraqi government, and proposes the creation of an international High Commissioner to work with Iraq authorities on the political transition. Favors transforming the military force in Iraq into a NATO security force under the leadership of an American commander, and would seek a U.N. resolution to gain greater legitimacy for the military presence in Iraq. Stated, "The UN is not the total solution but it is a key that opens the door to participation by others."

Ralph Nader - Favors an expeditious end to U.S. occupation in Iraq and supports the replacement of U.S. forces with a U.N. peacekeeping force. Supports "a set date for a corporate and military withdrawal by the United States from Iraq... with a phase-in of international peacekeepers from neutral countries who are experienced in that effort, as well as from Islamic nations." Also favors internationally supervised elections and continued humanitarian assistance.

For additional information on the presidential candidates views on the following issues, please see "www.unausa.org/policy/usunrelations/candidates_index.asp"

- ***Global AIDS Problem***
- ***Global Environment***
- ***The U.S. and the U.N., Multilateralism***
- ***International Family Planning***
- ***International Economic Issues***

Model United Nations at TSU

Model United Nations, a simulation of U.N. multilateral bodies, introduces students to the world of diplomacy and negotiation.

The International Affairs Society at Tennessee State University participated at the National Model United Nations Conference April 6-10, 2004 in New York City. The National Model United Nations conference is one of the largest Model UN conferences in the world. It takes place the week before Easter in New York City and utilizes United Nations facilities for its opening and closing sessions, as well as the plenary session on the last day of the conference. It brings together students from all over the United States as well as many foreign countries. The 2003 conference had over 3,000 students from four continents, and the size of the conference increases every year. Preparing for Model United Nations allows students to become familiar with the United Nations structure, international issues, as well as the politics, history, and culture of the countries they represent. Participation in Model United Nations enables students to also build negotiation and debating skills.

At the 2004 conference 10 students and their faculty advisor, Dr. John Miglietta, participated. The students represented the Republic of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world, and was one of the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union. The students met with the staff of the Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations for a briefing on April 7, 2004. The Mission briefing was given by the ambassador His Excellency Mr. Yerzhan Kh. Kazykhanov. Students were able to ask questions about Kazakhstan's position on various issues they would be debating at the conference. Among the committees that the students participated in at the conference were the: International Atomic Energy Agency; International Criminal Police Organization; World Intellectual Property Committee; as well as the Islamic, Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization among others.

The students had a great time at the conference and were very thankful for all the encouragement and financial support they received from Tennessee State University. The International Affairs Society has been participating at the National Model UN Conference the last four years. In prior years Tennessee State University has represented Eritrea, Libya, and Colombia. The International Affairs Society is looking forward to participating in the 2005 conference.



John Miglietta

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:

September 16, 2004

Topic, Tibet - Derek Waller, Prof. Emeritus of Political Science, Vanderbilt University

October 21, 2004

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.

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: **Welcome to all the new folks on our mailing list who**
: **met us at the “Celebration of Cultures” at Scarritt-**
: **Bennett Center.** We hope that you join us for our
: programs and consider becoming a member!
:

Special thanks also to everyone who volunteered to make our booth at the Celebration a success!
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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.

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